

Musical Methods in Teaching Arabic to Preschool Children: A Pedagogical Perspective

Ahmed Alhadi¹, Muhammad Dani Fauzan Sajid²

¹Hodeidah University; ahmed.alhadi@hu.edu.ye

²Al-Wasathiyah University; elgazafauzan@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Arabic is one of the international languages spoken in various countries, and introducing it during early childhood can facilitate more effective language acquisition. Young children possess remarkable cognitive abilities, allowing them to absorb new information rapidly. In language education, teaching methods are one of several crucial factors influencing learning outcomes, alongside learning objectives, student characteristics, and teacher personality. This study explores the use of singing as a pedagogical method in teaching Arabic to early childhood learners. Employing a literature review approach, the research analyzes existing studies and theoretical perspectives to highlight the potential of singing as an engaging and effective instructional strategy. Findings suggest that Arabic language instruction for young children can be significantly enhanced through appropriate teaching methods, with singing being a particularly promising approach due to its rhythmic, mnemonic, and motivational qualities. Other methods commonly used include reading (muthala'ah), memorization, and translation. This study contributes to the growing discourse on innovative language teaching practices in early childhood education.

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Corresponding Author:

Ahmed Alhadi

Hodeidah University; ahmed.alhadi@hu.edu.ye

1. INTRODUCTION

Arabic is one of the international languages in various countries, Arabic is also the language of the Qur'an which is a guideline for Muslims in getting closer to Allah, as a guide to worship Allah, and a guide to doing good and avoiding what is forbidden. Then Arabic is studied by Muslims. In fact, it is not only Muslims who study Arabic. However, from other religions they also study Arabic (Mujib & Rahmawati, 2013).

Teaching Arabic from an early age, so that it can be learned easily. Because in general, early childhood has extraordinary intelligence. When humans are of an early age, they are able to quickly grasp the knowledge that has been given to them. Then we can also open Arabic language learning for early childhood. Arabic language learning is an activity that studies Arabic with a purpose and learning system that aims to achieve good

and targeted learning. Early childhood learning can be taken by children around the age of 0-6 years. In early childhood learning also has methods, principles, goals, and benefits that will be obtained, so that the achievement of knowledge that will be obtained by early childhood can be taken easily and run well (Afandi et al., 2013) .

Singing is one of the activities that is very popular with most people, especially children. A student will more easily grasp and remember a lesson with a fun and entertaining process, rather than listening to a serious lecture. So the singing method is a method that can attract students to learn Arabic. The singing method is used to attract students to learn Arabic, considering that Arabic lessons are considered difficult and boring. Especially for children who are new to Arabic.

Singing is a fun activity for children and will liven up the learning atmosphere. The purpose of using the singing method is so that students who are afraid, lazy and do not like Arabic become interested and happy in following the learning. This method can give a new color to Arabic language learning, through singing students can express everything that is interesting and fun will be easier to remember in the mind.

Previous research on learning during the Golden Age has discussed a lot about language acquisition. Like the research conducted by Friantary (2020) , he linked parenting patterns and language acquisition in children at Ad-Dinul Qoyyim Kapek Bawah Kindergarten, Gunungsari District. Another study was conducted by Zetti (thesis in 2010) who conducted a study entitled Early literacy research with children speaking German as an additional language. This study aims to explore the process of language development of immigrant children who have mastered their first language and are learning German as a second language (Trimantara & Mulya, 2019) .

Another study is a study conducted by Siti Hawa (2014 academic year), she tried to identify the development of children's language at the age of 5-6 years in PAUD throughout Sekarbela District, Mataram. While this study focuses on teacher strategies in teaching Arabic to children at the PAUD education level which is experiencing a golden age, focused on the strategy of presenting Arabic to children. From this perspective, the researcher tries to examine how children in their golden age get Arabic language learning, which then greatly influences children's readiness to learn Arabic when entering elementary school (SD). This study aims to determine the implementation of strategies applied by teachers, as well as factors that influence the learning of mufradat (vocabulary) in early childhood class "B" (Raudatul Atfal) Thariqul 'Izzah Jempong, Mataram City (Marisa, 2015) .

The existence of PAUD school levels is expected to be a realm of instilling knowledge by utilizing the golden opportunities that children have. Therefore, Arabic language learning really needs to be studied at this level of education so that parents and teachers will find it easier to direct children to various language skills at the next level and understand the methods that can continue to be developed to increase children's interest in Arabic. In addition, instilling Arabic language education from an early age will make it easier for children to get to know the language of the Qur'an earlier (Majid, 2022) .

In an expression: The method is more important than the substance; In essence, the method is more important than the material (substance), this statement is interesting to digest and analyze, because it will give clear implications to the paradigm of our learning methods, especially the Arabic language learning method. This fact shows that someone who is quite smart and masters a certain science often encounters a kind of stumbling block in communicating the science effectively (Mubarak et al., 2020) .

The starting point of the method lies in the way or path that will be taken in presenting certain lessons or subject matter so that it is easily accepted and absorbed by students. As a science that discusses how to convey or present lesson material so that it can be accepted, understood and mastered by students. Studying the method alone does not guarantee that a teacher will succeed in his duties. Because the method is only one

component or one factor in education, where the goal factor, the student's situation factor and the teacher's personality can also influence the success or failure of teaching. Studying teaching methods is clearly an absolute must for a teacher, where the teacher must have mature knowledge and mastery of the material/theory (Lutfiasin Lutfiasin, 2018) .

In using the right method, it is expected to at least produce effective teaching, where teachers are required to be creative in doing anything that makes students learn, in this case teachers do not need to use intimidation, use of physical punishment, or other forms of punishment that are usually not liked by students or most people. With the learning method used, it can make it easier for students to learn something useful and beneficial, how to combine the content and values contained in learning, and learning is expected to help students improve their abilities in accordance with the instructional objectives they want to achieve.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study uses a literature review, a literature review in a scientific study is an important part of the overall steps of the research method. Cooper in Creswell states that a literature review has several objectives, namely; informing readers of the results of other studies that are closely related to the research being conducted at that time, connecting research with existing literature, and filling gaps in previous studies (Hardani et al., 2020) .

Geoffrey and Airasian stated that the main purpose of a literature review is to determine what people have done related to the research topic to be conducted. By reviewing previous research, it can provide reasons for research hypotheses, as well as an indication of the justification for the importance of the research to be conducted. Anderson further stated that a literature review is intended to summarize, analyze, and interpret concepts and theories related to a research project (Sugiyono, 2013) .

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Learning methods are operational or implementative steps of the chosen learning strategy in achieving learning objectives. The accuracy of the use of a method will show the functioning of a learning strategy. Learning strategies are still conceptual and to implement them, various specific learning methods are used. In other words, strategy is "a plan of operation achieving something" while the method is "a way in achieving something" (Afandi et al., 2013) . Method is one of the strategies or ways used by teachers in the learning process to be achieved, the more appropriate the method used by a teacher, the better the learning will be.

The method comes from the Greek word *methodos* which means way or path. Sudjana (Nugraheni et al., 2022) argues that the method is a comprehensive plan to present language learning materials in an orderly manner, no part is contradictory, and all are based on a particular approach. The approach is axiomatic, namely an approach whose truth is clear, while the method is procedural, namely an approach by implementing steps.

The procedural method means that the application in learning is carried out through regular and gradual steps starting from the preparation of teaching plans, teaching presentations, teaching and learning processes, and assessment of learning outcomes (Festiawan, 2020) . Based on this opinion, it can be concluded that the learning method is a complete and systematic plan in presenting lesson materials. Learning methods are carried out regularly and gradually in different ways to achieve certain goals under

different conditions. In general, there are many types of educational methods. However, not all of these teaching method treasures are suitable for kindergarten and playgroup age activity programs. For example, the lecture method is not suitable for kindergarten and playgroup age learning activity programs because the lecture method requires children to focus their attention for a long time, even though the child's span is relatively short.

In general, a method is a tool in the implementation of education, namely that used in delivering the material. In order to achieve the learning objectives that have been formulated, a teacher must know several methods. With the method, the teacher can transfer the contents of the lesson material to the students, but with it the conclusions or learning outcomes can also vary, when the methods are different even though the books and materials are the same. The incompatibility of the use of learning methods with learning objectives will be an obstacle in achieving the previously formulated objectives (Mujib & Rahmawati, 2013) .

Therefore, it is very important to select a method before carrying out teaching and learning activities. A teacher will find it easier to determine a method that best suits the situation and conditions. If the teacher has knowledge of the nature of various methods. The use of teaching methods is highly dependent on learning objectives, in this case, what is meant is learning Arabic (Majid, 2022) .

The requirements that must be considered by a teacher in using learning methods include the following: (1) the method used can stimulate students' desire to learn further. (2) the method used must be able to arouse students' motivation, interest and passion for learning, (3) the method used must be able to educate students in self-study techniques and how to acquire knowledge through their own efforts, (4) the method used must be able to instill and develop students' attitude values, (5) the method used must be able to provide opportunities for students to realize their work (Umam & Budiyati, 2020) .

In teaching Arabic, a teacher cannot be separated from a method and also media. The method in Arabic is Thariqah which is a comprehensive plan concerning language material regularly, where no part contradicts another part. Each method has its own strengths and all methods also have a significant contribution depending on the conditions required. In terms of method, it cannot be said which is the best because each method has a theoretical and empirical basis. Until now, no method (even the most ancient) has died or been abandoned at all or there is no method that is the most dominant all the time or in all places. This happens because the selection of methods is determined by many factors including teaching objectives, student language background, student age, time available, teacher readiness, and socio-cultural factors (Zainuri, 2019) .

Implementing learning with the singing method or more precisely with the singing approach is usually done without having to question whether singing in learning is a method or not. What is important is that learning takes place in a fun, inspiring and effective way. Singing is an activity of reading and sounding notes or musical scores with a human voice properly and correctly. To maintain the tone and voice, singing can be done with the help of accompanying music, especially for children.

There are many ways and steps of singing techniques where it is very important to understand and it would be good to be mastered by a teacher. The application of the singing method in early childhood education is no longer foreign to the ear, because this method is very suitable for stimulating children in absorbing the materials taught, and the singing method also greatly influences children's interest in learning and also eliminates tension and boredom of students when teaching and learning activities are taking place.

The advantages of the singing method can increase children's motivation to learn, children usually really like singing, so learning through the singing method is very popular with children. It does not require media that is difficult to obtain, this method can be done

without music or with music. It can also be done by watching pictures on a VCD. The most prominent weakness of the singing method is that if the singing method is carried out without being followed by other methods, the learning objectives achieved are somewhat limited, for example only developing musical intelligence.

Learning is a translation of "instruction" which is widely used in the world of education in the United States. Learning is the origin of the word "learning". Slameto, defines learning as a process of effort carried out by someone to obtain a new change in behavior as a whole, as a result of his own experience in interaction with his environment (Ramadhan, 2009) . Learning is basically an engineering that is attempted to help students to grow and develop according to their intentions and goals. Good learning starts from the arrangement of educational components that are also implemented well. Learning can start from the existence of learning objectives, learning materials, learning methods and media, learning activities and learning evaluations.

The singing method is one way to communicate with students so that the learning process in the classroom is more effective, therefore the singing method is very necessary in the teaching and learning process. Singing is one of the activities that is very popular with most people, especially children. A student will be easier and able to capture and remember all Arabic lessons with a fun and entertaining process, rather than listening to a teacher who delivers Arabic learning materials using the lecture method. Singing is a fun activity for children and will enliven the learning atmosphere. The use of the singing method aims to make students who are afraid, lazy, and do not like learning Arabic vocabulary become interested and happy in participating in teaching and learning activities (Ridwan & Awaluddin, 2019) .

Singing is a fun activity for children and will liven up the learning atmosphere. The use of the singing method aims to make students who are afraid , lazy, and do not like learning Arabic vocabulary become interested and happy in participating in teaching and learning activities. Singing is making sounds with the poems used. Managing a class by singing means creating and managing learning by using sung poems. Usually the poems are adjusted to the materials to be taught. Singing makes the learning atmosphere cheerful and enthusiastic so that children's development can be stimulated more optimally.

With this description, it provides an illustration that singing activities cannot be separated from children. Children really like singing while clapping. By using singing in every learning process, children will be able to stimulate their development, especially in speaking and interacting with their environment. The application of the singing method can foster interest and strengthen the appeal of learning. Singing is a way of verbal communication as a bridge of delivery which helps children develop vocabulary and learn new ways to express themselves. So using the singing method on students provides sufficient stimulus. strong on the brain so as to encourage rapid development of students' Arabic.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that learning Arabic for early childhood can be done well if using the right method. In teaching Arabic, a teacher cannot be separated from a method and also media. The method in Arabic is Thariqah which is a comprehensive plan concerning language material regularly, where no part contradicts another part. Each method has its own strengths and also all methods have a significant contribution depending on the conditions required. In terms of method, it cannot be said which is the best because each method has a theoretical and empirical basis. Until now, no method (even the most ancient) has died or been abandoned at all or there is no method

that is the most dominant throughout time or in all places. The method that can be used in learning Arabic is the singing method. The singing method is a fun method for children. Using the singing method on students provides sufficient stimulus strong on the brain so as to encourage rapid development of students' Arabic.

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