

BOOSTING STUDENTS' INTEREST IN LEARNING GRAMMAR BY USING QUIZLET

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Abstract

Communication is the key of everything. To reach the good communication, grammar is the most powerful rules to help the EFL students to learn the language. Whereas, nowadays, the way English teachers are teaching in the class, they tend to be monotonous. There should be proposed a new strategy to learn grammar in fun way. Quizlet will be able to increase the students' grammar mastery. A qualitative approach will be used to analyze the case that is Quizlet is a helpful application to master English in the way of autonomous learning. The data was taken from the students of semester 2nd and 4th from English Department of Tidar University. Based on the questionnaire sheets that had been distributed, the result shows that the participants mostly said that Quizlet is helpful to help them.

Keywords: grammar, Quizlet, EFL learners

1. INTRODUCTION

There are a lot things to master in acquiring English language in order to create an ideal communication. Tugrul, C. (2013) explains grammar skills will help learners to organize words and messages and create them into full of meaning. When people want to convey meanings properly during the communication process, grammar is remarkably important. Thornbury (1999:16) states that by having a good understanding of English grammar, students will be able to somehow develop creativity in communicative competence. Savage (2010: 2-4) and Asieh Seifi (2013) also argue if mastering grammar encompass the competence of the four language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Mainly, the role of grammar is to avoid errors in delivering the intended meanings or contexts. However, some people have difficulties in mastering grammar and even they believe if grammar is one of the most difficult things in learning English.

Grammar becoming so important nowadays. The EFL learners are demanded to master English in their busy time. Then they might have stuck in reverse. In the curriculum 2013 that have been using up to now, the allotment time for English is very limited, that is only 2 lesson hours in a week.

The difficulties in general could be divided into two categories. Firstly, the lack of interest. The learners less likely engaged during the learning process because they feel bored in the classroom, which finally hinders the students in understanding the grammar concepts and the use of it.

Secondly, the way teachers explain the material is the lack of variety. Mohammed (2011) argues many teachers have tried to create grammar teaching a beneficial, non-threatening, and imaginative activity within the English curriculum. In this sophisticated era, some of the teachers also have applied various ways to engage students' in learning process, but some of

them don't. They still use a conventional method which sometimes monotonous and less accessible. By doing so surely it will be troublesome because the students who have less interest will burden the bored students more.

Such problems surely need to be solved as fast as possible. In this paper, the writer tries to solve those problems by using Quizlet application. Further explanations will be discussed in the next part.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research belongs to a qualitative research. The writers using the questionnaire to collect the data. The participants are the English Department Students in the semesters of 4th and 6th of Tidar University. The data had been analyzed using the descriptive qualitative.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

What is Quizlet?

According to Hoang (2015), Quizlet is one of the most widely used flash card websites that allows users to create and study flashcard sets using a variety of game-like learning tools.

Besides a very useful learning tool (Lander, B.: 2016, Hoang, Dang. : 2015), Quizlet also a flexible tool which can be used both computers or cell phones. Matukhin, P (2017) states if anybody is able to create his/her own sets with the required lexicon and use ready-made sets of card sand. Quizlet also helps students to visualize because people learn better from words and pictures than from words alone” (Mayer: 2005).

The Importance of Grammar

Hinkel & Fotos (2002: 13) said that the teaching of grammar would help the learners to foster the skills essential for their success in using English. In addition, Savage (2010: 11) said there are two important factors of the teaching grammar: (1) the function of the language functions that students will use it in their daily life activities, and (2) the surroundings in which learners use English.

Al-Mekhlafi & Nagaratnam (2011: 70) and Celce-Murcia (2001: 252) argues that three areas have to be considered in mastering grammar: grammar as rules, grammar as meaning, and grammar as use. Meanwhile, Pennington in Hinkel & Fotos (2002: 14) proposed four principles that can serve as a foundation for effective pedagogical grammar; collocation, compositional, contexted, and contrastive. Not only that, Gengross (2006: 8-10) argues that learning grammar has the same sequence of stage. For example, the model text's presentation, lead-in, the model text's reconstruction, text creation and text sharing. These stages allow the students to comprehend the teaching materials in grammar. In teaching grammar, these aspects should be seen for teaching and learning grammar not only about grammatical structure merely, they are also used to give meaningful expression both in context and meaning.

The Relation Between Quizlet and Grammar Mastery

Firstly, Quizlet will boost students' interest. Students believe it will make learning interactive and dynamic through the use of Apps. (Jomayra, 2014). By adopting Quizlet in the learning

process, it will create better ambience of classroom which support the learning process. The students will be interested because they are used to using technology in daily life. Not only that, the interactive interface of Quizlet will also urge the students to think grammar as an easy subject to learn and enjoyable one.

Secondly, Quizlet features, ease the process of learning process. Previously, the teacher may only use textbooks and white boards in teaching grammar, which is monotonous. However, the way teacher teach and the students learn will be more various by using Quizlet. The teacher can use the features of grammar to create an engaging explanation by creating flip-flop games, matching test, and many more. Those ways of teaching grammar will not only create a good classroom ambience, but also make learning grammar more accessible. The use of Quizlet will allow students to learn grammar not only in the classroom but also outside the classroom. By doing so, the students can exchange understanding about the explanation and learn together along with their peers.

Lastly, the portability of mobile devices coupled with their processing speed made them the preferred medium for accessing Quizlet to study outside of the classroom. Further, students reported sharing their data sets with their classmates; therefore, it can be concluded that the use of mobile devices in this context plays a role, perhaps indirectly, in encouraging sharing and collaboration among students (Miller, 2012; Schuler, 2009). These findings are consistent with Rossing (2012) which found that use of mobile devices encourages participation and engagement among students. Through resources such as Quizlet, students are able to work cooperatively with their classmates by creating study materials that can be shared by all (Shuler 2012).

4. CONCLUSION

Grammar is important in creating an ideal communication process. However, some of people are having some problem with learning grammar. The main problems are students bored during the learning process and monotonous way in delivering the grammar material to the students.

Quizlet will be able to increasing the students' grammar mastery because the students will be more engaged in learning due to its interactive interface. The interactive interface will be comfy students and make them for not assuming grammar as a boring subject. Not only that that, the teacher will have more various ways in teaching grammar because the numerous features of Quizlet which will not only ease the students, but also the students.

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