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## UNDERSTANDING POETRY IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN INDONESIA

Arjulayana<sup>a</sup>, Cut Novita Srikandi<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Muhammadiyah University of Tangerang, Jalan Perintis Kemerdekaan 1/33cikokol Tangerang, Indonesia

Corresponding e-mail: [annadharmawan@gmail.com](mailto:annadharmawan@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** This paper aimed to report the data analysis of teaching English as a foreign language in 7<sup>th</sup> semester students of Muhammadiyah University Tangerang. This paper can be given understanding about how does a Poetry can be used as a media in teaching English for students in University. The data analysis in this paper use qualitative descriptive, because this technique embedded the students understanding of poetry and EFL gather. Through this paper can be known that teaching EFL can implement through Understanding Poem, where the poem is consist of complex words which has intensely meaning than does ordinary language. This paper will report the data how a poem can use as a unique media and able to give understanding in teaching Indonesian students university.

**Keywords:** *Poem, English as a Foreign Language, EFL*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Education as an effort which is a plan to help and increase student's potency and ability where it is not government's responsible only but also parent, school and social life or it can be say all the human aspect need to responsible to the educational progress. Studying English lesson is different with physical science lesson or other social science, such as history, civic, chemistry and others, because they have different function in language as a tool for communication, it is mean study about English is not only learn about grammar, structure, syntaxes, vocabulary or word phrases but also learn how to practice and use it in daily life, how to integrate the word and ideas in sentence, and how to implement their English is in their communication activity. Patel and Jain (2008) stated that language as a media in expressing ideas, though, feeling and message. Without language, people cannot communicate with others, which is why language said as a media.

Without understanding the use of media in teaching English will make the process of teaching and learning hard and bored, nowadays English become familiar for some of students but English still become one of foreign language in Indonesia, that is why as an English teacher they should be able to find many kinds of strategy in teaching English to eliminate the students' boringness. Brown and Atkins (2002) stated that a teacher or lecturer should be able to think about effective teaching, teacher or lecturer tries to think plan a problem solving, to analyse a topic, to reflect upon what is an appropriate approach, to select key strategies and materials, and to organize and structure ideas, information, and tasks for students, to make the students and learning process are running well and appropriate with the learning objectives.

Teaching English is hard for some people if they could not be able to encourage students in learning English as a foreign language, because students need motivation from their teacher, teachers' motivation is not only about how to

teach and deliver the material but also find the appropriate strategy to make students fun and easier to absorb the learning material, especially for English material which still become foreign language in Indonesia. For some people poetry is hard and unable to implement in teaching and learning process, it is if they understand with many kinds of language teaching variation. Patel and Jain (2008) stated that in the language learning people can use language in two forms, one is prose and other is verse. Verse here is called "Poetry" lesson in university students, especially in Muhammadiyah university of Tangerang Indonesia.

Learning and understanding poetry is an innovative ways to implement in teaching English as a foreign language because, university students assume more enjoyable in Poetry, where the poetry is one of the genres in learning literature and literature is a compulsory subject in learning English. Based on the problem above, the writer assumes the objective of this research are; (1) to teach English as a foreign language , (2) giving students understanding about poem in teaching and learning EFL.

## 2 THEORETICAL REVIEW

In the first time when hearing "teaching" words, will appear a question "what is teaching?" teaching is a process of transfer and elaborating knowledge to the students, it is teacher's effort to make the students better than before. According to Chamber and Gregory (2006) that teaching is a teacher movement in helping their students with a complex activities, strategy, mechanism, invitation, stimulation and rhetorical. In learning language the learners and teacher should be able to recognize the importance of teaching English as a foreign language, in communication people need language both mother tongue, first language or foreign language. Geoffrey et.al (1980) analyzed

that English develop widely in the world, 4,000 to 5,000 people living languages. English as a Foreign language become importance when the people want to continue their education, because almost of the country or western country requires English as the student's qualification who want to study abroad. In teaching and studying language, teacher should consider with the four aspect of language skill, are:

### 2.1 Teaching Reading

Teacher is a facilitator for their students; teacher should give some vocabularies to be understood by their learner to make the learner able to gain the step of studying EFL. Whether the teacher is able to read well or not, if their students cannot understand his/her strategy and steps in teaching it will make the students hard to understand the material delivered. Reading activity can give understanding to the students through written text, it is very necessary in human life because through reading people can "fly" their mind it is just like imagine everything based on their reading text and it will make their knowledge sharp. Patel and Jain (2008) said that "Reading is not only a source of information and a pleasurable activity but also a means of consolidating and extending one's knowledge of the language". (p.114). There are 3 stages in reading process according to Patel and Jain (2008); the first stage is recognition stage. In this stage the students could be able to recognize the topic discuss of the reading text. Second stage is structuring stage. In this stage students are gained to understanding the structural and syntactical meaning related to the syntactical relationship unit. The third stage is interpretation stage. This stage called the highest level of processing in teaching and understanding reading activity, because in this stage the students try to comprehend of the overall in the context reading both phrase, words, sentence and meaning.

## 2.2 Teaching writing

Writing activity is the hardest aspect in teaching language, because not all the students are interested in and easy to encourage them. In teaching writing the teacher should be able to encourage the students to practice because to make the writing activity easier in understanding. Patel and Jain (2008) stated "Writing is essential features of learning a language because it provides a very good means of fixing the vocabulary, spelling, and sentence pattern" (p. 125).

For higher students teaching writing is fun, because they have implemented in studying Poem. Through understanding Poem they will have many ideas and new vocabulary which is contain of figurative language, so it will make them joy in expressing their though in written expression, whether for talk active students or no.

## 2.4 Teaching Listening

Teaching listening need instructional media, if the teacher is going to teach listening they need to prepare some Medias, such as: microphone, tape or others to ensure the material deliver correctly. Patel and Jain (2008) stated "Language is sound contextualized. When we learn language, listening comes first than speaking" (P. 131). Through understanding Poem students will implement the listening activity in their studying process and it will more memorable for them, the vocabulary, structure or meaning relate with the rhythm.

## 2.5 Teaching Speaking

Speaking activity will involve the two steps of learning, they are receptive and interaction. When students listen someone speaking they will receive the vocabulary, structural sentence, words and words meaning. After listening some words meaning, sentences and other the listener will

try to communicate with other in responding the speaker, that stage called interaction stage. Ampa at.al (2013) stated that there are 2 kinds of taxonomy in speaking skill; the first is motor receptive skill (mechanic) skill, include sound recognition, structure recognition, and vocabulary development. The second of his taxonomy is function area, such as; interaction, transaction and performance function.

## 2.3 Understanding Poem

Poetry is the oldest genre in literature; many years ago people convey their feeling through a poem, because in poem there are lots of intensely meaning than other genre in literature. Klarer (2004) stated that in Poetry there are two major categories, narrative poetry and lyric poetry. In this research the writer will focus on the lyric poetry to be understood by the students, because in lyric poetry there are more enjoyable for students and has many types. In studying about Poem it will correlate with figurative language. There are two kinds of

## 2.6 Frame work

Teaching and Learning are not only in the classroom or school but also it can do in everywhere, teaching English as a foreign language become bored if the strategy implemented is unsuitable with the students condition. Nowadays the teacher should be able to find fun an applicable strategy in teaching EFL, because English still hard for Indonesian student. The use of poem is the enjoyable strategy to use in higher students; they can gain new vocabulary, word pattern and deeply meaning of words through the poem. Through the poem also students can be able to express their ideas in written activity or in oral activity.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research was classroom action research focused on

understanding poem in teaching English as a foreign language. The subject research are 7<sup>th</sup> grade student university of Muhammadiyah Tangerang Indonesia. Located in cikokol tangerang- Banten. This research start on September and the data collection will do on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. Methodology of this research is qualitative research, where the students will require to analysis the poem after the writer gives them understanding about poem.

To know how the poem can be used in teaching reading will implement in the class room. Through poem students will be encouraged to study about writing, speaking and listening.

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