LEARNING ENGLISH AS ADDITIONAL LESSON THROUGH LOCAL CULTURE

Arif Ma’mun Rifa’i
Fakultas Syariah Institut Agama Islam (IAI) Ngawi

This paper aims to describe how local culture used in learning English as additional foreign language lesson, at least learners’ culture can be dominantly occupied in foreign language learning better than foreign language culture. However, culture is too intimately bound up with language thus cannot be separated each other. Learning foreign language by influencing local cultural after all is not easy it also will be demanding to teacher’s ability in both cultures.

Several issues which occur in language teaching, especially foreign languages include anything related to the culture, the problem is a foreign culture sometimes less is acceptable in learners’ culture, some expressions sometimes cannot be completely absorbed because students have a different background that form their understanding and culture all of them is influenced by social, cultural, and religious. The gap between cultures is inevitable namely origin language culture with the culture of language learners. Recognition of the cultural differences are certainly not necessarily to dichotomize those differences but rather on integrating both, in terms of integrating the culture cannot be denied that this is a difficult but the important thing to be concerned during the application of the language can be directed to the local culture then this will be very helpful using examples of student culture in which they live than helping them, it would also help preservation of local cultures to be exist.

Keywords: Learning English, Additional lesson, Local culture

A. Introduction

In the human everyday life as a social creature certainly cannot be separated from the communication to fulfill their needs, and the tool which is used is language as Loreto Todd said that language is a set of signals by the which we communicate\(^1\) whatever, the aim of language exist is communication, when someone use language, focus in its goal is a must, namely to communicate, thus the other aim is considerable thing of by-play, while Jack Ricahrd said that language is a tool of communication, methods and materials should concentrate on the message and not the medium\(^2\), because the language we can find out the information we need, apart from that we can convey our ideas and concepts through language. Language is usually delivered one clause at a time, and longer utterances in conversation Generally Consist of Several coordinated clauses\(^3\) Therefore, we should be able

---

to master the language and elements - elements, such as vocabulary, structure and so forth. Language emerged and developed due to the interaction between communicant and comunicator, groups and the interaction between cultural assimilation. Briefly the nature of human language is as an arbitrary system of symbols of voice used by members of the community to communicate and recognize each other.

The other definition stated by (brown,2007) that : (1) Language is systematic; language there are patterns that it usually follows, it can be seen the reason why it is like this if look back through the history of the language, and it is deal patterned agreement, however there are occasionally exception that don’t appear systematic at all, (2) language is a set of arbitrary symbols; the communities don not have reason or logic to call something, (3) Those symbols are primarily vocal, but may also be visual; those are in expression, (4) The symbols have conventionalized meaning to which they refer; if there is no conventionalized meaning it will impact to misunderstanding communication, (5) Language is used for communication, (6) Language operates in a speech community or culture, (7)Language is essentially human, although possibly not limited to humans, (8) Language is acquired by all people in much the same way; language and language learning both have universal characteristics.

The importance of education for human is something undeniable, because of that the cultural will be formed, indirectly impact on the formation of human civilization, by making better the quality of education there will be the better in creating a human civilization. Efforts to improve the quality of the process and outcomes of education always sought, studied and pursued through the study of the various components of education and improvement on all aspects, in doing efforts to improve the quality of the process and the expected results it is necessary at all to find a breakthrough innovative, breakthrough in educational settings so that the objective to advance the science can be achieved.

In education there are learning is done by teachers are programmed into the design instructional, create a process of interaction among students of teachers with learners and learning resources, especially in learning the language of communication will occur either in the process of interaction of instruction in the learning process as well as on the level of practice of the language. In the practice of communicating to learn the language may be more frequent than in other teaching materials especially foreign language grammar that much

---

difference with the Indonesian language. Currently the importance of studying English is a requirement in global era.

Teaching English such as in Indonesia is different one because teaching English as a foreign language in Indonesia that has the multi religion is certainly not all cultures through the language of origin is taken for granted because all must be harmonized with the culture and religion which are exist in that country, demands mastery of the English language in the era of globalization is increasingly quick to addressing these issues need to be the integration of English language courses with other courses. To achieve the purpose of the use of language in teaching needed to understand in advance about the function of language Al Wasilah explained that the function of language as follows\(^5\): 1. Cognitive: Cognitive function in the language that describes propositions whether right or wrong so they can accept or reject. 2. Emotive: language can be used as a tool to express a willingness in accordance with what he wants. 3. Imperative: This implies that the language can be used to allow people to do what we say. 4. Ceremony: means that language can be used to honor and respect for others. 5. Metalingual: language that can be used to describe the language itself and can be used to analyze the language itself.

To the demands of globalization, many institutions of Islam in Indonesia or another countries which teach English in non Tadris majoring in English as an additional course, this step is an effort of concerning institutions to make graduates who are ready to welcome the era of global era, English in several schools is taught in all departments, because the English language is not a primar subject just as additional subject, that the subject is thought in short time not more than 4 credits, it is so different comparing to the vocational course, it is a challenge to find a suitable approach and precise in teaching courses in English this so that graduates really expected to master English well, based on the explanation above, the local culture is considered important for use in foreign language learning.

B. Theoretical frame work
B.1 Learning

Learning is a process of transfer of knowledge by the teacher to the students, things that need to be straightened out before doing the learning is the goal of learning, it so that the whole process is carried out more targeted, learning outcome become more effective achieved if the goal of the teacher as the educator of education oriented on purpose to develop such forward by Crowford states that learning can be enhanced if the main purpose of the teacher is to develop a logical understanding in depth of a basic concept of a

\(^5\) Chaedar Alwasilah., *Filsafat dan bahasa*. (Bandung: Rosda Karya, 2013), p.14
curriculum (Crawford)⁶, then if the learning objectives oriented on the development of the concept of curriculum then with this advancement of education began to get education qualified and able to answer the demands of the times.

Learning by Hamalik that there are five terms of learning, which is as follows: The first study is an attempt to impart knowledge to the learners / students in school, second, learning is regenerates the culture to young generation through educational institutions / school, a third study is an attempt to organize the environment to create learning conditions for learners, fourth learning forms learners to become good citizens of the Community, the five that learning is a process of helping students face the everyday lives of the people⁷, if it is understood that learning is one of the ways to inherit the culture to young generations through educational institutions schools, then in terms of English language teaching should be able to contribute in defend local culture as material or how to teach as local culture, however, in learning regenerate an order does not change the main purpose of that study as an attempt to create a climate and services on the ability, potential, interests, talents, and needs of a diverse student that occurred optimal interaction between teachers and students and between students and students (Suyitno)⁸. According to the explanation above can be concluded that learning is consciously planned activity manifested in the interaction of knowledge transfer and develop the critical potential so that a student's readiness in the face of public life have mature readiness, improvement of education will be able to address if oriented on development based on curriculum.

Choosing method actually occupy important role in learning process although there are many factors influenced even sometime as determiner in the successful. Methods take aside the fact that there are many influential factors determining the success or failure of a learning process such as perception, cognition, culture, and institutions⁹. While the method which is used in learning can be varieties one of them is discussion, discussion is quite good method in learning language. In language skill there are two kinds of skills they are receptive skill and productive skill, while Receptive skills can be defined as “the ways in which people extract meaning from the discourse they see or hear”¹⁰ it means the learner get from out, there is no produce something. The productive skills refer to writing and speaking. Several important

issues related with writing and speaking are discourse, styles, genres, and other difficulties such as improvising, discarding, paraphrasing.\textsuperscript{11}

The method which is used should concern the aspects of language from the small unit of language. Two aspects of learning to identify words are analogous to the two aspects of learning to identify letters outlined at the end of the last chapter. One aspect is establishing criteria sets of functionally equivalent distinctive features for each category, the specifications for qualifying configurations, and the other aspect is associating a name with a category\textsuperscript{12}

For the teacher in choosing method it is better if look for the method explain by expert selectively in order to be appropriate to the situation, some method for learning had been done by expert surely aimed to find the solution of the problem found, also each method surely has shortcoming and excessiveness. David Jacobson\textsuperscript{13} said that discussion strategies are quite different, he compare with another method he add that they are less effective than an expository research or guided discovery procedure for teaching specific content because they are typically less teacher-directed and more time consuming. Whoever, other important goals exist in a classroom that go beyond or are different from acquiring specific content for example consider the following goals:

1. To develop leadership skills
2. To summarize group opinion
3. To arrive at a consensus
4. To become an active listener
5. To appropriately handle controversy
6. To develop paraphrasing skill
7. To develop self directed learning skill
8. To develop analysis, synthesis, and evaluative skill.

Learning using appropriate method would determine great outcome, choosing method should concern factors that can influence learning process toward successful outcome.

\subsection*{B.2. Local Culture}

Human life in all aspects cannot be separated from culture. The culture can be interpreted as convention people in their lives, their community, workplace and environment

\textsuperscript{11} Ibid., Harmer,p.248-249
\textsuperscript{12} Frank Smith, Understanding reading (Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.2004).P. 123.
of learning, culture sometimes newly created by the human community, but sometimes a long
time which is a derivative of society, Geertz in Svend Brinkman et al To study culture is,
'words, to study "a system of inherited conceptions expressed in symbolic forms by means of
the which men communicate, Perpetuate, and develop Reviews their knowledge about and
attitudes toward life "14. Cultural expression can be represented by utterance or sentence
intonation even that describe how the rules and orders of life in that period. Not a few of
culture depicted through a literary work so that it would be seen the differences, despite of
the efforts refer at the source reference.
as evan said “Certainly, within the work of contemporary Indigenous scholars, the concern
about Indigenous language and culture is very much tied up with the unique perspectives or
world views derived from these sources,”15 it is sometime not discussed about surface
structure event rarely discussed about it but the deep structure is very often conveyed in
different perspective.
However, culture is too intimately bound up with language, rhetorical styles, learning
preferences, and understandings of knowledge, texts, and identity to simply ignore when
considering writing instruction16

the cultures are sometimes prone to some linguistic aspects so some treatment is closer
than the others, but it is not currently on the discussion of the dichotomy, so that the same
proportion remains the goal in engaging culture.
Stern in Hinkel in evaluating teaching guides includes broader questions about historical,
sociopolitical and educational contexts and about specific content (areas of language, culture,
and literature).17

The function of language in a broad sense can be used as a media of communication to
convey all symbolic culture among community members, according to that, so that learning
can be also evaluated on their use of language and culture that exists. The other characteristic
of a culture it can only be manifested in some finite elements in a culture, namely the
language, arts, and customs in the ceremony. Language and culture, it is loaded with cohesive
power and influence each other, and may be said that each of the entities that one cannot exist
without the other role.

14 Svend Brinkmann, Michael Hviid Jacobsen, and Søren Kristiansen, The Oxford Handbook of Qualitative
Research, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), p.21
15 Ibid, Evans, Miller, Hutchinson, Dingwall p. 181
16 Ibid., Ken Hyland, P.50
17 Eli Hinkel, Handbook of research in second language teaching and learning, (New York : Routledge 2011),
P.562
In any case the learning process in the classroom as well as the effectiveness of any methods applied, it can be identified with what looked from a person's culture and how she communicates. Thus, dialogue can be seen at the core of culture, where culture is understood as a dialogical self-consciousness of every civilization.\(^{18}\)

Meanwhile the local culture is the culture which exists in certain area. While the material of culture meant not far from something that in communities where language students stay, all of them naturally include a discussion of the concept of culture and its major components, like language and gender and personality. All of them present an analysis of the important areas of culture – economics, politics, kinship, and religion.(Jack David Eller, 2009:18) cultural touches almost all aspects of human life in communities or the human economy cannot be separated from the economic life of the community also formed a culture both in the productive and receptive.

About culture Jon bird stated that the separation of cultures in space was seen as reducible to a more fundamental separation in time. The prioritization of time over space has been a central feature of theories of modernity\(^{19}\). Jon bird (2005 :170) The culture itself can be trans-changeable by mobility of human being while communicating or visiting each other the tourism phenomenon is an extraordinary occurrence, which developed historically from an activity of the privileged few to a mass cultural lifestyle and became accepted as a basic need of the modern world (Hudman & Hawkins, 1989) culture defending is seen importance if the culture is threatened by foreign culture. Refer to the explanation above it can be stated that The local culture means a culture that is growing and developing as well as owned and recognized by the community of local tribes. Local culture typically grows and thrives in a tribal society or a particular region because of the inheritance hereditary preserved. Culture of this area will appear when residents of an area already have the mindset, same convinced way and the same social life, so it becomes a habit that distinguishes them from other populations. Among them can be seen from the way of life and social interaction are done each society are different from each other\(^{20}\).

C. Discussion.

The successful learning is learning which is able to bring their students to the learning outcomes planned. To reach successful in education, the things that can be done surely have to be a push support in learning successful and good Outcome oriented, those overall are

---


based on need analysis study, results strongly answered and in accordance with the demands of the times, so educators are required to be responsive environmental phenomena that are always trying to find innovations that are responsive to the demands of the times. Much we can find an institution that teaches English as an additional learning English it means those really need effective breakthrough to solve any problems not only the short time but also looking for appropriate method and material lesson use in the class.

Language as a communication system is a part subsystem of a cultural system, even from the core part of culture. Language is involved in all aspects of culture, at least by having a name or term of the elements of all aspects of the culture. More important thing, human culture would not be possible without language because the language factors that as a determiner to the formation of culture.

Language as a communication tool that consists of a system of symbols, which was composed in the framework of the relationship of social groups, can also affecting the overall structure of cultural interaction. Experts agree that defines culture as a system structure composed of symbols, symbolism and meanings that are owned communally or together, who can be identified, as well as public. as Oxford, Holloway, and Horton-Murillo (1992: 441) point out,“although culture is not the single determinant, and although many other influences intervene, culture often does play a significant role in the learning styles unconsciously adopted by many participants in the culture.21

But the culture that is intended by the author is the culture that exists in the community where students live as teaching materials because the culture is very closely with them can be packed and incorporated into the method that is used as the method of discussion for example, the material to be discussed is related the culture of learners, this is expected to facilitate learners in mastering a foreign language is not only that, but also how culture in the discussion also be a very important thing to be implemented.

Concerning the institution that teach English as additional lesson even some institution based on religion, so their mind set formed since the student will continue his studies at institution that teach English as additional lesson they will gain enough knowledge, readiness will get a lecture in English is unpredictable. Students who majored in Sharia means the student mastery oriented on sharia law and Islamic law, or more simply their families studied Islamic law and family law in the perspective of Islamic law. Thus it is natural courses of English is less desirable because it does not match what is in the minds of students before,

---

thus truly need for innovations in new that makes the subjects of English becomes more attractive and desirable to make the selection of materials and methods that are not monotonous so that students more interested. Culture very closely with student life pales studies are analyzing what the students are expected to be stimuli to the students as encouragement in learning English

D. Conclusion

The problems that exist in learning can be something simple and can also be a very complex problem. No matter how big the problem it demands educator to perform all the steps to handle it. According to the problems described above, in the conclusion of this can be explained that culture is something that is inherent with the Community and also on the student themselves. thus taking up the issue of culture as the material was allegedly able to make more interesting teaching materials, while the method of discussion will make students more free to explore so as to position itself in criticizing the problem of the existing culture, while the relation of language and culture as described by wibisono that language is a product of culture, and society is the wearer. Language is strongly influenced by the culture so that everything that exists in the culture will be reflected in the language and behavior of society. Language behavior in a variety of dimensions broad perspective, in addition to the linguistic dimension, social dimension also language behavior, psychological, and cultural. In the perspective of sociology, language behavior is not just individual behavior, but also social behavior. As social behavior, language behavior one is bound by the social norms prevailing in society. The behavior of someone speaking reflects social phenomena that occur in the community environment.22

Learning the culture of a society should prioritize the elements of the language used in the community. Culture and language are two things that are closely interwoven. To learn a culture of a people, one must master the language of the community group. language is unique and has a very close relationship with the culture of the wearer, the analysis of a language only applies to the language course, can not be used to analyze other languages.

DAFTAR PUSTAKA