

# LOCAL WISDOM PHOTOS AS ADAPTED MATERIALS IN TEACHING ENGLISH

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## *Abstract*

Students' text books mostly contain the materials which do not show the local wisdom and also they do not include sufficient language elements as one of the keys in English learning. So that is why teachers have to innovate the teaching materials in order to combining the language skills, language elements, as well as the local wisdom. Adaptation is one of the most effective innovation which can be done by the teachers to integrate between teaching materials and students' sociocultural condition. Hence, it is very important for them in adjusting the teaching material to the students' internal and external factors. The teachers can choose certain local wisdom to be inserted in their teaching materials in this qualitative study such as tourism, culinary, and batik. Those materials can be downloaded from the internet and the usage should be considered to the language skills and students' grade.

*Keywords: photos, local wisdom, adapted material*

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

### **Background of the Study**

All of the parties related to the education area should solve the problems in order to improve education quality. The policy maker have to start in considering a new way in the form of regulation to the action which are directly to make a betterment teaching process so it will be suitable in this competitive era. This empowerment will be needed to create learner generation who are able to compete.

In teaching and learning process, the teachers can create positive atmosphere so that they can maximize their roles to generate creative, effective, and meaningful teaching and learning or in other words it is

called by joyful teaching and learning. This kind of process is perceived by the former of Education Minister, Anies Baswedan, as the basic trick to improve education quality. It can be assumed that if students achieve some experiences from the joyful teaching and learning. It will make them to be the tough and competent learners in the global competition.

In this globalization era, many materials prepared for students, for example in learning English, the students are given with broad information. This condition may be found in students' books which largely contain insufficient contents dealing with local wisdom and unfortunately those are not combined with

language. In order to use local wisdom content for teaching materials, one of teacher organizations which commonly do the task is MGMP (Musyawarah Guru Mata Pelajaran).

MGMP is an organization for the teachers to improve their professionalism. In a regency or city there are some sub rayon of MGMP consisting some sub regencies. One of English MGMP for SMP in Grobogan, Central Java has members coming from sub regencies of Grobogan, Purwodadi, Klambu, and Brati. The teachers in that organization mostly have not acquired the whole information dealing with innovation in teaching material so the use of material including the local wisdom as one of innovation in English teaching material has not been maximized.

### **Statements of the Problems**

Some of the problems from this study are:

- 1) What kinds of local wisdom which can be used for adapted teaching materials?
- 2) What web sites can be accessed to download the local wisdom photos as the sources of adapted materials?

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study are:

- 1) To illustrate the kinds of local wisdom which can be used for adapted teaching materials

- 2) To illustrate the web sites which can be accessed to download the local wisdom photos as the sources of adapted materials

### **Research Methods**

This study used qualitative research method to describe the phenomenon and condition. It describes the result of the study shown in a table. The table informs the result of the two instruments used in this study. The first was open questionnaire where the teachers answered based on their opinion. The second was cyber media research where the teachers accessed some web sites to check the photos of local wisdom.

Recently, cyber media has been popular because the world is interconnected by the internet. Not only regional, national, but also international scope. As one of cyber media types, web site is the most popular domain containing information, data, visual, audio, and also application (Nasrullah, 2014: 25).

## **B. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **Teachers' Competence**

Teachers can change education atmosphere. It is very obvious that they are demanded to be professional so that they

can do their jobs as well as possible. In order to do that responsibilities, they have to be competent by doing the competence in pedagogy, professional, individual, and social. It has some reasons why the pedagogical competence is stated firstly and mainly among the others. Saondi and Suherman (2010: 57) define that pedagogical competence is the competence related to the teachers' capabilities in managing students' learning including their understanding to the students, the planning and executing the learning, the evaluation of learning result, and also students' development through their potential. Some of those points must be done by the teachers because those are the serial process of learning.

According to Richard (2001: 210), one of teachers' characteristics is acquiring pedagogical knowledge that is the ability to restructure knowledge content in the form of teaching and also in planning, adapting, as well as modifying. It is supported by the elaboration that teachers are also asked to be active in choosing the materials. It can be stated that the teachers have to be able in adapting the materials to be delivered for their students.

Five roles of teachers to build the joyful teaching and learning atmosphere are as follows: generating students' learning interest, incorporating students in all aspects of teaching and learning so there

will be mutualism relationship and two ways communication, creating learning intention for the students, comprehending learning materials, and evaluating in a comfortable way to make the students happy. However, those five roles have to be adjusted to the teaching skills so that the teachers can deliver the teaching materials in appropriate ways as stated by Cooper in Zahera (1997). This condition is very necessary for the teachers to improve their basic teaching skills in order to be able in doing their jobs sufficiently.

### **Innovative Teaching Material**

In education, innovation is really needed. Developed information must be supported by the suitable materials which will be used in teaching and learning processes. It is not fully accepted if all of the things related to the modernity are created abruptly as the materials for the students. For that reason, innovation in learning must be adjusted to the students' sociocultural condition.

There are three types of teaching material innovation, they are adoption, adaptation, and creation. The first is adoption, taking the whole materials as teaching materials. For this type, the teachers do not alter anything while choosing learning materials and it always happens while the teachers using English materials used by the native speakers. The

second is adaptation where the materials are adjusted to the students' local condition. Hence, it is very important for the teachers to match the kinds of materials to the internal and external students' condition, such as the levels of learning ability, motivation, social, culture, and also economy. The third is creation that is creating something new. Here, the teachers' totality is shown up, how good their interest to create teaching material which has not been available, so they do not only modify the materials but also create new materials.

Creating materials means combining some materials to make the new ones or introducing components to a structure by merging, planning, and generating. Created materials can be derived from text books and other instructional references which are specifically developed (Richard, 2001: 96). From the three types of innovation, at least the teachers do not only adopt the materials but also adapt them.

Based on one of types of innovation mentioned above, adaptation deals with the starting point to create materials and it needs teachers' awareness in combining the materials by considering their students' condition. It relates to one of the material development values as combining the learning materials based on students' characteristics as their languages, cultures, and social classes (Schulman, 1987: 15).

The materials which can be adapted have to show students' creativity to study in order to increase their language skills. As stated by Tomlinson (1998) that materials delivered by teachers have to explore students in using authentic language. In this case, it shows a tight relationship between adapted materials to the students' condition and also their language skills.

There are some authentic language elements which are regularly adapted for an English learning material for example: schedule, menu, announcement, and advertisement (Cunningsworth, 1984: 72). In other hand, authentic material relates textual material to the students' life as natural environment so the language usage processes naturally. The material approach referring to the four language skills which is accurate and relevant to the information in language use.

## **C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Adapted Learning Materials**

Grobogan is one of regencies in Central Java having local wisdom in tourism, culinary, traditional ceremony, and batik aspects. Considering those various local wisdom in that area, it is very great chance to combine among of them in language skills and language elements. As we know that four language skills have to be mastered by the language users, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In

other hand, the three language elements supported the comprehensive language skills are lexical, phonology, and grammar. It reveals that material usage taken from the local wisdom in Grobogan cannot be avoided from language skills as well as language elements.

Adapting materials can be done through: choosing material, organizing the materials in the form of text, and generating the result framework. The steps to adapt content from students' background have to consider their cultural levels as meaningful local context. Richard (2001: 83) elaborates that those two things are really beneficial to improve speed reading, students' perspectives, information use, critical thinking, processes of main idea, and also reading process. Those several advantages will highly perceived if the teachers use texts which are understandable by the students.

Learning material based on scientific method can use text to respond orally for the meaning of vocabulary, grammar, text structure, and text social function for the meaning of the word. The function of material by using local wisdom are: improving teaching quality, increasing learning result quality, and also introducing the value of local wisdom. Students tend to be active in learning the material, to be enthusiastic, to be curious in asking and giving opinion, to be cooperative and

appreciate, as well as showing positive attitude to the local value (Peacock, 1997). Authentic materials have positive effects to students' motivation because they provide authentic cultural information about target culture, provide exposure to contextual language than artificial language, and deal with students' need.

### **Local Wisdom Photos as Adapted Materials**

Material adaptation is expected to include authentic local wisdom. One of the media which can be used to explore the local wisdom is photo. Coyles (2010) explains that through a photo, students can learn its content, cognition, communication, and character building as culture. The steps in using photo about environmental condition around the students are: observing, speculating, giving open question, using grammar, writing simple format, discussing, and also generating learning result framework. The factual question delivered by the teachers can use WH questions.

**Table 1.****Kinds of local wisdom and the photo sources as adapted materials**

No.	Local Wisdom	Photo Source	The Aim / Reason in Using the Material	Class / Semester / Skill
1.	Sendang Keongan	<a href="http://www.direktorigr-obogan.com">www.direktorigr-obogan.com</a>	The students know the location but they do not know about the legend	8 / 2 / Speaking
2.	Bledug Kuwu	<a href="http://www.akarasa.com">www.akarasa.com</a>	To introduce the students about the culture and tourism in their area and also to tell about the story or the legend	8 / 2 / Speaking
3.	Batik Grobogan	Batik-serunidesaputat.blogspot.com	Contextual	9 / 1 / Writing
4.	Sayur Becek	<a href="http://www.kabupatengrobogan.blogspot.co.id">www.kabupatengrobogan.blogspot.co.id</a> .2013/11	To introduce special menu in Grobogan	9 / 1 / Writing
5.	Swike ayam	<a href="http://www.culinarygrobogan.com">www.culinarygrobogan.com</a>	As special menu which should be introduced	9 / 1 / Writing
6.	Sale pisang	<a href="http://www.culinarygrobogan.com">www.culinarygrobogan.com</a>	To introduce the culinary of sale pisang	9 / 1 / Writing
7.	Kripik tempe	<a href="http://www.caramembuatmu.com">www.caramembuatmu.com</a>	It is based on the theme or learning material related to the local product	9 / 1 / Writing

Authentic material can be derived from texts, photos, videos, or other materials which are not specifically used for learning material (Richard, 2001: 252). Related to the statement, teachers have chances to make photos as material references relating to local wisdom in Grobogan. The table shows the questionnaire result from the teachers dealing with local material, photo material references, the aim or reason in using the material, and the use of the materials. The photos chosen by the teachers were derived from the internet.

#### **D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

##### **Conclusion**

Teachers have very important roles in the teaching and learning process so their competence must be developed especially in pedagogical competence. In this competence, the teachers can show their abilities in innovating the teaching materials. The sources of innovative teaching material can be derived easily by using photos from the internet.

##### **Suggestion**

It is quite good to insert contents from local wisdom as teaching materials aiming to improve students' internal and external language skills. Moreover, English teaching does not only focus to the language skills and the language elements

but also the students' sociocultural condition.

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