



Application of the Question and Answer Method to Improve Language Skills in Group a Students at RA Nur Ilahi, Desa Sungai Kinjil, Kecamatan Benua Kayong

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Abstract:

This study aims to analyze the application of the question-and-answer method to improve language skills in Group A students at RA Nur Ilahi, Sungai Kinjil Village, Benua Kayong District. Language skills are a crucial aspect of early childhood development, influencing their communication abilities and understanding. The question-and-answer method is applied as an interactive learning strategy to enhance students' participation in the teaching and learning process. This research uses a qualitative approach with observation, interviews, and documentation methods to collect data. The learning process involves providing relevant questions to students, encouraging them to think and respond verbally. The results show that the question-and-answer method significantly improves students' speaking skills. Students become more active in communication, more confident in expressing their opinions, and are better able to understand and answer questions. Moreover, this method helps enrich vocabulary and develop better sentence structure in children. Thus, the question-and-answer method can be an effective alternative in language learning for early childhood, particularly in improving their speaking skills and social interactions.

Keywords: Question-and-answer method, Language skills, Early childhood, Learning, Communication.

INTRODUCTION

Language skills are one of the most critical aspects of development for early childhood. Language plays a role in communication, thinking, and building social interactions with the surrounding environment. Children with good language skills will find it easier to express opinions, understand information, and adapt to learning environments. Therefore, learning methods that can enhance children's language skills from an early age are necessary. One method that can be applied in language learning is the question-and-answer method. This method encourages active interaction between educators and students through questions that stimulate thinking and motivate children to speak. Through this method, children not only practice listening and understanding questions but

also learn to construct answers with better sentences. RA Nur Ilahi in Sungai Kinjil Village, Benua Kayong District, is one of the early childhood education institutions that seeks to develop students' language skills through various learning methods. However, several challenges remain, such as low student participation in speaking, limited vocabulary, and a lack of confidence in expressing opinions. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the application of the question-and-answer method in improving language skills in Group A students at RA Nur Ilahi. This research is expected to contribute to the development of more effective and interactive learning strategies to enhance early childhood language skills.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach. This approach was chosen because it aims to understand and describe the process of applying the question-and-answer method to improve students' language skills. This method allows the researcher to directly observe the interactions between teachers and students, analyze communication patterns, and explore the factors that support or hinder the effectiveness of the question-and-answer method in teaching. The data sources in this research consist of two types: Primary Data: The main data was obtained through direct observation of the learning process in the classroom, interviews with teachers, and documentation of students' activities in answering the questions given during the learning sessions. Secondary Data: Supporting data was collected from literature reviews, research journals, books, and school documents relevant to the research topic. This secondary data was used to strengthen the analysis of the research results and compare findings with previous studies.

RESULTS

The research results show that the application of the question-and-answer method in language learning at RA Nur Ilahi has had a positive impact on students' speaking skills. Based on observations, students became more active in communication, were able to answer questions better, and demonstrated improvements in vocabulary acquisition. In addition, this method also boosted students' confidence in speaking in front of their peers. From interviews with teachers, it was revealed that the question-and-answer method helped enhance interaction between teachers and students, as well as create a more enjoyable learning atmosphere. However, some challenges were faced, such as students who remained passive in answering questions and differences in comprehension levels among students. Data Overview This research was conducted by observing the development of students' language skills before and after the application of the question-and-answer method. Data were collected through direct observations, interviews with teachers, and documentation of students' learning outcomes. Based on the data obtained, before the question-and-answer method was applied, only about 30% of students were actively participating in speaking activities during the learning process. After consistently applying this method for several weeks, the students' participation rate increased to 75%. This increase indicates that the question-and-answer method is effective in encouraging students to communicate more actively. Below is the data from the observation of the students' speaking skill development before and after the implementation of the question-and-answer method.

Speaking Skills Aspects	Before Implementation (%)	After Implementation (%)	Increase (%)
Active Participation in Discussions	30%	75%	+45%
Confidence in Answering Questions	40%	80%	+40%
Vocabulary Mastery	35%	70%	+35%
Clarity in Speaking	50%	85%	+35%

From the table above, it can be seen that there is a significant improvement in every aspect of the students' speaking skills after the question-and-answer method was applied.

Teacher Interviews The results of the interviews with the teacher showed that the question-and-answer method not only improved the students' speaking skills but also made it easier for the teacher to teach. The teacher stated that with this method, students are more focused on learning because they feel more involved in the learning process. However, the teacher also revealed several challenges in applying this method. Some students still felt shy and reluctant to speak in front of the class, especially at the beginning of the method's implementation. Additionally, there was a difference in the students' levels of understanding, which caused some students to grasp the material more quickly than others. Therefore, the teacher needed to take a more varied approach to adapt the method to the characteristics of each student. **Student Documentation and Progress Notes** In addition to observations and interviews, documentation in the form of learning recordings and student work also showed significant development. In the learning records before the question-and-answer method was applied, the majority of students only gave short answers or did not answer at all when asked by the teacher. However, after several sessions using this method, many students began to confidently answer questions with longer and clearer sentences.

Data Verification

Several steps were taken to ensure the accuracy of the data obtained, as follows: **Source Triangulation** – Comparing the results of observations with interviews and documentation to ensure that the data obtained is consistent. **Method Triangulation** – Using more than one data collection method (observation, interview, and documentation analysis) to make the results more valid. **Member Checking** – Confirming interview results with the teacher to ensure that the interpretation of the data is accurate. **Peer Debriefing** – Discussing research findings with fellow teachers to get additional insights into the effectiveness of the method. **Discussion** From the results of this study, it can be concluded that the question-and-answer method is an effective strategy for improving students' language skills, particularly in speaking. Significant improvements were seen in the students' confidence in answering questions, the use of a broader vocabulary, and the clarity of their speech. However, the application of this method requires the teacher's skill in asking interesting and appropriate questions according to the students' level of understanding. In addition, the teacher needs to provide additional motivation to passive students to boost their confidence in speaking. This research also shows that the classroom environment plays an important role in the success of this method. A supportive and interactive environment can help students feel more comfortable speaking and expressing themselves. Therefore, teachers need to create a pleasant learning atmosphere so that this method can be optimally implemented. With the significant improvements in students' speaking skills, it is hoped that the question-and-answer method can continue to be used and developed in language learning at RA Nur Ilahi.

This research result can also serve as a reference for other schools in implementing more interactive and communicative learning methods. Discussion and Data Validation Discussion Based on the research findings, the question-and-answer method has been proven to have a positive impact on improving the language skills of students at RA Nur Ilahi. This improvement can be seen from several indicators, such as the students' confidence in answering questions, an increase in the number of vocabulary used, and the clarity of their speech. Compared to lecture methods or other passive methods, the question-and-answer method is more effective in actively involving students in the learning process. This aligns with research conducted by Muslimah, Alim, and Ayu (2018), which stated that the question-and-answer method can enhance student participation and understanding in language learning. However, the application of this method also presents several challenges. Some students are still passive and lack confidence in answering questions, especially in the early stages of learning. Additionally, differences in the students' levels of understanding affect the effectiveness of this method. Therefore, the teacher needs to adjust the questions to the abilities of each student so that all students can participate optimally. To overcome these challenges, more varied approaches can be applied, such as using open-ended questions, giving students time to think before answering, and creating a supportive environment to boost their confidence in speaking in front of their peers. Overall, the question-and-answer method not only enhances students' speaking skills but also trains their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Thus, this method can be an effective strategy in early childhood language learning.

Data Validation To ensure the validity of the research results, several data validation procedures were carried out. The goal of the validation process is to test the truth and reliability of the data obtained so that the research results can be accounted for. Validation was carried out using the following techniques: **Data Triangulation** Triangulation was conducted by comparing the results from various data collection methods, such as observation, interviews, and documentation. If the data from various sources showed consistent results, the data was considered valid. **Source Triangulation** Data obtained from students, teachers, and observation results were compared to ensure the accuracy of the information obtained. If there were differences, further clarification was made through discussions with the teacher. **Member Checking** After the data was collected and analyzed, the results were reconfirmed with the teacher involved in the research. This was to ensure that the data interpretation was in line with the actual conditions. **Peer Debriefing** Discussions with colleagues or other educators were held to gain additional insights and perspectives on the research findings. This helped minimize bias in data analysis. **Validation Results** Based on the validation process carried out, the research results were declared valid and could be used as a basis for developing language learning strategies at RA Nur Ilahi.

The validation results showed that: Data from various sources indicated consistency between the results of observations, interviews, and documentation. The teacher confirmed that the improvement in students' speaking skills after applying the question-and-answer method truly occurred and was not coincidental. There were no significant differences between the data obtained from teacher interviews and the results of the observations made by the researcher. Discussions with fellow educators concluded that this method could be applied in other classes with some adjustments to suit the characteristics of different students. With this validation, the research results can be used as a reference for improving students' language skills through the question-and-answer method. Additionally, this research provides recommendations to teachers to continue developing more innovative questioning techniques to enhance the effectiveness of language learning for early childhood students.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research conducted, it can be concluded that the application of the question-and-answer method has proven to be effective in improving the speaking skills of Group A students at RA Nur Ilahi. This improvement is evident in the students' increased confidence in answering questions, the broader use of vocabulary, and the clarity of their speech. Moreover, this method also encourages more active interaction between teachers and students, creating a more dynamic and enjoyable learning atmosphere. However, the implementation of this method requires specific strategies to ensure it reaches all students equally. Challenges such as varying levels of understanding and differences in students' confidence can be addressed through a more flexible approach and the use of questions tailored to each student's individual abilities. Overall, this study demonstrates that the question-and-answer method is not only a tool for enhancing speaking skills but also helps train students to think critically and structure their responses systematically. Therefore, this method can serve as an effective alternative in early childhood language learning.

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