

The Community Service as Judges in an Elementary Level English Vocabularies Competition at SDN 137/III Koto Salak

Hermi Zaswita¹, Zul Amri²,

^{1,2} Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Negeri Padang, Indonesia

Corresponding Author

Nama Penulis: Hermi Zaswita

E-mail: hermizaswita@fbs.unp.ac.id

Abstract

This community service activity is participation as judges in an elementary school English vocabulary competition at SDN 137/III Koto Salak. It aims to improve students' English vocabulary skills, learning motivation, and development of communication skills. The students learn about good preparation and teamwork through healthy competition. It also involves the community as volunteers and spectators, strengthening the relationship between the school and the surrounding environment. The results of this activity include increasing vocabulary skills, learning motivation, developing communication skills, and achievement awards. In this community service, good cooperation is needed between the school, judges, and community as well as evaluation and improvement for similar activities in the future. Utilizing these suggestions, this event is expected to be developed continually and provide greater benefits to participants, teachers, and the community in strengthening English language education.

Keywords – Community Service, Judges, English Vocabularies, Competition

Abstrak

Kegiatan pengabdian ini merupakan partisipasi sebagai juri dalam acara lomba kosakata Bahasa Inggris tingkat SD di SDN 137/III Koto Salak. Kegiatan ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan keterampilan kosakata Bahasa Inggris siswa, motivasi belajar, dan pengembangan keterampilan komunikasi. Melalui kompetisi sehat, siswa belajar tentang persiapan yang baik dan kerjasama tim. Selain itu, kegiatan ini juga melibatkan masyarakat sebagai relawan dan penonton, memperkuat hubungan antara sekolah dan lingkungan sekitar. Hasil kegiatan ini mencakup peningkatan keterampilan kosakata, motivasi belajar, pengembangan keterampilan komunikasi, dan penghargaan prestasi. Dalam pengabdian ini, diperlukan kerjasama yang baik antara pihak sekolah, juri, dan masyarakat serta evaluasi dan peningkatan untuk kegiatan serupa di masa depan. Melalui saran-saran tersebut, diharapkan kegiatan pengabdian ini dapat terus berkembang dan memberikan manfaat yang lebih besar kepada peserta, guru, dan masyarakat dalam memperkuat pendidikan Bahasa Inggris.

Kata kunci – Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat, Juri, Kosakata Bahasa Inggris, Lomba

INTRODUCTION

Education is a strong foundation in forming and preparing the young generation to face future challenges. One important aspect of education is mastering a foreign language, especially English, which is an international language that is widely used in various areas of life. The basis of communication is vocabulary mastery. The more vocabulary an individual has, the easier it is for that individual to carry out the communication process. Regarding the importance of vocabulary, (Thornbury, 2002) states that without grammar, very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed. It is clear that if we don't understand grammar then there is little we can express, but if we don't master vocabulary then we won't be able to express anything. This is true, that we will not be able to communicate optimally if we do not have enough vocabulary. The same thing was also expressed by (Stahl, Steven A; William, 2005). Both explained the importance of vocabulary by comparing those who understand vocabulary and those who do not understand vocabulary. It is stated that people who master more vocabulary are better able to talk and think about their surroundings, and are better able to describe the situations around them. Judging from the definition, (Soedjito, Prof., 2018) divides vocabulary into several meanings: all words contained in one language; the richness of words possessed by a speaker or writer; words used in a field of science; and a list of words arranged like a dictionary with short and practical explanations.

Meanwhile, the vocabulary expressed by (Folse, 2011) is a collection of words that a person needs and understands in a particular language to communicate effectively in different communicative situations. Holding elementary school English vocabulary competitions is a positive step in motivating students to improve their English skills and develop self-confidence. Competition activities Vocabulary can provide opportunities for students to apply the vocabulary they have learned in a fun way and interact with their peers. Vocabulary competitions are an effective strategy for improving students' understanding and mastery of English vocabulary. In the context of basic education, this activity can motivate students to be actively involved in learning vocabulary. Service as a judge in an English vocabulary competition is one form of contribution that can strengthen relations between schools and the community, as well as encourage active participation from both parties in improving education in the surrounding environment. Community service activities are an important form of contribution to advance and improve the quality of community life. In the educational context, it can be carried out through various activities, one of which is serving as a judge in elementary school English vocabulary competitions.

In an elementary school environment, learning English can begin by introducing basic vocabulary to students. Elementary-level English vocabulary competitions are an effective way to involve students in learning and improve their understanding of English vocabulary. It can also help students build confidence in using English and improve their speaking skills. However, often the lack of human resources and adequate attention to education at the elementary level becomes an obstacle in carrying out activities such as vocabulary competitions. SDN 137/III Koto Salak is one of the elementary schools in an environment that may face these challenges. Therefore, the presence of judges who are experienced in English is important to provide support and guidance to students and improve the quality of competition activities. In answering this challenge, the community service team decided to contribute as judges in the competition. On this occasion, it will describe in detail the implementation of service activities as judges in the elementary school English vocabulary competition at SDN 137/III Koto Salak.

METHOD

Target Audience

The first target audience for this service is elementary school students. This activity is aimed at elementary school students at SDN 137/III Koto Salak. They are competition participants who will participate in the English vocabulary competition. The main aim of this activity is to provide support,

This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 CC-BY International license



guidance, and opportunities for students to improve their English skills. Then, the second is for teachers and school staff. This service activity can also be beneficial for teachers and school staff. They will play a role in the organization and implementation of the vocabulary competition, as well as interacting with the judges. The activity can provide inspiration and motivation to teachers in improving the quality of English teaching in schools. The last one is the surrounding community: Although the main focus is students and schools, this service activity also involves the community around SDN 137/III Koto Salak. The public can participate as volunteers in competition events, support student participants, or become spectators. It can strengthen relations between the school and the community and increase awareness of the importance of English education in the surrounding environment. By targeting elementary school students, teachers, and school staff, as well as the surrounding community, this service activity seeks to provide benefits to various parties involved in the English education and learning process.

Activity Steps

- 1) Initial preparation: a. Identify the goals and objectives of service activities. b. Coordinate with the school to determine the date, time, and place for the vocabulary competition. c. Prepare the budget and resources needed for activities.
- 2) Judge Selection: a. Determine appropriate jury criteria, such as having a good understanding of English and experience in assessing vocabulary competitions. b. Carry out judge selection based on the required qualifications and competencies.
- 3) Preparation of Competition Materials: a. Compile a list of English vocabulary that is relevant and appropriate for the elementary school level. b. Create questions or questions that will be used in the vocabulary competition. c. Developing the competition format, such as timing, how to answer, and scoring system.
- 4) Implementation of the event: a. Opening the event with remarks and introduction of the judges to participants, teachers, and the public. b. Provide an explanation of the competition rules and examples of questions to participants. c. Monitor the progress of the competition, assess participants' answers, and record scores. d. Announce the winners of the competition and give awards to participants who excel.
- 5) Evaluation and Feedback: a. Evaluate the overall implementation of the vocabulary competition. b. Collect feedback from participants, teachers, and judges to improve future activities. c. Create activity reports that include results, challenges faced, and recommendations for future improvements.

It is important to remember that these steps can be adapted to the needs and context of the service activities that are carrying out. Make sure to carry out careful planning, involve all relevant parties, and ensure that the event runs smoothly and by the stated objectives.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Results

On the day of the implementation, we arrived at SDN 137/III Koto Salak on time. The event began with remarks from the school principal, who thanked us for our participation as judges. Next, competition participants are given time to prepare themselves before the start of the preliminary session. As judges, we have the opportunity to observe and assess each participant in the preliminary session. Each participant is allowed to convey English vocabulary according to the specified theme. We carefully observe each participant, note important points, and provide assessments according to a previously prepared rubric.

After the preliminary session is finished, the points are added up and the participants who qualify for the final round are determined. Participants who pass are then asked to prepare their presentations in the final round, which is held after the break. The final session took place with high enthusiasm from participants and spectators. After the presentation is finished, we as judges make a final assessment

and choose the winner of the competition based on the best performance that has been shown. The following is the competition process step by step:

Table 1
The English Vocabularies Competition Process

No	Competition Process Step	Activities
1	Event Implementation	Start the event with a welcome and introduction of the judges to the participants, teachers, and the community present.
		Provide an explanation of the competition rules, implementation time, and procedures for answering questions to participants.
		Monitor the implementation of the competition, provide clarification or assistance if needed, and record the scores and assessments of each participant.
		Help maintain a conducive competition atmosphere and uphold the integrity and ethics of the competition.
2	Announcement of Winners and Closing	Announce the winners of the vocabulary competition, both individually and in teams.
		Provide awards, such as award plaques and certificates, to participants who excel.
		Deliver closing remarks and thanks to all participants, teachers, and related parties who have supported this activity.

During activities, it is important to maintain good communication with all related parties, such as participants, teachers, and judges, as well as ensure safety and comfort during the event. Flexibility and timeliness in organizing activity schedules are also important factors to ensure successful implementation.

Discussion

The results of carrying out service activities as judges in the elementary school English vocabulary competition at SDN 137/III Koto Salak can cover several important aspects. First is English Language Skills Improvement: It provides students with the opportunity to hone and improve their skills in English vocabulary. Competitors will engage in vocabulary challenges involving understanding, pronunciation, and use of English words.

Second, the activity can provide motivation and enthusiasm for learning: Through participation in the vocabulary competition, students at SDN 137/III Koto Salak are expected to get additional encouragement and motivation to learn English. They can experience immediate benefits from a better understanding of vocabulary and increased confidence in using English. Third, Introduction to Healthy Competition: Vocabulary competitions also provide an opportunity for students to understand and experience healthy competition. They can learn about the importance of preparation, concentration, cooperation, and the ability to manage pressure in competitive situations.

Fourth, Achievement Award: Participants who achieve good results in the vocabulary competition will receive an award. It can increase their sense of pride and self-confidence, as well as motivate to continue learning and excelling in English. The last one is Community Involvement: Through this activity, the community around SDN 137/III Koto Salak can be directly involved as volunteers, spectators, or supporters of the event. It can strengthen the relationship between the school and the community, as well as increase awareness of the importance of English education in the surrounding environment. The results of this community service activity can be assessed from the extent to which the initial objectives of the activity are achieved, such as improving students' English skills and learning

motivation increased, and active participation from students, teachers, and the community. Evaluation and feedback from all parties involved are also important to improve and develop similar activities in the future. These results illustrate the positive impact achieved through service activities as judges in the English vocabulary competition. Through improving English language skills, learning motivation, developing communication skills, and introducing healthy competition, this activity encourages students' academic and social development. The following are photos of vocabulary competition activities at SDN 137/III Koto Salak.



Figure 1.

Photos of elementary school level vocabulary competition activities

CONCLUSION

Based on the implementation of community service activities as a judge in the elementary school English vocabulary competition at SDN 137/III Koto Salak, it can be concluded that this activity provides significant benefits for participants, teachers, and the community. Through the activity, there is an increase in students' English vocabulary skills, increased learning motivation, development of communication skills, and introduction to healthy competition. Community involvement in this event also strengthens the relationship between the school and the surrounding environment.

REFERENCES

- Folse, K. (2011). Applying L2 lexical research findings in ESL teaching. *TESOL Quarterly*, 45(2), 362–369. <https://doi.org/10.5054/tq.2010.254529>
- Soedjito, Prof., D. (2018). *Surat Menyurat Resmi Bahasa Indonesia* (17th ed.). Rosda.
- Stahl, Steven A; William, E. N. (2005). *Teaching Word Meanings (Literacy Teaching Series)*. Routledge.
- Thornbury, S. (2002). *How to Teach Grammar* (J. Harmer (ed.)). Longman.