

# Learning English with Moms using YouTube

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**Abstract.** The "Learning English with Mothers using YouTube" program is specifically designed to cater to mothers who have children enrolled in elementary school, particularly those in the third and fourth grades. At the outset of the program, a total of 19 mothers expressed interest and enrolled; however, only six of these mothers completed the program. This phenomenological study aims to delve into the various experiences of these mothers as they actively support their children in the process of learning English, particularly through the use of YouTube media. The findings from this study reveal that the participants engaged in collaborative study sessions alongside their children, which significantly aided in the development of new vocabulary and reading skills for both mothers and their children. Furthermore, the mothers shared that they gained valuable insights into their children's specific learning interests, which in turn fostered closer familial bonds and connections. They also recognized the positive potential that smartphones can offer in educational contexts. It is anticipated that this program will empower parents, equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary to guide their children in effectively utilizing smartphones for constructive educational purposes, such as learning English through various YouTube resources.

## 1 Introduction

English is the most commonly spoken foreign language in the world of business, technology, science, and diplomacy [1]. Mastering this language facilitates global communication and cross-cultural cooperation. Many of the world's major sources of information, such as books, scientific journals, and websites, are available in English. Therefore, mastering English opens greater access to knowledge and information. One of the positive impacts of being proficient in English is increase job opportunities, especially in multinational companies and industries that operate globally. Many companies are looking for employees who can communicate well in English. For this reason, many of the world's leading colleges and universities use English as the language of instruction. Mastering this language helps prospective students adapt to the international academic environment which eventually increases the opportunity of their graduates to get jobs later [2].

The English language allows individuals to communicate with people from different cultural backgrounds. This opens the door to intercultural understanding and tolerance [3].

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For example, English is commonly used in the tourism industry. Knowing English makes it easy to travel and interact with people in different destinations. Many famous works of art, music, films, and literature also come from English-speaking countries being proficient in English allows one to better understand and express creativity in this context. Therefore, being proficient in English today is very necessary.

English teaching in elementary schools in Indonesia already exists throughout the country [4]. The age of elementary school children ranges from 6 to 12 years old. Learning English at the elementary school level is one of the efforts to build a basic foundation for global Indonesian people, ready to compete in the international arena. Even though it is only an additional subject, learning English in elementary school can be created and continued to be developed by teachers. Various learning models can be carried out such as: running dictation, image media, word card media, total psychological response, guided note taking, bingo games, serial image media, audiovisual media, multimedia-based learning, roundtables, index card match, drill method, and reading aloud. English as a tool of expression requires high confidence for students, so it is important to build confidence among students during the learning process [5].

As one of the subjects taught to students in school, English needs to be taught using the right learning methods. The use of the right method will also make the learning process more enjoyable [6]. Learning methods are the main key in the learning process but the choice of learning methods can be dependent on teachers. Using improper methods in teaching English will make the teaching and learning process boring and difficult for students to understand. Appropriate methods that can be used is in the form of grammar translation methods to learning using media.

However, the key to the success of English learning lies in the interest of students [7]. To arouse that interest, learning must take place in an interesting way and involve the activeness of students. Therefore, the use of learning media is very important. With the use of media in English learning, it is hoped that learning can be more interesting for students. In addition, it can make it easier for students to understand English. With the existence and use of learning media, the process of teaching and learning activities is expected to be more effective and meaningful. Moreover, in this era of globalization, English seems to be a language that one must be proficient with to compete in the international arena. An example of English learning media is the use of YouTube videos [8].

Technology plays a very important role in the lives of today's people and can be used in various aspects of life. For example, people today tend to use technology in their activities and search for job information, complete work and even search for information through the internet [9]. The internet has developed rapidly, through internet media, everyone can access a variety of information that is useful for the development of each individual. Various information contained on the internet can be used as teaching materials and teaching materials from the internet are generally more up to date, so that many students are interested in reading and accessing it. One of the learning media available is YouTube. This media presents a variety of teaching materials, one of which is English media [10]. Learning in the form of visuals and attractive designs is very easy to access and can be downloaded for repetitive learning. Students will very easily absorb the information provided by the teacher if presented with attractive images and visuals. YouTube can be used as a learning medium for courses that are considered difficult for students.

The Digital Era requires teachers to be more creative in carrying out the teaching and learning process to meet the students' demands. Technological advances, especially the internet, have been in line with the demands of this internet generation, also known as Gen Z. The integration of the internet in teaching is imperative and it should be in accordance with the students' needs so that the learning process and learning outcomes will be optimal. The advantage of learning with videos is it presents visual and sound representations of an

event to students in the classroom. YouTube is one of the most popular video-sharing services on the internet today. With the inclusion of YouTube as one of the alternative learning media, it is hoped that students can improve their collaboration skills and integrate technology into educational programs. YouTube can also stimulate active learning and provide additional knowledge beyond expected abilities.

In the world of education, many stakeholders play a role in interacting with students in the context of teaching and learning [11]. Students, teachers, parents, and other academic staff all influence student learning and can play a role in developing academic skills. Many studies show that parental involvement in student achievement is important and is a mediating factor in academic outcomes [12], [13]. Parents' input as a whole is considered beneficial to students' education. There is a direct correlation between parental involvement and children's academic achievement; parents who have high expectations for their children often have children who achieve good academic results [14]. This positive association was stronger in younger children compared to older children. The role of parents in student education can change as children move from primary school to secondary school and to higher education. Therefore, the interaction between parents and children is very important, for example in learning English [15].

Oftentimes, parents assist their children in accomplishing their homework and mimic materials used by teachers to assist the learning of their children while they are at home. Parents become secondary teachers to their children. YouTube is a media that parents can tap to support the learning of their children. However, choosing appropriate videos from YouTube is something that parents can learn or can be guided with.

This study highlights the advantages that arise from the process of learning the English language, particularly when it is undertaken with the involvement of students' mothers through the use of YouTube as a media platform. Through the findings of this study, it is expected that a significant number of mothers will find inspiration to participate in their children's English language learning actively. This involvement is expected to be beneficial for the future lives of their children, equipping them with essential skills that will serve them well in various aspects of their personal and professional development.

## **2 Method**

This qualitative research was carried out in a neighborhood unit (RT) involving mothers who are members of family empowerment and welfare (PKK) in Yogyakarta. Data were collected through interviews. Phenomenology is used to explore the experiences of the participants. The research design is descriptive where the data will be narrated to provide a clear picture of the data produced.

This qualitative research investigation was carried out within a specific neighbourhood unit, known as RT, and it focused on mothers who are actively involved as members of the Family Empowerment and Welfare organization, commonly referred to as PKK, located in Yogyakarta. The data collection process involved the use of self-recorded journals maintained by the participants, as well as conducting in-depth interviews to gather comprehensive insights. These methods allowed for a rich qualitative analysis of the participants' experiences and perspectives. The self-recorded journals provided a personal narrative of daily challenges and successes, while the interviews facilitated a deeper exploration of the themes emerging from the journals. By using these data sources, the researchers were able to identify common patterns and unique stories that highlighted the significance of the PKK initiatives on family dynamics and community engagement.

Initially, the participants who registered were 19 mothers who had elementary school children in grades 3 to 4. However, only six mothers completed all stages of this research, which included recruitment, implementation of the research programs, and interviews. In the

implementation of the research program, participants were given selected YouTube links to learn English. Participants together with their elementary school children learned English using the selected YouTube videos for 15 minutes, three times a week, over a period of four consecutive week. The YouTube links were provided through a WhatsApp group with the mothers who later shared their comments and experiences about each experience they were going through. After completion, the six participants were included in the FGD to delve more on their experiences. Participants were given anonymity with the initials of Srikandi, Drupadi, Larasati, Arimbi, Kunti, and Sinta.

Participants were given anonymity, and randomly assigned codes replaced the initials of their first and last names. This approach ensured that their identities remained confidential while allowing researchers to track responses accurately. The study aimed to assess the impact of various psychological interventions on stress levels among college students. By using a mixed-methods design, both quantitative data from surveys and qualitative feedback from interviews were collected. This comprehensive methodology provided a deeper

### **3 Results**

#### **3.1 Mother and child learn new vocabulary and how to pronounce it**

Every participant expressed that they gained valuable insights from the YouTube links they actively followed and utilized. Through this engagement, they became increasingly aware of new vocabulary words, which in turn facilitated their learning of how to pronounce these terms correctly. Consequently, it is evident that the children are not the only individuals benefiting from the educational content presented in the YouTube videos; the mothers, too, experienced a form of incidental learning. As a result, they acquired new knowledge and insights, positioning them as learners in this educational process as well.

“I did not expect that I could pronounce words in English. We correct each other if we make a mistake in saying the words.” (Srikandi)

“It is a lot of fun to study with my son. One by one, we imitated and memorized the words we taught. It turns out that not only my child is learning, but I am also learning.” (Drupadi)

In addition, the pronunciation of the English words significantly differs from their spelling in Indonesian. This discrepancy necessitates that mothers closely monitor their children's pronunciation of the words they are acquiring. Larasati emphasized the necessity of monitoring her child's pronunciation of new vocabulary as demonstrated in the video, as illustrated in the following excerpt, “I study together with my daughter. It is indeed difficult because the pronunciation is different from the spelling. In that way, I noticed how she pronounced a word. Or even the opposite, she corrected me.” (Larasati)

#### **3.2 Mothers feel more aware of their children's learning interests**

By accompanying their children to learn, mothers can see their children's enthusiasm for the material they are learning. The six participants said that their children showed high interest when they studied with their mothers. This experience is important as mothers can provide appropriate support to their children's learning that contributes to the promotion of healthy development and the creation of a positive environment at home. Furthermore, this involvement can help mothers identify their children's unique learning styles and needs, allowing them to tailor their support accordingly.

“My son is very interested in being able to speak in English. This makes me happy. He puts an interest in learning and learning becomes easier. He is very excited.” (Arimbi)

“Before participating in this program, I was worried that my child was not interested. However, after studying together, she was very enthusiastic. I also became enthusiastic.”  
(Kunti)

### **3.3 Closer mother-child bond**

In addition, from the interview, the study revealed that the mother-child bond became stronger as the participants carried out activities together with their children. They find being engrossed when studying together. Practicing and correcting each other becomes a fun activity for them. In this case, learning at home can be seen as a method of bonding. In a relaxed situation, children become more confident in their use of the English language as they know that their mothers are also learning with them.

Additionally, when mothers engage in their children's education, it fosters a strong bond between them, which can enhance the child's motivation and self-esteem. Research indicates that children who receive active support from their parents are more likely to develop a love for learning and exhibit better academic performance. The following statements justify the findings:

“My daughter is always eager to learn English through YouTube. She always looks for me when it is scheduled. So, I increased to spend time with her. I became happier, and the child got closer to me.” (Sinta)

“We spend time together when studying. So, we got closer, especially because we spoke to each other in English. I know that it's funny. but we are very enthusiastic about learning.” (Larasati)

### **3.4 Mother and child know that smartphones are used for positive purposes**

By learning together, children can be more controlled in the use of smartphones. It has become easier for mothers to direct their children to use this gadget. In addition, the use of smartphones as a learning tool does not interfere with the needed parent-child interaction of growing children. Instead, it can enhance these interactions by providing opportunities for shared activities, such as educational games.

“Apparently, smartphones can also be very useful for learning. With YouTube, we really feel the benefits in learning English.” (Srikandi)

“YouTube, meaning a learning program using YouTube, is very useful for me and my child.” (Kunti)

Furthermore, when parents engage with their children in these activities, they can guide the learning process, helping to reinforce concepts and skills. This collaborative approach makes learning more enjoyable. As a result, the integration of technology in education as learning media can be a powerful ally in promoting both academic achievement and social development. With the right resources and support, technology can transform traditional learning into dynamic learning environments that cater to diverse learning styles and needs.

## **4 Discussion**

### **4.1 Language learning for early childhood**

Getting to know early childhood means understanding their physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development that continues to develop as they grow older [16]. By understanding early childhood and the different aspects that affect its development, we can more easily understand who they are and how to treat them appropriately. Knowledge of early childhood

is important for teachers to guide them, including in the teaching of foreign languages such as English. Therefore, an understanding of early childhood theory is necessary before learning the theory of teaching English to such children [17].

Several experts, such as John Dewey, have put forward theories about early childhood [18]. John Dewey argues that early childhood requires an active, interactive and child-centered learning facility. Children who have high confidence in themselves and their environment will be more adaptable. This trust is formed when a child feels physical, mental, and spiritual comfort around him from birth. This condition is very important for children in learning English. Vygotsky emphasized the importance of the process of language mastery in children through dialogue or conversation [19]. Through this interaction, adults transfer cultural knowledge to children. During the learning process, the language used by children becomes a tool for intellectual transformation. By imitating or repeating the speech of adults, children learn the language and culture of their parents. Vygotsky calls this process development through internalization. The opinions of these various experts explain the development of early childhood. Understanding early childhood thinking skills helps in introducing English to them.

In introducing English to early childhood, the use of songs, chants, and rhymes (songs and chants) can be applied [20]. The term song is often interpreted as a song or singing, while chant can be translated as yells that can add to the spirit. Rhyme means singing with a specific rhyme, which usually has the same ending sound on some or every line. Chant and rhyme can come from poetry. Songs and singing are very useful and effective activities for language learning for early childhood [21]. In language learning, this activity is very helpful, especially for children who are not able to produce language. Singing can improve language development and physical motor development, especially if the activity is integrated with music and movement (dance). Singing can also facilitate children with various learning styles, such as visual, auditory, and kinesthetic.

## **4.2 The importance of media like YouTube in learning English**

With the development of science and technology, the learning process has become easier and more practical. One example is the use of YouTube videos. Through videos, students can easily acquire English vocabulary mastery, both in pronunciation and word meaning [22]. With the help of an internet connection and devices such as smartphones, smart TVs, or laptops, learning becomes more effective.

Good learning media is not only able to increase students' motivation and desire to learn but can also overcome boredom during the learning process [23]. Therefore, the use of media is very important in the classroom. One of them is audio-visual media such as YouTube videos. Educators must develop learning media to train students' way of thinking, which can be done using information and communication technology that continues to develop. This is also a challenge for students in the future.

YouTube is a web-based video-sharing platform that facilitates users to share videos. Through this platform, students can better understand new vocabulary according to the learning theme given. Learning through YouTube videos turns out to have many benefits for students. At first, many students did not like learning English because of the differences in writing and pronunciation compared to Indonesian and other languages. In addition, many new vocabularies must be memorized, and proper pronunciation often makes students less confident in speaking if they are not taught by teachers or lecturers [24]. This problem can be solved through YouTube videos. After being given a video link through a WhatsApp group, students can listen carefully to the video and evaluate it through a Google Form to measure their progress. Students' confidence increases especially after the evaluation, as they can better understand new vocabulary, pronunciation, and meanings that fit the learning

context. In addition, they become more enthusiastic about learning because of the variety in learning methods.

### **4.3 The role of parents, especially mothers, in supporting children's English learning**

Parents play an important role in instilling foreign language literacy and other knowledge for children. In other words, parental involvement is very crucial in building children's interest in learning. However, as a foreign language, English literacy requires a specific approach that involves parents to help, motivate, and facilitate children to optimize their English literacy skills [25]. The decision to include foreign languages in the school curriculum comes from the real needs of parents and society. Children are beginner learners so parental involvement in learning at home is essential. English is an additional subject so in the learning process it must be interesting and meaningful. Learning English must be supported by the right learning resources, one of which is parents.

The development of global competencies, especially related to foreign language literacy, requires parental involvement, particularly in the early stages of learning. Parental involvement has to do with their role in raising and educating children at home at the early learning stages, teaching them to communicate effectively with good manners, and helping children at home to do schoolwork. The mother's educational background also has an impact on the quantity and quality of parental involvement in educating children.

## **5 Conclusion and Implication**

Engaging in the process of learning the English language together with Mothers through the platform of YouTube can be described as an enjoyable and entertaining educational experience. Moreover, this activity serves to foster a deeper and more meaningful connection between the mother and her child, which plays a significant role in the overall development of the child, particularly in the area of building the child's self-confidence. Additionally, this perspective reinforces the notion that the use of smartphones and online media platforms, such as YouTube, can yield beneficial effects on children's learning and development, provided that these tools are utilized in an appropriate and constructive manner.

However, parents need to monitor and curate the content their children consume to ensure it is age-appropriate and educational. Engaging with children during their screen time can also enhance the learning experience, as parents can discuss the material and encourage critical thinking. Moreover, setting limits on screen time is crucial to prevent overexposure, which can lead to negative effects such as reduced physical activity and social interactions. Establishing a balanced routine that includes both screen time and other activities, such as outdoor play, reading, and family interactions, is essential for healthy development. Parents can also model appropriate screen use by engaging with educational content themselves, demonstrating the value of learning through technology. Additionally, incorporating interactive and age-appropriate programs can further enrich children's understanding and retention of information, making screen time a productive activity rather than a passive one.

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