

Indonesian Language Learning Strategies in Increasing the Learning Interest of Grade VIII Students at SMP IT As Syakur, Bengkulu City

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Abstract

This study aims to identify the strategies used by Indonesian language teachers in the learning process to enhance the interest in learning Indonesian among eighth-grade students at SMP IT As Syakur, Bengkulu City, and how the interest of eighth-grade students at SMP IT As Syakur, Bengkulu City, in learning Indonesian. The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. The location of this research is at SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City. Using data collection techniques such as observation, interviews, and documentation. Based on the research results, the strategy for teaching Indonesian to increase students' interest in learning at SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City is by using discussion methods, providing motivation, learning evaluations, and quizzes. The interest of eighth-grade students at SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City towards learning Indonesian is quite high, as evidenced by four indicators of interest: feelings of happiness, student interest, student attention, and student involvement in learning activities.

Keywords : *learning strategies, learning interest.*

Strategi Pembelajaran Bahasa Indonesia dalam Meningkatkan Minat Belajar Siswa Kelas VIII SMP IT As Syakur Kota Bengkulu

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi strategi yang digunakan oleh guru bahasa Indonesia dalam proses pembelajaran untuk meningkatkan minat belajar bahasa Indonesia pada siswa kelas VIII di SMP IT As Syakur Kota Bengkulu, serta mengetahui bagaimana minat belajar siswa kelas VIII di SMP IT As Syakur Kota Bengkulu terhadap pelajaran bahasa Indonesia. Jenis penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Lokasi penelitian ini berada di SMP IT As Syakur Kota Bengkulu. Teknik pengumpulan data yang digunakan meliputi observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, strategi pembelajaran bahasa Indonesia untuk meningkatkan minat belajar siswa di SMP IT As Syakur Kota Bengkulu dilakukan melalui metode diskusi, pemberian motivasi, evaluasi pembelajaran, dan kuis. Minat belajar siswa kelas VIII di SMP IT As Syakur Kota Bengkulu terhadap pelajaran

bahasa Indonesia tergolong cukup tinggi, yang dibuktikan melalui empat indikator minat, yaitu perasaan senang, ketertarikan siswa, perhatian siswa, dan keterlibatan siswa dalam kegiatan pembelajaran.

Kata kunci: Strategi pembelajaran, minat belajar.

Article history

<i>Received:</i>	<i>Revised:</i>	<i>Accepted:</i>	<i>Published:</i>
17-12-2024	25-01-2025	24-03-2025	28-04-2025

Introduction

Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to possess spiritual strength, religiousness, self-control, noble character intelligence, and skills necessary for themselves, society, the nation, and the state (Depdiknas, 2003). National education functions to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to enlighten the life of the nation, aiming to develop the potential of students to become individuals who are faithful and devoted to the one and only God, possess noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, skilled, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens (Depdiknas, 2003). So, it can be said that education is an effort to help children carry out their life tasks independently so that they can be morally responsible. Education is the effort of adults to guide the immature towards maturity.

In the teaching and learning process, teachers must have strategies so that students can learn effectively and efficiently. One of the steps to having that strategy is mastering presentation techniques, commonly referred to as teaching methods. Teaching and learning is an educational activity. The educational value colors the interactions that occur between teachers and students. Educational interactions occur because the teaching and learning activities conducted are directed towards achieving specific goals that have been formulated before the teaching takes place. The teacher consciously plans the teaching activities systematically by utilizing everything for the benefit of the teaching (Winarno Surakhmad. (1986).

One of the supporting factors in the success of learning activities is students' interest in learning (Slameto, 1995: 57). Interest is a consistent tendency to pay attention to and remember certain activities that someone enjoys, continuously observed and accompanied by a sense of pleasure. Interest has a significant impact on learning, because without interest in learning, the learning activities will not have any effect. Because children who have an interest in a particular subject tend to give more attention to that subject. This shows that children with a good interest in learning are those who can give more attention to learning activities, which can be proven by the child's active participation in learning activities (Slameto, 57).

The problem that students usually face is the lack of knowledge or ways to generate interest in a subject, especially the Indonesian language subject. Educators can make the subject easy to understand, or educators can make the subject enjoyable for students. These things, such as capturing students' attention, providing enjoyable and easily understandable material, are the duties of a teacher. a teacher is required

to present subjects in an interesting, easy, and enjoyable manner for students, but not all teachers understand how to do it. there are still many teachers who use conventional teaching methods such as passive learning methods in conducting teaching and learning activities. this is what should be corrected, that our education system has advanced. Students are not only objects of learning but also subjects.

Based on the results of observations and initial interviews conducted by the researcher, SMP IT As Syakur is one of the schools that implements strategies in Indonesian language learning to increase students' interest in studying. According to one of the Indonesian language teachers for the eighth grade at SMP IT As Syakur, the teacher still struggles to increase students' interest in learning. One of the reasons many students become bored when receiving the learning material presented by the teacher is because the teacher is very monotonous in delivering the material. This causes students to become bored, less enthusiastic, and less active in learning, and some students are less earnest in receiving the learning material. It is evident when students participate in learning, as the teacher delivers the material, that many students are seen chatting and joking with their friends. There are also those who are bored and daydreaming, and some who are happily playing by themselves. When students are given practice problems, most of them get confused in solving the problems if they are not exactly the same as the examples given by their teacher. It is suspected that this is because they have not yet understood what is being taught, and some of the students come from public schools. Therefore, only a few students are able to solve the problems quickly and correctly.

The teacher is not making enough effort to implement various strategies in the classroom to increase students' interest in learning, such as organizing the classroom before starting the lesson and rearranging the seating. With the implementation of strategies, it is hoped that students with poor hearing will also be accommodated. Given practice from the beginning before starting the learning process, as well as providing motivation and encouragement. Learning strategies are necessary because students' behavior and actions change from day to day and even from moment to moment. Today, students can learn well and calmly, but tomorrow it may not be the case. Yesterday, there was healthy competition within the group; conversely, in the future, that competition might become unhealthy. Because of that, the classroom is always dynamic in terms of students' behavior, attitudes, actions, and emotions.

Method

This research is of a qualitative type with a descriptive method and falls under the category of field research. The data collection techniques used are observation, interviews, and documentation. The data analysis techniques used are data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The technique used by the researcher to verify the validity of the data is triangulation. In this study, the author used source triangulation by testing the credibility of the data obtained through several sources. Source triangulation will be conducted with the Indonesian language teacher, eighth-grade students, and the school principal.

Results and Discussion

Results

1. The Strategies Used by Indonesian Language Teachers in the Learning Process to Increase the Interest in Learning Indonesian Among Eighth Grade Students at SMP IT As Syakur, Bengkulu City

In this research, the researcher conducted an interview with Mrs. Sunita Puspita Sari, S.Pd., an Indonesian language teacher, regarding teaching strategies. The researcher began by asking whether strategies are important in the learning activities and what strategies are used. The application of strategies or methods in learning activities makes students more focused, as they can easily remember important concepts from discussions with better language that is easy for students to understand.

The researcher conducted a follow-up interview with Mrs. Sunita Puspita Sari, S.Pd, regarding the increase in students' interest in learning and how students respond to the implementation of learning strategies. She stated that the increase in students' interest in learning would have an impact on their learning outcomes. This is because the increase in student interest leads to an improvement in their ability to master learning concepts, enhances their desire to compete in presenting their ideas, and boosts their critical thinking skills.

Mrs. Sunita Puspita Sari, S.Pd explained about the motivations and objectives of learning, that the learning objectives have been achieved or not, we need to see how far the level of understanding of the material being taught is by giving questions or quizzes to the students. She also conveyed that giving appreciation to students is indeed very important to do because by giving appreciation, it will revive the students' activity in the learning process.

It is also conveyed that the purpose of evaluation is to determine whether the learning process of students aligns with the established lesson plan, to check the learning outcomes of students for any deficiencies in the learning process, and to find solutions for the deficiencies that students experience. The importance of evaluation for students who are satisfactory is that this satisfaction is desired to be achieved again in the future, while for students who are not satisfactory, they will improve it in the next opportunity. As for the importance of evaluation for teachers, it allows teachers to know which students have mastered the material and which have not, and to determine the appropriateness of the methods used in presenting the material or lesson content.

2. The Learning Interest of Eighth Grade Students at SMP IT As Syakur Bengkulu City Towards Indonesian Language Learning

To see the interest in learning of SMP IT As Syakur Bengkulu students towards Indonesian language learning, the researcher refers to the four indicators proposed by Slameto in Fitrawati's quotation. The four indicators that can show students' interest in learning are as follows:

a. A feeling of happiness

If students have a liking or enjoyment for a particular subject, then they will often study the subject they enjoy without feeling forced to study it. Based on the observation, the researcher sees that the statements made by the students are indeed in line with what they felt during the learning activities. Because during the learning activities, the students were active in their learning

activities and did not feel bored at all with the lessons.

b. Students' interest

Interest is a state where learners have tendencies that encourage them to be inclined or attracted to certain objects, people, activities, and others, whether through experiences stimulated in those activities. Based on the results of the observation, the researcher sees that students' interest in learning Indonesian can be influenced by the teacher's attitude and creativity in delivering the learning material, so that students are interested in learning Indonesian. So, interest in a subject also depends on the teacher; if the teacher's attitude and method of delivering the material are not liked by the students, it will certainly reduce the students' interest and attention.

c. Students' attention

Based on observations, the researcher sees that students who are interested in the subject will be earnest in receiving the lessons and tasks given by the teacher. As demonstrated by the students of SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City, they pay close attention to what the Indonesian language teacher conveys by correctly answering the questions posed by the teacher and completing the assignments given by the Indonesian language teacher well. This is the form of attention shown by the students of SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City.

d. Student involvement

Based on observations, the researcher noted that the teacher used discussion and group work methods to stimulate students to actively engage in learning. Students are given ample opportunities to actively participate in learning, where they can exchange opinions, draw conclusions, and propose alternative solutions to a problem. This method is very effective in engaging students in learning.

Discussion

Learning strategy is a plan of action for a series of activities using methods that are then implemented according to the situation and conditions of the learning environment. Learning strategies are the methods used by educators to organize the content of learning, manage the delivery of lesson content, and oversee learning activities using various learning resources to support the creation of effectiveness, efficiency, and practicality in the learning process. In the organization, delivery, and management of learning, it is directed towards various components known as the learning system. Therefore, an instructor must be selective about what, when, and for whom the learning strategy is intended.

Then interest is a determining factor in students' success in learning. Interest is a state where a person has attention towards an object that aligns with the desire to know and study or further prove about a certain object with a tendency to engage more actively with that object. Interest arises due to a certain attraction. Learning is a process for students in building their own ideas or understanding, so the learning activities should provide opportunities for students to do so smoothly and with motivation.

1. The Strategies Used by Indonesian Language Teachers in the Learning

Process to Increase the Interest in Learning Indonesian Among Eighth Grade Students at SMP IT As Syakur, Bengkulu City

Based on the findings from the research conducted by the author, the strategies employed by Mrs. Sunita Puspita Sari, S.Pd in fostering students' interest in learning the Indonesian language are as follows:

a. Inquiry Learning Strategy

This inquiry-based learning strategy is a series of educational activities that emphasize critical thinking and analysis processes to search for and discover answers to a questioned problem on their own. The thinking process is usually carried out through a question-and-answer session between educators and students.

b. Use of Discussion Method

Based on the research results, the Indonesian language teacher at SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City shows that the use of the discussion method can increase students' interest in learning, because by applying the discussion method, students become more active and understand the material being taught more quickly, and it can create a pleasant learning atmosphere so that students do not feel bored and tired while learning.

c. Quiz

The research results show that the application of a learning model using quizzes can increase students' interest in learning because quizzes can enhance students' enthusiasm in participating in learning activities, improve students' learning outcomes, help students develop a deeper understanding of the material, assist students in identifying knowledge gaps, and help students improve their ability to remember information.

d. Providing motivation

Based on the research findings, the method used by Indonesian language teachers at SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City to increase student interest is by providing motivation before starting the lessons. This is done to capture the students' attention so they are earnest in their studies. The motivation given to the students includes the importance of learning Indonesian and the benefits they will gain from learning the language.

e. Conducting Learning Evaluation

Based on the research results, the Indonesian language teacher at SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City conducted an evaluation to determine whether the strategies implemented were effective or not. Learning evaluation is conducted to determine the extent of students' success in learning Indonesian.

2. The learning interest of eighth-grade students at SMP IT As Syakur Kota Bengkulu in Indonesian language learning

a. Feeling Happy

The sense of liking or enjoyment that students of SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City have towards learning Indonesian is quite high because for them, learning Indonesian is an enjoyable experience.

b. Student Interest

The interest of students at SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City towards learning is quite high, the material taught by the Indonesian language teacher is easy to understand because the teacher uses methods and strategies that make learning more interesting and enjoyable.

c. Student Attention

The form of attention given by the students of SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City includes paying close attention to what the Indonesian language teacher conveys, completing the assigned tasks well and correctly, and answering the questions posed by the Indonesian language teacher correctly. The students show interest in the subject and will earnestly engage in receiving the lessons and tasks given by the teacher.

d. Involvement of Pidik Participants

The students of SMP IT As Syakur in Bengkulu City are actively involved in the learning process, as seen from the group discussion assignments given by the Indonesian language teacher. Overall, they are active in exchanging opinions, drawing conclusions, and finding solutions to solve problems.

Conclusion

Based on the research results related to Indonesian language learning strategies in increasing the interest of SMP IT As Syakur students in Bengkulu City, it can be concluded that the learning strategies used by the Indonesian language teacher at SMP IT As Syakur Bengkulu City are as follows: first, the inquiry learning strategy is a series of learning activities that emphasize critical thinking and analysis processes to find and discover answers to problems independently; second, the use of discussion methods makes students more active and quicker to understand the material being taught; third, providing motivation is done to attract students' attention so that they are earnest in learning. The interest of SMP IT As Syakur students in Bengkulu City towards the Indonesian language subject is quite high, as seen from the students' enjoyment and consistent attendance in the learning process, actively asking and answering questions from the teacher. The students' interest in the teacher's creativity in using teaching methods and media.

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