The Challenges of Parents to Stimulate Child Ethical Communication in Early Childhood

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ABSTRACT
A Child is an activ**e** imitator. These are the characteristics of children in early childhood who easily imitate the surrounding environment, whether what they see, hear, and experience will become the context that the child will imitate. Parents as first and foremost educators have strategic and practical responsibilities and roles in shaping an environment that has a direct impact on the formation of imitation habits. But all of them have challenges that must be faced by parents. These challenges include: communication using ethical language, communication using language that is appropriate to children's development, communication that is preceded by the formation of a comfortable environmental climate, planned communication and focus on habituation of values. certain aspects, as well as communication with psychological expression and touch. This study reveals the challenges faced by parents in making good speech habits in early childhood.

Keywords: Challenges, ethical communication, Early Childhood

1. INTRODUCTION

Humans are social creatures. As social beings, humans need other people in their lives. In life, humans will establish interactions between themselves and others. Interactions that occur between one individual and another, will not be separated from communication activities.

Communication is a network of contacts that occur between humans, both individuals and groups. Whether we realize it or not, in everyday life, communication has become an important part of our lives. Every human being who lives in society, from the time he is born until his death, will naturally be bound in the fabric of communication. The existence of a communication network that occurs is the result of a social relationship [1].

The first communication for humans can be seen from the baby's cry. A baby's cry can be assumed as a sign of communication. As the baby develops, he will need a language as an introduction in communicating. The language that is issued also contains words as the smallest element, both spoken words and written words. Every word that is issued is a reflection of a person's personality. So that the reflection of the personality can be applied to the child until becoming adult, good and polite words and expressions should be accustomed since the child is young. [2].

Early childhood according to the NAEYC (National Association of Education for Young Children) is a child who is in the age range 0-8 years. Meanwhile, based on Law no. 20 of 2003 concerning the national education system called early childhood is children aged 0-6 years. At this time the child is in

the process of growth and development (Suryana, 2014). There is a difference of opinion between the NAEYC and Law no. 20 of 2003 based on the stipulation of the law, that children aged seven and eight years are no longer considered an early age, because at that age the child has entered the elementary school age level. [3].

At an early age, there are six aspects of development that must be developed, namely: religious and moral values, physical, motoric, cognitive, socio-emotional, language, and art. These six aspects of development, of course, really need optimal stimulation, so that they can form a complete child's personality [4]. One aspect of development that needs to be stimulated is the aspect of moral development. Aspects of moral development are important to be developed, so that children are able to distinguish which behavior is right and wrong, so that the provision of planting good behavior can be carried out until he is an adult.

Communication is one of the important factors that contribute to the moral development of early childhood. Therefore, the existence of parents is very strategic in this case. Aspects of moral development can be stimulated by means of communication between parents and children. Parents have a role as educators at home. As educators, of course, parents have a big responsibility in educating and raising children [5].

Parents have a very significant role in developing children's communication. Ideally, the role of parents in establishing communication with children can be done by maintaining eye contact, asking questions that the child can understand, paying

attention to the child, speaking gently to the child, and parents should understand how the child feels. [6].

Communication that is established by parents to children, should contain ethical expressions. This is because parents have demands to teach religious values through habituation of good speech to children [7]. Not only religious demands, customs also prioritize communication ethics that are in accordance with the place, be it to parents, brothers, sisters, mamak, or to other people. [8].

However, parents do have to pay attention to the words that are issued when communicating with children. Early childhood has the characteristics of being easy to absorb all speech received, but children have not been able to filter which speech is positive and which speech is negative. So, children can imitate speech that they find interesting without understanding whether it is positive or negative [9]. Based on the explanation above, it is clear that parents have challenges in communicating with their children, because it has a direct impact on the habituation of children. This study seeks to uncover what challenges parents face in communicating with their children.

2. METHODS

This study uses a descriptive type of research with a qualitative approach. The research subjects that the researchers used were parents of young children aged 5-6 years. Informants were selected with the consideration that they can provide information that can meet the research data. Data was collected by means of observation, interviews and documentation. At the observation stage, the researcher observed the parents/guardians of children when communicating with children. Furthermore, to strengthen the results of observations that have been carried out interviews are used to obtain data. The two instruments were used optimally in the study. Furthermore, the data is processed by qualitative data analysis procedures.

3. DISCUSSION

Based on the results of observations and interviews with informants, it was found important points related to the challenges of habituation of good speech in parental communication to early childhood, namely: communication using ethical language, communication using language appropriate to child development, communication by paying attention to physical and psychological, communication that is preceded by the formation of a comfortable environmental climate, planned communication and focus on habituation of certain values, as well as communication with psychological expressions and touches.

The various forms of communication that children do, of course, start from the form of communication that their parents do at home. Situmorang (2016:61) said that the different backgrounds of parents will cause different ways of communicating with children, such as parents who are not too busy with their work, of course, they will have more time to communicate with their children compared to parents who are busy at work. Even though parents have different backgrounds, communication by parents contains a number of norms that

parents want to pass on to their children, be it religious norms, creed norms, social norms, and moral norms. (Sukatmi, 2015). One way that parents can do in establishing communication with children is to be an example or role model for children. Budiarti (2019:176) argues that parents can give examples to children how good words are in communicating, using a gentle and friendly voice intonation, so that children can respond to parental communication well. The same thing was said Ayuhan (2018) that when communicating with children, parents are also required to pay attention to things that can damage children's morals, both in terms of language subtlety, procedures for conveying conversations that can be heard by children and those around them, both in the child's circle of friends, relatives, helpers, neighbors and on social media.

Furthermore, parents can teach speaking manners to children. According to Kartikowati (2020:137) both parents should get used to the manners of speaking to children, so that children are able to be polite in speaking, greeting, and getting what they want in a good and virtuous manner.
Ayuhan (2018) explained that in familiarizing children with good words, teachers and parents are expected not only to say, but the most important thing that needs to be instilled in children is how to pronounce them. When making good speech habits, teachers and parents should accompany the speech with a smile, a calm style, and a voice intonation that matches the meaning of the words spoken.

The thing that is no less important in establishing communication with children is the collaboration and collaboration between teachers and parents. Through collaboration between teachers and parents, it will result in the exchange of information about children in their daily lives (Siregar, 2020). Teachers will find out more about the characteristics of children at home, while parents can find out how children are progressing and struggling at school (Harahap dan Yus, 2019). Through this collaboration, teachers and parents will have the same views in establishing good communication with children.

4. CONCLUSION

This study reveals the challenges of habituation of good speech in parental communication to early childhood including communication using ethical language, communication using language that is appropriate to child development, communication with physical and psychological attention, communication that is preceded by the formation of a comfortable environmental climate. , communication that is planned and focused on the habituation of certain values, as well as communication with psychological expression and touch.

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