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Literacy media models in improving reading skill of early class students in elementary school

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ABSTRACT

This research is based on low quality of literacy media used by teachers in teaching reading in the early grades in elementary school. Therefore, this study aimed to produce a valid literacy media, practical, and effective in improving reading skills of elementary school students beginning classes. The subject of research is early elementary grade students in the District of North Padang, Padang City. Literacy media is being developed is a big book, image media, and calendar stories. Development activity using 4-D model of the stages define, design, development, and disseminate. Data obtained from the results of a validation study of literacy media, observation, use of literacy media, and the learning outcomes of students' reading skills after using the media developed. The results showed that literacy media developed make students interested in reading and feel happy with reading material, thus helping to increase students' understanding of the content of reading. Based on these results, can conclude that the model developed literacy media has been a valid, practical and effective use to improve reading skills early elementary grade students.



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Introduction

Today, the word literacy is so popular among the academic community. The low level of knowledge and understanding of information in Indonesia, often associated with low levels of community literacy. Literacy can be interpreted as an openness of insight, namely the ability of individuals in processing information and knowledge for life skills. Grabe & Kaplan (1992) explain the narrow sense of literacy that is the ability to read and write (able to read and write). Broadly speaking, literacy is closely related to the term proficient discourse, ie the ability of the whole language includes the ability to listen, speak, read, and write, as well as the ability to think that elements in it.

Literacy is very important for elementary school students, literacy skills affect the success of learning and life. The literacy component, especially reading, is very important. Progress of the times can be followed by reading, because all the current information can be extracted and understood through reading activities. Literacy of reading will help students able to follow the rate of information. Literacy in reading makes students have a lot of knowledge, up to date with the latest information and able to catch up. The

existence of such an impact will make students sensitive to the situation and conditions, so as to be part of the progress of the times

Literacy of reading should be taught and cultivated since in elementary school. The reading skill acquired during reading of the beginning influences the reading skill (Zuchdi and Budiasih, 2001:57). If the foundation reading in the early class is not strong, then in the advanced reading stage students will have difficulty in having adequate reading skills. As a skill that underlies the next skill, reading the beginning really needs the teacher's attention. Therefore, the initial reading activities need service and execution maximally. Patience and thoroughness is needed in training and guiding and directing students to achieve the expected goals.

Reading the beginning is the process of learning to read for elementary school students. Students learn to acquire skills and master reading techniques and capture reading content well. Learning to read the beginning should be taught as interesting as possible, because basically reading is a tedious activity. Activity stringing word for word, sentence by sentence in finding the meaning contained in it is activity which seize attention and drain mind.

Therefore, teachers need to design learning to read well, so that students become like and used to read, so embedded in her concept that reading is a fun activity. Teachers also play a role in fostering motivation to read students. Motivation from the teacher is a source of inspiration that can foster the spirit of students in reading. Giving examples of teachers as reading ambassadors will keep students motivated to keep reading.

Learning literacy reading in the early classes also requires the right tool or media. In addition to the design of learning and teacher motivation, the use of reading media also contributes in determining the success of reading. If the learning design makes students feel happy in reading, the motivation of the teacher makes students eager to read, then the appropriate reading media will make students interested to read. That is, learning to read begins with interest, if students are interested in reading, would be easier in directing it. This is in accordance with the opinion of Yulia Anna (2011: 34) that interesting reading media, has many illustrations and color images will stimulate interest in reading children.

Characteristics of early class students who have shorter concentration ranges need support so that they are interested in what they are learning. The use of literacy media such as drawings, graphs/diagrams or objects of interest can help to optimize the process of learning to read students. In addition, reading material that attracts attention will keep the child focused on the reading material. Salomon (1979) says that students will more easily understand the concept given through visual or verbal. The use of visual media will also make students better remember information than just using text media (Cowen, 1984).

This research aims to meet the needs of the above by developing a literacy media that can improve the reading skills of elementary school students early. The developed literacy media is the big book, image media, and the alendar stories. The big book is one of the most well-used interstitials in the early classes, Curtain and Carol (2004) state that big book allows students to learn to read through how to remember and repeat the reading. As for the calendar stories, having material related to each other, enriched with images that can give space to students to explore and imagine. While the image media is a visualization media that can attract reading interest. Learning to read with the media of images makes children more motivated and interested to read and know the contents of the picture story (Wilkinson, 1984:23).

The development of the three literacy media read above, is expected to foster interest in reading elementary school students and improve their reading skills as a benchmark of reading success. In addition, the literacy media developed is expected to be used in achieving the objectives of learning in the Indonesian language contained in the curriculum with the optimum possible.

Methods

The process of developing literacy media using 4-D development model includes define, design, develop, and disseminate stages. The overall data of the research are analyzed using qualitative approach. This is in accordance with the opinion of Parkinson and Drislane (2011), that Qualitative research is using methods such as participant observation or case studies which result in a narrative, descriptive account of a setting or practice. Qualitative approach is a method of approach in the form of observation and case studies with results in the form of narrative, descriptive, and arrangement or practice. The use of qualitative research is due to the inductive nature of this study, namely the development of concepts based on data that has been obtained.

The implementation of the research is adapted to the stage of the development model used. Activities undertaken at each stage of development follow the explanation Trianto (2011a: 27) as follows. (1) The define stage defines the terms and components needed to develop the literacy medium to fit the needs of the early class students. Based on this, then at this stage conducted curriculum analysis and learning materials and student analysis. (2) Design stage, prepare literacy media developed according to the terms and components described in the previous stages. (3) Develop stage, prepared literacy media

revised by experts, so obtained validation media validation for use. Then the media was then trialled in a limited number of schools to see its practicality and effectiveness. (4) The disseminate stage, the tested literacy media was revised again, then implemented on a wider scale. The purpose of the dissemination activity is to see the consistency of the results obtained at the development stage.

The subjects of this study were teachers and students of elementary school grade. The teacher acts as a practitioner validator, piloting literacy media, reviewing and responding to developed media. Students are involved as test subjects by acting as users and responding. The data used in the research process is primary data, because the data is obtained directly from the source. The data types used are: (1) data validation of literacy media, (2) observation data of RPP implementation, (3) teacher response result data, (4) data result of student response, and (5) reading students using literacy media.

All data used in this research is obtained by using data collecting instrument. Validity data is collected by using instrument: (1) validation instrument sheet, (2) big book validation sheet, (3) validation sheet of image media, and (4) Calendar Stories validation sheet. Data validation results are analyzed and set into the level of validity put forward Widjajanti (2008: 58) namely:

Range	Category
3.50 – 4.00	Very Valid
3.00 – 3.49	Valid
2.00 – 2.99	Less Valid
1.00 – 1.99	Invalid

Practicality data were collected using instrument: (1) observation sheet of RPP implementation, (2) teacher reponse questionnaire, and (3) students response questionnaire. The data are analyzed in the modified practice level of Arikunto (2006: 242) as follows:

Range	Category
3.50 – 4.00	Very Practical
3.00 – 3.49	Practical
2.00 – 2.99	Practical Enough
1.00 – 1.99	Less Practical

Effectiveness data was collected by using instrument: (1) student activity observation sheets during learning process and (2) reading result score sheet. The score of learning achievement of reading skill was analyzed and converted into the learning result pursuant pursued by Purwanto (2006: 102), with the threshold limit is 76 (good).

Value	Assessment Criteria
86 – 100	Very Good
76 – 85	Good
60 – 75	Enough
< 59	Less

Research Result and Discussion

The result of this research is literacy media (*big book*, image media, and calendar stories) for a valid, practical, and effective first-grade reading in elementary school class.

Validity of Literacy Media

Literacy media validation is performed by experts and practitioners by scoring on each assessment indicator. Indicators of assessment on *big book* media, image media, and calendar stories are divided into several aspects, namely: (1) content feasibility aspects, (2) aspects of language usage, (3) aspect of presentation pattern, and (4) aspects of graffiti. Assessment indicators on each aspect vary, depending on the type of literacy media. Assessment is carried out by giving a score of 1 - 4 on each assessment indicator, with criteria: (1) unsuitable, (2) less appropriate, (3) appropriate, (4) very appropriate. The results of literacy media validation by experts and practitioners can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Validation Result of Big Book, Image Media, dan Calendar Stories

No	Aspect of Assessment	of	Big Book		Image Media		Calendar Stories	
			Average	Categori	Average	Categori	Average	Categori
1.	Feasibility		3.63	Very Valid	3.50	Very Valid	3.67	Very Valid
	Content							
2.	Language Usage		3.60	Very Valid	3.38	Valid	3.50	Very Valid
3.	Presentation		3.48	Valid	3.52	Very Valid	3.42	Valid
	Patterns							
4.	Graffiti		3.76	Very Valid	3.60	Very Valid	3.63	Very Valid
	Average		3.62	Very Valid	3.50	Very Valid	3.56	Very Valid

Based on table 1 above, it is concluded that every aspect of big book literacy media, image media, and calendar stories meets the criteria of validity. The results of the validator assessment of the big book, indicating that the content feasibility aspects, the use of language, and graffiti have criteria "very valid", while the aspect of the presentation pattern has "valid" criteria. The overall big book validity level is 3.62 "very valid" criteria.

Assessment of the image media shows that the content feasibility aspect, presentation pattern, and graffiti have "very valid" criteria, while the language usage aspect has "valid" criteria. The overall validity level of the image media is 3.50 with the criterion "very valid". Assessment of the calendar stories shows that the content feasibility aspect, the use of language and the presentation pattern have the category "very valid", while the aspect of the presentation pattern has "valid" criteria. The overall calendar stories validity level is 3.56 "very valid" criteria.

Based on these results, it was concluded that the big book, image media, and calendar stories developed were declared valid and suitable to be used in improving the reading skill of elementary school students.

Practicality of Literacy Media

Practical or practical, meaning easy to implement, easy to check, and equipped with clear instructions, making it easier for teachers and students in the use of learning tools (Arikunto, 2010: 62). The level practicality of literacy media developed is seen from 3 aspects, namely: (1) The implementation of learning using literacy media. (2) teacher's response to literacy media, and (3) student's response to literacy media. Here are described the results of these three aspects.

Learning Implementation

Observation of instructional learning is intended to see whether the learning activities using the developed literacy media implemented well according to the designed RPP. Observations were conducted by 2 observers in 3 lessons using the observation indicator that has been prepared. The first lesson uses the big book, the second lesson uses the image media, and learning when using calendar stories media. All observation indicators are grouped into three activities, namely (1) initial activities, (2) core activities, and (3) final activities. The following presented the results of the implementation of learning using the media developed.

Table 2. Level of Learning Implementation Using Literacy Media

No	LerningAcitivities	Big Book		Image Media		Calendar Stories	
		Average	Category	Average	Kategori	Average	Kategori
1	Initial Activity	3.72	Very Practical	3.43	Practical	3.67	Very Practical
2	Core Activities	3.63	Very Practical	3.54	Very Practical	3.63	Very Practical
3	End Activities	3.60	Very Practical	3.40	Practical	3.47	Practical

Average	3.65	Very Practical	3.46	Practical	3.59	Very Practical
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Based on these results, it can be concluded that the learning activities using literacy mediadeveloped well done and can help students in reading learning in the early class. Overall, the learning of reading in the early classes using the big book media earned an average of 3.65 categories of very practical value. Overall learning activities using big book media, both initial activities, core activities, and end activities also earn very practical categories. Then, the reading learning in the early class using the image media obtained an average grade of 3.46 practical categories. The core activities in this learning acquire a very practical category. While the initial activities and activities finally obtained the practical category. Next, reading learning in the early grades using calendar stories media earns an average 3.59 very practical category score. The initial activities and core activities in this learning obtained a very practical category, while for the event finally obtained the practical category.

Overall, the reading learning activities contained in the designed draft can be effectively implemented thanks to the use of developed literacy media. In the initial activities, students are able to express their opinions related to the contents of the picture. In the core activities, students are excited to read stories that contain literacy mediawith a loud voice. In addition, students also find no difficulty in answering the questions given. In the final activity, students look cheerful in telling the contents of the text that is read.

Analysis of the Teacher's Response

As an educational practitioner, teachers need to respond to the quality of literacy mediadeveloped. The goal is to see if the literacy mediadeveloped is suitable and easy to use by teachers in teaching reading learning in elementary school. The practicality of literacy media use can be seen from the scores given to the following aspects: (1) practicality of use, (2) material conformity to time, (3) use of pictures and illustrations, (4) use of language and sentences, (5) impact on learning. The teacher responses are presented below.

Table 3. Teacher'a Responses to Literacy Media

No	Aspect of Assessment	Big Book		Image Media		Calendar Stories	
		Average	Category	Average	Category	Average	Category
1	Practicality of use	3.67	Very Practical	3.33	Practical	3.42	Practical
2	Material Suitability of Time	3.75	Very Practical	3.50	Very Practical	3.63	Very Practical
3	Use of images and Illustrations	3.75	Very Practical	3.33	Practical	3.46	Practical
4	Use of language and sentences	3.67	Very Practical	3.63	Very Practical	3.67	Very Practical
5	Impact on learning	3.83	Very Practical	3.67	Very Practical	3.67	Very Practical
	Average	3.73	Very Practical	3.49	Practical	3.57	Very Practical

Overall, the teacher's response to big book media is 3.73 with very practical category, 3.49 to image media with practical category, and 3.57to calendar stories with very practical category. The result of the teacher's response, indicating that the teacher assessed the literacy media developed is practical and easy to use in teaching reading in low class. Teachers also argue that the literacy media developed has a positive impact on learning. The use of animated images in the media, makes students enthusiastic in following learning reading. Students look eager to read the sentence contained in the next picture.

The use of language in literacy media also in accordance with the level of language development of low-grade students.Presentation of stories through short sentences, making students quickly understand every story line contained in literacy media. So that students can easily understand the story as a whole. Literacy mediadeveloped also helps teachers in the learning process. The existence of media usage guidelines, make teachers know how best to convey the story contained in the literacy media

Analysis of Student's Responses

The development of this literacy media is intended for elementary school students, hoping to increase reading interest and their reading skill. Therefore, to see the level of practicality of literacy media developed, also required a student response that notabennya is the subject of research. The purpose of this analysis is to know the real condition of literacy media when used by students. Through this analysis, it will be seen whether students love the literacy media or not. Analysis of student responses carried out by giving a questionnaire containing statements related literacy media developed. Students are required to

rate each statement according to the conditions they feel during or after using the developed literacy media. Here are presented the results of student responses more.

Tabel 4. Student's Response to Literacy Media

No	Statement	Big Book		Image media		Calendar stories	
		Average	Category	Average	Category	Average	Category
1	Displaybig book/ image media /calendar storiesinteresting to read.	3.78	Very Practical	3.68	Very Practical	3.72	Very Practical
2	Big book/image media/calendar storieshave aclear and interestingimageto look at.	3.66	Very Practical	3.42	Practical	3.48	Practical
3	Picturesofbig book/image media/calendar stories inaccordance with the contents of the story.	3.88	Very Practical	3.78	Very Practical	3.83	Very Practical
4	Bigbook/image media/calendar storieshas an interesting and varied color.	3.82	Very Practical	3.58	Very Practical	3.67	Very Practical
5	Postsbig book/image media /calendar storiesclear and easy to read.	3.78	Very Practical	3.63	Very Practical	3.67	Very Practical
6	Sentences big book/image media /calendar stories are short and easy to understand.	3.68	Very Practical	3.68	Very Practical	3.75	Very Practical
7	Story bigbook/image media/calendar stories interesting and not boring.	3.75	Very Practical	3.46	Practical	3.48	Practical
8	Storybig book/image media/calendar stories iseasy to understand and the content corresponds to the picture.	3.85	Very Practical	3.76	Very Practical	3.76	Very Practical
9	Story big book/image media/calendar storiesprovide valuable lessons.	3.92	Very Practical	3.72	Very Practical	3.83	Very Practical
10	Big book/image media/calendarhelped me inreading thestory.	3.72	Very Practical	3.70	Very Practical	3.75	Very Practical
11	Big book/image media/calendar storiesmake me interested and active in learning..	3.82	Very Practical	3.52	Very Practical	3.68	Very Practical
12	Big book/ image media/calendar stories makes it easy for me to answer questions.	3.72	Very Practical	3.52	Very Practical	3.72	Very Practical
13	Big book/image media/calendar make it easy for me to tell.	3.63	Very Practical	3.42	Practical	3.50	Very Practical
	Rata-rata	3.77	Very Practical	3.60	Very Practical	3.67	Very Practical

Based on the results of the table above, the overall response rate of students to the big book media is 3.77 with a very practical category. Then the level of student response to the media picture story is 3.60 with the category very practical. The level of student response to the calendar stories media is 3.68 with very practical category.

These results indicate that students respond positively to the developed literacy media. Overall, students judge that literacy mediahas an interesting look to read and learn. The use of images that are clear, interesting, and in accordance with the contents of the story, it helps students in mamahami each storyline well. The story presented also matches the characteristics of the early elementary school students and contains valuable lessons that students can apply in everyday life. In general, students feel that the use of literacy media is helpful to them in reading. The presentation of stories through short sentences and language that is easy to understand, making students able to retell the story contained in literacy media.

Based on the result of the data of practicability which has been described, it can be concluded that the developed literacy media is stated practically. This can be seen from: (1) the implementation of

learning to read in the early class well, (2) the convenience felt by the teacher in teaching reading learning, (3) positive response of students showing that literacy media very interesting for them.

Efektivitas Literacy media

Effectiveness comes from the effective word of compatibility and conformity. Media effectiveness means the extent to which the media usage developed can meet the expected results. The effectiveness of the learning program seen from the success of the program leads the students to achieve the established instructional objectives and provide an active and attractive learning experience (Dirman, 2014: 56). The effectiveness of literacy media is seen from the learning achievement of students' reading skill in every indicator of determined learning success. These indicators are: (1) the ability to read aloud text, (2) the ability to answer questions, and (3) the ability to retell the contents of the text. Literacy media is said to be effective, if student learning outcomes are classical beyond the minimum *Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimal* (KKM) defined is 76. Here are presented the results of learning skills of reading students using literacy media developed.

Table 5. Learning Outcomes of Student Reading Skills

No	Success Indicators	<i>Big Book</i>		Image media		Calendar Stories	
		Average	Category	Average	Category	Average	Category
1	Ability students to reading aloud text.	85.67	Good	84.83	Good	84.83	Good
2	Ability students to answer questions.	91.67	Very Good	88.50	Very Good	89.33	Very Good
3	Ability students to retell the contents of the text.	82.17	Good	81.33	Good	83.17	Good
	Average	86.50	Very Good	84.88	Good	85.77	Good

The table above shows that the average score of reading skill of students using big book media is 86.50 with very good category. The average score of students' reading skills using the image media is 84.88 with good category. While the average score of reading skill of students using big book media is 86.50 with very good category.

Based on the table, it is concluded that the reading learning in the early classroom using the developed literacy media has reached the minimum criterion specified minimum. Literacy media developed effectively used in improving learning process and learning outcomes of reading elementary school students. Results indicator ability to read aloud texts, indicating that students have been able to read aloud by referring to the criteria set. Students are able to read the text with a loud voice and proper pronunciation. Students also point to every sentence of text that is read using their index finger. In addition, students are seen moving their heads along the lines of text that is being read. All three of the above is a characteristic of loud reading activity.

The indicator results answered the question, indicating that the student is able to answer each question very well. Student enthusiasm in reading aloud texts, making them understand the content of the text as a whole, so as to answer each question correctly. The result indicator tells the contents of the text, indicating that the student is able to tell the contents of the text that is read with his own sentence. In the case of storytelling, students seem confident enough to tell briefly the contents of the text that he read. Although still looks shy, but overall the story presented by students quite in accordance with the text content. The main thing in this activity is the students are able to tell by using their own language which sometimes mixed with the local language of each.

Conclusions and Suggestions

Based on the result of the research and discussion above, the following conclusions are obtained: (1) A valid, practical and effective literacy media has been used in the learning process of reading in elementary school. (2) Literacy media developed include big book, image medias, and calendar stories. (3) The validity of the literacy media is derived from the results of expert judgment in terms of content feasibility, language usage, presentation patterns, and graffiti. The results of the assessment indicate that the literacy media developed is suitable for reading learning in the early grades. (4) Practicality literacy media obtained from the observation of learning using media developed, teacher response, and student responses. The results of observation indicate that literacy media make learning process of reading more effective and meaningful. Literacy media also makes students interested and active in reading learning. (5) The effectiveness of literacy media is obtained from the learning result of students' reading skill after using the developed media. The results of the assessment indicate that the value obtained by students in classical exceeds the minimum criterion of defined minimum criteria.

Based on the conclusions obtained, it is recommended that elementary school teachers and education practitioners can use the literacy media developed in achieving the objectives of Indonesian language learning contained in the curriculum optimally.

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