

# Growing Interest in English in the School Environment

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## Abstract

This community service program, aligned with the Tridharma of Higher Education, aimed to enhance the English vocabulary skills of children at Brigjen Katamso Kindergarten in Medan. Conducted by Santo Thomas Catholic University, North Sumatra, the initiative employed multimedia tools such as images, sounds, and videos to create an engaging learning environment. A situation analysis was performed to understand the school's conditions and tailor the program effectively. The program's objectives included increasing children's interest in learning English, making English learning enjoyable, and expanding their vocabulary. The implementation involved interactive activities, pronunciation exercises, and word-composing games over two days. The findings indicated a significant improvement in students' vocabulary and motivation to learn English. The program successfully fostered a positive and collaborative learning environment, demonstrating the impact of multimedia in educational settings and strengthening the relationship between the university and the community.

## Keywords

Interest in English; School Environment; Language Learning

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## Introduction

Devotion to Schools is one of the Tridharma of Higher Education where academics utilize science, technology and sennin to realize the welfare of society and make the nation's life intelligent. Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 of 2012 concerning Higher Education Article 4 states that Higher Education functions: a). b). develop an innovative, responsive, creative, skilled, competitive and cooperative academic community through the implementation of the Tridharma; c). develop science and technology and pay attention to and apply humanities values. Before carrying out activities and work programs, what must be done is to conduct a situation analysis. The situation analysis begins by making observations, both observing the physical environment and socio-cultural conditions, and the economy of the community where the activity is located, namely the Brigjen Katamso Kindergarten School, Medan. The purpose of this situation analysis is to obtain data and information related to school conditions. By conducting a situation analysis, it is hoped that it can be used as a reference in formulating activities to be carried out at Brigjen Katamso Kindergarten school.

This service certainly requires several means that are used to convey messages from a communicator to the communicant. The term multimedia describes new developments in the field of computer programming. Multimedia consists of components in the form of text, images, animated sound and video. Multimedia is a combination of several pieces of information which can be in the form of text, images, sound, animation and video. Multimedia programs are usually interactive so they have a special attraction for students to use them.

#### 1. Image

In general, image or graphic means still image such as photos and drawings. Humans are very visual-oriented and images are an excellent means of presenting information. All objects presented in image form have no direct relationship to time. The attributes of the image itself depend on the image resolution and image bit depth.

#### 2. Sound

Sound can better explain the characteristics of an image, for example music and sound effects or original sound. The authoring software used must have the ability to control recording and playback.

#### 3. Videos

Video is a technology for capturing or recording, processing, transmitting and rearranging moving images. Usually using celluloid film, signals and electronic or digital media. Video itself is closely related to motion and sound. As in analog video and digital video.

#### 4. Books

A book is a collection of writings or images/illustrations bound or combined into one.

Based on a survey conducted by the author at Brigjen Katamso Kindergarten, it was identified that there was a need to develop skills in English during the learning process in the classroom through pictures, sounds, and in the form of videos. Therefore, in the context of community service, the author has developed a program which aims to increase children's interest in learning English through multimedia in the form of English song videos. This program is a form of positive contribution from the author to Brigjend Katamso Kindergarten with the hope of providing benefits to the school's students and creating useful relationships between Santo Thomas Catholic University, North Sumatra and society in general.

### **Problem Formulation**

The formulation of the problem faced is:

1. How to increase or foster interest in English among Brigadier General Katamso Kindergarten children?
2. How do you make students feel interested in learning English?

### **Activity Objectives**

The objectives of this community service activity are:

1. Increase and develop children's interest in learning English.
2. Creating easy and fun English learning through games and learning resources that attract the attention of kindergarten children and the use of image media.

### **Benefits of Activities**

The benefits obtained by carrying out this activity are:

1. Increased children's interest in learning English and applying it in school and everyday life.
2. Change the perception that learning English is difficult and boring to easy and fun.
3. Expand students' English vocabulary through the use of pictures and colors which can make it easier to understand and recall vocabulary better.
4. Improve students' language skills, especially in terms of pronunciation and reading through learning resources and facilities.
5. Increase student activity and participation in the English learning process, thereby creating a more collaborative, positive and creative learning environment.



## Problem Solving Analysis

The activities carried out in this community service are teaching in the form of games and questions and answers to increase students' new vocabulary in learning English. This community service activity was carried out on Friday 17 May and Saturday 18 May 2024. Details of the implementation of English language learning for students are as follows:

### 1. Thursday 17 May 2024

#### Opening activities:

1. The teacher introduces himself to the students and explains the background and objectives of implementing vocabulary learning in English lessons.
2. Conduct an ice breaking warm-up by asking students to follow the instructor's guidance.

#### Core activities:

1. The teacher begins the introduction of basic words in English through the learning tools that have been provided.
2. The teacher asks students to follow the pronunciation after it has been said by the teacher.
3. The teacher corrects the wrong English pronunciation and translates the meaning of the word.

#### Closing activities:

1. The teacher asks students to do exercises in the form of word-composing games.
2. Teachers and students check together the answers they have worked on.

### 2. Saturday 18 May April 2024

#### Opening activities:

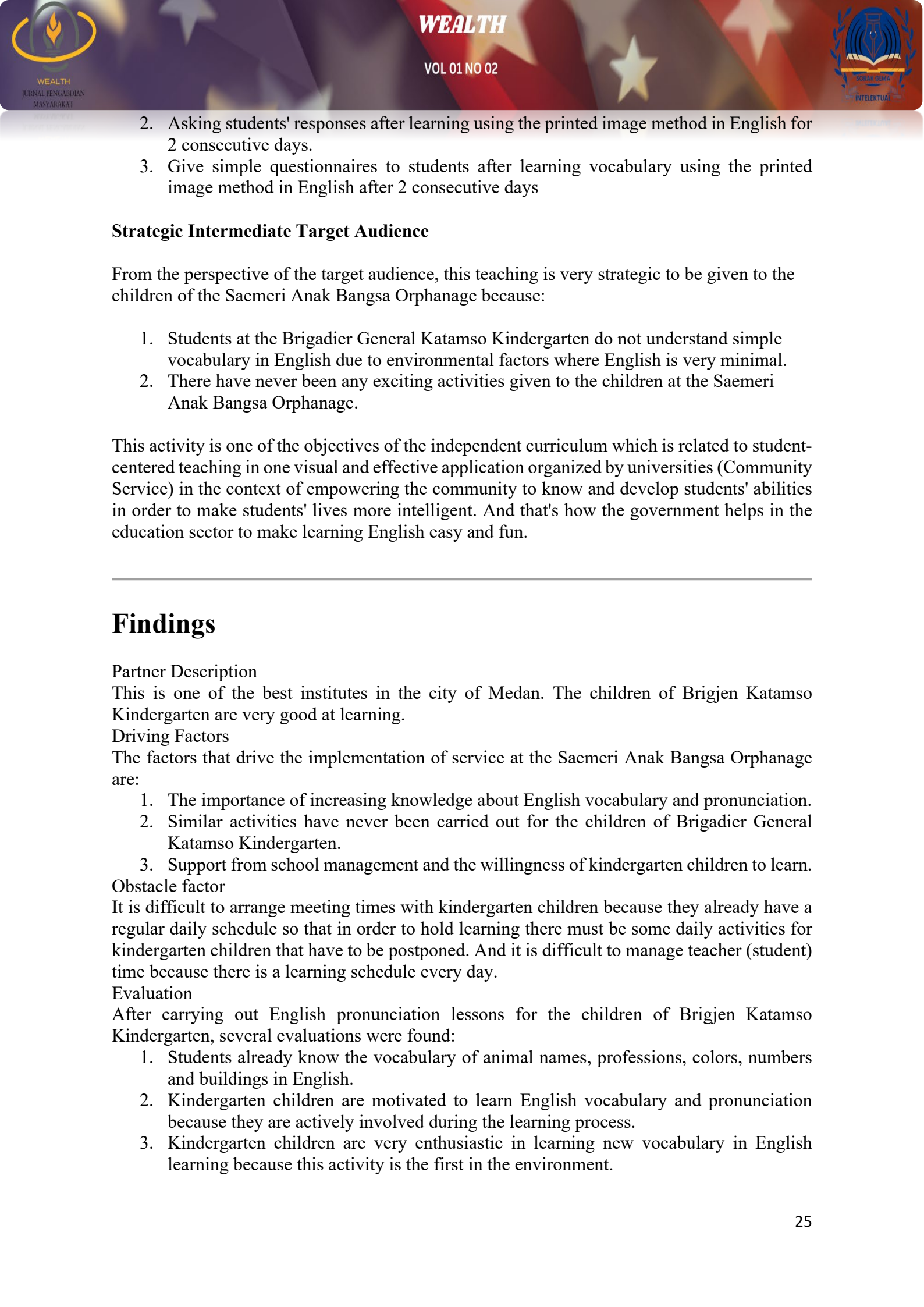
1. The teacher introduces himself to the students and explains the background and objectives of implementing vocabulary learning in English lessons.
2. Conduct an ice breaking warm-up by asking students to follow the instructor's guidance.

#### Core activities:

1. Teachers teach in more depth regarding English.
2. The teacher asks students to follow the pronunciation of the material after it has been said by the teacher.
3. Teacher corrects wrong English pronunciation.

#### Closing activities:

1. The teacher asks students to work on the questions given by the trainer.



2. Asking students' responses after learning using the printed image method in English for 2 consecutive days.
3. Give simple questionnaires to students after learning vocabulary using the printed image method in English after 2 consecutive days

### Strategic Intermediate Target Audience

From the perspective of the target audience, this teaching is very strategic to be given to the children of the Saemeri Anak Bangsa Orphanage because:

1. Students at the Brigadier General Katamso Kindergarten do not understand simple vocabulary in English due to environmental factors where English is very minimal.
2. There have never been any exciting activities given to the children at the Saemeri Anak Bangsa Orphanage.

This activity is one of the objectives of the independent curriculum which is related to student-centered teaching in one visual and effective application organized by universities (Community Service) in the context of empowering the community to know and develop students' abilities in order to make students' lives more intelligent. And that's how the government helps in the education sector to make learning English easy and fun.

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## Findings

### Partner Description

This is one of the best institutes in the city of Medan. The children of Brigjen Katamso Kindergarten are very good at learning.

### Driving Factors

The factors that drive the implementation of service at the Saemeri Anak Bangsa Orphanage are:

1. The importance of increasing knowledge about English vocabulary and pronunciation.
2. Similar activities have never been carried out for the children of Brigadier General Katamso Kindergarten.
3. Support from school management and the willingness of kindergarten children to learn.

### Obstacle factor

It is difficult to arrange meeting times with kindergarten children because they already have a regular daily schedule so that in order to hold learning there must be some daily activities for kindergarten children that have to be postponed. And it is difficult to manage teacher (student) time because there is a learning schedule every day.

### Evaluation

After carrying out English pronunciation lessons for the children of Brigjen Katamso Kindergarten, several evaluations were found:

1. Students already know the vocabulary of animal names, professions, colors, numbers and buildings in English.
2. Kindergarten children are motivated to learn English vocabulary and pronunciation because they are actively involved during the learning process.
3. Kindergarten children are very enthusiastic in learning new vocabulary in English learning because this activity is the first in the environment.



## Conclusion

From the learning results, conclusions can be drawn, including:

1. Before this lesson, students' vocabulary, especially regarding animal names, professions, colors, numbers and buildings in English, was very limited. After this lesson, the kindergarten children's vocabulary increased, especially the vocabulary of animal names, professions, colors, numbers and buildings
2. It is proven that additional learning obtained through community service activities carried out by the author can improve students' English language skills, especially students' English vocabulary.

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