

**APPLICATION OF THE TOTAL PHYSICAL RESPONSE METHOD IN  
ARABIC LEARNING TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING IN CHILDREN  
EARLY**

**Samsul Fajeri**

Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Quran (STIQ) Amuntai  
[assyams87@yahoo.com](mailto:assyams87@yahoo.com)

**Husin**

Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Quran (STIQ) Amuntai  
[hafizhihusinsungkar@gmail.com](mailto:hafizhihusinsungkar@gmail.com)

**Anggun muthoharoh**

Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Quran (STIQ) Amuntai  
[anggunmuthoharoh26@gmail.com](mailto:anggunmuthoharoh26@gmail.com)

**Abdul Rashid bin Abdul Aziz**

Universitas Sains Islam Malaysia  
[rashid@usim.edu.my](mailto:rashid@usim.edu.my)

**Abstract:** Arabic is a foreign language which is quite difficult to understand for children who are just learning another language, besides their mother tongue. There are many obstacles encountered by educators in the introduction of Arabic to children. It is very important for the teacher to choose the right method to make learning more fun and easy to understand. Therefore in this study the researcher has the goal of increasing children's understanding of learning Arabic using the Total Physical Response method. This research was conducted at MIN 14 Hulu Sungai Tengah. This study uses a qualitative descriptive field research method. The results of this study indicate that the TPR method: easy to understand and apply, does not require more power, does not require additional fees, contains elements of game movement so that it can relieve stress on children, learning time becomes more efficient, communication between teachers and children becomes more effective the child becomes more expressive.

**Keywords:** method, Total Physical Response, children early, Arabic

## **BACKGROUND**

Arabic is a foreign language which is quite difficult to understand for children who are just learning another language, besides their mother tongue. There are many obstacles encountered by educators in introducing Arabic to children, including difficulties in pronunciation, understanding and memorizing Arabic vocabulary.

Teaching Arabic to children aged 12 and under is a challenge for Arabic teachers. Children have a very short span of attention and concentration in participating in learning activities and activities. This becomes the basis for a teacher that teachers must have sufficient skills in designing and managing learning activities, so teachers are required to use varied and fun methods in learning activities in class. (Hidayah, 2017b)

In the educational process as a whole, teaching and learning activities are at the heart of it. Early childhood education in the learning process strongly recommends using a learning while playing approach, because learning while playing can make concentration longer (Kurnis Dewi, tt) here teachers are required to be educators who play an active role in creating conducive learning, according to the level of child development. (Hendra Sofyan, 2013) The teacher has a role in leading learning but must also be able to understand how to teach effectively and well, one of the things that an educator needs to pay attention to is choosing the right method of teaching. (Fahrurrozi, 2021) so that later the child will be able to easy to understand learning also children will get experience and enrichment for themselves. (Nuraeni, tt)

## **THEORETICAL STUDY**

### **Arabic Language**

Arabic In the language family, Arabic is a Semitic or Semitic language family. R. Taufiqurrochman wrote that geographically, the people who inhabit the Arab region come from one human race, namely Caucasians and West Asians. This assumption is reinforced by archaeological discoveries of the 18th and 19th centuries AD which show the existence of a society and language of the Old Testament called Semitic. (Muriardi, 2011)

### **Learning**

Learning is a process carried out by individuals with the help of teachers to obtain changes in behavior towards self-maturity as a result of individual and environmental interactions.(Setiawan, 2017) the process of interaction of students with educators and learning resources that take place in a learning environment. While according to the law Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003 concerning the Education System Nasionally that learning is a process of student interaction with Educations and learning resources that take place in a learning environment.(Muh. Sain Hanafy, 2014)

### **Learning methods**

According to Djamarah method is a method used to achieve a predetermined goal. In teaching and learning activities, the method is needed by the teacher so that its use varies according to what is to be achieved after teaching ends. (Muhammad Afandi et al., 2013) can be interpreted that the learning method is the method used to implement lesson plans that have been prepared in the form of real activities to achieve goals learning. (Rosyid Ridho et al., 2015)

### **TPR (Total Physical Response) Method**

The total physical response method is a language teaching method developed by James Asher, a psychology professor at the University of San Jose, California.

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(Hidayah, 2017a) Total physical response is a method that involves body movement. (Ramadani, 2022) This method also known as a language teaching method that is built on coordination of speech and action. (Ita Rahmawati et al., 2019) The total Physical response method suggests foreign language teachers to do direct pronunciation to learning that contains commands, then they will respond physically before they respond verbally or saying. This will make them remember not only verbally but also stimulate their memory by using gestures. (Nadiya Ulya, 2021)

### **Early childhood**

According to the NAECY (National Association for the Education of Young Children), children aged 0-8 years receive educational services in day care, family day care, preschool education, both private and public, kindergartens (TK) and schools. Elementary School (SD) this is due to the approach in the early grades of Elementary School (SD) which is almost the same as the age of Kindergarten 4-6 years. (Putri Hana Pebriana, 2017) 6 n early childhood is a group of children who are in a unique process of growth and development. (Tarik Iriyanti, 2016) That is, having a pattern of development and growth that is being passed by children and needs to be directed at laying the foundations right. (Eny Munisah, 2020)

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research was conducted on 18-20 July 2022 in class 1 students at MIN 14 Hulu Sungai Tengah. This type of research uses a descriptive qualitative field approach. Qualitative research is an approach in conducting research that is oriented towards natural phenomena or symptoms. Qualitative research is fundamental and naturalist in nature and research cannot be carried out in the laboratory but must be carried out in the field. Therefore this research is often called a naturalistic inquiry. (Abdussamad, 2021)

There are several methods in this study that the author uses to collect data and process information so that it becomes more in-depth, namely as follows:

### **Interview**

Interviews are one of the data collection methods used when the study subjects (respondents) and researchers are directly face to face in the process of obtaining information. (Rosaliza, 2015)

### **Observation**

Observation is an observation made by someone about something that is planned or not planned, either at a glance or in the long term, to find the problem point. (2020)

### **Documentation**

Gottschalk stated that document (documentation) in a broader sense is in the form of any evidentiary process whether written, oral, pictorial or archaeological. (Nilamsari, tt)

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the interviews and observations that have been conducted, the author can describe the application of the Total Physical Response method in learning Arabic to improve children's understanding. In this study the authors found that the Total Physical Response Method actually facilitated the course of learning and learning time became more efficient.

Miss jannah as teacher learning language Arab convey that learning is often hampered. Miss jannah felt overwhelmed to provide understanding to the students with a limited amount of time.

*"Many of them (children) find it difficult to understand the material presented because there are some children who cannot read Latin but can read Arabic and vice versa. They are still in the adaptation stage, actually it doesn't matter if there*

*are those who can't read one or both because they can still be taught slowly, but the problem is time and learning targets that must be completed, plus their focus is on it is very easy to disperse because it is bored and wants to play so that it makes learning time wasted."*

After interviewing the subject teacher, the writer was given Opportunity to see first-hand the course of learning. After observing and studying the writer can conclude that learning seems difficult for children to understand because the learning methods and techniques used are less attractive to children.

### **Application of the Total Physical Response method in learning Arabic**

After conducting interviews and observations, it was finally found the problem points which were obstacles for students who had difficulty understanding Arabic learning. Then the author offers to add methods to the next Arabic lesson with the aim that learning can be more enjoyable so that children can more easily understand the material provided. After agreeing to add the TPR method to the next lesson, the writer and the teacher made an agreement to monitor first in the first 30 minutes (the material on getting to know dhommir) whether this method is acceptable to children or not? Facilitate learning or not? After observing that the children received the TPR method well, finally the writer and the teacher decided to apply the TPR method until the lesson ended.

The following are the stages of implementing the Total Physical Response method in learning Arabic for class 1 MIN 14 Hulu Sungai Tengah:

1. The teacher starts the lesson with a prayer before studying together
2. The teacher conveys the material to be studied
3. The teacher reads the material (repeat) while pointing at the meaning, for example: (Ana) the teacher points at himself, (anta) the teacher points at the boy and (anti) points at girl

4. The teacher invites the children to read together and demonstrate according to the meaning, then interpret the dhommir together.
5. The teacher randomly asks the meaning of the dhommir he mentions.
6. The teacher inserts a little game, the teacher asks the children to point quickly towards the dhommir/meaning he mentioned.
7. The teacher randomly calls several children to come back to demonstrate according to the dhommir mentioned by the teacher, after they feel the children understand the material, the teacher asks them to write today's material in their notebooks until the learning time is over.

After implementing the implementation of the Total Physical Response method the authors found that the Total Physical Response method:

- 1) easy to understand and apply
- 2) does not require more power
- 3) does not require additional fees
- 4) contains elements of game movement so that it can relieve stress on children
- 5) learning time becomes more efficient
- 6) communication between teachers and children becomes more effective
- 7) the child becomes more expressive.

## **CONCLUSION**

The use of the TPR Total Physical Response method for children who are new to a foreign language can be started by getting used to the introduction vocabulary. Give a stimulus such as an order to the child related to the meaning of the vocabulary, when the teacher mentions the word in Arabic, the child will respond according to the teacher's order.

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