

POSITIVE LANGUAGE AS AN ALTERNATIVE IN ONLINE LEARNING IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

The implementation of online learning at the primary and secondary school during the Covid-19 still faces many problems. Parents often conduct verbal abuse to their children, therefore the use of positive language in online learning needs to be applied. The methods used in this research are: (1) Collecting data, searching for data from newspapers, journals, and online articles that match the problem to be studied; 2) Identifying data, selecting sources of data and information collected; 3) Classifying, which is trying to classify and understand further about the sources of data and information obtained in accordance with the issues discussed; 4) Analyzing, discussing the sources of data and information by interpreting the data that has been studied ; and 5) Conclusions, making conclusions from the results of the analysis. The results of this study show that: parents need to build communication with their children through positive diction / words by developing good behavior such as listening to children's opinions, speaking gently and friendly, giving motivation to their children to speak honestly and teaching the children to be wise, and polite and being patient with children as well. From the study it can be concluded that positive language based online learning is a creative learning innovation. It is an effort to prevent verbal abuse and it can help parents to support their children in online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Keyword: positif language, online learning, verbal abuse

INTRODUCTION

The corona virus known as Covid-19 has been an epidemic in Indonesia for almost a year. The government has implemented various policies to break the chain of transmission of covid-19. One of the main policies in education is learning from home. UNESCO stated that the Covid-19 pandemic had threatened 577,305,660 students from pre-school to high school (Kedaulatan Rakyat, 2020). Indonesia government has closed all educational activities as taken by all countries in the world. The government then implement distance learning or known as online learning as an alternative learning with support from parents.

The implementation of online learning at the primary or secondary school still finds many problems, such as: internet access, no

smartphone, lack of mastery in using IT / technology illiterate, expensive cost for internet quota or data packages, teachers' lack experience with new learning applications and others. Other impacts of online learning felt by students are they get bigger workload, learn material independently, and get bored because they cannot interact directly with both the teacher and friends.

In this situation, parents have a very important role in helping their children in online learning, especially at the pre-primary and elementary school in order to make the teaching learning process run well and fun. Parents are required to be able not only to explain many things in terms of subjects but also to understand the children character. They also have to work to earn a living. This situation often leads to parents'

stress and anxiety when they have to help their children to study online.

There is some verbal abuse done by parent to their children when conducting online learning such as insulting, threatening, imposing their will, yelling, pinching and even hitting their children for disciplining and making their children able to catch the materials. However, this model of assistance will shape their children to be timid, shy, quiet, lacking in initiative. Furthermore, Unicef Ali Aulia Ramly stated that the number of violences against children in Indonesia was very high and alarming. Based on a UNICEF survey, about 30 percent of children experience violence during conducting online learning. (Harianjogja.com).

Based on the problems above, this study tries to find solution of the problems for parents in helping their children in conducting online learning, especially in communicating using positive language as an alternative medium in online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a review or literature study. The data is presented descriptively which shows scientific studies that can be developed and further applied. The object of this paper is about "positive language".

Methods used in this study are Collecting data that is searching data from newspapers, journals, and online articles that match the problem to be studied; Identifying or selecting sources of data and information that has been collected; Classifying, that is trying to classify and understand further about the sources of data and information obtained related to the issues discussed; Analyzing, that is discussing sources of data and information by interpreting the problem to be studied in depth; and Conclusion or making conclusions from the results of the analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Online Learning in the Covid-19 Pandemic

Online learning which has been conducted for almost a year during covid-19 pandemic becomes a mental burden for both children and parents. Results of Tanoto Foundation survey showed 56% of 1,712 parents was impatient and bored in handling children's ability and concentration (Anisa, 2020: 2). Therefore, parents should be careful and patient when assisting their children in online learning. Parents should be able to treat children with love and patience. They must accept their children as they are, avoid judging and imposing their will, give freedom and appreciation, and they must be tolerant with their children as well. Therefore, children will feel more comfortable and will not be scary while learning but they will create a pleasant learning atmosphere while studying at home.

Verbal communication is a process of an individual as a communicator delivering stimulants usually in verbal form to change behavior of others (Mahmud, 2019: 691). Speech that leads to verbal abuse has often occurred in children during online learning or studying at home. Yelling, threatening, taunting, cursing, humiliating children often occurs when parents help their children in online learning. As it is said by Bonita Mahmud, verbal abuse is abuse that is done verbally which is carried out continuously so that children's development is hampered (Mahmud, 2019: 691)

The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) recorded that 200-300 of 1,000–1,200 survey respondents experienced verbal abuse done by their parents during online learning. Verbal abuse on children that are sometimes not realized by parents or environment are slandering or demeaning children when they are unable to do their schoolwork such as not being able to do math, sports or other assignments. Online learning conducted during the

pandemic has had a lot of impact on children's mental health, especially teenagers due to verbal and physical abuse. (Harianjogja.com)

Some verbal abuse on children which are often done by parents are: 1) intimidation such as screaming, threatening children. 2) humiliating children, such as criticizing names, **comparing** our **child** to **other children**, saying that the child is "not good, worthless, bad or something that comes by mistakes" 3) not being affectionate, 4) habit of criticizing children such as saying that everything happened because of the child's fault. 5) neglecting children, such as not giving attention to children or giving cold responses, not caring about children, 6) strong punishment such as locking children in the bathroom, 7) exposing violence to children such as; physical violence and several other types of violence. (Zuhrudin, 2017: 268)

Verbal abuse on children is often done by the closest people, such as parents, nannor even siblings. Some factors that cause verbal violence are: 1. Children bad behavior; 2. Children's inability to complete an easy task; 3. Parents 'tough character; 4. Parents' low income; 5. Lack of parents knowledge about child growth; 6. Unconducive environment; 7. Inharmonious relationship between parents and children; 8. Poor house conditions.

The impact of verbal abuse is as dangerous as the physical ones. Parents often commit this verbal abuse when assisting their children in online learning without realizing it. If this is done continuously, it will have unfavorable impacts for children such as children will experience emotional problem, do not have a good self-concept, and can make children more aggressive (Mahmud, 2019: 694).

b. Definition of Language

Language is a communication tool used by people to interact for daily needs. It

means that with language we can understand each other. Therefore, language has a very important role in society. As Wardhaugh said that the function of language is a means of human communication both oral and written (Abdul and Agustina, 2010: 15). Without language, humans will find it difficult to convey ideas, feelings, or messages to each other. Furthermore, Sugiarti argues that language is a tool in the form of a system of sound symbols which is spoken with human speech tools and is used to communicate or interact (Sugiarti et al, 2017: 151).

Language has a very important role in human life. The use of language is often found in work meetings, transactions in the market, communication at home, and also in learning environments. The use of language includes official and unofficial languages, as well as positive and non-positive language in communication. Language in education can show culture and even personal intelligence (linguistic intelligence) which is usually used in official and positive language.

c. Positive Language Concepts

The choice of words or diction and the accuracy of using language are very important factors that will make speech have a positive meaning. The level of positivity in speaking can be measured by the use of good diction. The effect of using positive language in communication will make the listener positioned as someone who is more loved and appreciated. Therefore, communication using positive language will give the impression of being more polite and appreciating others. The use of positive and polite language, whether intentional or not, will affect a person's mental health and character. On the other hand, the use of harsh and emotional/temperamental language will affect the children's mental health and character that lead to personality with an emotional and temperamental characters.

Language is a vital part of human interactions. Language is a powerful communication tool, both oral and written communication. The use of language can have a negative or positive impact depending on the diction / choice of words used. The use of language can be categorized into two types of usage, positive and negative language. Positive language is a language that produces a good image to the listener that give friendly and pleasant impression, while negative language is a language that produces a bad image to the listener and can even lead to conflicts. In communicating, there are several rules that need to be considered, they are 1) formal and informal language, 2) positive and negative language. When someone communicate with others, especially in learning, it should be conveyed well, correctly and positively. Speakers can use positive dictions or words to get positive meanings. The characteristics of positive language are as follows: (1) telling what to do (2) providing solutions (3) giving the impression of help (4) emphasizing positive action. The examples of positive language: "be careful playing at the bottom, okay ...", "if you watch TV, step back, sit on the sofa, okay?", While negative language has different characteristics, namely: (1) telling things that shouldn't be done (2) giving accusing impression (3) using negative words such as: can't, won't, don't, lazy, etc. (4) emphasizing on negative actions. (Saudah, 2014: 5).

d. Reasons for Positive Language

Communication is an action that depends on language as a medium. In communicating with children, it is important to consider children's growth, especially when helping children in learning online. There are three important things in communicating with children. First, the child is expected to understand what the parents mean. Second, after the child understands what the parents mean, the child will find a solution, and third, the child feels

appreciated and increase his self-confidence. Speaking and behaving positively is not just an obligation for everyone, but it is a necessity. Positive speaking is an effort to educate children. Speaking and behaving positively are also intended to develop children's self-actualization and tangible character, and more importantly they can be a role model for the children. Everyone must maintain his own honor and dignity in order to be appreciated by others. That is the essence of positive language.

e. How to Speak Positively

The use of positive language can be seen from three things: word choice (diction), language style, and intonation. The choice of words means the accuracy of using words to express meaning that can influence the listener. Every word conveyed to children should have an effect of increasing children's self-confidence, motivation, optimism, and respecting children. The ability to use language styles means that someone can be more polite and positive in communicating. The intonation used in language can be high and low so it can create a positive meaning. Communication can have a positive meaning if in speaking someone pay attention to several things: 1) the child's mood, 2) utterances that can be accepted by children, 3) utterances expressing a humble attitude, 4) utterance that respects children 5) pay attention to a sense of empathy in speaking. To make communication run smoothly and achieve its goals, positive language must be used. Linguistic and non-linguistic principles also need to be considered (Tiani, 2016: 38). in order to have a positive meaning, it must be followed by the following attitudes and behaviors: 1) accept what it is, 2) solidarity, 3) respect, 4) tolerance, and 5) adapting to the situation (Zuhrudin, 2017: 273).

f. Positive Language as an Online Learning Media

In assisting the children in conducting online learning, parents should be able to build their self-confident. Punishment that is often given by parents for discipline reason will not give a good result as it is expected. On the other hands, it will make the child lack of self-confident. Insulting children by saying "stupid", for example, will make the child easily judge other people. Verbal and non-verbal abuse to the children will not always make online learning effective, it will even make children think more negatively. Parents often do not realize that they have used verbal abuse (words) when helping children in online learning. If parents always used positive words, the emitted positive energy will then accelerate the positive things. Therefore, it is very important for parents to avoid verbal abuse/words in helping children in online learning in order to build children's self-confidence, creativity, and obedience without using violence. In online learning the choice of language or words used by parents greatly influences the child's future. The way how parent speaks to the children are like an arrow leaving a bow. If parents' words hurt them, they will always remember. Negative (unsympathetic) words from parents destroy their spirits. On the other hand, positive words are able to keep their spirits including spirits of learning and working. Therefore, parents need to communicate with children through qualified positive words.

In assisting children conducting online learning, parents also need to consider the appropriate steps so that the online learning process during Covid-19 pandemic can run as it is expected, such as:

- a. Be attentive / listen to the children's opinions
- b. Speak gently and friendly
- c. Motivate the children to speak honestly and candidly.
- d. Teach children to be wise and polite.

- e. Be patient with the children.

CONCLUSION

Positive language-based online learning is a creative learning innovation as an effort to prevent verbal abuse on children. It can also be used by parents when assisting their children in online learning during Covid 19 pandemic. This learning assistance model is also created as an effort to build children's character. The positive language has the following characteristics: (1) telling what to do (2) providing problem solutions (3) giving the impression of helping (4) emphasizing on positive actions. The four characteristics above are the principles that build loving attitude. Parents are expected to be able to appreciate, develop a sense of empathy and always be humble in helping to solve children's problems during the online learning process. Language is a habit so that it can shape human behavior. The repeated words over and over again will become a culture and shape children's character. The habit of using positive language will create positive behavior. On the other hand, the habit of using negative language will create negative ones. That is the influence of the use of positive language in online learning on children in order to reach the expected goals.

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