

Chapter I

Introduction

In this chapter, the writer will present the background of the research problem, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, theoretical framework, key terms, and organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

When you want to talk about children's world, there are so many things to be discussed and it will not be finished. One of the topics is how to teach them something, for example language. Language is a uniquely human activity and children are too. Because each child is unique, teachers cannot use the same way or technique to teach the child. They have to keep finding various ways to make the learning activities full of enjoyment without neglecting the purpose of the study itself.

Learning language is not just simply learning how to speak that language. Learning language means learning how to speak and also to write. For children, learning how to speak might be easier than to write, moreover to write in another language that the children do not know.

Brain is divided into two parts, left brain and right brain. Left brain has a function to control the right side of body, and right brain has a function to control the other side. Human's brain consists of millions of neurons that are still not connected when they are still young. Therefore, children still find some difficulties to control what they want to do, especially in writing. In

writing the connection of neurons and the cooperation of two sides' brain are needed in order to make a good and creative composition. Dr. Paul Dennison said "The skill of writing, like reading, is a manmade invention which requires a certain degree of adaptation to learn. Some find learning to write easy; others do not."

We all know that in this world people usually develop their left brains, and we know that most people write with their dominant right hand. The dominant hand performs better because the dominant brain, in this case left brain, exerts conscious control over it. Actually, Edu-K, a development program of mind body integration held by Dennison (1989), maintains that writing must become a right brain controlled task because right brain can help children to think more creatively.

As stated in <http://www.balanceworkssd.com/links.htm>, for balanced writing, the right brain and not the left brain must control the right hand. When the left brain is paying too much attention to the writing, when it should be attending to the thoughts to be communicated, switched-off writing and spelling result.

To solve the problems of children's writing, many experiments are done, and many new ways are developed. One of the ways is the Brain Gym method that was found by Dennisons (1989). In Brain Gym students especially children can do activities that help them to connect the neurons on both sides of the brain so that children can write a creative composition by activating those sides.

In <http://www.movingtogether.com.au/page/page3.html> stated that "Brain Gym enables children to learn anything faster and more easily."

In this study, the writer would like to apply Brain Gym on her own students in a Children English Course. The class which the writer teaches is a

very interesting class which has the active students. The students in this class are able to speak English more than to write. The writer realized that her students are still children who have brains that are still not perfectly connected. That is why they could not make a good composition. Therefore, the writer would like to analyze the effects of Brain Gym on students' Writing achievement so that it might be useful for another teacher who wants to develop their students' writing achievement.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the background of the study, the writer wants to find out the answer to the following problems:

Does Brain Gym improve the students' Writing Achievement?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The study aims at knowing whether there is any effect of Brain Gym on English achievement of children especially their Writing achievement.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Children's brains have many neurons that are still not connected. Basically, human's brains have a function to control every movement in human's body. Brain Gym has proved that not only brains can control the body but every specific movement can help people especially children to

control the brains and connect the million of neurons in the brain so that children can learn everything fast.

In this study, the writer hopes that it can give some contribution in teaching English to young learners especially to improve the students' writing achievement. Besides, it is expected that this study can provide new ways for teachers and children who have some difficulty in improving the writing skill.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of the study is Teaching English to Young Learners that focused on the technique of teaching Writing. The subjects are 7 students of Snoopy Class in Sentra Foreign Language Children English Course (6 – 12 years).

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study will be based on the theory of Brain Gym which is said that some activities can help children to connect both sides of the brain. Besides, this study will also be based on the theory of Teaching English to Young Learners that especially focuses on the teaching writing.

According to the Dennisons (1989), the right and left hemispheres must be coordinated. The front and back parts of the brain must also be coordinated. And the top and bottom parts of the brain must be coordinated, too. If the many areas in children's brain have been connected, it will be easier for the children to write a more creative composition. As it is said in the [Brain Gym website](#), "26 easy and enjoyable targeted activities that integrate body and mind to bring about rapid and often dramatic improvements in:

concentration, memory, reading, writing, organizing, listening, physical coordination, and more."

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

In the study, the writer used some terms. So, to avoid misinterpretation it is better to give a clear definition on the key terms used in the study. The key terms are:

Brain Gym

According to Dennisons (1997:2), Brain Gym is 26 simple and pleasant movements aiming at improving learning skills through the use of both brain hemispheres.

Writing Achievement

Achievement here means the students' progress in Writing using English.

Young Learners

Young learners are children who are between the ages of five and twelve years of age.

1.8 Organizations of the Study

This study will be divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction that includes the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the definition of key terms, the scope and limitation, and the organization of the study. The

second chapter will consist of the review of related literature. Research method will be presented in chapter three. While chapter four will deal with the data collection and findings. At the last chapter, the writer will draw conclusions and give some suggestions that may be worthy for the readers especially teachers and for the following related study.

Chapter II

Review on Related Literature and Study

Teaching English to Young Learners is not as easy as teachers imagine. So many things have to be thought about. Teacher cannot only think about how to give them materials but they also have to think about how to teach them in right ways. Besides, as a teacher of young learners, she has to know some issues related to children's overall development as well as their language development.

Working with children is a challenging activity since teachers have to provide them new ways of teaching continually. Therefore, Dennisons (1997) try to give the teacher a new method called Brain Gym to solve the problem that might occur in teaching and learning activities.

In this chapter, the writer mentions the theories that she uses to support her study. The first theory is about teaching Writing to young learners and the main theory is about Brain Gym itself.