

ABSTRACT

Hermayani, Tabita. (2020). *Implementing Matteo Ricci's Memory Palace Technique to Improve Vocabulary Acquisition for Preoperational Stage Learners*. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Master's Program, Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, Sanata Dharma University.

In foreign language learning, vocabulary acquisition is important. Due to its significance, many efforts have been made to enhance the process of vocabulary acquisition. Among which teaching learning effort is mnemonic. Memory Palace (MP) technique is a part of mnemonic. It has been used, developed, and evaluated since 1985. It was applied by Jesuit missionarie, Fr Matteo Ricci, in order to learn ancient Chinese characters. MP technique helps to memorize vocabulary items through the creation of mental images implanted in learners' subconscious system. The technique has not been developed that much in the Indonesian young learners' context.

This research sought to accomplish two objectives, namely 1) to elaborate the characteristics of Memory Palace technique invented by Matteo Ricci, and 2) to describe how the characteristics of Matteo Ricci's Memory Palace technique can be implemented to improve preoperational stage learners' English vocabulary acquisition.

The research was conducted in an Indonesian private kindergarten with 31 learners in Yogyakarta. Classroom Action Research (CAR) was conducted by implementing the four steps through two cycles of Action Research according to Kemmis, Mc Taggart, and Nixon's (2014) spiral model, namely: planning, acting, observing, and reflecting. Four characteristics of Matteo Ricci's Memory Palace Technique were employed, namely: 1) the use of mnemonic symbols, 2) clockwise room-reading, 3) vivid imageries, and 4) the use of a familiar mental location. The results show that the technique was able to help improve learners' vocabulary acquisition by up to 45%. It is suggested that further studies on other educational levels for Indonesian teenagers and adults are also conducted.

Keywords: *Matteo Ricci's Memory Palace Technique; Vocabulary Acquisition; Preoperational Stage Learners; Classroom Action Research*

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Dalam pembelajaran bahasa asing, akuisisi kosakata terbilang penting. Karena pentingnya maka banyak upaya telah dilakukan oleh para ahli untuk mendukung proses akuisisi kosakata. Salah satu diantaranya adalah teknik mnemonic yang disebut Memory Palace (MP). Teknik Memory Palace ini telah digunakan, dikembangkan, dan dievaluasi sejak 1985. Misionaris Yesuit, Matteo Ricci, menerapkan teknik ini guna mempelajari karakter Mandarin kuno. Dalam pembelajaran dan proses mengingat kosakata, teknik ini membantu menciptakan gambaran-gambaran imajinatif dalam alam bawah sadar pembelajar. Namun demikian, teknik tersebut belum banyak dikembangkan pada konteks usia pembelajar praoperasional di Indonesia.

Riset ini memiliki dua tujuan, yakni: 1) untuk menjelaskan karakteristik teknik *Memory Palace* yang dikreasikan oleh Matteo Ricci dan 2) untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana karakteristik tersebut bisa diterapkan untuk meningkatkan akuisisi kosakata Bahasa Inggris bagi pembelajar muda tahap praoperasional.

Riset ini dilakukan di sebuah taman kanak-kanak swasta dengan 31 pembelajar dini di Yogyakarta. Peneliti menggunakan Penelitian Tindakan Kelas (PTK) dengan mengimplementasikan empat tahap dalam dua langkah sirkular dari model spiral hasil pengembangan Kemmis, McTaggart, and Nixon's (2014). Empat tahap tersebut adalah: merencanakan, melaksanakan, mengamati, dan merefleksikan. Peneliti mengimplementasikan empat karakteristik dari teknik Memory Palace Matteo Ricci, yakni: 1) menggunakan simbol mnemonic, 2) membaca ruang-mental searah jarum jam, 3) menggunakan gambar-gambar yang mencolok, dan 4) menggunakan lokasi imajinasi yang akrab. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa teknik tersebut berhasil membantu meningkatkan akuisisi kosakata partisipan secara merata, hingga 45%. Dianjurkan adanya penelitian yang berkelanjutan mengenai teknik ini di jenjang pendidikan bagi remaja dan pembelajar dewasa.

Kata Kunci: *Teknik Memory Palace Matteo Ricci; akuisisi kosakata; pembelajar muda tahap usia praoperasional; Penelitian Tindakan Kelas*