

Increasing the Reading Interest of Elementary School Students

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Abstract

Reading has an important social role in human life. Reading is not only a necessity for students, but also the needs of everyone. Through reading, knowledge can be obtained. In essence, reading is a bridge to understanding how big the world is. However, in the 21st century, it is not the ability to read students, but the lack of interest in reading, be it textbooks or other books. This is due to the students' lack of understanding of the texts they read, lack of vocabulary mastery including not understanding how to read well in accordance with the objectives to be achieved. This article aims to identify ways to increase elementary students' reading interest. The benefits of this article are knowing the importance of increasing reading interest, understanding the functions and benefits of reading, as well as the factors that hinder students' reading interest, along with the role of parents, teachers, librarians, and the government.

Keywords: *Students; Reading; Reading Interest; Knowledge; Primary school.*

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Abstrak

Membaca mempunyai peranan sosial yang penting dalam kehidupan manusia. Membaca tidak hanya menjadi kebutuhan bagi siswa, tetapi juga kebutuhan semua orang. Melalui membaca, pengetahuan bisa didapatkan. Intinya, membaca adalah jembatan untuk memahami seberapa luas dunia. Namun, pada abad ke-21, itu bukan kemampuan untuk membaca siswa, tetapi kurangnya minat dalam membaca, baik itu buku teks atau buku lainnya. Hal ini, disebabkan kurangnya pemahaman para siswa terhadap teks yang dibacanya, kurangnya penguasaan kosakata termasuk tidak mengerti cara membaca yang baik sesuai dengan tujuan yang ingin dicapai. Artikel ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi cara meningkatkan minat baca siswa SD. Manfaat dari artikel ini ialah mengetahui pentingnya untuk meningkatkan minat baca, mengerti fungsi dan manfaat membaca, sekaligus faktor-faktor yang menghambat minat baca siswa, beserta peranan orangtua, guru, pustakawan, dan pemerintah.

Kata kunci: Membaca, Minat Baca, Pengetahuan, Sekolah Dasar.

1. Introduction

Burs and Rahim (2008) states that reading ability is an urgent task for learned people. Reading is not only a necessity for students, but also the needs of everyone. Through reading, knowledge can be obtained. In essence, reading is a bridge to understanding how vast the world is. However, in the 21st century, it is not the ability to read students, but the lack of interest in reading, be it textbooks or other books. The lack of interest in reading continues to be one of the unsolved educational problems. Slameto (1987:57) says that interest is an

absolute tendency to pay attention and remember certain activities. Actually, there is a connection between oneself and something else that can be called interest. Getzel (Mimin Haryati, 2007: 41) If someone is interested in something, they will take practical steps to achieve it. This definition fits Hurlock's view (2010:114) that if someone is interested, they will generate a source of motivation, which will make people do whatever they want to be satisfied. Then, (Siregar, 2004) says that reading interest is a tendency to read or a strong desire to read. Furthermore, this is affirmed by Tarigan's statement (1982), which shows that the interest in reading is one's ability to capture the emotional experience of the meaning of reading through communication (Dalman, 2014: 141). Reading interest will not appear suddenly in a person, it is necessary to increase the motivation of reading interest from personal or environmental factors (such as parental support, teacher or environment).

Basic education is inseparable from text learning that has elements of reading and writing. However, there are still many students, especially those in elementary school, who are less enthusiastic about reading. Reading is a set of skills that includes observation, understanding, and thinking activities (Saddhono and Slamet 2012). From an early age, you can cultivate an interest in reading through reading habits. If one has the desire or passion to read, will surely get a wide variety of ideas and knowledge. Based on the explanation above, this article will review several things that include the definitions of interest, definition of reading, definition of reading interest. There is also a review of things such as functions, benefits, and purposes of reading. A review of the factors that hinder students' reading interest. Last but not least is a review on the role of parents, teachers, librarians, and the government to increase students' reading interest.

2. The Definition of interest, definition of reading, definition of reading interest

2.1. The Definition of Interest

Interest is a person's encouragement to do something he wants to do which will take on its own role for the future for educational purposes.

2.2. The Definition of Reading

Reading taken from the word read which means understanding the meaning of writing or text, an activity that every child does when he is still in school to gain knowledge and maximum learning outcomes. Students who like to read will have the ability to think critically.

2.3. The Definition of Reading Interest

Reading interest is a desire from the heart to read something, interest in reading from a person grows from the person's own personality.

3. Functions, benefits, and purposes of reading

3.1. Functions of reading

Reading interest has a function to absorb information from the meaning of writing or text that will be read by someone who has an interest in reading from the person himself.

3.2. Benefits of Reading

The benefit of reading interest is to increase knowledge by anyone, by carrying out reading activities about science discourse and providing good enlightenment for readers.

3.3. Purposes of reading

The purpose of reading interest is to increase good knowledge, read for the purpose of pleasure for oneself or others, and reading to do an activity for the readers.

4. Factors that hinder students' reading interest

4.1. Internal Factors

Internal factors that inhibit students' reading interests include emotions/mood, perception, motivation, intelligence, and interest. Interest factors are the main things that can have a big influence on a person's behavior. According to Setiawati and Dermawan (2008) interest is several activities in order to achieve a goal. Everyone has a different interest in each of the same stimulus. It can be seen at a time when children's reading interests are with each other who have different goals to achieve. So it can be concluded that if a person has a goal then it will be followed interest so that what is desired can be achieved according to what is desired.

4.2. External Factors

Here are some external factors that affect and can hinder children's reading interest, namely:

1. Implementation of learning systems in Indonesia that have not focused on reading books including the reliability and interest in reading students.
2. Not many governments have organized a reading park or a mobile library.
3. The number of distractions or diversions to students such as entertainment on TV or games on mobile phones.
4. The presence of outdoor activities or physical activities that make the child's body become tired.
5. Lack of support from parents to foster motivation and interest in reading.

5. The role of parents, teachers, librarians, and governments to increase students' reading interest

5.1. Parent Role

First education at home is nothing but a family environment. As a parent, it plays an important role in the educational progress of their children. Parents should be a good example for their children including being responsible for educating children, disciplining children, motivating children and sharing also establishing daily routine activities at home so that children will get used to doing activities or homework independently without being told and without coercion.

This is in line with the opinion of A Joseph Burstein (2000) said that: the good thing to do homework without any encouragement and coercion is to establish daily routine activities at home. Parents need to raise the child's spirit by motivating a pleasant spirit. Therefore, establishing routine habits at home by familiarizing the child to read is something that needs to be done as a parent in the hope of forming a strong character and personality in the child until later adulthood.

5.2. Role of Teacher

1. Create a reading garden

With the reading garden laid out and designed as attractively as possible, it can make students' reading interest increase.

2. Buy books that interest students

The need for teachers to select and buy interesting and readable books for students such as readings that are accompanied by color images and the right font and font size.

3. Giving books as gifts

In addition to improving the spirit of students in learning to give books as a gift becomes a thing that can be done to increase the interest in reading students.

4. Make time for reading

Teachers can make time for students to read, such as giving reading habituation before learning activities are carried out.

5.3. Librarian Role

Almost all in schools, types, and levels of education, the condition of the school library is not yet fully functional. The library's book collection is far from being able to meet reading needs as a basis for education and equipment and needs. Staff do not meet the needs, while the school library is a source of information and lifelong learning resources that are very important in educating the nation's life. With the support of classroom teachers, school librarians should do their best to cultivate students' willingness and interest to read and borrow more books. Library promotion system must be continuously implemented and prioritized so that the public understands the library and understands what functions, meanings, uses and facilities it can provide. Through this promotion, students will understand and be interested in using it to increase their knowledge by reading and borrowing books or other reading materials. Librarians should also be able to create a reading space by placing books that really interest in reading and bring fun to children.

5.4. Government Role

In the process of advancing the world of education, the government is also responsible for the quantity and quality of books and reading rooms (libraries). The government can design, plan, and plan activities that advance education. The government can also budget the operational costs of education to meet the demands of increasing the quantity and quality

of education as much as possible. The role of the government, especially the local government, is decisive.

The role of local government is helped by the education sector, media and the movement of book lovers to jointly accommodate private groups interested in national intellectual life and assist in the acquisition of books, library equipment, and other reading facilities. books and other reading materials Needs are increasingly satisfied and complete. The availability of books and other reading materials can stimulate one's willingness and interest in reading, especially school-age children who are in desperate need of reading.

6. Conclusion

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that the importance of fostering interest in reading early on. The discovery of several functions, benefits, and purposes of reading, namely getting new information and knowledge. There are also several factors that inhibit students' reading interest, among others: internal and external factors. To increase students' reading interest, support from parents, teachers, school librarians, and the government is important. It is hoped that the upcoming experiments can delve deeper into the role of parents, teachers, school librarians, and the government in order to increase students' reading interests for the welfare of the nation and the country.

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