

Bringing Traditional Literature to Life: Implementation of Pantun Literacy among Children in Sanggar Bimbingan Ampang, Malaysia

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Abstract: Literacy pantun is a form of oral literature that not only functions as entertainment but also as an educational tool for improving children's language skills and critical thinking. This study aims to implement pantun literacy as a learning strategy in Sanggar Bimbingan Ampang, Selangor, Malaysia, to improve the literacy skills of children of Indonesian migrant workers (TKI). The method used in this program involves a participatory approach by introducing pantun, language games, practice of pantun, and pantun competition. The program was designed so that children can learn fun while remaining rooted in Malay culture, which is rich in moral values. The results demonstrated that pantun literacy improved the children's language skills in terms of vocabulary, sentence structure, and creative thinking. Children who were initially less interested in literacy activities began to show greater interest in reading, writing, and communicating orally through pantun. The program also increased children's

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confidence in public speaking and strengthened their understanding of Indonesian culture, even though they grew up in an environment with more exposure to foreign cultures. The conclusion of this activity demonstrates that pantun literacy can be an effective strategy for improving children's literacy skills through a culture-based approach. The success of this programme will encourage the integration of pantun literacy into language-learning in education centers and formal schools. For further development, support is needed in the form of providing adequate resources, training for educators, and utilizing digital technology so that pantun literacy can continue to be preserved and utilized as an innovative and interesting learning tool.

Keywords: Pantun Literacy, Guidance Studio, Children

Introduction

Literacy is a basic skill that every individual must master from an early age. Literacy skills not only include reading and writing as well as understanding, interpreting, and communicating information effectively. One form of literacy that plays an important role in the field of education is literary literacy. Literary literacy includes various forms of work, including pantun, which is a Malay cultural heritage that is rich in educational and moral values. Pantun is not only used as a medium of entertainment but also as a means to increase creativity, language skills, and social and cultural values in children ([Kagitcibasi & Ataca, 2015](#); [Riany et al., 2017](#)).

In the midst of technological developments and the flow of globalization, the existence of pantun as part of oral culture is starting to be marginalized. Children tend to be more familiar with instant digital content than with oral literature that requires understanding and creativity. This condition is also experienced by Indonesian children who are visiting other countries, such as in Sanggar Bimbingan Ampang, Selangor, Malaysia. As part of the Indonesian diaspora community, children at this studio face challenges in maintaining their cultural identity, including in understanding and appreciating traditional literature such as pantun ([Bartosh et al., 2023](#); [Salleh, 2011](#)).

Sanggar Bimbingan Ampang is a place of learning for children of Indonesian migrant workers (TKI) in Malaysia that aims to provide informal education, including in the aspect of literacy. However, limited resources and conventional learning methods hinder efforts to improve children's literacy skills there. Therefore, innovation is needed in the learning process that can attract children's interest and help them develop literacy skills in a fun and meaningful way ([López-Escribano et al., 2021](#)).

This Community Service Program (PKM) is here as a solution to overcome these problems by implementing pantun literacy as a learning strategy. Through a participatory approach, children will be invited to understand the structure of pantun, play with words, and compete in creating and reading pantun. This learning enhances creative thinking skills, enriches vocabulary, and fosters self-confidence in communication. In addition, this program also functions as a means of preserving culture that can strengthen children's attachment to Indonesian literary heritage ([Fatmawati, 2021](#); [Sagita Krissandi et al., 2023](#)).

With this program, it is hoped that children at the Ampang Guidance Studio will be able to learn, understand, and appreciate rhymes as part of the richness of Malay culture. In addition, the results of this program can serve as a reference for educators and communities in developing effective culture-based learning methods. Through the implementation of pantun literacy, children not only gain better language skills but also have a higher awareness of the importance of preserving national culture.

Research Method

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach ([Mavhandu-Mudzusi et al., 2022](#)), which aims to describe in depth the process of implementing pantun literacy for children in Sanggar Bimbingan Ampang, Selangor, Malaysia. This method was chosen because it can provide a broader understanding of how pantun literacy is applied in learning and its impact on children's literacy skills ([Cln & Iro, 2013](#)).

In this study, the source triangulation technique was used as the data validation technique. Source triangulation is a data-collection technique that uses the same technique to obtain data from the same source ([Taherdoost, 2021](#)). In this study, the researcher used the Miller–Huberman data analysis model, which can be seen in the following figure 1.

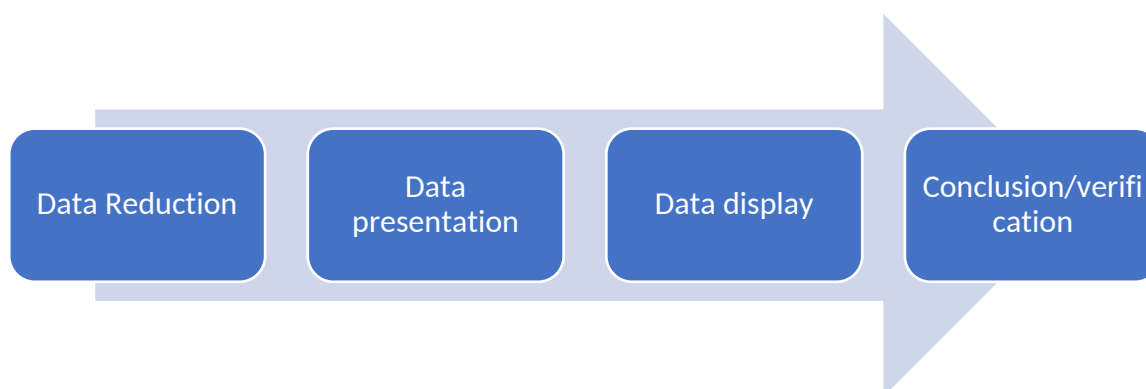


Figure 1 Miller Huberman Model Data

Results and Discussion

Implementing Pantun Literacy in Children's Learning at the Ampang Guidance Studio:

The Concept of Pantun Literacy as a Learning Medium

Pantun literacy is a form of literary literacy that has high educational value, especially in developing children's language skills. Pantun teaches systematic thinking patterns because it has a clear structure, namely, sampiran and isi. In addition, pantun functions as a means of strengthening cultural and moral values that are passed down from one generation to the next. In the context of children's education, pantun can be used to improve reading, writing, and creative thinking skills ([Bagastian et al., 2023](#)).

In the midst of globalization and technological developments, culture-based literacy is becoming increasingly marginalized. Children are more exposed to digital content that often does not pay attention to local cultural aspects. Therefore, introducing pantun literacy into the learning process can be an effective strategy for developing language skills while preserving culture ([Gorski, 2016](#)).

Profile of the Ampang Guidance Center and Children's Literacy

Ampang Guidance Studio is an informal learning place for the children of Indonesian workers (TKI) in Selangor, Malaysia. In this studio, children receive additional education that focuses on academic learning and social skills. However, limited resources and a lack of innovative learning methods are challenges in increasing children's literacy there.

Initial observation results show that children at the Ampang Guidance Studio have literacy skills that still need to be improved, especially in understanding and applying elements of oral literature. The lack of interaction with native Indonesian culture is also a factor that has made them less familiar with pantun, a part of Malay literature ([Rohizan et al., 2020](#)).



Figure 2 Pantun literacy Activities

Implementation of Pantun Literacy

To improve children's literacy skills through pantun, this program uses a participatory learning method that involves active interaction between facilitators and participants. Several implementation steps in this program include: First, in Introduction to Pantun: Children are given an understanding of the basic concepts of pantun, including its structure, rhyme, and meaning. Second; Creative Games: Children are invited to play with words through pantun arrangement and pantun guessing games to improve their memory and creativity. Activities; Pantun Competition: Children are given the opportunity to create and read their own pantun as a form of self-expression and strengthen their self-confidence. Reflection and Discussion: The activity ends with a reflection session in which children are given the opportunity to share their experiences in learning pantun and understand the values contained therein ([Ab Rahman & Mahamod, 2022](#)).

Program Results and Impact

After the implementation of this program, several positive impacts were observed: Improved Language Skills: Children became more fluent in composing words and understanding good language patterns through pantun. Increased Creativity: This activity encourages children to think creatively when composing rhyming and meaningful sentences. Increased Self-Confidence: Through pantun competition, children become more courageous when speaking in public and expressing their ideas more confidently. Cultural Preservation: This program has succeeded in fostering a sense of pride in Malay culture among Indonesian diaspora children in Malaysia ([Wijayanti et al., 2023](#)).

Overall, the implementation of pantun literacy at the Ampang Guidance Studio demonstrates that a culture-based approach can be an effective strategy for improving children's literacy skills. This program not only enriches children's language skills and contributes to the preservation of Malay culture in the Indonesian diaspora community.

Conclusions

The implementation of pantun literacy at Sanggar Guidance Ampang, Selangor, Malaysia has shown positive results in improving children's literacy skills. Through various interactive methods, such as introduction to rhymes, creative games, rhyme practice, and rhyme competitions, children not only learn to understand the structure of rhymes but also develop their creativity and confidence in language. The results of this study indicate that pantun literacy can be an effective strategy for improving children's language skills, especially in terms

of creative thinking, vocabulary enrichment, and systematically training speaking skills. In addition, this program also contributes to preserving Malay culture among Indonesian diaspora children in Malaysia so that they remain attached to the nation's cultural heritage. The success of this program is also influenced by the active involvement of teachers, facilitators, and parents. Challenges faced in implementing this program, such as the lack of resources and children's initial interest in literacy, can be overcome with a fun and culture-based learning approach. Thus, a culture-based literacy approach, such as pantun, can be an interesting and meaningful learning alternative for children. In the future, this program will continue to be developed with further support in the form of integration into the curriculum, training for educators, and the use of digital learning media. In this way, pantun literacy can be preserved while serving as an effective learning strategy for improving children's literacy skills.

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