

Strategy for Use of “Zungenbrecher - Einfach Deutsch Lernen” in Learning Germany

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Abstract

In this era of globalization, there is an urgent need to learn foreign languages. Not only English, which is an international language, but also other foreign languages, including German. According to a Deutsche Welle news article with the topic “Zahl der Deutschlernenden bleibt constant”, the number of people learning German remains at 15.4 million. The creation of Zungenbrecher cards aims to improve German speaking skills. The strategy is designed to enrich students' learning experience in understanding and using German effectively. Through a creative and interactive approach, this strategy aims to improve students' German speaking, listening and reading skills. It is hoped that the use of this strategy will boost students' learning motivation and broaden their understanding of German culture. This proposal also includes an implementation plan as well as an evaluation of the strategy to ensure the achievement of the desired learning objectives.

Keywords: *learning strategies, German language, sprechen*

Introduction

One important aspect of humans is the ability to communicate. Communication is a process of conveying information from one side to another. In order for the delivery of information to be understood, communication requires a mutually agreed upon medium or tool, namely language. As explained in research on language as a tool of human communication, language and communication have a very close relationship (Mailani et al., 2022). Language as a means of communication in everyday life cannot be separated from human life as a social organism, because language always accompanies human communication activities. In communicating, humans will exchange information with each other. Such as ideas, thoughts, feelings and emotions (Masdul, 2018). As an individual who actively socializes, at least that individual must be able to master and use more than one language. This means not only being fluent in using the mother tongue as the national language, but also being able to speak a foreign language as an international language. In the context of globalization, it is important for German learners to develop good speaking and pronunciation skills. Supported by Khosiyono's (2018) statement in his journal, that mastery of a foreign language is an important requirement for individual success in responding to the challenges of the times.

In Indonesia, foreign languages are a mandatory field of education. According to Khosiyono (2018) in his article, this aims to develop communication skills both verbally and in writing in all aspects, such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Apart from that, it is also important to raise awareness about the nature and importance of foreign languages and what is no less important is to develop an understanding of the interrelationship between

language and culture and broaden cultural horizons. One of the foreign languages taught in Indonesian educational institutions is German.

At the initial stage of learning German, it is necessary to pronounce words correctly because at that stage there are still some errors in pronunciation. This is supported by the results of research by Arumwangi (2017) in his journal, that one of the factors causing pronunciation errors in German is that it is influenced by the mother tongue or another language that experiences interference. One example of a word that still experiences pronunciation errors is Deutsch. For beginners, usually the word Deutsch, especially "eu", will be pronounced according to the writing which should be pronounced in Indonesian as "oi". So learning pronunciation in German is still very necessary.

When learning foreign languages, especially German, various learning media are needed to support the learning process. Learning media is a tool for conveying messages or information regarding learning objectives (Hasan et al, 2021). The use of varied learning media can help teachers in delivering material. Apart from making it easier to deliver material, media can also be used to attract students' interest in learning and create enjoyable learning conditions.

Media development to support German language skills is being carried out by researchers from various universities in Indonesia. In this case, the author expresses the opinion that Tongue twister or Zungenbrecher can be an effective tool for training fluency and speed in language. Meanwhile, creative and interactive learning approaches need to continue to be developed. Therefore, it is hoped that the creation of learning media using Zungenbrecher cards can provide a more interesting and effective learning experience.

Method

Approach and method

This research was conducted using qualitative methods, by means of observation. Through observation, the author is able to monitor the increase in sprechen of Zungenbrecher card players after playing them. Zungenbrecher cards are implemented in learning related to sprechen material. This card was chosen as a learning medium because it matches the learning material in the field of learning. Zungenbrecher cards have been equipped with pictures, Zungenbrecher sentences, and a QR Code containing audio pronunciation of the sentences as a learning tool, to practice speaking skills in German. The Zungenbrecher cards were developed by paying attention to visual, auditive and verbal aspects to increase learning effectiveness.

Zungenbrecher card creation procedure

Zungenbrecher cards contain sentences obtained from online sources. The Zungenbrecher sentence chosen is a sentence that is quite popular and widely used. Each card is equipped with an image relevant to the Zungenbrecher sentence to help strengthen the connection between the words in the sentence and the object represented. This Zungenbrecher sentence is written using Maragsa font with size 80, so that the text is easy to read and still has attractive visuals.

In addition, each Zungenbrecher card has a sentence structure specifically designed to challenge participants in practicing their speaking skills. These sentences were selected based on their level of difficulty and relevance to the participant's learning context. Apart from that, each card is also equipped with a QR Code which contains the audio pronunciation

of the Zungenbrecher sentence. Participants can scan the QR Code using their mobile device to hear the correct pronunciation and correct their pronunciation.

Each Zungenbrecher card has a physical and non-physical form. Physical cards are printed using linen paper so that the card looks attractive and easy to read. Cards are printed with a size of 8x11 cm so that the text is easy to read and the images and QR Code are clearly visible. Then, we can find non-physical cards after players scan the QR code available on each physical card. This non-physical card has almost the same visuals, but some image details have been removed. This non-physical card is only focused on providing an idea of how the Zungenbrecher sentence is pronounced.

The card packaging also includes the rules for playing Zungenbrecher cards. With the game rules, it will be very easy for users of this card to use the card. The use of Zungenbrecher cards does not have to be as written in the game rules. The use of this card can still be further developed according to the player's wishes and needs.

Data source

Zungenbrecher cards of course contain Zungenbrecher sentences. The sentences used are sentences that are popular. These sentences were found from several online websites and YouTube videos that discuss Zungenbrecher. The sentences are sorted according to needs by paying attention to the length of the sentence and the level of complexity it has.

Results and Discussion

In this study the author used Zungenbrecher Cards which were applied to German language learning, with the aim that these cards could be an appropriate strategy for improving speaking skills. The sentences listed on the cards must be read and pronounced by the player. Through pronunciation when playing these cards, players can improve their articulation and fluency in speaking German. This improvement is especially visible in the correct pronunciation of the unique groups of consonants and vowel sounds in German.

The level of difficulty in playing this card is quite varied. Starting from sentences whose pronunciation is quite similar, sentences with a combination of vowels, to long sentences which are enough to train your memory. The difficulty in pronouncing some sounds and combinations will be reduced if the player has studied German before. This aims to make German students accustomed to German pronunciation which seems foreign. By listening and practicing repeatedly, players can remember the pronunciation easily.

Zungenbrecher cards are designed with a simple, attractive and interactive appearance. Players will certainly get an interactive and interesting learning experience in this game. Zungenbrecher cards can be played independently or in groups. Players consisting of a number of individuals can learn from and teach each other. Players who want to try it independently will also be helped by the audio provided in the QR Code in the corner of the card. This challenging game from Zungenbrecher raises players' motivation to continue to actively talk and try to complete the challenges. In addition, the Zungenbrecher card game has the potential to generate humor, thereby increasing participants' enjoyment in language learning.

Our findings suggest that Zungenbrecher can be an effective additional tool for teaching speaking skills in German language education. From the research results of Mu'in et al. (2017) Tongue Twister or Zungenbrecher can be useful for students because practicing these Zungenbrecher cards encourages fun learning and helps them improve their pronunciation, fluency and motivation in learning a foreign language. Incorporating Zungenbrecher into

language lessons can improve pronunciation accuracy, oral fluency and articulation skills. A pleasant learning situation will support interest and learning outcomes. As the results of research conducted by Muliani & Arusman (2022) show that feeling happy and liking a lesson is one of the factors that generates interest in learning.



Figure 1. Zungenbrecher Card

Conclusion

Learning media such as Zungenbrecher cards have many uses in the world of education, especially foreign language learning. Zungenbrecher is a useful tool in German language learning to help improve pronunciation and speaking fluency. These cards contain difficult-to-pronounce phrases or sentences, designed to train the muscles of the mouth and tongue to produce correct German pronunciation sounds. These Zungenbrecher cards can be used as a companion to German language learning media so that students don't get bored and can get to know how to use these Zungenbrecher cards. By practicing using Zungenbrecher cards, German learners can get used to German pronunciation. This card is very easy to use because there is a QR code that is directly connected to the correct German pronunciation audio. Zungenbrecher cards can also help students memorize new vocabulary and grammar in German. By repeating the same phrases and sentences many times, students can store new information in long-term memory.

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