

IMPROVING STUDENTS' READING SKILLS AND CROSS CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH STORYTELLING IN BASIC READING CLASS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM OF FBS UNY

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at (1) describing how storytelling method can improve the reading skills and cross cultural understanding of the students of English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Yogyakarta State University in the academic year of 2017/2018, (2) describing the procedure for implementing the method, (3) identifying the challenges in implementing the method.

This is an action research and the first semester students of English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Yogyakarta State University become the subject of the study. The action was done in three cycles where each consists of two meetings. The procedures conducted in each cycle are planning, acting, observing and reflecting.

The results show that (1) the storytelling method is effective to improve students' reading skills as well as their cross cultural understanding with 4.89 improvement average score. The activities of reading stories, understanding the stories or making up stories are not so serious that students find they are fun. Besides, understanding other countries' cultures through stories also make them enjoy the class as they do not only listen to teacher's explanation or read books but also actively participate in discussions and find other people's cultures in stories. (2) The method was implemented by inviting students to read short stories, discuss the plots and do some tasks to improve their reading skills then they discuss or do some activities related to other countries' culture contained in the story. (3) Some major challenges in implementing this method are: many students feel that the class is not too serious dan not focus, there are many students who are really passive in the class so that there are only several students who actively participate in the discussion, it is time consuming and some students think that the progress is too slow.

Kata Kunci: *storytelling, reading, cross cultural understanding, Basic Reading course*