

## ABSTRACT

Pho Liong. 1997. Facilitating Culture Learning in the Advanced Class of LBA-Interlingua Yogyakarta through the Use of Authentic English Texts. Yogyakarta: Department of Language and Arts Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Sanata Dharma University.

The study reported in this thesis attempted to investigate the effectiveness of the authentic English texts used in facilitating culture learning and language learning in the advanced class of LBA-Interlingua Yogyakarta. The term “culture learning” is understood as a process of internalising knowledge needed to function in cross-cultural communication with English native speakers. It should be noted that culture learning discussed is directed at learning American culture, one of the influential cultures today, without necessarily *being* and *acting* like Americans. In relation to English learning in the classroom, the culture learning is *additive* rather than *replacive*.

This study was developed on the theoretical grounds that culture learning can foster language learning, and that authentic texts are not only useful to teach the formal aspects of the language, but also the culture of people speaking the language. The latter argument, however, should not be conceived plainly as not all authentic English texts have cultural contents. For this reason, the writer selected some authentic English texts through which the advanced students can learn English as well as its culture. In the selection, the writer also considered the readability of the texts and the interest factor.

In order to know the effectiveness of the texts, a non-random control group pretest and posttest experimental research design was employed. In so doing, the students were assigned into the experimental group and control group, and were tested on their understanding of English culture (the pretest). During the experiment, each group received the same treatments, except on the types of authentic English texts exposed to them. The experimental group received eight texts carefully selected by the writer. On the other hand, the control group received eight texts randomly selected from the already available texts at LBA-Interlingua. The selection of texts given to the control group, to the best of the writer's knowledge, did not follow the procedures as described earlier. At the near end of the course, the students were retested on their understanding of English culture (the posttest).

The writer discovered that the texts exposed to both groups gave positive effect to the advanced students' achievement (their understanding of English culture). Statistically, the achievement of students in the experimental group was significant. In the control group, on the other hand, the students' understanding of English culture was insignificantly improved. It was also found out that the use of “the selected authentic English texts”, in effort to develop the students' understanding of English culture, was more effective than that of the already available authentic English texts at LBA-Interlingua.

The students' achievement above, however, should not *solely* be attributed to the use of “the selected authentic English texts” mentioned earlier. Nevertheless, it

was observed that the use of “the selected authentic English texts” during the experiment was the major contributing factor.

Based on the conclusions of the study, two recommendations are proposed. The first is concerned with the need to select carefully reading texts to be used in the classroom. The second is concerned with the need for further research on culture learning.



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Penelitian seperti yang dilaporkan di skripsi ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui tingkat efektifitas teks otentik yang digunakan untuk mempermudah proses pembelajaran kebudayaan dan bahasa di kelas *advanced* di LBA-Interlingua. Istilah pembelajaran kebudayaan dipahami sebagai suatu proses internalisasi pengetahuan yang dibutuhkan dalam berkomunikasi dengan penutur asli. Perlu dicatat bahwa pembelajaran kebudayaan yang dimaksudkan diarahkan pada pembelajaran kebudayaan Amerika, salah satu budaya yang berpengaruh pada masa sekarang, tanpa perlu *menjadi* atau *bertingkah laku* seperti orang Amerika. Dalam kaitannya dengan pembelajaran bahasa di kelas, pembelajaran kebudayaan ini lebih bersifat tambahan, dan bukan meng-gantikan.

Penelitian ini didasari pada teori yang mengatakan bahwa pembelajaran kebudayaan mendukung pembelajaran bahasa, dan bahwa teks otentik tidak hanya berguna untuk mengajar aspek formal dari suatu bahasa, namun juga kebudayaan dari penutur asli bahasa tersebut. Meskipun demikian, pendapat yang kedua hendaknya tidak dipahami secara mentah karena tidak semua teks bahasa Inggris otentik mengandung unsur budaya. Karena alasan itulah, penulis menyeleksi beberapa teks bahasa Inggris otentik yang dapat digunakan untuk membantu murid *advanced* mempelajari bahasa Inggris sekaligus kebudayaannya.

Untuk mengetahui keefektivitas teks-teks tersebut, penulis menggunakan *non-random control group pretest and posttest design*. Murid-murid dikelompokkan menjadi grup eksperimen dan grup kontrol. Kedua grup ini dites pengetahuan mereka akan kebudayaan Amerika (pretest). Selama eksperimen, masing-masing grup menerima perlakuan yang sama, kecuali pada jenis teks bahasa inggris yand diberikan. Murid murid di grup eksperimen menerima 8 buah teks otentik yand dipilih secara teliti oleh penulis. Sedangkan, grup kontrol menerima 8 buah teks otentik yang dipilih secara random dari teks-teks yang telah ada di LBA-Interlingua. Penyeleksian teks yang diberikan kepada grup kedua, sejauh yang diketahui penulis, tidak mengikuti prosedur seperti yang digambarkan sebelumnya.

Penulis menemukan bahwa pengetahuan kebudayaan Amerika murid advanced di grup eksperimen berkembang secara signifikan. Sedangkan pemahaman kebudayaan Inggris di grup kontrol tidak. Hal lain yang ditemukan adalah bahwa penggunaan teks-teks yand diseleksi oleh penulis dalam meningkatkan pengetahuan murid akan budaya Amerika ternyata lebih efektif dibandingkan dengan penggunaan teks-teks yand tersedia di LBA-Interlingua.

Keberhasilan murid-murid di grup eksperimen tentu saja tidak hanya melulu disebabkan oleh pemakaian teks bahasa inggris yang diseleksi oleh penulis. Meskipun demikian, pemakaian teks-teks tersebut merupakan faktor yang mempunyai pengaruh yang besar terhadap pemahaman mereka akan budaya Amerika.

Dari kesimpulan di atas, penulis merekomendasikan dua hal. Yang pertama adalah perlunya penyeleksian teks-teks yang akan digunakan di dalam kelas secara seksama. Rekomendasi yang kedua berkaitan dengan kebutuhan akan penelitian lebih lanjut mengenai pembelajaran kebudayaan.

