



## JOYFUL LEARNING APPROACH IN INCREASING MOTIVATION TO LEARN ENGLISH IN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF SAN FABIAN, PHILIPPINES

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### ABSTRACT

*Joyful learning is a learning approach that prioritizes joy and pleasure in the teaching and learning process. In the context of learning English as a second language, the application of joy learning is expected to increase students' motivation and interest in learning English. This research aims to analyze the implementation of happy learning in learning English as a second language at San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines. This research uses a descriptive qualitative research approach. The data source for this research is the English teacher at San Fabian Elementary School, totaling 1 teacher and 25 students in grade 1 elementary school. Data collection techniques were carried out combined through interviews, observation and documentation. The data analysis technique in this research was carried out by data triangulation. The results of this research state that the implementation of the Joyful Learning approach has brought more positive and enjoyable English learning for students at San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines. This approach not only increases students' understanding of learning material but also increases their learning motivation. With this approach, students can learn English more effectively and have fun. Apart from that, implementing joyful learning can also create a positive and enjoyable learning environment where students can feel comfortable and confident in communicating in English.*

**Keywords:** *Joyful Learning, learn English, Learning model.*

### ABSTRAK

Joyful learning merupakan pendekatan pembelajaran yang mengedepankan keceriaan dan kesenangan dalam proses belajar mengajar. Dalam rangka pembelajaran bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa kedua, penerapan joy learning diharapkan dapat meningkatkan motivasi dan minat siswa dalam belajar bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis implementasi pembelajaran gembira dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa kedua di Sekolah Dasar San Fabian, Filipina. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah guru Bahasa Inggris SD San Fabian yang berjumlah 1 guru dengan siswa kelas 1 SD yang berjumlah 25 siswa. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan secara gabungan melalui wawancara, observasi dan dokumentasi. Teknik analisis data pada penelitian ini dilakukan dengan trigulasi data. Hasil penelitian ini menyatakan bahwa penerapan pendekatan Joyful Learning telah membawa pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris yang lebih positif dan menyenangkan bagi siswa di SD San Fabian, Filipina. Pendekatan ini tidak hanya meningkatkan pemahaman siswa terhadap materi pembelajaran, tetapi juga meningkatkan motivasi belajar mereka. Dengan pendekatan ini, siswa dapat belajar Bahasa Inggris dengan lebih efektif dan menyenangkan. Selain itu, penerapan joyful learning juga dapat menciptakan lingkungan belajar yang positif dan menyenangkan, di mana siswa dapat merasa nyaman dan percaya diri dalam berkomunikasi dalam Bahasa Inggris.

**Kata kunci:** *Joyful Learning, belajar Bahasa Inggris, model pembelajaran.*

**Received: 14 March 2023**

**Revised: 1 May 2023**

**Accepted: 4 May 023**

*How to cite:* Rahmawati, I.Y.,et.al (2024). *Joyful Learning Approach in Increasing Motivation to Learn English in Middle School Students of San Fabian, Philippines*. ELITE: English and Literature Journal,10(1). 63-73.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Second languages, or languages learned after a first language or mother tongue, are a common phenomenon in multilingual societies. In the Philippines, English is a second or foreign language that plays an important role in education because it is considered a global language (Santos et al., 2022) . English education plays an important role in the Philippines because it is considered a global language (Espino et al., 2021) . According to (Rao, 2019) English is a global language because it is studied and used for communication in various countries, either as a first language, a second language, or a foreign language. In the Philippines, English is taught as a compulsory subject from elementary school to college (Espino et al., 2021) .

English education in the Philippines is important for several reasons (Muin & Mirsah, 2016) . First, it gives Filipinos a competitive advantage in the global job market. English language skills are highly valued by multinational companies and organizations, and having a strong command of the language opens up more opportunities for employment and career growth. Second, English education promotes cultural exchange and understanding. English serves as a bridge between different cultures and allows Filipinos to connect.

At the age of 6-12 years, or at the elementary school level, learning English is very necessary. By starting to learn English from an early age, students will more easily master it at the next level of school (Mustopa et al., 2019) . In addition, at ages 6-12, the ability to learn foreign languages is easier because the brain area that regulates language skills experiences rapid development. According to Jean Piaget, vulnerable children aged 6-12 have begun to master almost all types of sentence structures, starting from long, irregular sentences, which will gradually become shorter and more concise sentences (Çakıroğlu, 2018) . The elementary school period is also often referred to as the critical period (Nelson & Gabard-Durnam, 2020) . At this time, students' abilities in cognitive processes, creativity, and divergent thinking are at optimal conditions ( Holis, 2016 ) . This is the right time to introduce English to students.

Learning English from a young age has many benefits. First, children at this age have a high absorption capacity. They more easily absorb new information and master complex grammar. During this critical period, children's brains are also more flexible in learning new sounds so that they can master English pronunciation better (Rabillas et al., 2023) . Apart from that, learning English from an early age can also improve students' critical thinking skills and creativity ( Cosgun & Atay, 2021) . English has a different structure from its mother tongue, so students need to think more abstractly and logically when using this language. This can train critical thinking skills and

broaden students' horizons. Apart from the cognitive benefits, learning English from childhood can also open up career opportunities in the future. English is an international language used in various fields, including business, technology, and tourism. By mastering English from an early age, students will have a competitive advantage in the world of work later (Piper et al., 2018) .

In order to create English language learning that is fun and can increase children's learning motivation, the right approach needs to be used. Teachers must use fun and interactive methods, such as games, songs, and stories. This will make students more enthusiastic about learning English, and students will feel more motivated and confident in learning English. In English language learning, Joyful Learning is a combination of various strategies that create an effective learning environment. This involves implementing the curriculum, delivering material, and facilitating the learning process so that student learning achievement increases (Maming et al., 2023) . Joyful Learning also provides space for learners to express themselves in meaningful learning activities, avoiding feelings of pressure during learning (Gumiandari & Nafi'a, 2021) . A fun and exciting learning approach, known as joyful learning, has been proven to be effective in reducing students' fear and boredom in learning English.

At San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines, the implementation of a joyful learning approach has made English learning more positive and enjoyable for students. With this approach, students can associate learning material with real things in their daily lives, thus making learning more relevant and meaningful. Research conducted by Sufiani & Marzuki, (2021) supports the use of the Joyful Learning approach in learning English. This research states that this approach creates a learning atmosphere that is free from pressure and coercion by involving students as learning subjects. In this approach, students can learn with relaxation and a high level of attention with the help of interesting learning media. Apart from that, research conducted by (Mustopa et al., 2019 ) also supports the use of the Joyful Learning approach in learning English. The results of this research indicate that this approach is effective in increasing students' understanding of learning material and increasing their learning motivation.

This research will discuss fun and exciting learning approach methods at San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines. With this method, it is hoped that San Fabian Elementary School students can feel more motivated and enthusiastic in learning English. They will have the opportunity to learn in a fun and interesting way, which can improve their understanding and mastery of English.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative research approach with research methods used to examine natural objects where the researcher is the key instrument (Sugiyono, 2022) . This research was conducted on February 10, 2024, and February 12, 2024. The research location was at San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines, which is located at **HWW4+QM4, Santo Domingo, 3133 Nueva Ecija, Philippines**. The data sources for this research are the English teacher at San Fabian Elementary School, numbering 1 person, and the 1st grade elementary school students with 25 students. Data collection techniques were carried out through interviews,

observation, and documentation. The data analysis technique in this research was carried out by data triangulation. The results of the research data and information will be analyzed using descriptive analytical techniques.

The data analysis process begins with data reduction, namely grouping and categorizing data into predetermined categories. Next, the data is presented in the form of a narrative description that provides an overview of the situation being studied. The final step is drawing conclusions and verification, where the researcher bases himself on all the data that has been collected.

## **FINDING**

Learning English is important in education. However, students often feel bored and unmotivated in this learning process. Joyful learning is one approach that can be used in the world of education. Joyful learning is a learning approach that emphasizes joy and pleasure in the learning process (Sufiani & Marzuki, 2021) .

This method combines elements of games, music, and creative activities to create a fun learning atmosphere (Amelia, 2023) . In learning English, the joyful learning method can be used to increase students' motivation and strengthen their understanding of (Mustopa et al., 2019). One of the main advantages of the joyful learning method is its effect on students' psychology (Kamil & Safrul, 2023) . In a fun and joyful atmosphere, students tend to be more open and relaxed, which allows them to absorb information and understand English concepts more easily (Ashfaq, 2020) . Apart from that, the joy felt by students can also increase their motivation to continue learning and developing their English language skills.

Material according to Sufiani & Marzuki, (2021) , there are several things that a teacher must pay attention to if they want to implement a joyful learning approach. These things include:

### 1) Learning must be meaningful

Teachers must be able to provide learning that can multiply learning through student experiences. By providing direct experience to students, they can better understand and absorb the material being taught. For example, in science lessons, teachers can invite students to carry out experiments or direct observations in nature. That way, students can experience the concepts being taught for themselves and make learning more meaningful for them.

### 2) Memory strengthening

Teachers must carry out repetition and practice regularly to strengthen students' memory. By repeating the material that has been taught, students can remember and understand better. Teachers can use various methods, such as repetition through practice questions, educational games, or the use of interesting visual media. Strengthening memory is very important because it can repeat the forgetting process that often occurs in students.

### 3) Feedback

Teachers must provide opportunities for students to re-construct if there is an inaccurate or incorrect understanding. By providing constructive feedback, teachers can help students improve

their understanding and avoid making the same mistakes in the future. Feedback can also open students' horizons and encourage them to think critically. Teachers can provide feedback through class discussions, individual assignments, or formative assessments.

Based on the results of observations made at San Fabian Elementary School in the Philippines, there are four main stages in implementing learning using the Joyful Learning approach to learning English. The following is the process of implementing learning using the Joyful Learning approach for learning English, which consists of four stages, namely:

1) Preparation phase

In the preparation stage, teachers provide motivation to students so that they can get out of feeling stressed and become interested in learning. These motivational words aim to raise students' enthusiasm for learning.



Image: Learning preparation stage

2) Delivery stage

Next, at the delivery stage, the teacher delivers learning material that is relevant to students' daily lives. This material is associated with the knowledge that students already have previously. Teachers also use various interesting media to support learning, such as songs, flashcards, clay and videos. For example, in learning the alphabet, teachers use songs as a learning medium. Meanwhile, in learning to recognize colors, teachers use games such as water painting.



Image: process of delivering material

Apart from that, San Fabian Elementary School also holds special activities such as Parents Day, Independent Day, and Halloween parties. On parents' day, parents of students who work as doctors come to school and explain about their profession and show the equipment used. Students

also participate by wearing professional costumes. Activities like this provide students with hands-on experience and make learning more interesting.



Image: During a fashion show at the Parents' Day event

### 3) Training stage

In the training stage, learning is designed in such a way that students feel like they are playing. The method used can be a quiz or other method that attracts students' attention. Apart from that, pictures or animations are also used to make students interested and happy in learning. To increase student activity, prizes and praise are given to students who are active in the quiz. Prizes given include stamps and stars. However, if students make mistakes, they will receive punishment. The punishment is separation from class and having to sit alone in silence. Usually, punishment is given if a student hurts another student.



Image: Learning practices at San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines

### 4) Closing stage

At this stage, the teacher and students together conclude the learning that has been obtained. Closing the lesson is done with words that are pleasant to the students. Learning evaluation is carried out through Show Me with Colors interviews and practical exams.

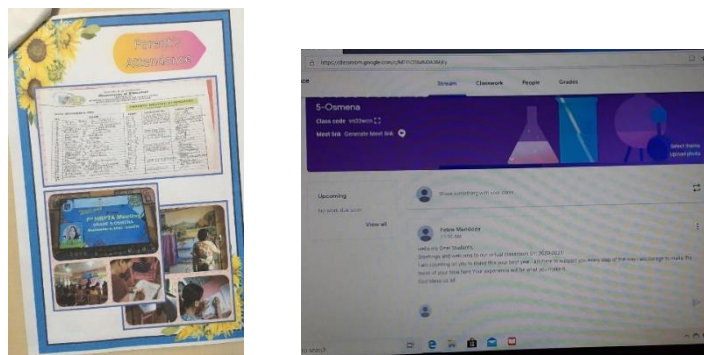


Image: form of assessment of student learning outcomes

By implementing a joyful learning approach to learning English, students at San Fabian Elementary School can learn more positively and have fun. They can associate learning material with real things in their daily lives. This approach also helps students to stay interested and motivated in the learning process. By implementing this joyful learning approach, it is hoped that students can learn more happily and actively.

## **FINDING**

In the world of education, teachers have a very important role in providing meaningful and memorable learning for students. One method of approach that is fun and memorable for children is often known as the Joyful Learning approach. Fun learning or Joyful Learning is a learning approach that involves various aspects and feelings (Ashfaq, 2020 ). In this learning, teachers and students feel happy and comfortable in the teaching and learning process. According to ( Kamil & Safrul, 2023 ). Joyful Learning is a learning process that has strong cohesion between educators and students, without feeling forced or pressured.

Joyful Learning combines various learning strategies, concepts, and practices (Amelia, 2023). This approach includes meaningful learning synergy, contextual learning, constructivism theory, active learning, and student development psychology. By combining these elements, Joyful Learning creates a positive and enjoyable learning environment. Meaningful learning is one of the important aspects of Joyful Learning. In this lesson, students are invited to relate the material studied to the experience and knowledge they have. In this way, students can see the relevance and usefulness of what they learn in everyday life.

In English language learning, Joyful Learning is a combination of various strategies that create an effective learning environment. This involves implementing the curriculum, delivering material, and facilitating the learning process so that student learning achievement increases (Maming et al., 2023) . Joyful Learning also provides space for learners to express themselves in meaningful learning activities, avoiding feelings of pressure during learning (Gumiandari & Nafi'a, 2021) . A fun and exciting learning approach, known as joyful learning, has been proven to be effective in reducing students' fear and boredom in learning English.

Joyful learning creates a learning atmosphere that is free from pressure and coercion by involving students as learning subjects. In this approach, students can learn with relaxation and a high level of attention with the help of interesting learning media (Ashfaq, 2020) . Joyful learning places students at the center of learning by giving them the freedom to explore and discover English knowledge in a fun way ( San Jose & Madrigal, 2023 ). In a relaxed and positive atmosphere, students feel more confident and motivated to learn. They no longer feel burdened by pressure to achieve perfect results but instead focus on a fun learning process.

At San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines, the implementation of a joyful learning approach has made English learning more positive and enjoyable for students. With this approach, students can associate learning material with real things in their daily lives, thus making learning more relevant and meaningful. One of the main advantages of the joyful learning approach is its ability to maintain student interest and motivation in the learning process. In learning English,

students often feel burdened with monotonous and uninteresting tasks. However, with this approach, students can learn in a more interactive and fun way. For example, in vocabulary learning, teachers use games and activities that actively involve students. Students can play card games to remember new words or participate in role-playing games to practice using words in real contexts. This way, students not only learn new vocabulary but also develop their communication skills.

Apart from that, the joyful learning approach also allows students to learn English in a more integrated way with their daily lives. For example, in grammar lessons, teachers can use examples that are relevant to students' lives, such as illustrating how to use verbs in sentences that describe their daily activities. In this way, students can see the connection between English and their own lives, making learning more meaningful. Apart from that, the joyful learning approach also creates a positive and inclusive learning environment. Teachers at San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines, encourage students to work together and support each other in the learning process. In this way, students feel more comfortable and confident in expressing their opinions in English.

Joyful Learning approach has brought positive changes in English language learning at San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines. With this approach, students can associate learning material with real things in their daily lives, maintain student interest and motivation, and create a positive and inclusive learning environment.

Research conducted by Sufiani & Marzuki, (2021) supports the use of the Joyful Learning approach in learning English. This research states that this approach creates a learning atmosphere that is free from pressure and coercion by involving students as learning subjects. In this approach, students can learn with relaxation and a high level of attention with the help of interesting learning media. Apart from that, research conducted by (Mustopa et al., 2019 ) also supports the use of the Joyful Learning approach in learning English. The results of this research indicate that this approach is effective in increasing students' understanding of learning material and increasing their learning motivation.

Joyful Learning approach places students at the center of learning by giving them the freedom to explore and discover English knowledge in a fun way. With this approach, students can feel more involved in learning and can more easily remember and apply what they learn. In conclusion, the implementation of the Joyful Learning approach has brought more positive and enjoyable English learning for students at San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines. This approach not only increases students' understanding of learning material but also increases their learning motivation. With this approach, students can learn English more effectively and have fun. Apart from that, implementing joyful learning can also create a positive and enjoyable learning environment where students can feel comfortable and confident in communicating in English.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Joyful Learning approach has been implemented well and can be used as an effort to improve English learning for students at San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines. With this approach, students not only improve their understanding of the learning material but also. Students



at San Fabian Elementary School showed significant improvements in their understanding of English learning materials. They also showed increased learning motivation and interest in learning English. In conclusion, the implementation of the Joyful Learning approach has brought more positive and enjoyable English learning for students at San Fabian Elementary School, Philippines. This approach not only increases students' understanding of learning material but also increases their learning motivation. With this approach, students can learn English more effectively and have fun. Apart from that, implementing joyful learning can also create a positive and enjoyable learning environment where students can feel comfortable and confident in communicating in English.

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