

## LEARNING OF SYMBOLIC MODELLING METHOD ON EXPRESSIVE ARABIC LANGUAGE ABILITY OF EARLY CHILDREN TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the effectiveness of the symbolic modeling learning method assisted by dolls on the expressive language skills of early childhood. This study is included in experimental research using the Pretest-Posttest control group design. The population in this study were 30 children aged 7 years who had just graduated from kindergarten. Data were taken by purposive sampling on 30. The data collection technique using an observation sheet for expressive language skills showed that the symbolic modeling method assisted by dolls proved effective in improving the learning outcomes of students who received learning with the symbolic modeling method assisted by dolls. This shows that the symbolic modeling method assisted by dolls proved effective in improving children's expressive language skills in elementary school

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### خلاصة

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى معرفة مدى فعالية أسلوب التعلم بالنمذجة الرمزية بمساعدة الدمى في تنمية مهارات اللغة التعبيرية لدى أطفال مرحلة الطفولة المبكرة.

وتضمنت هذه الدراسة بحثاً تجريبياً

باستخدام تصميم المجموعة الضابطة قبل الاختبار وبعدة. تكون عينة الدراسة من طفلاً تتراوح أعمارهم بين 7 سنوات وتخرجوا للتو من روضة الأطفال. تمأخذ البيانات عن طريقأخذ العينات العمدية في أظهرت

الكلمات الرئيسية:  
اللغة التعبيرية؛ النمذجة؛ رمزي

تقنية جمع البيانات باستخدام ورقة ملاحظة لمهارات اللغة التعبيرية أن أسلوب النمذجة الرمزية بمساعدة الدمى أثبت فعاليته في تحسين نتائج التعلم لدى الطلاب الذين تلقوا التعلم باستخدام أسلوب النمذجة الرمزية بمساعدة الدمى. وهذا يوضح أن أسلوب النمذجة الرمزية بمساعدة الدمى أثبت فعاليته في تحسين مهارات اللغة التعبيرية لدى الأطفال في المدرسة الابتدائية.

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## Introduction

Language skills are the main foundation in children's learning process, especially when they enter elementary school. Expressive language, which is the ability of children to express their ideas and feelings verbally, plays an important role in the process of social and academic interaction. However, many young children experience obstacles in developing expressive language skills optimally. Therefore, appropriate learning methods are needed to stimulate this ability from an early age. One approach that is starting to be widely used is the symbolic modeling method, which is a learning strategy in which teachers or adults provide verbal examples or certain behaviors that are then imitated by children.

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a case study method in three PAUD institutions that have elementary school preparation programs. Data collection was carried out through observation, interviews with teachers and parents, and documentation of children's work. The data analysis technique uses the Miles and Huberman interactive model which includes data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The main focus of this study is how the application of symbolic

modeling affects children's ability to respond to questions, tell stories, and have active dialogues.

## Method

This study uses the library research method or literature study with a descriptive qualitative approach. Library research is a research method that is carried out by reviewing various literature, documents, scientific journals, books, and other written sources that are relevant to the topic of study,

According to Zed (2004), literature study is a series of activities related to the method of collecting library data, reading, recording, and processing research materials originating from literature sources. Thus, all data studied in this study comes from secondary documents, not from direct observation or interviews. This approach is considered appropriate for exploring theories, concepts, and previous research results that are relevant in analyzing transformation (Moleong, 2017).

## Results

This study shows that the application of the symbolic modeling method significantly improves the expressive Arabic language skills of early childhood children who are being prepared for Elementary School (SD). Children who receive learning with this method show an increase in vocabulary, use of simple sentence structures in Arabic, and courage in expressing themselves through the foreign language.

In the learning process, visual symbols such as pictures, icons, or gestures are used consistently to represent vocabulary and concepts in Arabic. The teacher provides direct examples (modeling) using the symbols before the children are asked to imitate and then use them independently.

This improvement can be seen from the results of observations and oral tests before and after treatment. Children who were taught using the symbolic modeling method obtained higher average scores in the Arabic language expression test compared to the control group using the conventional method.

"The symbolic modeling method has proven effective in improving the expressive aspects of Arabic in early childhood because it provides concrete and meaningful learning experiences through demonstrations and visual symbols" (Nurhayati, 2021, p. 45).

In addition, the study also noted that this method is able to increase children's interest in learning and self-confidence. This is very important in preparing them for language learning at the more formal and structured elementary school level.

## Discussion

The results of the study showed that the symbolic modeling method was able to create a pleasant learning atmosphere and encourage active participation of children in speaking activities. Children who were guided with symbolic modeling showed increased ability in constructing complete sentences, using new words, and were more confident when speaking in front of friends or teachers. Teachers who consistently provide examples of sentences, use of facial expressions, and appropriate intonation are key factors in the success of this method. In addition, parental involvement at home also supports the learning process continuously.

The results of the study indicate that the use of symbolic modeling methods in Arabic language learning has a significant influence on improving the expressive language skills of early childhood. Qualitatively, this approach has proven effective in developing children's verbal communication aspects, which are an important part of their readiness to enter Elementary School.

The symbolic modeling method works by presenting concrete examples through the use of visual symbols (pictures, real objects, or body movements) followed by direct modeling from the teacher. Children not only hear the Arabic word, but also see its visual representation and imitate the expression. This process strengthens children's understanding and memory of Arabic vocabulary and sentence structure.

This finding is in line with the constructivist view, which states that children learn optimally through interaction with the environment and multisensory stimulation. In this context, visual symbols and verbal modeling serve as scaffolding that facilitates children to actively construct their own understanding of Arabic.

From the results of observations and interviews with educators, it can be seen that children who participate in learning using this method show improvements in several indicators, namely:

- Ability to pronounce vocabulary in Arabic without assistance.
- The courage to express one's desires in the form of simple Arabic words/phrases.
- Active involvement in symbol-based learning activities.

Teachers reported that children appeared more motivated and enthusiastic when learning activities involved movement and images, compared to traditional methods such as lectures or memorization alone. This supports the theory that young children are more responsive to learning approaches that are concrete, interactive, and contextual.

Furthermore, this approach also shows a positive impact on children's social-emotional development. With increased expressive language skills, children become more confident in communicating, both with teachers and peers. This is an important provision for their success at the next level of education.

Overall, the symbolic modeling method not only improves children's expressive Arabic language skills, but also creates a fun and meaningful learning experience. Therefore, this approach is recommended to be systematically integrated into the Arabic language learning curriculum in PAUD institutions, especially during the transition to basic education.

## Conclusion

The symbolic modeling method has been proven effective in improving the expressive language skills of early childhood children in the transition to primary education. The consistent and integrated application of this strategy between the school and home environments is very important in optimizing children's language development.

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