

The Effect of Flashcards Media on Junior High School Students' Understanding of English Vocabulary Learning

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Introduction

Background of The Study

- Due to its widespread use, English is now an important language for business, education, and international communication. Therefore, knowing English is necessary, and expanding one's vocabulary is essential to becoming fluent in the language. As the foundation of language, vocabulary has a direct impact on comprehension, fluency, and communication skills (Lestari, M., & Wahyudin, A. Y. , 2020)
- Many students, especially those in grade VII, have difficulty memorizing the vocabulary that has been taught and lecture-based (conventional) learning patterns tend to be boring and less effective in the long term (Atmaja, A. S. K., & Sonia, G, 2020)

Introduction

Background of The Study

- Teachers need to use an active approach and interesting media so that students can more easily absorb and remember vocabulary. One of the recommended media is flashcards because they involve visualization and repetition (Harianingsih, F., & Hastini, H, 2023)). Matruty & Que (2021) found that flashcards supported junior high school students in both memorizing and contextualizing English vocabulary.

Introduction

Data collection Gap

Previous Research	This Research
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Matruty & Que, 2021) This study found that flashcards supported students in remembering vocabulary and using it in sentence context.• (Kusuma & Dwitagama, 2021) This study shows that bilingual e-flashcards can improve student retention and motivation.	<p>This study differs from the studies of Matruty & Que (2021), Kusuma & Dwitagama (2021), and Putri et al. (2024) in terms of media, student levels, and learning approaches. Although all three highlight the effectiveness of flashcards in improving students' vocabulary mastery, Matruty & Que's study focuses on grade VIII students using conventional flashcards for memorization and comprehension in sentence contexts. Kusuma & Dwitagama uses digital bilingual e-flashcards and places more emphasis on improving motivation and vocabulary retention. while this study focuses for grade VII students who have difficulty remembering English vocabulary. Through AI-made flashcards that display job pictures</p>

Introduction

Novelty

This study is expected to improve junior high school students' vocabulary comprehension, especially in grade VII. This study is different from previous studies in terms of media, implementation, and student involvement (theory). If previous studies focused more on digital flashcards or low-level learners, this study uses AI-made physical flashcards with job-themed images. In addition to helping students memorize, this study also encourages the use of active vocabulary through writing and speaking activities, especially in the context of descriptive texts. By using flashcards as a visual and interactive tool, students are expected to not only remember vocabulary but also apply it in meaningful communication.

Research Question

1. How effective are flashcards in improving junior high school students' vocabulary comprehension?

Methods

- **Design**

This research employed a quantitative method with a pre-experimental design, specifically using the One Group Pretest-Posttest Design.

- **Subject**

The research was conducted at SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Tanggulangin, focusing on seventh-grade students and Total participants: 20 students.

- **Data Collection Techniques**

1. Pretest : 20 multiple-choice questions
2. Treatment : Descriptive text + Homemade flashcards.
3. Posttest : Same format as pretest, including 20 multiple-choice questions

Methods

- **Data Analysis**
 1. Pretest and posttest score
 2. Normality Test (Shapiro-Wilk)
 3. Hypothesis Testing (Paired Sample T-Test)
 4. Result

Result Research

1. Descriptive Statistics

✓ Participants

20 students from class 7-A at SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Tanggulangin

✓ Pretest Score

Average: 71.00 (Range: 55 – 90)

✓ Posttest Score

Average: 75.75 (Range: 60 – 90)

Result Research

2. Data analysis

✓ **Normality Test (Shapiro-Wilk)**

- Pretest: 0.500
- Posttest: 0.186
- ✓ Data is normal

✓ **Paired Sample T-Test**

- Sig. (2-tailed): 0.000
- ✓ There is a significant improvement

Finding and discussion

- Finding

The findings show that students' vocabulary scores increased after using flashcards. The average pretest score was 71.00, and the average posttest score increased to 75.75. The paired sample t-test showed a significance value of 0.000, which means there was a significant improvement in students' vocabulary understanding. This result confirms that flashcards were effective in supporting students' learning.

Finding and discussion

- Discussion

The use of handmade flashcards in this study not only improved vocabulary test scores but also increased student engagement in class. Flashcards provided visual support and made learning more interactive and fun. Students were more confident in speaking and writing activities related to descriptive texts. These findings are in line with previous studies such as Kusuma & Dwitagama (2021), which also showed positive results using flashcards. The difference is that this study used simple, non-digital flashcards and focused on contextual vocabulary about people and jobs, proving that even low-tech tools can give strong learning outcomes when used creatively.

conclusion

The research concludes that flashcards are effective in improving the vocabulary mastery of seventh-grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Tanggulangin. The significant increase in posttest scores after the flashcard treatment proves their positive impact on students' understanding. Besides improving test results, flashcards also made learning more engaging and enjoyable. This study shows that even simple, handmade flashcards can help students learn vocabulary better when used in a fun and interactive way. Therefore, flashcards can be recommended as an alternative teaching media for vocabulary learning in junior high school.

