

TEACHERS' PERCEPTIONS AND MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT IN EFL CLASSROOM

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ABSTRAK

Guru merupakan aspek terpenting dalam memajukan pendidikan bagi generasi bangsa. Persepsi mereka juga penting dalam hubungannya dengan itu. Persepsi dihasilkan secara spontan setelah melihat, merasakan, atau menghadapi sesuatu di sekitar kita. Hal ini berperan penting untuk meningkatkan proses pembelajaran. Persepsi guru adalah pandangan guru terhadap sesuatu yang nyata dalam konteks proses pembelajaran. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pengaruh persepsi guru tentang bahan ajar terhadap proses pembelajaran. Penelitian ini menerapkan studi kasus dimana analisis literatur dan dokumentasi digunakan dalam memperoleh data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat beberapa pengaruh persepsi guru tentang bahan ajar terhadap pembelajaran. Persepsi guru dapat meningkatkan kualitas pengajaran dan mengembangkan materi pembelajaran yang baik.

Kata Kunci: Kelas EFL, Pengembangan Materi, Persepsi Guru

ABSTRACT

Teachers are the most important aspect in advancing education for the nation's generation. Their perceptions are also important in the regard of it. Perception is produced spontaneously after seeing, feeling, or facing something around us. It plays an important role to improve the learning process. Teachers' perception is teachers' view of something real in the terms of learning process. This study aims to find out the influences of teachers' perceptions about teaching materials on learning process. This applies case study in which literature analysis and documentation in gaining the data. For the result, it shows that there are several influences of teachers' perception about teaching materials on learning. Teachers' perception can improve teaching quality and develop good learning materials.

Keywords: EFL Classroom, Materials Development, Teachers' Perception

INTRODUCTION

Perception can be mentioned when a person faces an event or sees something after which he spontaneously has a different view or thought about it. "The term perception can be simply defined as an opinion or belief which is held by people on how they view something" (Christianto, 2019). This is an advantage that everyone have, because this perception can change everything we see or feel to be better. Perception is generated through the five human senses by seeing, listening, feeling, touching, smelling, or experiencing. It is proven that "Perception can be formed through human sensory organ, by seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, or experiencing" (Ramadhani, Fitriani, & Burhansyah, 2017). Perception plays an important role in all respects. In the terms of education teachers' perceptions have an important role in improving the quality of learning and the quality of learning materials.

Teacher's perception is a teacher's view in the context of learning. "Teachers' perception alters what teachers see, makes version of reality, which ultimate corrupt the way human perceive the truth" (Imansyah, Utama, & Sumarni, 2018)." From the description above, it can be explained that teacher perceptions can be said to be a response to something real that develops related to the world of education captured through the five senses then will form a concept that expresses a desire which will later be reflected through the attitudes and behavior of an object. Even teachers' perceptions can have a big impact on the development of all learning materials, one of which is English learning materials.

The development of learning materials in EFL class is needed, because this can support the progress of students. The fact shows that many students think that English is difficult to learn, this can happen because of the materials presented is not interesting. Thus, it can be concluded that the learning material is an

essential part of the learning process. According to Holguin and Morales (2014), they pointed out that “There are some benefits of developing materials for the teachers such as the teachers’ empowerment, increase student motivation, the need to listen to the students’ voices to consider their needs, the requirement of contextualizing teaching materials, the awareness teachers can benefit from in terms of having holistic view of education, and both the theoretical knowledge and the practical skills they acquire by developing materials.” Therefore, the development of a learning material is needed, because when the material presented is good and interesting, students will like it and they will easily grasp the knowledge. In an effort to develop learning materials we can see it through the perceptions of teachers who have studied it before, then after that we can make an evaluation material for the next, so that the material can be developed even better than before.

This study focuses on finding of the influences of teachers’ perceptions about teaching materials on learning process in EFL classroom. This study is done by analyzing and concluding some articles. It is important to know about some influences of teachers’ perceptions for learning process. Thus, this study will strengthen and explore more about the previous study, it will tell some of benefits of teachers’ perception which will have an effect on the continuity of learning process. The result of this study are expected to be useful and can be used a reference for further research.

Teachers’ Perception

“Recognizing teachers’ perceptions and beliefs gains deeper understanding of teachers’ behaviors in the classroom and provide guidance for enhancing teachers’ practice” (Jia, Eslami, & Burlbaw, 2010).” It means that understanding teacher perceptions can be used as our reference in improving teaching practice in class. The study that has been analyzing for the result shows that teachers’ perceptions are the basic assumption of the teachers to make decision and they need to be aware toward their beliefs about the teaching and learning process. Moreover, they pointed out that teachers’ perception is the key factor that influences teaching process. From those statements above it means that teachers’ perception is one of an appropriate way of making a decision in advancing the learning process.

The Importance of Teachers’ Perception

Teacher is the most important aspect in advancing education for the nations’ generation. It is proven that “Teachers are one of the most important person in educational system who are in the front line of education, heavily involved in various teaching and learning processes, and the final practitioners of educational principles and theories” (Syahputri, Idami, & Murni, 2019). In improving the quality of learning in the classroom we can see in terms of teachers’ perceptions who directly see the learning process in the class. “Teachers perceptions are generally considered to have a powerful impact on teachers’ cognition and practice” (Mohammadi & Moradi , 2017). Furthermore that teachers’ perception can influence what teachers do in the class during learning process. It is proven, teachers’ perceptions as an important step toward improving the quality of teaching which includes assessment as its part, it is important for us to understand a teacher’s perception of his academic performance for a particular subject, this has been widely accepted (Imansyah, Utama, & Sumarni, 2018). It means that teachers’ perception will be effected to the learning process and it can be improved.

Materials Development in EFL Classroom

“Materials development is a practical undertaking involving the production, evaluation, adaption, and exploitation of materials intended to facilitate language acquisition and development” (Azarnoosh, Zeraatpishe , Faravani, & Kargozari, 2016). From the statement above, it means that Material development is an evaluation effort in making the material even better than before.

According to Simarmata (2016) he claimed that “There are several considerations that teachers should make when selecting literary text for language teaching materials. First, they should be relevant to the need and wants of the learners. Second, they should be motivating to the learners. Third, they should have aspect of personal involvement. These three considerations are very significant for successful learning.” According to (Tomlinson, 2011) materials should include the following:

- a. Materials should achieve impact
- b. Materials should help learners to feel at ease
- c. Materials should help learners to develop confidence
- d. What is being thought should be perceived by learners as relevant and useful

- e. Materials should require and facilitate learner self-investment
- f. Learners must be ready to acquire the points being taught
- g. Materials should expose the learners to language in authentic use.
- h. The learners attention should be drawn to linguistic features of the input
- i. Materials should provide the learners with opportunities to use the target language to achieve communicative purposes
- j. Materials should take into account that the positive effect of instruction are usually delayed
- k. Materials should take into account that learners differ in learning styles
- l. Materials should take into account that learners differ in affective attitudes
- m. Materials should permit a silent period at the beginning of instruction
- n. Materials should maximize learning potential by encouraging intellectual, aesthetic and emotional involvement which stimulates both right- and left-brain activities
- o. Materials should not rely too much on controlled practice
- p. Materials should provide opportunities for outcome feedback.

The studies that have been analyzing and concluding about the findings from several articles, one of them shows that teachers perceptions contribute significantly in influencing teachers' decision making in the classroom related to the choice of learning and activities for student. It means that teacher perceptions are very influential in determining the best decisions in the learning process in the classroom.

METHODS

To describe certain phenome containing prominent, qualitative research in the form of case study was employed in this research. "Qualitative researchers seek to understand a phenomenon by focusing on the total picture rather than breaking it down into variables. The goal is a holistic picture and depth of understanding rather than a numeric analysis of data" (Ary, Jacobs, & Sorensen, 2010). Qualitative research is a research that is more likely to be descriptive and analytical, in addition qualitative research also emphasizes more in-depth understanding of a problem. Meanwhile "A case study is a type of ethnographic research study that focuses on a single unit, such as one individual, one group, one organization, or one

program. The goal is to arrive at a detailed description and understanding of the entity" (Ary, Jacobs, & Sorensen, 2010). It means that case study is one of form of qualitative research that is focused on the particular issues or problems. This study aims to find out the influences of teachers' perceptions about teaching materials on learning process. In gaining the data of the research, the data obtained through literature analysis/review and documentation. "A formal literature review is also an extension of the information gathering you might do to get a personal insight to the background of a topic and requires more than a quick scan of the literature and a few summary bullet points. A formal literature review is an evidence-based, in-depth analysis of a subject" (Winchester & Salji, 2016). In collecting the data the researcher analyze some articles, the articles were adopted from the previous study. To get the data more deeply information, the data also employed through documentation. Through documentation the researcher concluded the findings of the articles above.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Teachers, perceptions and learning materials are related to one another. All of these aspects have a significant contribution to the success of an educational process, namely changing the course of a learning process for the better. By developing learning materials it will give many benefit for both students and teachers. As explained in several articles that I have analyzed. The researcher analyzed several articles about teacher perceptions and materials development, it was shown that teacher perceptions had a big role in the learning process. This is known by analyzing and summarizing the results of the researches which state that teacher perceptions can improve the quality of teaching and develop good learning materials. As stated in a findings of articles, it pointed out that teachers perceptions contribute significantly in influencing teachers' decision making in the classroom related to the choice of learning and activities for student and teachers' perceptions as an important step toward improving the quality of teaching which includes assessment as its part, it is important for us to understand a teacher's perception of his academic performance for a particular subject, this has been widely accepted. The development of learning materials has a strong correlation with teacher perceptions, this is because the teacher's experience is used as material for evaluation so that it can produce better learning materials. Thus in an effort to

improve the progress of the learning process specifically in the development of learning materials, we can see it through teacher perceptions.

CONCLUSION

From the results of the findings and discussions above, it can be concluded that the teachers' perceptions have a separate role in the learning process in the classroom. This role is able to help develop the learning process through good learning material that continues to be developed through evaluating the perceptions of existing teachers. The results also explain that teacher perceptions can improve the quality of teaching and develop good learning materials.

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