



THE INFLUENCE OF USING WORD SEARCH PUZZLE MEDIA ON READING SKILLS OF STUDENTS IN CLASS V OF STATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 106799 PALUH MANAN

Rizky Khaliza^{1*}, May Minggu Sonia Ningsih², Raditya Prasetya³

^{1,2,3}Elementary school teacher Country 106799 Paluh Manan

Email: ¹rizkykhaliza13@gmail.com, ²mayminggasonianingsih@gmail.com, ³raditid655@gmail.com

| ARTICLE INFO | ABSTRACT |
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| <p>Article History</p> <p>Receive : 07-03-2025</p> <p>Revision : 07-05-2025</p> <p>Accept : 30-06-2025</p> | <p>This study aims to determine the effect of using Word Search Puzzle media on the reading skills of fifth-grade students at SD Negeri 106799 Paluh Manan. The research uses a quantitative approach with a one-group pretest-posttest pre-experimental design. The subjects of the study are 20 students selected using a saturated sampling technique. Data was collected through observation sheets and analyzed using paired t-test with SPSS 23.0. The results show a significant improvement in students' reading skills, with the average score increasing from 53.4 (pretest) to 81.8 (posttest). The significance value of 0.000 (< 0.05) indicates that Word Search Puzzle media significantly enhances students' reading skills. This media has been proven to be effective in helping students recognize words, understand meanings, and improve concentration and vocabulary retention in a fun and interactive way.</p> |
| <p>Keywords</p> | <p>Word Search Puzzle, Reading skills, elementary school students</p> |

1. INTRODUCTION

Development of humans and a means to enhance knowledge. Education is also an important factor supporting progress for the development of a nation's civilization (Nurhalifah et al., 2020). A nation with an advanced civilization is one that has quality human resources, which aligns with the vision of national education aimed at developing the quality of human resources. This is stated in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003, which emphasizes that the foundation, goals, and functions of National Education are to develop abilities as well as to shape the character and dignity of the nation's civilization in order to educate the nation's life. The purpose of this

education is to develop the potential of students to become individuals who are faithful and devoted to God the Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, competent, creative, independent, and to become democratic and responsible citizens (Pelawi & Is, 2021).

Education in Indonesia places the Indonesian language as one of the subjects taught in schools. The competency standards for the Indonesian language subject are designed to enhance the ability to use the Indonesian language nationally. Competencies include knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values reflected in thinking and acting habits. In Indonesian language learning, students are expected to

master various skills, which are taught starting from the elementary school level (SD). The essence of the Indonesian language subject is to provide students with knowledge on how to master Indonesian language skills correctly and well, in accordance with its goals, functions, and uses (Subakti & Prasetya, 2021).

The learning of the Indonesian language emphasizes four aspects of skills, namely listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills. One important skill that students must master is reading skill. Reading is an activity carried out to obtain information, knowledge, and new experiences. Essentially, the reading activity consists of two parts, namely reading as a process and as a product. Reading as a process involves physical and mental activities, while reading as a product relates to the results obtained from the reading activity (Ason & Dasmawarti, 2021). Reading is a skill that every child must master because through reading, they can learn about various fields of study (Sari et al., 2022).

Based on the opinions of the experts above, the author concludes that reading is a process of recognizing and understanding writing to obtain information, knowledge, and new experiences. This activity involves an interaction between the reader and the text, where the reader processes the meaning of the symbols or letters that are written and connects them with existing knowledge. Reading not only involves the physical ability to see and recognize words, but also a mental process to understand and interpret the content of the reading.

Through reading, students can express their capabilities and potential, develop their thinking skills, train their concentration, and improve their academic achievements at school. However, in reality, students in schools perceive reading as a boring activity that does not provide them with pleasure, making students tend to be inactive and this can affect their engagement with reading materials. If this ability is hindered and not addressed, it will be difficult for students to understand the learning process.

Indonesian language learning in elementary schools is conducted for 4 hours per week, with two meetings each week. However, the material that needs to be taught in this subject is quite extensive, so teachers need to

manage their time well in order to complete the material on time. This condition may indicate that there are problems in the learning process.

Based on the results of the interview with the fifth-grade teacher of SDN 106799 Paluh Manan, there are several issues related to learning the Indonesian language. The problems from the condition of the students are that the students experience difficulties in understanding the meanings of root words, which often leads to confusion in distinguishing between types of words, such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Many students have limited vocabulary, making it difficult for them to recognize and understand different types of words. Students often struggle to understand how each type of word functions in forming complete and meaningful sentences. On the other hand, the problems from the condition of the teacher are that the learning is still teacher-centered, the use of models or methods is not consistently applied, and there is a lack of varied learning media.

Looking at the phenomenon that occurs, there needs to be solutions that must be applied, such as the use of learning media that is appropriate for the learning objectives so that it increases students' reading skills. One of the learning media that can be used to improve students' reading skills is the Word Search Puzzle. A Word Search Puzzle is a game of finding words composed of random letters. In this game, participants must mark the letters, which are usually arranged in a square or rectangular shape, and the words can be found in horizontal, vertical, or diagonal directions (Kholifatur Rosidah & Agung Purwono, 2022). Word Search Puzzle is a word search puzzle game consisting of scrambled letters. In this game, words can be found horizontally, vertically, or diagonally (Pamungkas & Ghofur, 2021). To play the Word Search Puzzle, students must concentrate to find the hidden words.

In a previous study conducted by Kholifatur Rosidah & Agung Purwono (2022), the Word Search Puzzle media had an impact on the learning outcomes of fourth-grade students in the science subject on the life cycle material at MI Setia Bhakti Trawas. The same research was also conducted by Siswa et al. (2022), which showed that the Word Search Puzzle media improved the

learning outcomes of fourth-grade students at SDN Pegambiran I, Cirebon City in social studies.

Based on the background description above, the researcher will conduct a study titled "The Effect of Word Search Puzzle Media on the Reading Skills of Students in Class V of SD Negeri 106799 Paluh Manan." The objective of this research is to determine the effect of Word Search Puzzle Media on the reading skills of students in Class V of SD Negeri 106799 Paluh Manan.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a quantitative approach. According to Sugiyono & Lestari (2021), the quantitative research method is based on the philosophy of positivism, applied to a specific population or sample, with data collection through research instruments, and data analysis that is quantitative or statistical in nature. This research employs a One-Group Pretest-Posttest Design, which is an experimental research design that involves administering a pretest before the implementation of the learning treatment. After the treatment is completed, a posttest is conducted to measure the extent of the results of the treatment that has been applied (Ramdayanti et al., 2023).

The population in this study is the fifth-grade students of SD Negeri 106799 Paluh Manan. In this study, the determination of the sample size uses the saturated sampling method. This method is a sampling technique in which all members of the population are made as research samples. The data collection method used in this study is the observation method. Observation is a data collection technique carried out by directly observing the object of study (Sugiyono & Lestari, 2021).

This research uses quantitative data analysis techniques, with expert validation tests. Expert validation is a checking process to ensure that the data meets the established criteria, so that the source and accuracy of the data can be known and explained before being entered into the database. In this study, the normality test used is the Shapiro Wilk test. The Shapiro Wilk test is more suitable for this research because the sample is less than 50. The hypothesis test used is the Paired Sample t-Test. The Paired Sample t-

Test is a statistical analysis method that involves two measurements on the same subject to evaluate the effects or influence of a specific treatment (Syafriani et al., 2023).

3. RESULT

The pre-test is the initial stage in this experimental research. The material used in this research is to find antonyms and synonyms through skimming, by observing the speed and accuracy in finding words as well as understanding their meanings. After going through the validity test stage, the research then conducts a pretest in the class.

Table 1.
Hasil Observasi Sebelum diberikan *Treatment* (*Pre-test*)

| Interval | Frekuensi | Kriteria | Presentase |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 80-100 | - | Sangat Baik | 0% |
| 70-79 | - | Baik | 0% |
| 60-69 | 5 | Cukup Baik | 25% |
| 50-59 | 11 | Kurang Baik | 55% |
| 0-49 | 4 | Tidak Baik | 20% |
| Total | 20 | | 100% |
| Rata-rata | | 53,4 | |
| Nilai Maksimal | | 64 | |
| Nilai Minimal | | 40 | |

Based on the research conducted at SD Negeri 106799, data collected through observations show the reading skills of the students before the treatment was given to the fifth-grade students of SD Negeri 106799 Paluh Manan, Hamparan Perak district. The reading skills of the fifth-grade students before the treatment still do not meet the assessment standards, where the maximum score is 64 and the minimum score is 40. There are 4 students with scores between 0-49, representing 20%, 11 students with scores between 50-59, representing 55%, and 5 students with scores between 60-69, representing 25%. The reading skills of the fifth-grade students before the treatment do not meet the assessment standards, as only 5 students meet the assessment standards while 15 students do not.

Post-test is a test given after the learning process is completed. During the research, there

was a change in the students' results after the treatment was provided. This change is reflected in the observation results of the reading skills of the students obtained after the treatment. The change can be seen from the data obtained on the post-test scores of the observation of reading skills of the students in grade V of SD Negeri 106799 Paluh Manan, Hamparan Perak District.

Table 2
Hasil Observasi Setelah diberikan *Treatment* (*Post-test*)

| Interval | Frekuensi | Kriteria | Presentase |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 80-100 | 13 | Sangat Baik | 65% |
| 70-79 | 6 | Baik | 30% |
| 60-69 | 1 | Cukup Baik | 5% |
| 50-59 | - | Kurang Baik | 0% |
| 0-49 | - | Tidak Baik | 0% |
| Total | 20 | | 100% |
| Rata-rata | | 81,8 | |
| Nilai Maksimal | | 100 | |
| Nilai Minimal | | 64 | |

The reading skills of fifth-grade students after being given treatment have met the assessment standards, where the maximum score is 100 and the minimum score is 64. With a score of 60-69, there is 1 person with a percentage of 5%, a score of 70-79 for 6 people with a percentage of 30%, and a score of 80-100 for 13 people with a percentage of 65%. The reading skills of students in fifth grade after treatment have met the assessment standards, where the number of students meeting the assessment standards is 20.

4. DISCUSSION

Based on the research results, there is a significant change in the students. This can be seen from the pre-test. The average score of the students' reading skills is 53.4%, categorized as follows: 4 students (20%) in the 'not good' category, 11 students (55%) in the 'less good' category, 5 students (25%) in the 'fairly good' category, and 0% in the 'good' and 'very good' categories. From the percentage results of reading skills, it is found that there are 15 students who did not meet the criteria and 5 students who did. Therefore, based on the results obtained, it can be said that the reading skills level of the students before using the word search puzzle media is very low.

Furthermore, the average post-test result is 81.8, indicating that students' reading skills after the implementation of the word search puzzle media have improved compared to before using the word search puzzle media. Additionally, the presentation of the reading skill categories among students has also increased, with the very good category having 13 people at a percentage of 65%, the good category having 6 people at a percentage of 30%, the fairly good category having 1 person at a percentage of 5%, and there being no students in the poor and very poor categories, with a percentage of 0%.

The results of the statistical analysis using the paired t-test indicate that the significance value is .000, which is $0.000 < 0.05$. It can be concluded that H_a is accepted and H_0 is rejected, which indicates that there is an effect of using the word search puzzle media on the reading skills of fifth-grade students at SD Negeri 106799 Paluh Manan, Hamparan Perak District.

The research findings above are in line with the study titled "The Influence of Inquiry-Based Learning Assisted by Word Search Puzzle Media on the Learning Outcomes of Fourth Grade Students in Science Content on the Life Cycle at MI Setia Bhakti Trawas" written by Kholifatur Rosidah in the Journal of Madrasah Ibtidaiyah Research vol 2(2). The result of this study indicates that word search puzzle media in the inquiry model has a positive impact on students' learning outcomes. Students' learning can improve with the use of word search puzzle media. The similarity in this research lies in the use of the same media, word search puzzle, while the difference lies in the dependent variable used and the research location. The previous research examined learning outcomes, while this research examines reading skills.

The research titled "The Effect of Word Search Puzzle Media on the Improvement of Student Learning Outcomes in PPKN Subjects for Class VIII at SMPN 26 Bandung" written by Ria Aulia Markum in her thesis. The results of the study show that the application of word search puzzle media is empirically proven to be very effective and can improve student learning outcomes in the PPKN subject. The similarity in this research is the use of the same media, the word search puzzle, while the difference lies in

the dependent variables used and the research location. Previous research tested learning outcomes, while this study tests reading skills.

The research titled "The Influence of Using Word Search Puzzle Edu Game Media on the Ability to Arrange Words in Indonesian Language Lessons for Elementary School Students" written by Syafa Najwa in her thesis. The results of this study show a significant influence of using the educational game media word search puzzle on the ability to arrange words in Indonesian Language lessons for elementary school students. The similarity in this research is the use of the same media, the word search puzzle, while the difference lies in the dependent variable used and the research location. The previous research examined the ability to arrange words, whereas this research examines reading skills.

In the research titled "The Influence of the Teams Games Tournament Learning Model Assisted by Visual Media Word Search Puzzle on the Learning Outcomes of the Indonesian Language" published in the *Journal of Quality Management in Education* vol 12(1) written by Aisyah Mutiara Sani et al. The results of this study indicate that there is an influence of using the teams games tournament learning model assisted by visual media word search puzzle on students' learning outcomes in the Indonesian language subject. The similarity in this study is the use of the same media, the word search puzzle, while the differences lie in the dependent variable used and the location of the study. In previous research, it examined learning outcomes, whereas this study examines reading skills.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that there is an influence of using word search puzzle media on the reading skills of students in class V SD Negeri 106799 Paluh Manan. This can be obtained based on the significant value of 2-tailed 0.000, which is less than 0.05, thus H_a is accepted and H_o is rejected. This means that word search puzzle media has an influence on the reading skills of students in class V SD Negeri 101760 Paluh Manan, Hamparan Perak District.

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