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PARENTAL INFLUENCE ON CHILDREN'S READING HABITS

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Abstract

This study aims to explore the role of parents in developing children's reading habits to improve their academic performance. This study aims to determine the role, influence and strategies of parents on children's learning development and forming reading habits. This study uses a qualitative method with an interpretive paradigm in learning and reading. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with parents and documentation. Then the data were analyzed and transcribed thematically. The results showed that parental involvement in reading activities was positively related to children's academic success. This study also highlighted the influence of parenting styles on children's learning motivation. The results of this study emphasize the importance of comprehensive interventions that target parenting practices and children's learning environments to optimize educational outcomes.

Keywords : Parental Involvement, Reading Habits, Learning Motivation, Academic Performance.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi peran orang tua dalam mengembangkan kebiasaan membaca anak untuk meningkatkan prestasi akademiknya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui peran, pengaruh dan strategi orang tua terhadap perkembangan belajar anak dan pembentukan kebiasaan membaca. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan paradigma interpretatif dalam belajar dan membaca. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara semi terstruktur dengan orang tua dan dokumentasi. Kemudian data dianalisis dan ditranskripsi secara tematik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa keterlibatan orang tua dalam kegiatan membaca berhubungan positif dengan keberhasilan akademik anak. Penelitian ini juga menyoroti pengaruh gaya pengasuhan terhadap motivasi belajar anak. Hasil penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya intervensi komprehensif yang menargetkan praktik pengasuhan dan lingkungan belajar anak untuk mengoptimalkan hasil pendidikan.

Kata Kunci : Keterlibatan Orang Tua, Kebiasaan Membaca, Motivasi Belajar, Prestasi Akademik.

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INTRODUCTION

Menurut Humans are born with the capacity to learn language, it is acquired through social interaction, highlighting the cultural aspect of language. Key features of human language include discrete units (like words), infinite possibilities for creating new sentences (productivity), and arbitrary connections between sounds and meanings. This differs from other communication systems like gestures¹. Sociolinguistics explores the relationship between language and society. It emphasizes that the meaning of language is influenced by social context. However, this categorizes signs into symbols (conventional meanings), icons (visual resemblances), and indexes (pointing to something)². Language is primarily symbolic, but there can be iconic and indexical elements. Therefore, understanding these aspects is crucial for studying language in society.

Society believes that reading is a pillar of a child's overall educational development and a pillar of a nation's future. So, good reading habits are one of the basic language skills that children must have from childhood.

One example is in Nepal where English is studied as a foreign language. Where children can develop vocabulary, spelling, pronunciation and practice creative and critical thinking through reading. In addition, the habit of reading helps children develop overall language proficiency. The role of parents here is the initial and most important teacher for their children in terms of teaching basic knowledge, but also other aspects such as teaching mother tongue, and ideology, and both influence the child's personality to a certain extent both explicitly and implicitly³. However, there are still many parents who are reluctant to carry out reading activities between children and parents, because there is no impact on these activities on children and there is a lack of purpose during the activities⁴.

One way for children to learn language or reading is through parents and teachers starting by reading books aloud. Where research has shown that reading aloud can help improve children's vocabulary and oral comprehension skills. The relationship between reading aloud and children's phonological awareness is that it influences understanding of the relationship between letters and sounds, and the ability to know and use positive language. Factors that influence positive language in children are the frequency of reading aloud, the dialogue that occurs during

¹ Yule, G. (2017). *The Study of Language*. Cambridge University Press.

Zein, Subhan. (2019). English, multilingualism and globalisation in Indonesia. *English Today*, 35(1), 48–53. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S026607841800010X>

² Ronald Wardhaugh and Janet M. Fuller. (2021). *An Introduction To Linguistics*. Wiley Blackwell.

<https://books.google.co.id/books?hl=id&lr=&id>
Wang, B., & Afri, E. (2023). A Case Study of Parent-Child Interaction in Their Reading Activity. *International Journal of English and Applied Linguistics (IJEAL)*, 3(2).

https://doi.org/10.47709/ijeal.v3i2.2372=y0orEAAAQB-AJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR13&dq=sociolinguistics&ots=MotrR6mHyo&sig=xmEAIT-ZOLfkqTJjwMUYElawK70&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=sociolinguistics&f=false

³ K.C., K. (2022). Perception of Teachers about the Role of Parents in Developing Reading Habit of Basic Level Students. *Lumbini Journal of Language and Literature*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.3126/ljll.v3i1.50491>

⁴ Wang, B., & Afri, E. (2023). A Case Study of Parent-Child Interaction in Their Reading Activity. *International Journal of English and Applied Linguistics (IJEAL)*, 3(2). <https://doi.org/10.47709/ijeal.v3i2.2372>

reading, and the child's level of involvement that occurs during reading. In a study conducted by Foy and, it was shown that children who had a lot of reading experience started with various media and their parents actively involved them in reading activities. Reading aloud here is where children also read aloud, and children can recognize different things and discover more advanced vocabulary and complex sentence structures. In this case, reading aloud according to international standards seems to be mostly used for entertainment and disciplinary purposes in schools.

Furthermore, research for language mapping in Indonesia carried out by the Language Development and Development Agency, Ministry of Education and Culture was conducted from 1991 to 2017. Local languages (excluding dialects and subdialects) in Indonesia that have been identified and validated are 652 languages from 2,452 observation areas. If based on the accumulated distribution of local languages province, the languages in Indonesia total 733. Languages in East Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, North Maluku, Papua, and West Papua have not all been identified. This linguistic richness has elevated Indonesia to the esteemed position of the second most linguistically diverse nation globally⁵. Education experts advocate for

promoting bilingualism within Indonesia's education system to enhance educational accessibility⁶. The recommendation of simultaneous instruction in Bahasa Indonesia and local languages during early education asserts that it can significantly enrich the pedagogical experience. Such an approach not only strengthens linguistic proficiency but also fosters cultural sensitivity and understanding. Thus, integrating multilingual education into Indonesia's curriculum presents a promising and productive endeavor for the nation's future educational landscape.

However, children's first language is the one they learn from birth. This is often referred to as the mother tongue, native tongue, or L1. These terms suggest that the child acquires the language from their mother or the people around them⁷. Moreover, children can learn more than one language before puberty, becoming bilingual or multilingual. This period is considered the best time for language acquisition, allowing the child to become a native speaker of the learned languages.

In this research, parents are a model of behavior that children can emulate, the availability and access for children to carry out reading and learning activities, as well as being a driver of motivation and strengthening for parents towards children. Learning motivation itself can be divided into intrinsic motivation and extrinsic motivation, which is determined based on the nature of the learning. Learning motivation is greatly influenced by the mental state of students, namely the tendency to

⁵ Zein, Subhan. (2019). English, multilingualism and globalisation in Indonesia. *English Today*, 35(1), 48–53. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S026607841800010X>

⁶ Putrawan, G. E. (2022). *Translanguaging Practices In Efl Classrooms*.: Department of

Language and Arts Education, Universitas Lampung, Indonesia.

⁷ Ida Puji Lestari, Fatimah, Emy Sudarwati, and Yuni Astuti. (2021). *Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) in Indonesian Context: A Practical Guide*. Universitas Brawijaya Press.

power and stimulate student learning, and through motivation it can encourage students to achieve students' academic goals⁸.

This research aims (1). Parents' perspective on reading habits of children, (2). Parents' perspective on their role in developing reading habits, and (3). Parents' strategy to build a reading habit. This research also discusses the influence of parents on children⁹. This research focuses on the role of parents towards children so that children want to learn and read. Where parents initially play a role in guiding basic attitudes and skills, such as religious education so that they obey the rules and good habits. This agrees with Prabhawani who stated that providing education is the responsibility of parents and children in the surrounding community, not just the responsibility of educational institutions. And parents must be at the forefront of their children's education in all situations¹⁰. This research can also be used as material for parents so that parents know how to get their children to read and learn.

METHODOLOGY

This research is qualitative research which aims to search for the essential meaning of human experience, focusing attention on a phenomenon or object to produce understanding from within. In this researchers use an interpretive paradigm in learning and reading. Where in the view of interpretive research relies on qualitative data collected in open interviews. Participants in sampling in this study looked for parents who by demanding their children be smart and giving gifts, as well as parents putting pressure on children to study and do activities at home. Collecting results from participants uses direct interviews and documentation. In general, the interviews conducted in this research were appropriate to address social problems that exist in society, especially in families regarding the role of parents in providing learning and reading habits to children¹¹. Meanwhile, the documentation in this research supports the data source and can be used as a large sample in a study¹².

It also helps researchers collect data about children's reading levels. In this case, there were 5 questions that the researchers asked parents to get data on what percentage of children read because this research is about developing children's reading habits. Where the data obtained during the interview is carried out

⁸ Ren, Y., & Liu, S. (2022). The Influence of Parent-Child Relationship on Pupils' Learning Motivation: The Mediating Role of Teacher-Student Relationship. *Journal of Psychological Research*, 4(3). <https://doi.org/10.30564/jpr.v4i3.4828>

⁹ Fälth, L. (2021). A study of parents' reading aloud habits with research on reading aloud applied to research-based practices for promoting students' intrinsic motivation to read. *International Journal of Teaching and Education*, 9(2). <https://doi.org/10.52950/te.2021.9.2.003>

¹⁰ Pusparini, G. A., Pamujo, P., & Wijayanti, O. (2022). The Role of Parents in Guiding

Children's Learning Activities at Home. *Journal of Innovation and Research in Primary Education*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.56916/jirpe.v1i1.30>

¹¹ Omolola A. Adeoye-Olatunde Pharm.D., M. S. | N. L. O. P. D. (2021). Research and scholarly methods: Semi-structured interviews. *Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy*. <https://accpjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/jac5.1441>

¹² Taherdoost, H. (2021). Data Collection Methods and Tools for Research; A Step-by-Step Guide to Choose Data Collection Technique for Academic and Business Research Projects. *International Journal of Academic Research in Management (IJARM)*, 2021(1), 10–38. <https://hal.science/hal-03741847>

through documentation. Then the data was analyzed and transcribed thematically. In collecting this data, parents also provide motivation to learn. Where learning motivation can describe the driving force for children to produce, guide, and ensure learning so that targeted learning is achieved¹³.

In this case, the researchers conducted research for 4 months. The subjects taken were around 8 years old. In this 4 month process, researchers used various methods to determine the role of parents in their children's reading habits. and in this study the researcher knows the percentage of parents' role in children. Where researchers know that the task of parents is to search, identify, find, synthesize, and evaluate information obtained from child development in order to achieve the goals of educating children¹⁴.

The results of this research data are in the form of descriptive data. In this research, researchers carried out data analysis by conducting direct surveys in the field or location through interviews and observations. After that, the researcher concludes the results of the data obtained in the field or location. From the field results, researchers conducted interviews with 4 parents. After that, the researcher selected

the results of the interview. The technique for determining the results of this research uses Miles and Huberman in 2005 data analysis techniques. In this analysis there are 3 stages including data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Data reduction is the process of combining and aligning all forms of data into written form for easy analysis. Data presentation is a collection of several pieces of information arranged to provide a conclusion and further action. Meanwhile, the conclusion is the final step in creating a research report¹⁵.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The main aim of the study was to explore the role of parents in developing the reading habits of children to enhance better academic performance. For this study, four parents consisting of mothers were interviewed and their responses were digitally recorded. The data were analyzed and transcribed thematically by the average result. Analysis of the data revealed four different categories: parents' perspective on reading habits, their perspective of their role in developing reading habits, their perspective on the impact of reading habits on enhancing better academics, and Parents' strategy to build a reading habit.

The first category was chosen to ground the direction of their perspectives on how important reading habits impact on children's growth and development, so that later the data can be elaborated with other data. The

¹³ Eka Putri, J. L., Ramadhani, S., Susila Wati, V., & Isnanda, R. (2023). The Relationship Between Parenting Patterns On Children's Learning Motivation. *JLEL: Journal Of Language Education and Literacy*, 1(1), 18–24. <https://doi.org/10.24036/jlel.v1i1.11>

¹⁴ Inese Barone. (2023). Definition, Structure, And Formation Of.Pdf. Human, Technologies

And Quality Of Education, 15

¹⁵ Liligoly, Y., Sialana, F., & Soumokil, A. (2023). The Role of Parents in Supporting the Education of Daughters Continuing Their Study in Higher Education. *JETISH: Journal of Education Technology Information Social Sciences and Health*, 2(2), 1225–1232. <https://doi.org/10.57235/jetish.v2i2.657>

second category was used by the researcher to obtain data from parents' perspectives on their role in their children's habits. The third category is used by researchers to find out what strategies are used by parents so that children can be well literate. The last category refers to the results of these data whether it can affect their academics.

The categories include the role of parents based on their perspectives of reading habits and parents' strategies to improve their children's academic performance by literacy.

1. Parents' perspective on reading habits of children

Developing reading habits in children at the primary level is an important part of this study. However, parents' perspectives regarding the role of parents in developing it is of primary concern. So as researchers, before getting into the main issue of the study, we would like to first get some ideas from parents regarding children's reading habits. This is because, if the parents have some basic concepts and understanding of the issue, then only they can talk further about the role of parents in developing it. Therefore, in the interview, the researchers started with the first question of the study to get their perception and understanding of reading habits. In answering the first question about parents' perspectives on

children's reading habits, the respondents agreed that reading is a learning activity and that every child should read to be smart. Therefore, it needs to be developed as a habit since childhood especially at home by providing colorful books, such as fairytales and others. Since children tend to have a better photographic memory and are more interested in images¹⁶.

2. Parents' perspective on their role in developing reading habits

In this research, one of the strategies used is according to Bronfenbrenner from Hartin in 2022 who said that the child's entire environment consists of concentric circles, and this circle is the center. There are several skills that are important for children to learn, namely through communication with family, and also how to build relationships with other people, communicate using language, and overcome social situations¹⁷. The next question related to the role of parents according to parents' perspectives was answered with the same answer. Parents agreed that parents have a very important role in influencing children's habits, especially reading habits. According to them, parents are the first education for children and have a greater role in education than at school. Moreover, parents sometimes do not have enough knowledge to explain a textbook. Therefore, parents have to pay for their child's education at a related institution.

3. Parents' strategy to build a reading habit

Nevertheless, at a young age having the habit of

¹⁶ Sotiropoulou, E. (2022). Fairy Tale as a Pedagogical Tool for Children under the Age of 3: Educators' Views and Practices. *Global Journal of Educational Studies* 8(2):1. <https://doi.org/10.5296/gjes.v8i2.20137>

¹⁷ Hazieli J. Lapuhapu1, R. M. O. (2024). Parental Engagement and Pupils' Reading Performance. *International Journal Of Multidisciplinary Research And Analysis*.

learning and reading is something that is difficult, because that age for children is a time to play¹⁸. Therefore, parents must have a way to motivate their children to love reading. In this session, parents have the view that children must be strictly enforced such as being yelled at first so that they want to learn because for parents it is the most powerful and easy way to overcome stubborn and lazy behavior in children. According to them, children who have experienced addiction to cellphones cannot focus on learning and even reading they have no interest. Another strategy for them is that parents should prepare picture and color books such as cartoon storybooks, colorful textbooks, and colored holy books with pictures as a medium to attract children's attention. Since children tend to have better photographic memory and are more attracted to images.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study underscore the important role of parental involvement in shaping children's educational outcomes. Specifically, parental involvement in reading activities is a predictor of children's academic success. Furthermore, this study also highlights the significant impact of parenting styles on children's motivation to learn. The results emphasize the need for comprehensive interventions that target parenting practices and children's learning

environments to optimize educational outcomes. Future research could explore specific parenting strategies that effectively enhance children's motivation and academic achievement, as well as investigate the long-term consequences of parental involvement in children's educational pathways.

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¹⁸ Elendiana, M. (2020). Upaya Meningkatkan Minta Baca Siswa Sekolah Dasar. *JURNAL*

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