



Literature Study: Effectiveness of Total Physical Response (TPR) Method in Learning the Introduction of English Number in Early Childhood Education

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Abstract: The Total Physical Response (TPR) method is a language learning approach that combines physical movement with verbal instruction. This study aims to explore the effectiveness of the TPR method in English number recognition in early childhood. The research was conducted using a qualitative approach based on literature study, by analyzing data from various accredited journals, reference books, and scientific articles. The results showed that the application of TPR significantly improved children's understanding, engagement and recall of abstract concepts such as numbers. In addition, this method is able to integrate cognitive and motor skills, as well as students' hard and soft skills, create interactive, fun and relevant learning with the characteristics of early childhood who are active and have a short attention span, and proven effective when combined with other learning media such as flash cards. Based on these findings, TPR is recommended to be applied in English language learning in early childhood education to support holistic child development.

Key Words: Total Physical Response (TPR) method; numbering in english; early childhood

Abstrak: Metode Total Physical Response (TPR) adalah pendekatan pembelajaran bahasa yang menggabungkan gerakan fisik dengan instruksi verbal. Studi ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi efektivitas metode TPR dalam pengenalan angka bahasa Inggris pada anak usia dini. Penelitian dilakukan dengan pendekatan kualitatif berdasarkan studi literatur, dengan menganalisis data dari berbagai jurnal terakreditasi, buku referensi, dan artikel ilmiah. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penerapan TPR secara signifikan meningkatkan pemahaman, keterlibatan, dan ingatan anak-anak terhadap konsep abstrak seperti angka. Selain itu, metode ini mampu mengintegrasikan keterampilan kognitif dan motorik, serta keterampilan keras dan lunak siswa, menciptakan pembelajaran yang interaktif, menyenangkan, dan relevan dengan karakteristik anak usia dini yang aktif dan memiliki rentang perhatian yang pendek, serta terbukti efektif ketika digabungkan dengan media pembelajaran lain seperti kartu flash. Berdasarkan temuan ini, TPR direkomendasikan untuk diterapkan dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris di pendidikan anak usia dini untuk mendukung perkembangan anak secara holistik.

Kata Kunci: Metode Total Physical Response (TPR); penghitungan dalam bahasa Inggris; anak usia dini.

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INTRODUCTION

Early childhood education is a very important stage in building a child's cognitive foundation and language skills. In this phase, children are introduced to abstract concepts, such as numbers in English. However, many young children experience difficulties in understanding and remembering numbers. This difficulty is often caused by learning methods that are less interesting and not in accordance with their characteristics, such as high energy and short attention span.

Children in their early years have a number of distinctive characteristics. They tend to be active and do not like to stay still. In addition, each child has their own uniqueness which is reflected in their high curiosity and openness to new experiences. Their ability to express themselves creatively is also one of the main characteristics at this age. Children have a vivid imagination, which allows them to think beyond limitations. They also show a tendency to share words and communicate with those around them, thus building social relationships while honing their language skills (Rosalianisa et al., 2023).

In terms of language development and understanding number concepts, early childhood education plays an important role. A good understanding at this age can make it easier for children to follow the educational process at the next level, especially during learning activities in the classroom. Something that can be observed, heard, touched, felt, or smelled through the human senses is an important aspect in an effective learning process (Sari, 2021).

The facts on the ground show that students are less motivated to learn English. This is due to the use of learning methods that are still dominated by lectures. As a result, students perceive English as a monotonous and difficult subject to understand. This condition can be seen from the lack of student focus when the teacher delivers the material in class (Amalia et al., 2024).

Based on this background, it is important to raise the title “Literature Review: Effectiveness of Total Physical Response (TPR) Method in Learning English Number Recognition in Early Childhood Education” to explore learning methods that can overcome these problems. The Total Physical Response (TPR) approach is a language learning method that combines verbal instruction with physical movement. Er & Prof (2013) explains that this method is very suitable for children because it integrates physical activity with the learning process, thus helping to strengthen long-term memory of the material being taught. TPR gives children the opportunity to not only hear commands, but also practice them through body movements. Thus, learning becomes more interesting and interactive. The effectiveness of the TPR method in actively improving English comprehension has also been confirmed by Xie (2021)

Therefore, this Guide is organized based on practitioners' experiences and previous research results. In addition, this study also reviews the advantages, challenges, and potential of applying the TPR method in the context of early childhood education.

METHOD

This study applied a qualitative research design that explored students' practice in creating instructional video for the final project of computer-assisted language learning. Qualitative research involves attempts to describe phenomena, sometimes using scientific methods and other times through artistic means. It seeks to understand subjects, occasionally through inductive reasoning and at other times deductively. It consistently aims to challenge

existing notions by closely examining specific details and learning from them (Trainor & Graue, 2013).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study found that the use of Total Physical Response (TPR) method in teaching number recognition in English for early childhood significantly improved their understanding and engagement. (Wang, 2022) revealed that “TPR is superior to the Audio-Lingual Method (ALM) in teaching language concepts to 3-4 year olds because it involves more physical activities, thus increasing students' engagement and their ability to remember the material.” These findings suggest that the integration of physical movement into learning not only makes learning more engaging, but also helps to strengthen children's memory.

In the analyzed literature review, implementation stages such as “Observing,” “Listening-Observing-Doing-Repeating,” as well as the use of randomized commands showed similar positive results. Nuraeni et al (2019) revealed that “consistent application of TPR can increase students' understanding of numbers by up to 27%,” which confirms the effectiveness of this method in developing children's cognitive abilities through physical activity-based learning and active participation.

The quantitative research results showed a significant increase between the pre-test and post-test scores, indicating a positive effect of the TPR method on learning outcomes. Sinaga et al (2023) noted that “the use of TPR combined with flash card media significantly improved listening skills and vocabulary acquisition in early childhood.” This finding further reinforces that TPR is not only effective in introducing numbers, but also contributes to the overall improvement of language skills in early childhood students.

Previous research also corroborates these findings, the TPR method is able to integrate students' hard skills and soft skills in learning, thus presenting a meaningful and fun classroom atmosphere for students according to their characteristics, namely active and happy to play (Antika & Syari, 2021; Fadiana et al., 2021; Sinta & Uyun, 2023; Widiyarti & Fitriani, 2023).

This study shows that the Total Physical Response (TPR) method significantly increases young children's understanding and engagement in recognizing numbers in English. This result supports Wang (2022) view that TPR is superior to the Audio-Lingual Method (ALM) in teaching language concepts to children aged 3-4 years. The physical activities integrated in TPR not only make learning more interesting, but also help strengthen children's memory. This finding provides a strong foundation for the application of TPR in language learning at an early age level, especially for basic concepts such as numbers.

The implementation stages of TPR, such as “Observing,” “Listening-Observing-Doing-Repeating,” and the use of randomized commands, showed consistent and positive results in improving children's understanding. Nuraeni et al (2019) revealed that consistent application of this method can increase students' understanding of numbers by up to 27%. This confirms the importance of a systematic structure in the implementation of TPR to optimize learning outcomes. In addition, this approach is able to develop children's cognitive abilities through physical activities that involve active participation.

Findings from the quantitative research further confirm that the TPR method has a significant positive impact on early childhood learning outcomes. The increase in pre-test and post-test scores demonstrates the effectiveness of this approach in improving student comprehension. The combination of TPR with other learning media, such as flash cards, also makes an additional contribution to children's listening skills and vocabulary acquisition

(Sinaga et al., 2023). Thus, this method is not only effective in number vocabulary recognition but also has broad benefits in the development of early childhood language skills.

Support from previous research further strengthens these findings. The TPR method is able to integrate students' hard and soft skills in learning, creating a meaningful and fun classroom atmosphere in accordance with the characteristics of early childhood who are active and love to play (Antika & Syari, 2021; Fadiana et al., 2021; Sinta & Uyun, 2023; Widiyarti & Fitriani, 2023). This integration provides a holistic learning experience, so students not only understand the material but also develop relevant interpersonal skills for their future development.

Overall, this study confirms that the TPR method is an effective and relevant approach in learning numbers in English for early childhood. The use of this method not only supports the achievement of learning objectives but also enriches students' learning experience, making it more engaging and in line with their developmental needs.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of various studies that have been reviewed, the Total Physical Response (TPR) method has proven to be very effective. By combining physical movement and verbal instruction, this method creates interactive, fun learning and improves children's understanding of abstract concepts such as numbers. TPR also strengthens cognitive and motor skills, hard skills and soft skills making it ideal for teaching numbers and foreign languages simultaneously. Therefore, TPR is recommended to be applied in early childhood to support children's all-round development.

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