

The Role of Parents and Teachers in the Development of Children's Digital Literacy Interests from the Perspective of Behaviorist Learning Theory

Abdurrauf

study program Arabic Language Education, UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang

e-mail: abdulraufbks@gmail.com

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ABSTRAK

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk meningkatkan minat literasi digital anak melalui peran orang tua dan guru. Perkembangan minat literasi digital anak sangat dipengaruhi oleh interaksi dengan lingkungan sekitar. Dalam konteks literasi digital, orang tua dan guru dapat berperan sebagai model dan fasilitator yang memperkenalkan literasi kepada anak. Penelitian ini disusun menggunakan metode kajian kepustakaan (Library Research) di mana data dan informasi yang dikumpulkan dari sumber-sumber teoritis yang relevan. Penelitian ini melibatkan wawasan literatur dari artikel-artikel jurnal, buku-buku, dan laporan penelitian terkait yang telah diterbitkan sebelumnya. Hasil penelitian ini adalah berupa strategi yang dapat diterapkan orang tua dan guru untuk meningkatkan minat anak terhadap literasi digital ditinjau dari teori belajar behaviorisme. Strategi diantara yang bisa digunakan orang tua seperti memberikan stimulus, penguatan positif, menciptakan lingkungan yang mendukung dan suasana yang nyaman serta mendorong kolaborasi dengan anggota keluarga lainnya. Begitupula guru yang memungkinkan untuk melakukan penguatan positif berupa reward dan menerapkan pembelajaran yang berbasis audio visual.

ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to increase children's interest in digital literacy through the role of parents and teachers. The development of children's digital literacy interests is greatly influenced by interactions with their surrounding environment. In the context of digital literacy, parents and teachers can act as models and facilitators who introduce literacy to children. This research was written using the library research method where data and information were collected from relevant theoretical sources. This research involved a literature review of previously published journal articles, books, and related research reports. The results of this research are strategies that parents and teachers can apply to increase children's interest in digital literacy in terms of behaviorist learning theory. Among the strategies that parents can use are providing stimulus, positive reinforcement, creating a supportive and comfortable environment and encouraging collaboration with other family members. Likewise, teachers make it possible to provide positive reinforcement in the form of rewards and implement audio-visual based learning.

Introduction

Literacy is a skill that every student must have in today's era as a means to understand all subjects (Bu'ulolo, 2021) . Literacy is very important in the world of education, because in addition to listening to explanations given by educators, students who are the objects of receiving knowledge must enrich their insights through literature which is not taught by educators in school. Of course, the literature in question is literature



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that can add information and knowledge for students, such as essays, encyclopedias, or biographical texts.

Based on this, it is undeniable that literacy has a serious position in the development of students' knowledge in the future. Literacy is the foundation for children to understand other subjects, if children have difficulty reading, writing, of course they will find it difficult to understand other subjects (Fadhilah et al., 2023) . The importance of this literacy is not only aimed at students who are studying at college, or junior high school / high school students who are in a period of curiosity about the world, but this literacy ability is also very much needed for children who are still studying in elementary school, who are still in childhood whose attention is still focused on games or joking with friends. However, it should be remembered that childhood is a time when reason and mind are still pure and have not been influenced by the understanding of the outside world, because of this their reason and mind will accept and agree with every new knowledge and insight that is obtained.

Children are the future young generation whose existence will be greatly needed in development. This is in line with what Safrin (2016) expressed that the young generation has a role that is greatly needed in the future because they are the ones who hold the reins of change. The young generation is a generation of character who has distinctive thoughts and behaviors that are different for each individual, this character is their provision for living in society, country and religion (Samani, 2019) . The young generation as aspired to above can be achieved if the young generation has been educated since childhood, because childhood is the time when reason is still pure as we have explained previously. One way to educate children to become a young generation with character in the future is to increase their interest in literacy. Literacy which includes the ability to read, write, and understand information will affect morals, empathy and communication which will later influence their growth and character when they become young people in the future.

But in reality, instead of liking literacy, children nowadays prefer gadgets, smartphones, games and other things. If this kind of thing is allowed to continue, of course the young generation with noble character as expected cannot be realized. The above phenomenon is the impact of globalization that is developing rapidly in this era, even so globalization is not something that is entirely negative, the impact of globalization depends on the user in utilizing it. If it is true, the impact of globalization is positive and vice versa. In response to this, rather than avoiding globalization which will actually make the nation's children lag behind, it would certainly be more appropriate to utilize globalization as a tool to improve children's literacy. One of them is by utilizing the results of globalization that children always use every day, namely the internet.

Literacy by utilizing the internet as a source of information, reading, and knowledge is called digital literacy. Digital literacy has a free nature because this literacy utilizes the internet which is able to present knowledge and information from all over the world, regardless of whether the information is good or bad. In line with this, (Hermanto & Winarno, 2012) emphasizes the important role of parents in monitoring children's learning through digital literacy, because it is possible that the information they get is

not information that educates them but damages them. Digital literacy in children can theoretically be developed by applying learning and teaching theories, one of which is the Behaviorism learning theory. Behaviorism is a theory that emphasizes results in the form of behavior/responses which are obtained after being preceded by stimulation and learning experiences (Rahmah & Aly, 2023). According to this theory, external factors such as parents, teachers, and the environment have a very important influence on changes in children's behavior.

This theory concentrates on the results in the form of behavior that can be seen in real terms, without paying attention to the process when trying to achieve these results. By using the Behaviorism theory to improve the digital literacy of elementary school children whose lives are still closely related to the role of parents, teachers, and the environment, the ideal of making them a young generation in the future with noble character can be achieved. Given the important role of parents and teachers in the growth and development of children in the current digital era, this article will fully concentrate on discussing the role of parents and teachers in child development and the role of parents and teachers in the development of children's digital literacy interests. Both discussions are reviewed based on the perspective of behaviorism learning theory. This study uses a library research method. Data were collected systematically through a search of scientific literature contained in articles, books and documents related to the research theme. The target of this study was elementary school children aged 6-12 years.

Discussion

The role of parents and teachers in increasing children's interest in digital literacy from the perspective of behaviorist learning theory

During their growth and development, children will experience the golden age (Golden Period). During this period, various potentials possessed by children develop rapidly, starting from physical, motoric, intellectual, emotional and language development that occurs rapidly (Uce, 2017). This period is a period where children are very sensitive and stimulated by things that happen around their environment, during this period children have a strong sense of curiosity and curiosity about something. This period lasts very briefly only once in a lifetime. Although this period has a short period, it has a strong influence. This means that if during the sensitive period children are given good stimulus through their family or environment, of course a good response will be the result, but if from this period children are given the wrong stimulus, whether from their family or environment, of course the response produced will also be wrong. And the important point is that this response will be carried with them until they grow up, if they have a bad response since childhood, what about when they are adults. Because of that, the sensitive period experienced by children is an important period for them in determining their fate in the future.

Education for children is ideally done early, namely before they reach the age of 12 years (Khairani, 2016), because at that age the growth and development of children occurs very rapidly, for that reason they must continue to be given good stimuli for their

future lives. Children's development during this period is determined by their family and environment, such as parents or teachers. Therefore, good role models from teachers and parents are the most superior concept in the process of growth and development of students/children (Suhono & Utama, 2017) . As we know, in this era, children are excellent imitators who are able to imitate anything done by the people around them, if the character of the people around them is bad, then this will greatly affect the nation because children are the successors of the nation, likewise if the character that is used as an example is good, then children will develop according to the hopes of the nation and religion .

The future of a child is formed through the experiences he gets from the family environment and social environment. Parents have a big role in this, the formation of a good personality needs to be taught by parents to children from an early age, so that when they reach maturity they have good character and behavior. The formation of personality from an early age at home is the basis for the formation of his personality. Parents are expected to be friends to children, can direct children's emotions, but not force children to obey their parents' wishes. However, so far the attitude of being too protective, excessive imposition of parental desires on children, the hope of making their children smart or intelligent children according to the parents' thoughts (Achmad et al., 2010) .In addition to parents, the figure who has an influence on a child's development is the teacher. According to the acronym, a teacher is a figure who is respected and imitated and has an important role in determining the child's fate in the future. Students tend to imitate and reflect the behavior and actions of their teachers (Hamid, 2020) , because in addition to parents, teachers are also models who inspire children to behave. For this reason, parents should choose the right teacher for their children, don't make the wrong choice of teacher that makes the child's future wrong.

From the explanation above, we can see that parents and teachers are two figures who become models for children in behaving, the position of parents and teachers is very important in changing children's behavior. For that, the right treatment from parents and teachers to children must be a concern that deserves to be highlighted. Treatment that focuses on the results in the form of changes in children's behavior is one way that parents and teachers can try. Behaviorism is a theory that prioritizes change as a result, according to this theory, changes in behavior are the result of experiences from the environment. That is why the role of parents and teachers in creating a comfortable, safe, and correct environment is a primary concern during the growth and development of children.

According to this theory, the main aspect in the learning process and also the child's development process is the stimulus given and the resulting response. Stimulus refers to anything given by parents and teachers to the child, while response is the child's response or reaction to the stimulus. The process that occurs between stimulus and response is considered insignificant in this theory, because it cannot be observed or measured. What can be observed and measured is the stimulus and response itself. Therefore, parents and teachers must provide observable and measurable stimuli to the child, while the child must provide observable and measurable responses to the stimuli

received. This theory emphasizes the importance of measurement, because measurement allows observation of behavioral changes that occur.

In this theory, the most important element is reinforcement. This means that changes formed through stimulus-response connections will become stronger if reinforced. In behaviorism theory, the learning process can be changed by manipulating and creating appropriate learning conditions, and supported by various reinforcements (Rufaeadah, 2018). This aims to maintain the desired behavior or learning outcomes. Reinforcement can be in the form of positive reinforcement and negative reinforcement. Positive reinforcement as a stimulus can increase the likelihood of repeating behavior, such as giving gifts, praise, or awards. On the other hand, negative reinforcement, as a stimulus, can cause behavior to decrease or even disappear, such as showing dissatisfaction, delaying rewards, or giving additional tasks. Skinner as the pioneer of this theory believes that the use of reinforcement appropriately can shape and strengthen desired behavior in the child's development process.

An example of the application of this method to children is by implementing a reward and punishment system both at home and at school. For example, if a child is late for school, he will be punished, such as cleaning up trash in the school environment. However, if he arrives on time, he will get a reward. In children's education, the reward given does not need to be an object, but can be praise or other awards. This is an example of the application of behaviorism theory to children to change their attitudes and behavior, through the reinforcement method.

In addition, according to the theory of behaviorism, child development can also be influenced by habituation factors, because in essence, development occurs because the requirements that trigger a response are met, with the main focus on practice and repetition (Thahir, 2014). Examples that parents and teachers can apply to children based on this theory to foster good habits in children such as getting them used to tidying up toys after they have played with them, this method aims to shape children's character in an attitude of being able to be responsible for what they have done. Forming children's character by telling stories or fairy tales, in which stories or fairy tales there are lessons that can be taken, such as stories of honesty values, always helping others and so on.

From the description above, it is very clear that the theory of behaviorism has a significant influence on child development. The focus is on how parents and teachers who are figures who are always in contact with children are able to utilize this theory to provide positive changes in children. One of the important things that influences child development, especially in the current era, is digital literacy. According to UNESCO, literacy is defined as the ability to use information and communication technology (ICT) to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, calculate, and use all printed information to achieve goals in developing knowledge (Kusumawati et al., 2022). When associated with digital, digital literacy can be interpreted as the ability to obtain various information and knowledge from various sources in digital form (Naufal, 2021). The definition of digital literacy is also explained by Baiden in (in Sutrisna, 2020) that in simple terms digital literacy refers to a person's ability to understand and use information from various formats and wider sources of information, as well as the ability

to operate computer devices in displaying the information. Based on these definitions, the most important thing about digital literacy is the ability to absorb and process various information through the latest devices and technologies, such as computers, cellphones, the internet and so on.

In this advanced era, almost all levels of society cannot be separated from technology, from children to the elderly, everyone needs technology, one of these technologies is the internet. In Indonesia itself, internet usage is very significant, based on the results of a survey by the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII), internet users in Indonesia reached 215.63 million people in the 2022-2023 period. The number of internet users is equivalent to 78.19% of Indonesia's total population of 275.77 million people (Hudiana, 2023). Furthermore, based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), 66.48% of Indonesia's population aged 5 years and over had accessed the internet in 2022. In the same year, also from a survey by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), data was obtained that 33.44% of early childhood in Indonesia had used cellphones or wireless devices. Meanwhile, early childhood who can access the internet reaches 24.96%. The percentage of children aged 0-4 years or toddlers using cellphones is only 25.5%. While the age of 5-6 years is 52.76%. The same pattern is also seen in children who access the internet. Toddlers are 18.79%, while children aged 5-6 years are 39.97%.

From the data above, it can be seen that many children in Indonesia have used the internet even at toddler age. This phenomenon is the impact of the flow of globalization that cannot be stopped in reality, sooner or later humans, especially children, will definitely use the internet. The use of the internet in childhood will have an impact on them, the impact depends on how they use the internet. The internet, which is a place where various kinds of information, media, and entertainment can enter freely without any restrictions, will have a bad effect on children if they cannot filter what they receive. On the other hand, the internet, which is a warehouse of information, can be used as a place to increase knowledge and skills. The internet can also be used as a means of increasing children's literacy interest, literacy that utilizes the use of the internet is called digital literacy, even in today's era digital literacy has a greater influence on children's development, because digital literacy is always updated and up-to-date in providing information. Therefore, there needs to be a role from parents and teachers to supervise children in utilizing sophisticated technology by increasing children's digital literacy.

Parents and teachers can provide learning to children related to digital literacy by applying the theory of behaviorism learning. This learning method focuses its objectives on results that can be seen through changes in children's attitudes and behavior. There are several general principles in the theory of behaviorism learning that parents and teachers should pay attention to. First, learning is a change in behavior, which means that a child is said to have learned if he shows a change in his behavior. Second, in learning, stimulus and response are needed. This means that there is a stimulus that triggers a response from the individual who is learning. Third, reinforcement is needed in learning because it is a factor that strengthens the emergence of a response. A response will be stronger if it gets reinforcement in either positive or negative forms. Habituation can also be done to change children's behavior and behavior (Familus, 2016)

Parents who are supervisors of their children in the family environment can increase their children's interest in digital literacy through behaviorism theory in several ways, namely:

- 1. Stimulus Provision** The main characteristic of behaviorist theory is the approach through input in the form of stimuli and output in the form of responses. (Suputra, 2023). In this case, parents can provide initial stimulus by introducing children to the positive aspects of digital literacy. For example, they can read digital story books together, watch interactive educational videos, or explore interesting educational websites. By providing positive experiences, children will feel the joy and usefulness of digital literacy. Providing stimulus aims to foster good habits for children.
- 2. Providing positive reinforcement** When children show interest and effort in digital literacy, parents can provide positive reinforcement in response. Positive reinforcement is a stimulus given to maximize the emergence of a response (Husain, 2022). For example, they can give praise, appreciation, or small gifts as a form of recognition of the child's efforts in learning digital literacy. This will strengthen the child's interest in digital literacy and encourage him to continue learning.
- 3. Creating a supportive environment** Parents can create a family environment that supports digital literacy. For example, they can provide safe and controlled access to relevant technology devices, such as computers or tablets with educational content. In addition, parents can be role models by demonstrating their own digital literacy interests and skills, such as reading e-books or searching for information online, so that children feel inspired to follow in their footsteps.
- 4. Using a play approach** Parents can integrate play elements into digital literacy activities. For example, they can look for educational applications or games that support the development of children's digital literacy. By inserting play aspects, children will feel more interested and enthusiastic in learning.
- 5. Encouraging collaboration** Parents can encourage their children to work together and share digital literacy knowledge with other family members. For example, they can encourage their children to make presentations or demonstrations about what they have learned to other families. This will build children's confidence and strengthen their literacy skills.

Teachers as supervisors for children in the school environment also have a role in increasing children's interest in digital literacy through behaviorism theory, namely in several ways:

- 1. Positive reinforcement** Teachers can provide positive reinforcement to children who show interest and progress in digital literacy. For example, they can provide praise, recognition, or small gifts as a form of appreciation for the child's efforts and achievements in developing digital literacy skills. This positive reinforcement will

strengthen the relationship between interest and positive digital literacy behavior.

- 2. Use of visual and audio stimuli** Teachers can use interesting visual and audio stimuli in the digital literacy learning process. For example, they can use multimedia, pictures, educational videos, or interesting sounds to strengthen children's attention and interest. This will help create a more interesting learning experience and strengthen positive responses to digital literacy.
- 3. Hands-on practice and structured exercises** Teachers can provide hands-on opportunities and structured practice in digital literacy. For example, they can organize interactive learning sessions in a computer lab or assign project assignments that involve the use of technology. In this case, teachers provide stimulus through structured instruction and guidance, while positive responses from children are reinforced through appropriate reinforcement and feedback.
- 4. Collaborative learning** Teachers can encourage collaborative learning in the classroom, where children work together on digital literacy projects. Through interaction and collaboration with peers, children can provide each other with social reinforcement, support, and positive feedback on digital literacy. This will strengthen their positive response to digital literacy learning.
- 5. Learning environment settings** Teachers can set up a learning environment that supports digital literacy in the classroom. For example, they can provide easy access to technology devices, select appropriate and interesting digital resources, and provide a clear learning structure. By creating a positive and structured learning environment, teachers provide the right stimulus to strengthen digital literacy interests and behaviors.

Parents and teachers have a very important role in increasing children's interest in digital literacy. Therefore, there needs to be an active and coordinated role from parents and teachers, so that children's interest in digital literacy can be significantly increased. This collaboration allows children to develop strong digital literacy skills, behave responsibly in using technology, and be ready to face the challenges of the ever-evolving digital world.

Conclusion and Suggestions

Literacy is very important in children's development and has a serious role in their knowledge and character in the future. Literacy is not only important for students at higher education levels, but also for children in elementary school. Childhood is an important period for forming new knowledge and insights, because their minds and minds are still pure and able to receive knowledge easily. Parents and teachers play a very important role in increasing children's interest in digital literacy. They need to monitor and guide children in using digital literacy wisely, because the information they get from the internet can be good or bad. Parents should also be good examples for children in terms of literacy and character. Behaviorism theory also has a significant influence on children's development and their digital literacy. The stimuli given by parents and teachers, as well as the responses shown by children to these stimuli, are important elements in this theory. Positive and negative reinforcement can also be used

to shape desired behavior and improve children's digital literacy. This article emphasizes the importance of the role of parents and teachers in creating a comfortable, safe, and correct environment for children. Through the application of behaviorism methods and appropriate approaches, the digital literacy of elementary school children can be improved, so that they can become a young generation with noble character in the future.

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