

THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY READING LEARNING IN THE FACE OF 21st CENTURY EDUCATION

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Submit: 21 November 2018

Accepted: 14 Mei 2019

Publish: 26 Juni 2019

ABSTRACT

The increasing technological developments currently have an impact on the world of education, especially in early reading learning. Reading is one of the skills that must be possessed by students, therefore reading skills must be taught at the beginning of entering the educational level. In the 21st century reading skills are included in literacy. It shows that mastery of reading skills is important to be mastered in the face of the 21st century. This research aims to know the importance of reading the beginning to face the 21st century education. The research uses descriptive qualitative methods, with data collection techniques including interviews, observation and documentation. The data validity technique using source trials. Data analysis using data reduction procedures, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The results of this study can be seen that the beginning of reading learning is emphasized to be mastered by students, considering that in 21st century student must have a skill. Mastered reading skills can help learners to think critically, solve a problem and master the various technologies available.

Keyword: *Learning, Read The Beginning, 21st Century Education*

INTRODUCTION

The 21st century can be called the knowledge age, in this era, all needs are based on technology. Efforts to meet the needs of knowledge-based education, the development of knowledge-based economics, the development and empowerment of knowledge-based communities, and the development of industry-based knowledge.¹ This change also emphasizes the creative thinking approach; The strategy involves solving problems and the global nature of economic activity. In this knowledge period, someone is asked to access various sources of knowledge.

Education is one form of the impact of the 21st century. Where there can be felt the shift from the development of technology.² Suggests that "The education sector is a paradigm shift in which learning should be changed from horizontal to loop of knowledge that combines knowledge, application and continuous contribution". It can be said that the world of education shifts from contemporary to student center. Students play an active role in the learning process.

¹ Amat Mukhadis, *Sosok Manusia Indonesia Unggul dan Berkarakter dalam Bidang Teknologi Sebagai Tuntutan Hidup di Era Globalisasi*. (online), (<http://journal.uny.ac.id/index.php/jpka/article/view/1434>), Retrieved Agustus 25, 2018.

² Turiman, Punia, Jizah Omar, Adzliana Mohd Daud & Kamisah Osman, *Fostering the 21st Century Skills through Scientific Literacy and Science Process Skills*, *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 59, 2012, p.110 – 116

The 21st century in the world of education has the goal of encouraging students to master various skills. The most important thing in facing the challenges of the 21st century in the world of education is to encourage students to have deep knowledge and understanding to be able to become lifelong learners (life-long learner). According to Rudi, educational goals in the 21st century are; 1) preparing people in a world of ups and downs, dynamic, unpredictable, 2) creative behavior, 3) freeing unique individual intelligence, and 4) producing innovators. The school model in this century of education is expected to make individuals independent, as independent students. The impact of this education expects that the outcome does not depend much on other parties, if one becomes a manager, he is an independent manager. Thus if there are unskilled workers, the number is expected to be very small.³

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In the 21st century education is becoming increasingly important to ensure students have the skills to learn and innovate, skills to use technology and information media, and can work, and survive by using life skills. The 21st century is also marked by the number of (1) information available anywhere and can be accessed at any time; (2) faster computing; (3) automation that replaces routine jobs; and (4) communication that can be done from anywhere and everywhere (Research and Development Ministry of Education and Culture, 2013). To be a lifelong learner

³ Rudy, *Role Ofst Century Teacher*, <http://rudy-unesa.blogspot.com/2011/02/peran-guru-abad-xxi.html> Retrieved, 22 August, 2018.

⁴ Badan Nasional Standar Pendidikan, *Paradigma Pendidikan Nasional Abad XXI*, Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan Versi 1.0, Retrieved (13) Agustus 25, 2018.

requires students to have both soft skills and hard skills. One soft skill that is learned is reading the beginning. Early reading is one of the most important aspects to be taught to students, because the results will be the basis for understanding the very broad sciences, and more specifically for Indonesian language learning. Early reading is the basis for advanced reading activities. In addition, preliminary reading is an important part of learning to be emphasized in low classes (grades I and II). Learners learn to gain the ability and master the techniques of reading and capturing the contents of the reading well.⁵ Reads the beginning is the process of recoding and decoding. That is, the recoding process refers to words and sentences then associates them with the sounds in accordance with the writing system used, while the decoding process refers to the process of translating a graphical series into words. Through the process of translating a series of words into a complete sentence spoken by the utterance.⁶ Reading Writing Beginning (MPP) is the main learning program for students in the early years of school. Referred to as the beginning because the first thing taught to students in the early days of school is the ability to read and write that is more oriented to the ability to read and write basic levels, namely the ability to recognize letters and the ability to write mechanics. Both of these capabilities will be the basic foundation for acquiring other fields of study at school.

Reading at this level is an activity of learning about written language. Through the writing, students can voice the sound symbols. Three conditions are needed to obtain the ability to read, namely the ability to sound: (a) written symbols, (b) mastery of vocabulary to give meaning, (c) enter meaning in language skills. Early reading is a skill and cognitive process. The skill process refers to the recognition and mastery of phoneme symbols, while in the cognitive process it refers to the use of phoneme symbols that are known to understand the meaning of a sentence. But preliminary reading emphasizes sounding letters or connecting letters with the sounds of language

Beginning reading in the 21st century is included in literacy that will help students to explore knowledge by utilizing the technology that is growing rapidly today. Early reading learning has been taught to students starting from the level of education. Early reading learning is done in order to foster the skills of the students as well as to be a provision for students to face the outside world later. In addition, so that students can have a high reading power. As is known that the interest in reading is one of the challenges that must be corrected. Like the statement of the Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Puan Maharani Culture "This reading interest must be

⁵ Resmini, Novi, Dadan Juanda, *Pendidikan Bahasa & Sastra Indonesia di Kelas Tinggi*, (Bandung: UPI PRESS, 2008)

⁶ Andi Halimah, *Learning Method of Reading and Writing Begining in SD/MI*, Journal of Basic Islamic Education Auladuna, Vol.1, No.2, 2014, p.190-200

improved and fought for so that they are interested in reading," The purpose of this research is to describe the importance of early reading learning to face the 21st century.⁷

LITERATURE REVIEW

Article entitled *Fostering the 21st Century Skills through Scientific Literacy and Science Process Skills*. Have the same research about literacy. The difference from this study is to examine literacy of science in the 21st century.

The article entitled *Development of 21st Century Skill Scales as Perceived by Students* examines skills development for students in the 21st century. The equation is to emphasize that students have mastered a skill to be able to compete in the 21st century. The inequality is developing the skills to inovate, skilled in using technology and life and career skills.

The article entitled *Literature and the 21st century learner* discusses literary literacy as a skill for the 21st century in Singapore. The similarity is that involves literacy in reading learning. The inequality is literature as an ingredient in supporting the success of skills for students.

METHODOLGY

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach, it is based on the intention to describe the behavior of informants, namely the importance of early reading learning for elementary school students. Qualitative method is research that intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the subject of research such as behavior, perception, motivation, and action holistically, and by way of description in the form of words and language, in a particular natural context and by utilizing various natural method.⁸

The data in this study are in the form of inteview and documentation. It is done by snowball sampling.⁹ Snowball sampling is a data source sampling technique, wich initially amounts to a little longer to become large.data collection techniques by means of observation, interviews and documentation.

In this study using data analysis techniques Milles and Huberman consisting of: (1) data reduction, (2) displaying data, (3) drawing conclusions or verification. At the data reduction stage, it refers to the focusing selection process, simplification of the abstraction of raw data obtained from written field notes. Data reduction can occur continuously. Data reduction is data collection process, there are several episodes. Data reduction makes summaries, coding, creating themes,

⁷ CNN Indonesia, <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/gaya-hidup/20180326160959-282-285982/minat-baca-masyarakat-indonesia-masih-rendah>, Retrieved 27 August, 2018.

⁸ Lexy J. Moleong, *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*, (Bandung: Remaja Rosda Karya, 2017)

⁹ Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan Pendekatan Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D*, (Bandung: IKAPI, 2015)

creating clusters, making separations, and making memos. Data reduction is a continuous process after fieldwork to complete final reports. The conclusion or verification withdrawal is that the researcher can take conclusions clearly, maintain honesty, and suspicion. Verification must be accompanied by long arguments and reviews among colleagues to develop findings in other data sets. The meaning of qualitative research will emerge from data that has been tested for its belief, strength, and validity.¹⁰

The place where this research was conducted was in SDN 1 Ketaon, focusing on class 1. This research was conducted on August 20-21 2018. The subjects of this study were students, teachers, principals and several people.

RESULTS

21st century skills are (1) life and career skills, (2) learning and innovation skills, and (3) Information media and technology skills. These three skills are summarized in a scheme called the rainbow of 21st / 21st century knowledge-skills rainbow knowledge skills.¹¹ The scheme was adapted by the p21 non-profit organization that developed the 21st century education framework throughout the world through the www.p21.org website based in the state of Tuscon, USA. As for the concept of 21st century skills and 3R core subject, the following is described. Figure 1 shows the 21st century knowledge skills rainbow scheme.

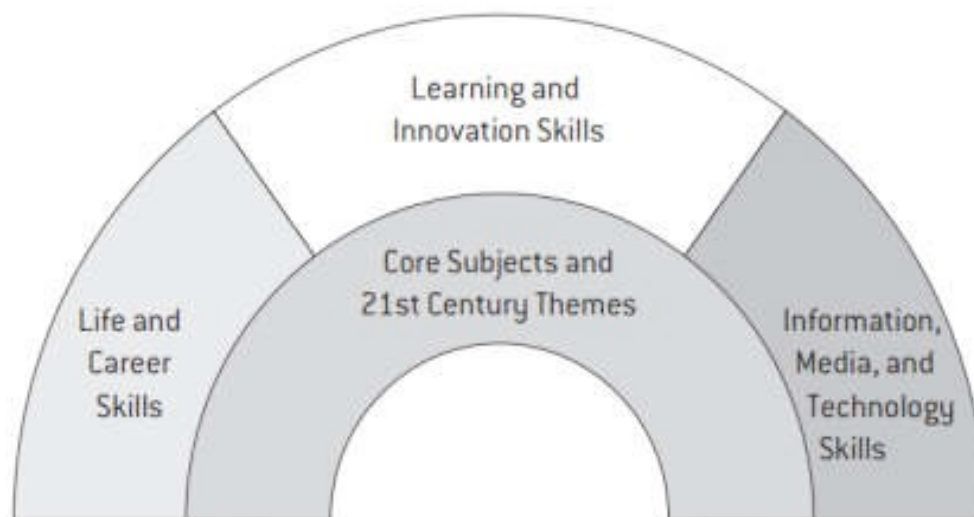


Figure 4. 21st Century Rainbow Skills Knowledge
Source: (Trilling and Fadel, 2009: 47).

¹⁰ Matthew B. Milles and Michael Huberman, *Analisis Data Kualitatif*, (Jakarta: UI Press, 2007)

¹¹ Trilling, Bernie and Fadel, Charles, *21st Century Skills: Learning for Life in Our Times*, John Wiley & Sons, 978-0-47-055362-6. 2009.

The scheme developed by p21 is clarified in addition to the 3R core subject. In the context of education, 3R stands for reading, writing and arithmetic, taking a strong "R" pronunciation from each word. From the subject of reading and writing, the idea of modern education emerges, namely literacy, which is used as learning to understand ideas through word media. From the arithmetic subject modern education emerges which relates to numbers which means that they can understand numbers through mathematics. In education, there is no single term that is relevant to literacy and numbers that can express the ability to make things (wrighting). 3R, adapted from the 18th and 19th centuries, is equivalent to the literacy, numeracy and ICT functional skills found in the modern education system today. Furthermore, to clarify the core subject 3R function in the context of 21st century skills, 3R translates into life and career skills, learning and innovation skills and information media and technology skills. Explanation of skills according is as follows:¹²

1. Life and Career Skills

Life and Career skills (life and career skills) include (a) flexibility and adaptability / Flexibility and Adaptability, (b) initiative and self-regulation / Initiative and Self-Direction, (c) social and cultural interaction / Social and Cross Cultural Interaction , (d) productivity and accountability and accountability and (e) leadership and responsibility / leadership.

Table 1. Life and Career Skills

21st Century Skills	Deskription
Life skills and career	1. Flexibility and adaptability: students are able to adapt changes and are flexible in learning and activities in groups.
	2. Have initiative and can self-regulate: students are able to manage goals ant time, work independently and become learners who can manage themselves.
	3. Sosial and intercultural interaction: students are able to interact and work effectively with diverse groups.
	4. Productivity and accountabilty: student are able to manage projects and produce products.
	5. Leadership and responsibility: students are able to lead their friens' parks and are responsible to the wider community.

Source: Trilling and Fadel (2009: 48)

¹² Trilling, Bernie and Fadel, Charles, *21st Century Skills: Learning for Life in Our Times*, John Wiley & Sons, 978-0-47-055362-6. 2009.

2. Learning and Innovation Skills

Learning and innovation skills include (a) critical thinking and problem solving / Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, (b) communication and collaboration / Communication and Collaboration, (c) creativity and innovation / Creativity and Innovation.

Table 2 Learning and Innovation Skills

21st Century Skills	Deskription
Learning skills and innovation	1. Critical thinking and solving problems: students are able to use various reasons (inductive or deduktive) for various situations: using systems thinking: make decisions and solve problems.
	2. Communication and collaboration: students are able to communicate clearly and collaborate with other group members.
	3. Creativity and innovation: students are able to think creatively, work creatively and create new innovation

Source: Trilling and Fadel (2009: 49).

3. Information Media and Technology Skills

Information media and technology skills (information technology and media skills) includes (a) information literacy, (b) media literacy / media literacy and (c) literacy ICT / Information and Communication Technology literacy.

Table 3. Information Technology and Media Skills

21st Century Skills	Deskription
Technology and media information skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information literacy: students are able to acces in information affectively (information sources) and efficiently (time): evaluate information that will be used critically and competently: use and manage information accurately and effectively to solve problems. 2. Media literacy : students are able to choose and develop the media used to communicate. 3. ICT literacy: students are able to analyze information media: and create a media according to communication.

Source: Trilling and Fadel (2009: 50)

DISCUSSION

This study describes the importance of early reading for elementary school students in dealing with the 21st century. In this case, we can know that in the 21st century it can be said as a knowledge era. Humans are required to understand knowledge that is growing. It can be accessed through increasingly sophisticated technology. Based on this, the preliminary reading learning should be carried out properly.

In terms of the presentation of skills in the 21st century reading included in the category of literacy. It shows the meaning that reading is included in the skills needed in dealing with the 21st century. One way to get these skills through learning to read early. Beginning reading may be considered trivial, but the reality is reading an important to learn. This will have an impact on the advanced reading level that is controlled by students.¹³ Students who have not been able to read well will experience difficulties in participating in learning activities for all subjects, because they will experience difficulties in capturing and understanding information that is presented in various written textbooks supporting books and other written learning resources, and students will be slow to absorb lessons. Beside, it also has an impact on the difficulties in dealing with the 21st century. The 21st century requires access to various knowledge in various parts of the world with technology. If the learning of early reading is less successful, it will inhibit information.

This is supported by the statement of Tahar's, et al. "The ability to read early in life is the basis for enrollment in tertiary education. In the long run, reading results in a knowledgeable future generation that spurs the country towards an era of globalization". Early reading skills help to enter the next level of education. In the future, the knowledge gained from reading results helps to reach the era of globalization.¹⁴

Based on the observations that have been made there are several students who have not mastered in reading beginning. There are several reasons that students find it difficult to distinguish letters, students are not sure about the truth of the letters they read, and do not understand the meaning they read. From these deficiencies it can be seen that students who have mastered reading skills, are easier to receive material, access information and have a faster time in understanding a reading. Have reading skills, indirectly, solve problems and are skilled in the use of technology.

¹³ Janawati, Desak P. A., I Nyoman S., Nyoman Dantes, *The Effect of The Implementation of Word Card Learning in Domino Games on Improving Students Initial Writing Skills*, e-Journal of the University of Ganesha Education Postgraduate Program. Department of Basic Education (Volume 3 of 2013) Conference Proceedings Papers.

¹⁴ Tahar, Mohd Mokhtar, Hasnah T., Mohd H. M., Safani B., *Reading Skills Among Year One Students in Malaysia*, *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 9, 2010, p.378–383

Based on the phenomenon can be concluded that the beginning of reading learning is important to learn and become a mastered skill.

CONCLUSION

21 st century is called the knowledge period, where in the 21st century it was able to access various kinds of technology to gain knowledge. Knowledge can be obtained one of them through the process of reading. Reading well is obtained from the preliminary reading learning that is introduced and learned from the beginning of entering education. Early reading learning requires time to get a reading skill. Through good reading learning that is carried out is able to deliver students to face the 21st century. Where students can use technology well and absorb the knowledge it gets well. But on the other hand if the process of learning the preliminary reading has not gone well then it can inhibit students in using technology and difficulties in understanding the knowledge gained. This is caused by a lack of ability to read. This, proves that early reading learning has an important role for students. So it takes various ways to help so that the beginning of reading learning for students in the early grades can be achieved optimally.

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