This article discusses the quality of language exploitation mastered by elementary school children represented by texts they produced in a story telling activity. Twenty one students in Surakarta were selected purposively as research subjects. They were selected under several considerations such as being students of elementary school in Surakarta class 4 and 5, being able to read in Bahasa Indonesia, being interested in reading stories, and willing to be interviewed. They were asked to tell a story based on a wordless story book entitled frog, where are you?. Text structure and text texture of the stories produced by the students are the components which were analysed to measure the students' language exploitation quality. The result shows that all subjects have already mastered the strategies of constructing the structure of a narrative text. They contain at least three obligatory discourse units of narrative text, such as orientation, complication, and resolution. Meanwhile, they made several grammatical errors such as wrong selection of conjunctions, using too many conjunctions in a sentence, and putting wrong conjunctions. Moreover, some children use some 'mature' words showing that they are lexically more advanced than other children. It is hoped that parents and teachers can benefit from the findings for the children’s improvement in language acquisition.

Keywords: language exploitation, language acquisition, text structure, and text texture

Abstract

Tulisan ini membahas kualitas olah bahasa yang diperoleh anak usia sekolah dasar yang direpresentasikan oleh teks sebagai hasil kegiatan bercerita. Sebanyak 21 anak usia sekolah dasar di daerah Surakarta secara purposive dipilih sebagai subjek penelitian. Kriteria yang menjadi dasar pemilihan adalah status mereka sebagai siswa sekolah dasar di Surakarta, jenjang kelas 4 dan 5, kemampuan membaca teks berbahasa Indonesia, mempunyai kesukaan membaca cerita, dan bersedia diwawancarai. Mereka diminta bercerita berdasarkan sebuah buku cerita bergambar tanpa narasi dengan judul...