

Developing Socialization Processes in Early Childhood Through Playing

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Abstract Playing and children are a unity that is commonly claimed in many places. Playing and children are like a whole for both traditional and modern games. Nowadays, children prefer modern technology-based games which can be played at home without meeting other friends. In fact, interacting with friends can have a positive impact on the socialization process of children. This socialization process will slowly emerge when children play with their friends and hence traditional games are the right choice for this process. At the same time, traditional games that are slowly displaced by technological developments will indirectly be preserved again if we start to play it again. The method used in this paper is literacy study. The purpose of this paper is to train the children's socialization process using traditional game, which is slowly being forgotten as a tool to increase children's socialization process.

Keywords Traditional games, socialization, early childhood

1. Introduction

As the time goes by, it is increasingly difficult to find children who are playing various traditional games that were previously played by their parents. The shifting of times requires humans to follow the changes so as not to be left behind. This change occurs in various aspects, namely social changes, economic changes, technological changes, changes in the education system and many more (Suneki S, 2012).

This change also has changed the habit of gathering and socializing between communities. Nowadays children are happier when playing with their modern technology-based games thus traditional games are slowly disappear and just becoming an ancient game that is no longer played.

Children are individuals who play most of the day. Early childhood is the main character in control when playing. They can spend half of their day only for playing.

Playing has many benefits for early childhood development since playing can train their physical motor development, socialization, language skills, and many other benefits.

As we know, humans are social beings who cannot survive without the help from others. As social creatures, they surely have to socialize with other humans. Human life is accompanied by two main instincts, namely the desire to be one with the humans around them and the instinct to become one with the natural elements in an effort to meet their daily needs (Soerjono S, 2000).

Changes in technology and culture lead humans to be independent individuals in a sense that they can do everything by themselves. However, this has a negative impact on people's social habits or daily lives.

Socialization is the process of interacting and meeting different people at any time, this process is done face-to-face or in person. Socialization has many positive impacts on humans. However, the current development tends to make individuals reduce the intensity to socialize with others.

Playing can be a solution to reduce those social gaps between children. Playing traditional game is also highly recommended because traditional games usually involve many members for each game.

We can make traditional games as a medium for the development of the socialization process in early childhood. The socialization process in children is a natural process that every child has as they will know, ask, and seek answers to their own questions. It is in this process that the child has indirectly learned from the games he is playing. In addition, the children also preserve the traditional game culture that are passed down from their ancestors.

2. Methods

This literature search is based on various sources such as books, journals, and articles. The literature is then reviewed and used as a writing reference, assisted by Mendeley and PDF Reader. From this collection of literature, all discuss the sociological processes of children, early childhood and traditional games as the final conclusion of this paper.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Early childhood

The definition of early childhood in general is children under the age of 6 years. The age between 0-6 years is still classified as the age of children in Indonesia. Meanwhile in other countries, childhood reaches the age of 8 years, related to the existing curriculum.

National Education System Law no. 20 of 2003 explains that early childhood education is an effort to foster education shown to children from birth to six years of age which is carried out through providing educational stimulus to assist physical and spiritual growth and development so that children have readiness to enter further education. Early childhood is divided into three stages of development; The first is infancy, birth-12 months, the second is *Toddler (Toddler)*, 1-3 years old, the third is *Early Childhood / Pre-school*, ages 3-6 years, and there is one advanced stage, namely the early grade of elementary school, ages 6-8 years.

The limits used by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and experts in general are: Early childhood "Early childhood" refers to children from birth the age of eight. Hence from the moment the child is born until he reaches the age of 6 he will be categorized as an early childhood.

Meanwhile, the essence of early childhood is a unique individual where it has a pattern of growth and development in the physical, cognitive, socio-emotional, creativity, language and communication aspects specifically according to the stages the child are going through. From various definitions, the researchers concluded that early childhood is children aged of 0 to 8 who are in the stages of growth and development for both physically and mentally.

Childhood is known as the *Golden Age of* cooking or the "golden age" of children. The time when all the nerves and intelligence of children develop very rapidly and the time when the growth of billions of cells in the brain. At this time the child will need a lot of stimulus and stimulation for him to learn and prepare for the future. This golden age will reach its peak when the child is 2 year-old, where the child's memory ability will work very well and the child's response ability will also reach a good state. This period will affect the adolescence of children. According to several studies, children will tend to be smarter if in their childhood they are given enough stimulation or stimulus compared to children who are not given enough stimulus or even when they are young.

Played

Playing is a problem that has been researched by several experts because modern researchers believe that playing has many benefits. "Playing activities are activities carried out on the basis of fun and without seeing the final result. Activities carried out voluntarily, not being forced or pressured by other parties. With playing activities, children become happy. And at the same time children also be able to learn something. Playing and learning for children especially in early childhood is very important because by playing while learning will increase various kinds of potential ". (Mutiah D, 2015)

From the quote above, we can interpret that giving stimuli to children is very influential for the future and the behavior of the environment around the child. The social environment of the child affects the social processes of the child.

Likewise with the world of children's play, he will learn about many things through the media of play "play is also an essential requirement and need for early childhood, through playing children will be able to satisfy the demands and development needs of the dimensions of motor, cognitive, creativity, language, etc. emotional, social, value, and attitude to life" (Moeslichatoen, 2006: 27). Games also apply to every child throughout the ages, have a context of social and spontaneous relationships, play is also a means of communication with peers and the environment. (Ismatul Khasanah, 2011: 94)

Social Process

The first early childhood social process that children got is from the family. The family is their first environment that they observe, they imitate and they make as character builders. Family has an important role in shaping the character of children, regarding the recognition of good and bad things and about the outside world.

Social development is the acquisition of the ability to behave in accordance with social demands (Hurlock 1978), and as a sequence of continuous changes in individual behavior to become mature social creatures (Abin SM, 2002). The process of social development takes place through a process of socialization, namely a social learning process that lasts a lifetime (*lifelong process*), starting from the time the individual is born to death. In this socialization process children will receive supervision, restrictions, obstacles and encouragement, stimulation and motivation from their social environment. Through experiences and other human influences, children will be formed into social persons, as responsible citizens of society (Vembriarto, 1990).

Traditional game

Various experts have examined the benefits of playing for children.

Table 1. Modern Theories of Play.

Theory	Role Play in Child development
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Psychoanalytic	Overcoming traumatic, <i>coping</i> of frustration
Cognitive-Piaget	Practicing and consolidating previously learned concepts and skills
Cognitive-Vygotsky	Advancing abstract thinking; learning in relation to ZPD; self-regulation
Cognitive-Burner / Sutton-Smith Singer	Advancing abstract thinking; learning in relation to ZPD; self-regulation
Other theories: <i>Arousal modulation</i> <i>Bateson</i>	Keep children awake at optimal levels by increasing stimulation Promotes the ability to understand different levels of meaning

Traditional or traditional games are games played by children in ancient times and are usually done in groups. Traditional games tend to use simple tools that are available in their surroundings. Traditional games also mostly force children to move, solve problems, and understand existing play patterns.

Sukirman in Edy Waspada argues (2014: 16) that the definition of traditional games is children's games made from simple materials according to cultural aspects in people's lives. Traditional games are also known as games that strengthen children's social relationships with peers or as social media.



Picture 1. Gerobak Sodor

Name of the game: Gerobak Sodor

Play equipment / tools: Chalk or Kreweng, used as tile for drawing.

Number of players: Divided into 2 teams (1 team contains 4 –6 more children).

How to play:

Initial step:

1. Create a play area out of chalk or kreweng.

2. Make 1 large rectangle in a wide area and divide it into 6/8 of equal sides.
3. Divide the player into 2 teams equally.
4. Play rock-paper-scissor to determine who will play first.
5. Each child will be on the horizontal line and 1 special child will be on the vertical line.
6. Opponents will try to get past the children's fortress that is in the line without being touched, if touched then the game is deemed to be defeated and will change with the losing team.
7. Players must circle 6 blocks in sequence, if the player is already in the box then the guard must not touch it.
8. Touching is only allowed when the opponent is in a vertical and horizontal line.
9. The final win will be calculated from the number of children who leave untouched by the opponent.

The game can be used as a medium for the development of the socialization process in early childhood. Gerobak Sodor must be played in groups or members of at least 6 children. The values that can be taken from the sport of Gerobak Sodor are the importance of socializing with friends, managing strategies, agility, speed, teamwork and much more. This is an example of a variety of traditional games that can be used as a medium for early childhood socialization processes.



Picture 2. Biyak

Name of Game: Biyak or Byak

Play equipment / tools: Chalk or kreweng and gancok or stone.

Number of players: Unlimited, but it is more fun when be played together

How to play:

Steps:

1. Draw a pattern in the form of 3 stacked squares joined by 2 squares, then 1 more square and 2 lined squares, plus 1 square and can be topped with a half circle shaped mushroom head.
2. Play rock-paper-scissor to determine who will play first.
3. Each child must have 1 bait or *gancok* to play with, this can be a stone or a *kreweng*.
4. The flow of the game is that each square can only be stepped on by one foot, if you are in 2 squares lined up then both legs will go down together, but there are exceptions if you have reached the top you can drop all the legs.
5. The hook will be moved with the foot and if the hook is in one of the squares than any player cannot step on it.
6. If a player steps on a square where there is a hook, it is considered a failure and will repeat it from the beginning.
7. Determination of the winner is the player who reaches the top first than his friends.

Playing biyak or byak can be a traditional game that can be a medium for children's socialization, when one child is playing the other child will wait for their turn to play, while waiting for their turn the child will tend to chat with other friends and there is a process of interaction between children. This game trains children's balance, dexterity, children's memorization power, physical, and stimuli. There are still many other traditional games that can be used as media for the development of early childhood social processes.

4. Conclusion

Playing is a natural process to develop children development. Children will tend to like all things related to toys. With the change of age, children often play various modern games and leave traditional games. It worries us as adults about the socialization process of children. The occurrence of the children's socialization process is an important role in actualizing their social development. Social development is the acquisition of the ability to behave according to the social demands. By playing, children will get to know their surroundings better hence traditional games are the right answer for these problems. Traditional games will become a medium for children in the process of developing socialization. Apart from being a media for developing the socializing ability of children, playing traditional games can also be a step in order to make the nation proud as to preserve the culture of Indonesia's ancestors. We should be proud to have a very diverse culture. There are many kinds of traditional games such as Gerobak Sodor and Biyak. I hope that as agent of change we will always continue to preserve our indigenous cultures.

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