

The Role of Social Media in Early Children's Language Acquisition (Psycholinguistic Review)

Lutfi Eskawati¹, Helmi Seftiani², Dini Nurhayati³

^{1,2,3}STKIP Darussalam Cilacap

e-mail: ¹lutfieskawati@gmail.com, ²helmiseftiany27@gmail.com,
³dininurhayati211@gmail.com

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to explain how social media plays a role in early childhood language learning at Pertiwi 1 Dermaji Kindergarten. This study used a qualitative descriptive research method. In this study, the sample was determined using data collection techniques that focused on specific objectives. The data used came from sources or informants, such as class teachers and several parents of Pertiwi 1 Dermaji Kindergarten students. Data collection was carried out using detailed interview techniques, observation, and document or archive searches. In this study, we utilized interactive data analysis techniques, such as data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification. From the results of the study, it was revealed that the acquisition of a second language by Pertiwi 1 Dermaji Kindergarten students was supported by constant interaction in the family environment, as well as the positive impact of the development of social media which is currently growing.

Keyword: Language, Language Acquisition, Social Media

1. Introduction

Learning a language has many important purposes, not only to improve, not only to improve communication skills but also to help students understand the importance of knowledge. Communication skills but also to help students understand the importance of knowledge. various knowledge in the world through language. Because of this, language instruction in schools has been implemented effectively because language is a personal, character, and even educational tool. It has been implemented effectively because it is a means of personal, character, and even educational development. more straightforward language, such as polite, systematic, orderly, clear, and straightforward, helps ensure that its speakers have good education and privacy. Conversely, the use of language that is rude, blasphemous, insulting, insulting, and so on, results in a lack of education and maturity. Students already know the language from their social, academic, and community contexts. The use of more straightforward language, such as polite language that is straightforward, systematic, orderly, clear, and straightforward, helps people develop good study habits and good privacy. Such as polite, systematic, orderly, clear, and straightforward, helps people develop good study habits and good privacy. In contrast to the harsh language of blasphemy, cursing, insulting, and so on, resulting in a lack of language education and maturity, blasphemy, cursing, insulting, and so on, on the other

hand, resulting in a lack of education and maturity. Indonesian is already known by students in which is familiar to students from their social, academic, and community contexts social, academic, and community contexts. All of this is known as the language of the environment known as the language of the Astuti Education environment (in Harlina, 2020). The language education environment is a strong foundation in shaping children's language skills. The right space and time in the learning process will greatly affect the child's success in mastering the language. Therefore, an effective and interesting learning environment is absolutely necessary to optimize the development of students' language and character.

Language, as one of the most beautiful gifts to humans, is an arbitrary sound symbol system used by a group of humans to communicate, interact, and build social relations. Language is not only a tool for conveying information, but also a reflection of the culture, history, and identity of a group. Language has a complex structure, consisting of elements such as phonemes, morphemes, words, phrases, and clauses, which are interrelated to form meaning. Language is also dynamic, always changing and developing along with the changing times and the influence of various internal and external factors. The function of language in human life is very broad and diverse. Language allows us to think abstractly, solve problems, convey emotions, and build shared knowledge. In addition, language also plays an important role in the process of socialization, self-identification, and cultural preservation. Language is a tool for forming and maintaining group identity, be it national, ethnic, or social identity. Through language, we can understand and appreciate the diversity of human culture. Language is also a means to develop science, technology, and art. Thus, language is not only a means of communication, but also a force capable of shaping human civilization. Language is a fundamental element in human life, as important as breathing for the body. The ability to speak distinguishes us as homo sapiens from other creatures. Without language, we lose our identity as humans and cannot have meaningful social interactions. Language is a complex system of sound symbols, consisting of two main components. First, speech sounds produced by the human vocal tract and captured by hearing. These sounds are then combined into words, phrases, and sentences that contain meaning. Second, the meaning or significance contained in the speech sounds. This meaning is what allows us to communicate, share ideas, and build relationships with others. In other words, language is a tool that allows us to think, feel, and interact with the world around us Ritonga (in Mesiono, 2017).

This study aims to explain how social media plays a role in helping early childhood in Pertiwi 1 Dermaji Kindergarten in acquiring language. The method chosen for this study is a qualitative descriptive method. The determination of the sample in this study was carried out by utilizing data collection techniques based on specific objectives. The data used came from sources such as class teachers and several parents of Pertiwi 1 Dermaji Kindergarten students. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and document or archive searches. Data analysis used in this study involved interactive techniques, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification. From the results of the study, it is known that Pertiwi 1 Dermaji Kindergarten students learn a second language through activities introduced by their families and the

environment, as well as the benefits of the development of social media and current information technology.

Language acquisition is a very amazing process, especially when a child is able to master his first language without formal learning. Just like a baby, he will respond to words that are often heard from his environment, especially if the speech is often said by his mother. Or someone who is always by his side. The discussion of language acquisition is closely related to how humans feel and understand other people's speech. Humans are only able to produce speech when they understand the rules that need to be followed that they have received since childhood Natsir (2017). The first language is a sign of human existence, because through language, humans can communicate with others. The purpose of communication is to provide information to the interlocutor, also through communication humans can interact well and provide instructions or actions on the topics discussed Puspitasari (2016). Meanwhile, Chaer (in Kusuma, 2016) Language development takes place in the minds of children since they start learning their first language or mother tongue. In general, language acquisition and language learning have clear differences. Language acquisition refers to the natural process experienced by a person in mastering their first language, namely the language acquired since childhood in the family environment. Meanwhile, language learning refers to the process of learning additional languages after a person has mastered their first language. The language learning process is usually more formal and involves structured teaching methods. The language learning process relates to the steps that apply when a child learns a second language after he has had his first language. So, language acquisition relates to a person's native language, while language learning relates to the second language being learned. Language learning is a complex problem for humans because language activities do not only occur mechanically, but also mentally. This means that speaking in this context is also connected to the mental processes that occur in the brain. Therefore, in the context of language learning, it is important to include interdisciplinary studies between linguistics and psychology, known as psycholinguistics. The discussion of language acquisition is closely related to how humans can understand and interpret the speech of others.

Language development or communication in children is an important aspect of the child's growth process that needs attention from educators and parents. The process of language acquisition by children is an extraordinary and amazing achievement for humans, so this problem gets great attention. In-depth studies on language acquisition have been carried out for a long time. At that time, we had gained a lot of knowledge about children's ability to speak, understand, and use language. However, there is little information about the actual process of language development. Language acquisition is a natural process in which humans acquire the ability to understand and communicate using words. This capacity involves a number of varying abilities, such as syntax, phonetics, and a wide vocabulary. You can acquire language in vocal form such as when speaking or in manual form such as in sign language. Usually language acquisition refers to the process in which children and adults learn their mother tongue or additional languages. In everyone's life, it is certainly related to language. When a child first hears a language,

it usually comes from his mother soon after the child is born. As time goes by and the child grows and develops, he will begin to learn various languages other than those taught by his mother. In a process called language acquisition, children can learn a second, third, and subsequent languages, depending on their social environment and intellectual abilities. Language acquisition is amazing, especially when children learn their first language without special teaching. A baby will respond well to the utterances that they often hear from their surroundings, especially those often spoken by their mother Maulinda (2019). The development of science and technology is increasingly spurring innovation in optimizing technological results to achieve more efficient communication. Learning media are used to help learners gain knowledge, skills, or attitudes Gerlach (in Putri, 2016). In addition to teachers, textbooks, and the school environment, learning media in the application of science and technology innovations can also be in the form of projectors, computers, audio video, internet and others.

2. Methods

This research was conducted at Pertiwi 1 Dermaji Kindergarten in the odd semester of the 2019/2020 academic year. This study is a type of qualitative research that is purely a case study. The data used in this study were taken randomly. The sample was representative and class teachers of Pertiwi 1 Dermaji Kindergarten. There are two techniques used in collecting data for this study, namely through in-depth interviews and observations. This study was conducted with the aim of gaining a deep understanding of language development in early childhood at Pertiwi 1 Dermaji Kindergarten. By using a qualitative research approach with a case study, researchers conducted in-depth interviews with children, teachers, and parents, and conducted participatory observations to collect data. Analyzing data using thematic techniques aims to identify patterns and meanings that emerge from various perspectives. so that it can provide a deeper understanding of the phenomenon being studied. This technique is very useful in qualitative research to find the main themes, subthemes, and the relationships between the two.

3. Result

Many perspectives have been put forward regarding the theory of second language acquisition, especially in understanding the process and results. Expert opinions about the results of second language acquisition come from the language used by the individual who is learning, while other theories are developed based on empirical observations of the language acquisition process. Two different theories in this context are the theory of mentalism and the theory of behaviorism.

3.1. Behavioristic Theory

Operant habituation created by a scientist named B. F. Skinner in mid-2017 explains the theory of language acquisition using the S-R (stimulus response) model. The stimulus-response (S-R) model in operant habituation theory is a framework used to understand the relationship between stimuli from the external environment and the responses or behaviors produced by organisms. This concept assumes that the behavior of organisms is a direct result of the stimulation they receive. In other words, every behavior that we observe in an organism can be traced back to the specific stimulus that preceded it Jumhana (in Syahid, 2015). In the process of learning a foreign language, humans act as organisms that learn the language. He will receive influences from his surroundings, including books and other things. Humans will respond to these influences in natural ways, showing visible reactions, such as communicating in everyday conversation using the language in question. Skinner explained that rewards and rewards are important factors in the S-R language acquisition model. According to him, this concept influences how often and how strongly a reaction occurs in his theory called Tarigan's law of influence (in Syahid, 2015).

3.2. Mentalism Theory

Chomsky (in Putri, 2016) Criticized Skinner's behaviorism theory, he argued that the ability to control verbal behavior is the result of internal understanding that exists since birth. The concept emphasized is the Language Acquisition Device which allows someone to formulate hypotheses about the general and specific language structures being learned. The most important thing is ability and performance. Competence refers to the learner's understanding of language, while performance is the application of the language in real contexts. This equipment allows learners to develop the ability to make hypotheses about language patterns as a whole and also the language patterns being learned specifically. According to Lennenberg's view (in Putri, 2016), language is considered a species-specific characteristic reflected in linguistic behavior that has a biological basis. So, language is an innate mechanism that allows learners to formulate language systems abstractly.

Regarding technology, Anglin explains that technology is the use of systematic behavioral and natural sciences to solve problems. Another expert, Kast and Rosenweig said that technology is the art of using scientific knowledge. Iskandar Alisahbana (in Rahmayanti, 2020), in more detail and comprehensively explains the meaning of technology as a process of how to meet human needs through the use of tools and reason so that it seems to add, strengthen, or improve the abilities of human limbs, senses, and mind. According to Iskandar Alisyahbana (in Rahmayanti, 2020) Humans have known technology since ancient times because of the desire to achieve a more comfortable, prosperous, and prosperous life. Since ancient times, technology has existed, although the term "technology" has not been popularly used. The origin of the word "technology" is from the word "techne" which means way, and "logos" which means knowledge. Technology is actually an understanding of methods. According to him, technology refers to methods to meet human needs with reason and tools, which seem to increase the abilities of human limbs, five senses, and brain. Jaques Ellul argues that technology is a

series of methods that logically direct and demonstrate efficiency in all aspects of human activity. Over time, technology continues to evolve rapidly, reshaping our social, cultural, and economic landscape. Its far-reaching impact raises fundamental questions about the meaning of humanity, ethics, and the future of civilization. Technology also has a dark side that cannot be ignored. On the one hand, technology has brought rapid progress and improved the quality of human life. On the other hand, technology can also create new problems, such as the digital divide, threatened privacy, and excessive dependence.

3.3. The Role of Social Media in Second Language Acquisition

Social media offers many innovations that can be applied in various fields, including education, especially in the language teaching process. The use of online media via the internet in the current teaching system has become a popular choice among the public to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills. In terms of learning a second language, especially English, there are many online learning platforms that offer more efficient and practical learning methods. When viewed from the results of the research activities that have been carried out, it can be concluded that social media contributes to the process of children's language development at Pertiwi 1 Dermaji Kindergarten. The evidence can be seen from the results of the researcher's observations which found that when students communicate with peers, they use words that are unusual for their age, use more complex children's language and tend to be more inclined towards the language of older children. This shows that peer social interaction can stimulate children's cognitive development, especially in terms of language mastery. Through conversations with peers, children are motivated to experiment with language, try new words, and build more complex sentence structures. These findings have important implications for the world of education. Teachers can harness the potential of peer-to-peer social interaction by creating a collaborative learning environment, where students can learn from each other and develop their language skills.

4. Conclusion

Social media provides various innovations that can be utilized in all fields, especially in education, especially in language teaching. The use of social media via the internet as a teaching tool is increasingly popular among the public in obtaining the knowledge and skills needed. Similar to getting a second language, currently there are many online learning resources that provide more efficient and practical language learning methods. However, it should be remembered that the use of social media also needs to be monitored so as not to cause negative impacts.