The Implementation of Mimicry Memorization Method for Novice Students in Learning Arabic Mufradat

Nor Afifah¹, Sunarto², Moh. Fery Fauzi³*, Irma Anindiati⁴, Talqis Nurdianto⁵

¹ Arabic Education Study Program Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang, Indonesia
² Arabic Education Study Program Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang, Indonesia
³ Arabic Education Study Program Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang, Indonesia
⁴ Arabic Education Study Program Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Indonesia
⁵ Arabic Education Study Program Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Malaysia

Abstract: Students of junior schools that have never studied Arabic language in elementary schools get more difficulties than the students that have studied it before. They are called novice students and must learn basic things of a new language such as mufradat because they must master, memorize, understand, and use it in order to have a good grip of mufradat, translate it, and able to use it in correct phrases and sentences. This research aimed to investigate the effectiveness of using mimicry memorization method for learning mufradat in Junior High School of Muhammadiyah and to investigate the extent which students improve memorization skills after using mimicry memorization method. The research was a quantitative method with a type of experimental research techniques. The data research was collected from observation, documentation, and oral tests techniques. The population of the study included 7th grade students of Junior High School Muhammadiyah 8 Batu and the samples were 7C students as experimental class and 7D students as control class. The results of research contributed that there was an increase 0.825 (large level) point in students’ memorizing ability after using mimicry memorization method. This method was effective to use for novice students in learning mufradat. A language teacher needs to consider this method for novice students. The study provides further support for the use mimicry memorization method for novice students in mastering new vocabularies.

Introduction

Learning mufradat is very important for novice foreign learners because mufradat is the initial stage for learning Arabic and urgent for the four language skills namely listening, speaking, reading and writing.¹ In the fact, there are many students who get...
difficulty in mastering *mufradat* due to various factors and students’ backgrounds as happened in SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Batu. There are many students in VII grade of junior high school get difficulty in pronouncing *mufradat* and Arabic letters that are not Indonesian\(^2\) and memorizing *mufradat* in the process of learning in junior high school of Muhammadiyah 8 Batu. This is one of the problems which makes them difficult to learn Arabic. To ease the students in memorizing *mufradat*, teacher needs appropriate method that can increase the mastery of *mufradat*, whereas the *mufradat* is the important thing that have to be mastered to learn Arabic\(^3\) especially for novice students. Many people still assumed that learning Arabic is difficult\(^4\) because as foreign language, it is often a compulsory school subject.\(^5\) It has never been easier to design and develop a vocabulary teaching and testing.\(^6\)

The main practical problems that confronts us are the mastery, memorizing, understanding, and using vocabularies in phrases and sentences among the students of 7\(^{th}\) grade in junior high school of Muhammadiyah 8 Batu. These problems have attracted more attention in the field of Arabic *mufradat*. Unfortunately, this approach results in problems related to input and background of students that they studied in elementary schools. This is a basic chicken-and-egg problem because different input and background of students caused difference in learning outcomes of Arabic lesson. This leads to myriad problems that majority students graduated from Islamic elementary schools have studied Arabic lesson in their schools because Arabic lesson is one of compulsory lessons according to Indonesia’s instructional curriculum year 2013 called K13. The students that graduated from public elementary schools, generally, have not studied Arabic lessons. These problems have received substantial interest. The data of students’ schools background is explained in table 1.


Table 1. Students’ Educational Background and Input From Elementary Schools of 7th Grades of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Batu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Quantity of Students</th>
<th>Graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>171 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 above is data of Students’ Schools Background and input From Elementary Schools. It is known that the educational background of students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Batu in 7th is various. Total of students are 171 students. 156 students graduated from public elementary schools called Sekolah Dasar (SD) and 15 students graduated from Islamic elementary school called Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI). Students that graduated from Islamic elementary have studied Arabic lesson while students that graduated from public elementary schools have not studied Arabic lesson. It means that 156 students (91,22%) have never studied Arabic lesson in schools and only 15 students (8.77%) have studied it. This problem underlies the students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Batu difficult in learning Arabic especially in mastery, memorizing, understanding, and using vocabularies in phrases and sentences because among the majority of students learn new language for them that they can not write and read vocabularies. In order to rectify the problems, it needs special treatment with basic learning of Arabic language such as mufradat, pronunciation, and memorizing. It also needs special method and model of learning those basic skills of Arabic language.

Learning Arabic language in Indonesia mostly uses a traditional method\(^7\), that is oral method. This learning method is conducted by presenting material through oral explanation by a teacher to his students. In addition, based on observation made by researchers, mufradat learning in SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Batu also does not get specific time for mastery of mufradat. Teachers tend to ignore and directly teach the main

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material in the book. Based on interview with Arabic language teachers, *mufradat* is considered as something that can be mastered by students without any time and special learning. Teachers forget that novice students need special treatment.

It is a complex problem based on the abovementioned phenomenon and to simplify it requires appropriate method in teaching and learning process. There are many methods that teacher can use to achieve learning objectives because a teacher has a very important task in the process of learning activities. One of methods that can be used by teacher in order to make the activity of learning and teaching better is mimicry memorization method especially for novice students. Based on the abovementioned problems, a teacher is expected to be able to analyze the problems that occur in students and the source of problem. Teachers are also required to be more professional in choosing methods and managing the teaching and learning process. However, there are still many teachers who use the lecture method in teaching Arabic specifically teaching *mufradat* that cause no increase in students' understanding of learning Arabic.

With this phenomenon, the researchers used mimicry memorization method as a method in learning *mufradat* for novice students. Mimicry means repetition and memorization means the process of committing or learning something to memory because the field of language teaching and learning is in dire need of replications of vocabulary.\(^8\) This method is often called with information-drill method, because the exercises are not done only for instructor but also for an informant native speaker (native informant). The kind activity in this method is demonstration and exercise/drilling grammar/sentence structure, speech practice, and practice using vocabulary, by imitating native speaker. In drilling, native informant acts as drilling master, he says a few sentences and the students imitate him several times until they memorize in their memory.\(^9\) The phenomenon whereby successful retrievals from memory contribute to greater long-term retention than unsuccessful retrievals.\(^10\)

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In term of Arabic, this method can be called with *Thariqah al-Muhakah wa al-Mudhaharah*. So, this method is a learning method which more emphasis to imitate and memorize or a process to remember everything with the strength of memory. In mimicry memorization method, students impersonate what they heard from their teacher about *mufradat* and also the sentence than they impersonate it repeatedly. The purpose of this repetition is student able to pronounce *mufradat* and sentence fluently and correctly because repetition training is a common method of vocabulary instruction in which learners repeat. Besides that, they are easier to remember it without they realize.

Based on the researchers’ exploration, there are several previous studies relating to this research. Sholeh has conducted a research entitled “*Penerapan Metode Mimicry Memorization dalam Pembelajaran Al-Kalam Bagi siswa kelas XI Madrasah Aliyah Darul Qur’an Gunung Kidul Tahun Ajaran 2014/2015 Academic Year*”. This study aimed to determine the implementation of mimicry memorization method in learning Kalam and the level of effectiveness for XI MA Darul Qur’an Wonosari Gunungkidul students in academic year 2014/2015. Other studies were research of Zahera in 2012. This study aimed to describe the increase of students’ motivation in the subjects of *Tahfizul Qur’an* with mimicry memorization method for Short Surahs Material for 3rd grade students of Elementary School 006 Limau Manis Kampar Regency.

Other relevant studies were conducted by 'Ain in 2016 with the aim to describe qualitatively the implementation of mimicry memorization method in learning *Mufradat* at MTs. Ash-Syafi‘iyyah Jatibarang Brebes Regency. Ghofur et al conducted research on the effect of communicative language teaching and audio-lingual method as another name of mimicry memorization on English speaking skill across different learning styles.

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Herawati\textsuperscript{18} used mimicry memorization or audio-lingual method to improve English speaking skill of students in English Department. Ekawati\textsuperscript{19} conducted research on the effect of TPR and audio-lingual method in teaching English vocabulary. Bidenko and Bespalova\textsuperscript{20} applied mimicry memorization to teach Ukrainian as a foreign language. Matamoros-González\textsuperscript{21} compared the grammar-translation, audiolingual, communicative and natural approaches for English language teaching.

Previous studies indicate that the Mimicry memorization method can improve learning outcomes in learning. The difference between previous research and this research is the application of the method of mimicry memorization in Arabic learning related to learning \textit{mufradat}. The novelty of this research in particular is Mimicry memorization which is applied to mufradat learning. Mimicry memorization method can be applied to all foreign languages, Arabic is no exception. Arabic is one of languages learned in Indonesia. Arabic is taught as a main subject at public schools, Islamic boarding schools, \textit{madrasahs} and at the university level because Arabic has a very important role especially for Moslems as a language of knowledge, a language of communication\textsuperscript{22}, social adaptation\textsuperscript{23}, language for many Islamic spiritual knowledges\textsuperscript{24} and books that have traditionally been an essential part\textsuperscript{25} and foundation of learning\textsuperscript{26}, such as \textit{tafsir}, \textit{hadith}, \textit{fiqh}, \textit{tauhid}. The application of mimicry memorization in learning

Arabic especially for memorizing mufradat is expected to be able to develop one's ability in Arabic. The objectives of this study were partially met by developing and implementing a mimicry memorization method to learn *mufradat* effectively in Arabic teaching and learning process for novice students. Generally, novice students in Arabic learning for this study have never studied Arabic language so they are disable to read and write Arabic letters. The contributions made here have wide applicability. The key contribution of this work is a method solution to learn Arabic *mufradat* effectively for novice students because it demonstrated the feasibility and the effectiveness level of using mimicry memorization method for novice students in learning Arabic *mufradat*.

**Method**

This study was conducted in Junior High School of Muhammadiyah 8 Batu during 3 months, from January to March 2019. This study aimed to obtain data about the effectiveness of mimicry memorization method for *mufradat* learning. It also aimed to determine the significance improvement of students’ ability in memorizing Arabic *mufradat* after using mimicry memorization method. The research method of this study was quantitative method. Generally, sampling techniques was carried out randomly. Data collection were conducted by using research instruments, data analysis were conducted quantitatively or by using statistical data analysis with the aim of testing the hypothesis that had been established.\(^{27}\)

The research design was experimental research using Nonequivalent Control Group Design which was one of Quasi Experimental Designs. In this design, there were two groups selected with certain considerations. First, it was the number of students who were almost the same and the second, examination scores of students were almost the same. The first group was given treatment (X variable) and the other groups did not receive any treatment. The pre-test results were considered if the score of experimental groups was not significantly different.\(^{28}\) The students’ experimental group were given treatment by using mimicry memorization method in learning. Other groups were not experimented with mimicry memorization method.


\(^{28}\) Sugiono Sugiono, 116.
Data collection techniques that used in this study were observation, oral tests, and documentation. The data were resulted from the score of pre-test and post-test. Data analysis techniques were conducted by using normality test to find out whether the research data that used was normally distributed or not, by using Shapiro Wilk with a significance score level <0.05. If the scores were lower than 0.05, the data were not normally distributed. If the significance score was >0.05, the data was normally distributed. Then, the research data were tested using the T-test (two free samples) to test whether there were differences between the two samples. If the data were assumed normally distributed and the probability was 0.05, the hypothesis (H0) was rejected. If the probability was > 0.05 then the hypothesis (H0) was accepted. The effect size test was conducted to to find out the significance of the effectiveness of mimicry memorization method for student learning outcomes in mufradat learning.

Result and Discussion
The Effectiveness of Using Mimicry Memorization Method for Mufradat Learning

After conducting data collection, data needs to be analyzed. Before analyzing data, researchers used normality test to find out whether the data was normal or not by using Shapiro Wilk. If the significance level is <0.05, the data is not normally distributed. If the significance level is >0.05, the data is normally distributed. Then, the data was tested using t-test (Independent Sample T-Test) to find out whether the method was effective or not for mufradat learning.

Normality Test (Pre-Test)

Normality Test (Pre-test) was conducted in control group and experimental group. The test aimed to find out whether the data that had been obtained by researchers were normally distributed or not. The test was conducted by using Shapiro Wilk and SPSS 22. For more details, the result of research was displayed in table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Shapiro-Wilk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-test Results</td>
<td>VII Grade Students of C Class</td>
<td>.897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VII Grade Students of D Class</td>
<td>.893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to table 2, the normality test of mufradat pre-test using Shapiro Wilk obtained significance score for VII grade students of C class (experimental class). The score was 0.010. The significance score at mufradat pre-test for VII grade students of D class (control class) was 0.006. The score of both of classes were higher than 0.05 and it could be interpreted that the experimental class and the control class at the mufradat pre-test section were normally distributed.

**Normality Test (Post-Test)**

Normality Test (Post-test) was conducted in control class and experimental class. The post-test was conducted to find out whether the data that had been obtained by researchers was normally distributed or not. It was conducted by using Shapiro Wilk and SPSS 22. For more details, the result of normality test for mufradat post-test was displayed in table 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Shapiro-Wilk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post-test Results</td>
<td>VII Grade Students of C Class</td>
<td>.896 28 .009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VII Grade Students of D Class</td>
<td>.893 30 .006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to table 3, the results of normality test at the post-test using Shapiro Wilk test for VII grade students of C class was .009. The significance score at post-test for VII grade students of class D (control class) was .006. It could be interpreted that the experimental class and the control class was normally distributed because the score was higher than 0.05.

**Conducting T-Test**

After obtaining results that control class and experimental class were normally distributed, then t-test was conducted. T-test was used to determine the effectiveness level of mimicry memorization method by the assistance of SPSS 22 using Independent Sample T-test with significance level of 0.05. The following was the formulation of hypothesis:

\[ H_0 : \text{Mimicry memorization method was not effective for } \text{mufradat learning} \]
\[ H_1 : \text{Mimicry memorization method was effective for } \text{mufradat learning} \]
The analysis technique in this study used the Independent Sample T-Test with the help of SPSS 22. It is used to test whether there is an average difference between the two free samples assuming the data whether normally distributed with the provisions that if the probability < 0.05 then the hypothesis (Ho) is rejected, if probability > 0.05 then the hypothesis (Ho) is accepted.

Table 4. Independent Sample Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levene's Test for Equality of Variances</th>
<th>T-Test for Equality of Means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Outcomes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal variances assumed</td>
<td>4.064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal variances not assumed</td>
<td>3.047</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table 4 explains the learning outcomes of the control class and experimental class after using mimicry memorization method. In Levene’s Test for equality of variances, there is no difference in variant with F = 4.064 and p = 0.49. The data is not homogen and equal because Sig: p < 0.05. It means that there is difference in variant on learning outcomes between experimental and control class. From table 4, data is taken from data equal variances not assumed because there data is not homogen and equal. The result of t-test for equality of means in table 4 showed that the value of sig. (2-tailed) is 0.04. The score is less than 0.05 (0.04 < 0.05). It means that there is difference learning outcomes between the control class and the experimental class after using mimicry memorization method.

Feng and Webb\(^29\) resulted on their research that L2 incidental vocabulary learning occurred through reading, listening, and viewing, and the gain was restrained in all modes of input one week after encountering the input. However, no significant differences were found between the three modes in the posttest indicating that each mode of input yielded similar amounts of vocabulary gain and retention. Feng and Webb’s result is different from this study of learning Arabic vocabulary with a treatment of mimicry memorization method. This research had significant level of vocabulary acquisition for novice students because the students were treated by repetition and systematic method. This significance

differs from previous research. This fact can be compromised with the theory cone of learning experience by Edgar Dale. Experience of verbal receiving, visual receiving, receiving and participating, and doing in learning process will increase learning outcomes and purpose.

Significance Level after Using Mimicry Memorization Method in Mufradat Learning Effect Size Test

Effect size test was used to find out the effectiveness level of mimicry memorization method toward students’ learning outcomes. The students’ score by using effect size is shown in table 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5. Effect Size of Students’ Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sd Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N  Valid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Deviation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tabel 5 shows that the standard deviation of students’ score was 19,799. The score was rounded to twenty (20). The average score of experimental class was 79,5 and control class was 63. In accordance with the formula that had been determined, it can be counted that (79,5 – 63) : 20 = 0,825 (seventy nine point five minus sixty three then the result is divided by 20 equals zero point eight two five). The score 0,825 is interpreted based on the table of effect size criteria in table 6 in order to know the level of effect of the research on mimicry memorization method toward students in Arabic mufradat learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 6. Criteria of Effect Size (d)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criteria of Effect Size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d &lt; 0,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0,2 &lt; d &lt; 0,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d &gt; 0,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Effect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 describes the category and criteria of effect size, the higher the score of Effect Size (ES), the higher effectiveness of mimicry memorization method on *mufradat* learning. If the range score of effect size criteria is less than 0.2, the category is small. If the range score of effect size criteria is 0.2 or more and less than 0.8, the category is average. If the range score of effect size criteria is bigger than 0.8, the category is large. Based on criteria of effect size in table 5, the results of counting could be concluded that the point of effectiveness of mimicry memoriation method for *mufradat* learning in Junior High School of Muhammadiyah 8 Batu was 0.825. According to table of effect size criteria, the obtained score was included in the category of large effect.

This research indicated the mimicry memorization method was effective for Arabic *mufradat* learning as *mufradat* is fundamental to comprehending and producing a second language. This method can be used and designed for training of four language skills and competency or core academic language skills (CALS), they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing because vocabulary acquisition involves learning words as the by-product of an activity, tools to develop someone's language skills, and made from encounters in meaning-focused input relatively small. There are five-step model of Arabic *mufradat* learning through mimicry memorization method, they are: 1) encountering a new word, 2) getting a clear visual image of the word, 3) connecting the form and the meaning, 4) consolidating the form-meaning link, and 5) using the learned words.

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At first glance, the benefits of mimicry memorization method for Arabic *mufradat* learning seem considerable and can improve students’ vocabulary. Learning vocabulary through simultaneous reading and listening such as mimicry memorization method, is more efficient than through reading and listening alone\(^\text{37}\) even though vocabulary size estimates should be interpreted with great caution.\(^\text{38}\) However, there are disadvantages to this method, which requires lengthy teacher planning time. The realities of classroom life suggest that teachers do not have time to prepare the kind of varied and extensively rich lessons necessary\(^\text{39}\) for mimicry memorization method for Arabic *mufradat* learning.

The implementation of mimicry memorization method for Arabic *mufradat* learning is suggested to use appropriate strategies and ways for teachers in building students’ motivation and mental because language development is a complex mental process.\(^\text{40}\) Sometimes students need to be motivated when they learn Arabic *mufradat*, because the students of 7th grades in junior school are from different input. Among students graduated from public elementary school and the rests graduated from Islamic elementary school. Students that graduated from public elementary school sometimes did not learn Arabic lesson, in contrary, students that graduated from Islamic elementary school learnt Arabic lesson. Based on the abovementioned process of mimicry memorization method, it is suggested to teachers to provide students opportunities to develop deep understanding of words. This process may spend 30 minutes a day teaching vocabulary. Therefore, teachers need to choose carefully which Arabic *mufradat* to teach\(^\text{41}\) and to measure vocabulary acquisition.\(^\text{42}\)


\(^{41}\) Patricia A. Herman and Janice Dole, 51.
Conclusion

The basic result of this research are generally consistent with research hypothesis that mimicry memorization method for mufradat learning in Junior High School of Muhammadiyah 8 Batu was effective to use for Arabic mufradat learning. The effectiveness of mimicry memorization method for mufradat learning was on large level and could be used for Arabic mufradat learning. This method was effective to use for novice students in learning mufradat because they get many experiences in mimicry memorization with various strategy. A language teacher needs to consider this method for novice students. Future researchs are necessary to validate the kinds of conclusions that can be drawn from this study such as developing strategy in vocabulary learning. Further research also can be conducted to examine this methods for intermediate and advance students whether this method of mimicry memorization are still hold true for learning Arabic mufradat.

Acknowledgment

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