

FRIENDLY CHARACTER FORMATION THROUGH THE HABIT OF 5 MAGIC WORDS (EXCUSE ME, SORRY, PLEASE, PLEASE, THANK YOU) IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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Abstract. This study examines how the 5 magic words (excuse me, sorry, please, please, thank you) in RA Diponegoro Gandasuli Bobotsari Purbalingga form a friendly character. This descriptive-naturalist research is a type of qualitative research. This is due to the fact that the author did not engineer the data or facts studied. Principals, teachers, children, and guardians of students are the subjects of the research. Observations, interviews, and documentation are used to collect data. The results of the study show that in RA Diponegoro Gandasuli, three types of habituation, namely routine habituation, spontaneous habituation and exemplary habituation are used to build a friendly character through 5 magic words (excuse, sorry, please, please, thank you). These three habits make for a friendly child. Familiarity with others helps children become self-aware, caring for others, disciplined, independent, socially sensitive, and able to create a comfortable and safe school environment.

Keywords: 5 magic words, habituation, routine, spontaneous, exemplary, friendly.

INTRODUCTION

Early childhood character formation is very important because at that time, children are in a very rapid development stage and are vulnerable to the influence of the surrounding environment (See also Archives, 2017). Character formed at an early age will form the basis for children's behavior and mindset in the future. Therefore, the role of parents and educators in shaping early childhood character is very vital. By forming a good character at an early age, children will have a strong foundation to face various challenges in the future (Andhik, 2021).

Excuse me is a polite expression to ask for permission or apologize before doing something. Sorry is used to apologize for the mistakes that have been made. Please is a word used to give permission or allow someone to do something. Please is used to ask for help or help to others. Gratitude is an expression of gratitude for the help or kindness given by others. These five magic words are the key to shaping early childhood character to become a polite, caring, and empathetic person for others (Syamsul Hadi, 2013). By understanding and internalizing the meaning of these five words, children will get used to behaving well and respecting others from an early age.

This will help them to become better individuals in the future, because being polite and caring for others is a very important value in daily life (Ibda, 2012). In addition, by teaching children to say words such as permission, please, and thank you, they will also learn to appreciate cooperation and collaboration with others more (Wrap & Dateoran, 2023). Thus, it is important for parents and educators to set an example and guide children in understanding and applying these values in daily life.

This study aims to find out the extent to which the use of these five magic words can affect early childhood behavior in interacting with others. Thus, it is hoped that the results of this study can contribute to efforts to form better early childhood character in the future. It is hoped that by internalizing the meaning of these five words, children will get used to behaving well and respecting others from an early age (Kuswanto et al., 2021). This study aims to find out the extent to which the

use of these five magic words can affect early childhood behavior in interacting with others. Thus, it is hoped that the results of this study can contribute to efforts to form better early childhood character in the future.

Habituation activities designed for children can contribute to the formation of children's character (Saifa Fauzia Noor Anaya & Viyani, 2022). In the implementation of these habituation activities, children can immediately know about goodness and do various good deeds. The knowledge of goodness will be seen directly by the child through habituation activities carried out by himself or others (Setiawan, 2019). So it can be said that in early childhood habituation activities, they will gain knowledge about the virtues visually, not orally through the provision of explanations of the virtues.

By making observations and practicing what they see, early childhood will more easily learn kindness. Kindness must be done repeatedly through habituation activities if they want to become individuals of character (Jasmana, 2021). This habit will encourage children to do good.

Knowledge of goodness can be instilled in children through habituation activities, so that children can become individuals with character. Knowledge of goodness based on values such as independence, discipline, honesty, obedience, diligence, friendliness, and so on can be instilled in early childhood. Social values such as friendliness may be one of the most important values in building their character. Because of the friendliness that exists in children, they can develop social-emotional that can make them tolerant, communicative, caring for others, and love to work together (Saadah et al., 2020).

It is very important for the next generation in Indonesia to have a friendly nature today. This is a result of the stagnation of hospitality in Indonesia. The problem of infriendliness of the Indonesian people today is easy to find. The results of the study even show that adolescents' unfriendliness to others is the cause of increased bullying among adolescents (Ramadhani et al., 2016). Many parties have tried to make children become good people, one of which is a child-friendly school program. In the child-friendly school program, various habituation activities and environmental settings are carried out. These activities have the potential to grow, nurture, and cultivate a friendly character in children. The results of the study show that habituation is the most important thing to build a friendly character in children. The results of the research are in line with the work of RA teacher Diponegoro Gandasuli. This research aims to explain the formation of friendly character through the habit of excuse, sorry, please, please, thank you (5 magic words) in RA Diponegoro Gandasuli Bobotsari Purbalingga because the teacher at RA wants to form the character of children.

There are several studies that are related to the author's research. First, a study conducted by Leny Nuraini, et al. entitled "The Effectiveness of the Child-Friendly Sekolah Program can Improve Early Childhood Character". The research discusses the effectiveness of child-friendly school programs in improving early childhood character (Nuraeni et al., 2019). The research and the author's research both examine efforts to form a friendly character in children. The difference is that in Nuraini's research, the formation of friendly character can be done through the opening of a child-friendly school program, while in the author's research, the formation of friendly character in children can be done through the habituation activity of 5 magic words.

Second, the research of Syifa Fauziah and Novan Ardi Wiyani entitled "Formation of Friendly Character Through the Habit of Smiles, Greetings, Greetings, Politeness, Manners (5S) in Early Childhood". His research is aimed at describing the formation of friendly character through the habituation of smiles, greetings, greetings, politeness, and manners (5S) (Saifa Fauzia Noor Anaya & Viyani, 2022). The research and the author's research both examine the efforts made by the PAUD institution in forming a friendly character in children. The difference is if the research discusses the formation of friendly character through 5S (greetings, smiles, greetings, politeness, politeness) while the author's research makes a program of 5 magic words habituation activities to form friendly character in early childhood

Third, Ilen Putri Handayani and Hasrul's research entitled "Analysis of Teacher and Parent Partnership in the Formation of Children's Character Based on the 2013 Curriculum in High School". The research is aimed at finding out the partnership between teachers and parents in shaping children's character (Handayani & Hasrul, 2021). The research also examines efforts to form friendly character in children. Meanwhile, the difference is if the research makes the high school level as the object.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a descriptive-natural qualitative research. This is due to the fact that this study will describe various facts and findings directly from natural conditions without using an engineering process (Moleong, 2007). This study was carried out at RA Diponegoro Gandasuli, which is located on Jalan Kenanga RT 03/RW 03 Gandasuli village, Bobotsari district, Purbalingga district, Central Java.

This study collected data from the head of RA, classroom teachers, and children in class B2 RA Diponegoro Gandasuli, with the following considerations: (1) Parents of students in class B2 have been studying at RA for the longest time; (2) Teachers of class B2 interact with children the longest from the lower grades. It is hoped that researchers can collect data from classroom teachers about the role of teachers in the character education process through the habituation of 5 magic words (excuse, sorry, please, please, thank you); (3) The Head of RA Diponegoro Gandasuli, related to the concept of habituation of saying 5 magic words (excuse me, sorry, please, please, thank you) in the school environment.

Interviews, observations, and documentation are the methods used to collect data. Interviews and observations collected primary data on the implementation of the 5 magic word habits (excuse me, sorry, please, please, thank you), and documentation collected secondary data about the habit (suggestion, 2012). Furthermore, the triangulation technique of data sources is used to test the validity of the collected data. Furthermore, the Miles and Huberman model data analysis technique is applied, which includes the stages of data verification, presentation, and reduction (Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M, 2014).

CONCLUSION

Research and discussion on the formation of friendly character through excuse, sorry, please, please, thank you (5 magic words) in children at RA Diponegoro Gandasuli Bobotsari Purbalingga was considered successful. This is proven by child-friendly behavior displayed in schools, families, and communities. Schools and parents have the same perspective on the importance of educating children. In addition, the habituation of the 5 magic words is carried out synergistically and continuously through routine, spontaneous, and exemplary habituation.

This study discusses how habituation of 5 magic words can be effective in forming friendly characters. Other factors such as environment and experience also play an influence in character formation, so it is important to increase awareness of the importance of communicating with good words. In conclusion, the formation of a friendly character through the habituation of 5 magic words (sorry, excuse me, please, please, thank you) can indeed have a positive impact. As such, it is important for individuals to consistently use these magic words in their daily interactions so that a friendly character can be well formed. In addition, the surrounding environment can also affect the way a person communicates and behaves, so it is important to create an environment that supports the formation of positive character. With awareness of the importance of communicating with good words, it is hoped that people can pay more attention to the use of these 5 magic words in daily life to create a harmonious and empathetic relationship.

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