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## APPLYING MEMRISE APP TO IMPROVE STUDENT'S VOCABULARY IN ONLINE LEARNING DURING THE COVID 19 PERIOD AT JOYKIDS PRIVATE LESSON

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### Abstract:

This study aims to apply the Memrise application to improve vocabulary learning for joykids private lesson students on learning during the pandemic. This research is qualitative descriptive research. This research was conducted at Joykids Private lesson in Surabaya. The research subjects were 8 Joykids Private lessons from grades 3 to 5 with beginner English skills. The instruments used are observation, documentation, and interviews. Data collection techniques in this study are data reduction, triangulation, and concluding. The results showed that the ability of students after learning to increase vocabulary through the application was excellent and helped students in increasing English vocabulary during the pandemic. Research shows that this Memrise application-based research is a valuable method for improving students' vocabulary with a fun way of learning

**Keywords:** Memrise application, vocabulary

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Education is increasingly becoming one of the most important things to be prioritized by all human beings. From the age of toddlers, humans are required to be able to fulfill primary education to a higher level. This is in line with the development of technology and communication tools that should be used as learning media in the world of education, especially English language education for students and teachers. However, in the conditions of the virus pandemic, in our country, learning activities are usually done face-to-face, allowing students to face to face remotely through computer screens or cell phones. Even so, this pandemic has been able to accelerate the pace of the 4.0 education system, which is a learning system that is carried out remotely by utilizing existing information technology.



Because of one of the guidelines made by the Ministry of Education and Culture about TFH (Teaching From Home) for teachers, the role of parents is now increasingly dominant in assisting children's learning at home. Parents ask tutors to come to students' homes to help students carry out learning activities while following existing health protocols. In addition, if the teacher's method is boring, students will feel uninterested in learning English, especially if students are still in the age range of 8-10 years, the age that should learn with a fun method. Therefore, several educational institutions or, in a general sense, private lessons are presented.

Joykids private lesson itself applies face-to-face learning to students during a pandemic while maintaining existing health protocols and the number of students considered private or limited. Widyastuti (2021) said that the teacher comes to the student's house to teach all subjects relevant to learning at school, including English. The English taught also follows the daily lesson plan following government regulations. In this case, there was a problem that the researcher considered as something that needed to be researched, namely the lack of broader learning of basic English to students.

The Covid-19 pandemic requires teachers and students to do general learning material and English language remotely by utilizing various existing information and communication technologies. Even though teachers' competence in using media for communication is essential in this era, many teachers are still not used to using technology in the learning process (Utami, 2020). In addition to fun learning assistance in accordance with the learning method applied by the tutor, the tutor also introduced a unique ICT application for language learning for improving listening, vocabulary, writing, and speaking skills, known as Memrise.

Memrise app is an educational app that serves to help students master a language using flashcards and memory techniques to teach foreign languages and memorize information from other disciplines, such as English, geography, law, or mathematics. Internet users created the Memrise app. Memrise is a free online learning tool for students familiar with the drill function in iOS. Memrise can be an adequate alternative that works on the same principle. Just like Drill, Memrise uses flashcards, but not word/translation models, which contain mnemonics in the form of short phrases or



rhymes, which are easy to remember. Mnemonics make use of what was rendered into a secure memory store. Maintains an orderly arrangement of memory storage, makes them available on-demand, and thus replaces most of them by chance. The Memrise app contains multiple languages, focusing on learning English. Students can learn and access this application at any time. Memrise aims to improve students' English learning in a fast, fun, and enjoyable way, which helps students absorb the English learning they have learned well.

Learning vocabulary frequently is a process in determining student achievement, especially in learning English. Macaro (2001) believes that students should have more practice time to have good vocabulary mastery.<sup>12</sup> In addition, students must balance learning time from school with learning from Memrise. Memrise acts as an online learning and review tool using a spaced repetition method that stores students' learning history and assesses knowledge based on the historical data, which will benefit them to have a long-term memory of what they have learned. Most people will learn something easily and interestingly if they learn it in a relaxed situation and a happy mood. By applying Memrise as a learning tool and studying vocabulary, students will learn vocabulary in a comfortable, exciting, and not easily bored environment because learning must be balanced with games in elementary school. Fadhilawati (2016), in her research "Learning and Reviewing vocabulary through Memrise to improve students' vocabulary achievement," stated that Memrise is the key to a good tool for students to study and review vocabulary prepared by the teacher before students read the text in their ESP class. Memrise is also helpful for reviewing vocabulary material outside of class. Yet, this research is limited to studying and reviewing 44 words/phrases related to student material through Memrise to improve students' vocabulary mastery. This action succeeded in helping in increasing students' vocabulary mastery which was proven in a natural increase in grades, as well as good responses from students interested in learning through this Memrise application (Fadhila, 2016). Other research done by Nuralisa and Kareviati in 2020 shows that Memrise application has proven to be very effective in improving students' vocabulary mastery. Students memorize vocabulary more easily and feel happy following the learning process. This application is also a reference for learning

strategies teachers can use to carry out classroom teaching and learning activities. And for readers, this research can also add to and develop their English material.

This research is used to determine the steps in applying Memrise to Improve students' Vocabulary at Joykids Private Lesson and to know the student's response to Memrise application as media in teaching English Vocabulary at Joykids Private lesson. This research is different from previous research in the application's condition. This research was conducted when teachers and students used an online learning system because of Covid-19.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

The type of research applied, in this case, is descriptive qualitative research, which is a collection of data collected in the form of pictures and words, not in the form of numbers. According to Bogdan and Taylor, as quoted by Moleong (2020), qualitative research has a meaning in a procedure. The resulting research is descriptive data in written or spoken words from people and observed behavior.

While descriptive research is a form of research that describes existing phenomena, both natural phenomena and engineering made by humans. The purpose of descriptive research is to create a systematic, factual, and accurate narrative about the facts and characteristics of the population in a particular area. This study was used to find out how to learn English for Joykids private tutoring students. This qualitative research requires accurate data reports in the implementation of research. Therefore, this research was located at Joykids Private Lesson situated at Jl. Wiyung 5/29, Wiyung, Surabaya, East Java. Joykids Private lesson was established in 2019 with personal and group learning.

The data collected was taken from the Leaders of Joykids Private lesson related to the difficulties or problems students face when implementing online learning. Research proposal as a continuation of the title that has been received by the head of the study program to be used as research, then the researcher proposes a recommendation to the supervisor for examination until it can be tested. If the proposal has been accepted, the researcher has obtained permission and can do research. The writing and discussion are continued after the proposal and conduct were research, then look for data to be analyzed against interviewed answers. When there is already an answer in the interview

after being analyzed feels unsatisfactory. The researcher will continue the question until a particular stage is obtained and the data considered credible.

Judging from the data type, the research approach used in this research is qualitative research. Qualitative research intends to understand the phenomena of what is experienced by research subjects holistically and descriptions in the form of words and language instead of numbers, in a context that naturally and by utilizing various existing scientific methods (Moleong, 2007). This type of research approach is descriptive. Descriptive research, namely research that seeks to describe the current problem solving based on data. The qualitative descriptive research used in this study was intended to obtain in-depth and comprehensive information about improving students' vocabulary learning in learning English at Joykids Private Lessons online. In addition, it is expected that situations and problems encountered can be disclosed with a qualitative approach.

In this study, the primary data sources were words obtained from interviews with informants who have been determined, including various related matters with the implementation of vocabulary learning for Joykids students' private tutoring. In contrast, the secondary data sources in this research include a list of students' names for Joykids Private Lessons, profiles of Joykids Private Lesson, and photos of teaching and learning activities at JoyKids Private Lesson.

The source of the data requested for information must be in accordance with the research problem. The data source in research is the subject from which data was taken or obtained (Arikunto, 2006). To get the correct data, it is necessary to determine the informant who has the competence and is in accordance with the data needs. (aim). This study aimed to determine the form of participation, the benefits, and the factors that influence participation in learning.

According to Arikunto (2006), the data collection technique is a method that researchers can use to collect data, where the method leads to something abstract, but its existence can be proven. In terms of collecting this data, the researcher went directly to the research object to obtain valid data. The method used by the researcher is the observation method. This observation uses the type of participatory observation, where the researcher is directly involved with students' daily activities being observed or used

as a source of research data. In direct observation, In this case, the researcher acts as an observer and tutor who can make observations of processes that occur in real situations that are observed directly by observers, as well as actors and or participants who participate in the learning process. In addition to the observation method, information can be obtained through facts stored in other forms such as letters, diaries, photo archives, meeting results, souvenirs, activity journals, etc. Researchers must ask questions with the same theme for all respondents to produce the same response so as not to cause processing difficulties due to different interpretations. Structured interviews were made according to the questionnaire but only not written questions were asked, but oral questions were made by an interviewer who recorded answers from respondents.

Qualitative research data analysis techniques are carried out if the data obtained is data that contains a collection of words and not in the form of numbers and cannot be grouped. Data collection can be done in various ways (observations, interviews, document condensations, tapes) and is usually processed before being ready for use (through recording, typing, editing, or instead of writing). However, qualitative data analysis still uses words usually organized into extended texts and does not use mathematical or statistical calculations for their analysis.

According to Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014), the analysis technique consists of three categories: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Data reduction is a process of selecting, focusing on simplification, abstraction, and transformation of raw data that emerges from written records at the research time. Triangulation is a technique for checking the validity of the data. Where in terms of triangulation is a technique of checking the validity of data that utilizes something else in comparing the results of interviews with the object of research (Moleong, 2004). Triangulation can be done in different ways, such as through interviews, observation, and documents (Nasution, 2003). Conclusion After data collection has been carried out, a qualitative analyst begins the analysis, noting regularities, patterns, explanations, possible configurations, causal pathways, and propositions. Conclusions will be made in as much detail as possible to understand. Conclusions depend on the field note collection

size, the coding, storage, and retrieval methods used, the researcher's skills, and the funder's demands.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1. Results**

##### ***3.1.1. Steps In Applying Memrise To Increase Vocabulary For Joykids Private Lesson Students***

This research was conducted in a tutoring place called Joykids Private lesson. Joykids Private Lesson was established in August 2019 with one teacher who is none other than the owner. Joykids Private lesson is located at Jalan Wiyung 5/29, Surabaya. Joykids is a tutoring institution that provides counting, writing, and reading lessons for preschool-kindergarten ages and helps students in grades 1-5 elementary school from various schools in the surrounding area according to their respective schedules. However, this case study was only conducted on elementary school students in grades 3-5. According to the researcher, it is suitable for increasing vocabulary in English, especially during the pandemic, which requires them to study from home and rely on technology and communication tools today. For the first before, the researchers tried to examine how each student's understanding and mastery of vocabulary was fundamental. The vocabulary is the basic vocabulary and is used daily, such as hi, hello, my name is..., and so on. The researcher prepared some words taken from the Memrise application.

The researcher gave ten vocabularies that students had to fill in according to the students' knowledge so far. After being given, the students worked on it, and the researcher collected the results. And the results obtained by the researcher from work were that almost all students filled in answers that were not in accordance with the vocabulary given by the researcher.

The students did not understand the meaning of the vocabulary at all. While in their daily life, they do school learning online, along with the advancement of technology today, social media that is freely accessible to anyone is no longer purely Indonesian, and some are even more focused on English. This seems unbalanced if the use of technological tools and social media, if not used properly for learning, does not even

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master the vocabulary in English. So the researcher explains how to use the Memrise application to improve students' vocabulary in Joykids Private lesson, as follows:

*a. Create an account by registering*

Before creating a Memrise account, students must first ensure that they have downloaded the Memrise app beforehand. Students can download the app on the Google Play Store and install the Memrise App. When the app opens, students start creating an account, or they can choose a username or sign in with a Facebook or Google account. It is best if students create a profile as their progress will be saved if they change their device. Students can use a Facebook or Google account to sign up for a Memrise account. The Profile page looks like a report card, describing the student's learning history, what awards students get when students are studying, as well as a leadership board.

*b. Choose a Course*

There are more than 200 language sites available. The course screen should roughly show how many hours it will take to complete. Learning can be divided into stages so that it is easier to manage. To select a course, students click on the 'explore' button at the top of the site. Students can then sort courses by keyword search language. To start learning, students can click the "Word and Phrases" menu and then wait a few moments later. After that, the Memrise application will display words and phrases for each level, and students click "let's start."

*c. Learn vocabulary by using the Memrise App*

After clicking "let's get started," the menubar will display several vocabulary lists. Memrise uses a garden as a metaphor for memory. When students start learning and practicing a course, vocabulary items will be planted as 'seeds.' Vocabulary will be given repeatedly. They were starting in the easiest, middle, and more complex way. There is always an audio pronunciation for each vocabulary. Students were tested on pronouncing, listening, writing, and memorizing. The main page of the Memrise app displays a background that looks like the user has entered outer space, with several levels represented as planets. Each level has a different theme. When students/users

enter a level, there are certain words and phrases that they must master before they move on to the next level. Students will move on to the next level or screen when they correctly answer the question. If a student gives a wrong answer, it only takes a few chances to clear it because the word or phrase level will be taught back to them.

*d. Understanding The Public Profile*

This section of the public profile Memrise displays the number of points students have earned for each level. The profile page looks like a report card, providing a history of how many words the student has learned, what badges the student has earned, the level of learning the student is using, and the leader board. Based on the explanation above about how to use the Memrise Application, the researcher concludes that by using the Memrise application, students can learn and practice English from the most basic level to the next level with the various methods provided. Such as providing a continuous list of vocabulary that students will study, examples of how to pronounce a word or sentence, audio samples of pronunciation, and how to type the given vocabulary and then arrange random words into correct sentences. Finally, students can see the ranking history of the acquisition of words or phrases studied on their respective profile pages. After doing the steps described earlier, students repeatedly learn to use Memrise according to orders.

**3.1.2. Students Respond To The Use Of The Memrise Application**

As previously explained, Memrise contains exciting and modern online learning 50 that interests students in learning more vocabulary. This can be proven by the researchers based on what was observed from the Joykids Private lesson students, their views every time they hear English, for them, it is a difficult thing because in their daily life they do not use English at all, especially their vocabulary is far away. Different from Indonesian. Especially during a pandemic like this, students are getting lazy to open books and memorize all the material given by the teacher. However, with the Memrise application introduced by this researcher, the Joykids Private lesson students looked very enthusiastic in playing and learning to use the Memrise application. one by one, the vocabulary they understood and memorized along with its meaning. Uniquely and

excitingly like this, everyday students increase their vocabulary mastery and apply it in daily life, such as saying greetings or greetings using basic English. This proves that Memrise is an exciting medium for increasing vocabulary and students' enthusiasm for learning.

After the researcher conducted learning and guidance to increase vocabulary through the Memrise application, students re-learn the given vocabulary by increasing the number of vocabulary in each learning meeting. In one week, the researchers held one meeting to increase this vocabulary for seven weeks. In the 8th week, the researchers wanted to see the results of the extent to which students mastered the existing vocabulary as stated in the Memrise application. In week eight, the researcher gave language questions that had to be answered by students. The problem is in translating vocabulary into Indonesian and from Indonesian to English, and the results are very satisfying. Students can answer all vocabulary correctly and correctly.

### **3.2. Discussion**

In this study, it can be explained that almost all students have not mastered English and even English in the form of basic vocabulary because everyday conversational English is rarely used. In contrast, its use is only a little inserted. This is the same as the initial research conducted previously. Eva (2018) said that some students are not familiar with English. Therefore English is only inserted in simple conversations and vocabulary recognition. This makes researchers confident to teach and improve their mastery of English through simple things, such as the introduction of basic vocabulary, which is then increased to the next level so that students 52 are more proficient in English. In the learning provided by the school, especially during this pandemic, students are given material in the form of text in PowerPoint and then a google form sheet containing a test for the material provided. This activity makes some students feel bored and have no desire to learn and prefer playing games available on their respective gadgets. However, after learning and increasing English vocabulary using fun e-learning such as Memrise, students are interested in learning with enthusiasm in recognizing and increasing English vocabulary obtained from the Memrise application with assistance from the Joykids Private lesson tutor. It is what Izah (2019) has shown in her research.

Her results show positive results of the use Memrise to upgrade students' vocabulary. Vocabulary; therefore, it is clear that Memrise is considered a great application to enrich student's vocabulary in a fun learning experience. Then students can learn English vocabulary in an exciting and not dull so that the increase in their vocabulary can progress rapidly.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

##### **4.1. Conclusion**

Based on the data obtained by researchers when conducting research in Joykids Private lesson, the conclusion is that in learning and training to increase English vocabulary in grades 3-5 using the Memrise application in learning is in accordance with good learning rules for students in During the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires students to learn from home and take advantage of today's available tools and technology. The implementation of learning carried out by researchers at Joykids Private lesson to their students is not a lecture method that looks old-fashioned and unattractive. Still, the researcher uses a way to make more dominantly active students learn basic English vocabulary by utilizing learning applications available on students' smartphones. Some of the learning inhibiting factors faced by researchers as teachers at Joykids Private lessons come from the student's school of origin and the condition of the student's mood.

When the researcher as a teacher came to students to do lessons, students would first ask about what the school gave. This activity would limit the learning of basic vocabulary and English material that researchers assigned to the students, or the time was cut because they must first explain the purpose of the material provided by the student's home school. Sometimes when the lesson takes place, students are sad, hungry, and so on, depending on the student's mood. This is certainly an obstacle for researchers when they will provide material or assist students in practicing words in the Memrise application.

##### **4.2. Suggestion**

Based on the research conducted, the researcher will present some suggestions so that using the Memrise application can increase student vocabulary and be even

better. The role of teachers in schools in this pandemic period should provide questions and materials related to the themes given to students so that students can be interested in participating in learning and understanding what is meant. If learning from home and the student's condition or mood is not pleasant, then the Memrise feature is the best way to restore a good mood to students.

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