Chapter 27

Fun and Mobile Sal: Learn Idioms with Quizizz

Yasmine Liong Pui Kwan Abdullah\(^1,2\), Alia Nathara Abdullah\(^1,3\), Peremalatha Govindasamy\(^1,4\) & Melor Md. Yunus\(^1\)

1. Fakulti Pendidikan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
2. Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah Kuala Pilah Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Tasik
3. Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Tasik
4. Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Saujana Impian

rizulhisham@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The importance of the English language is undeniable as it is widely used in the world of globalisation. It is not an easy task for Malaysian students to acquire the language as they are learning the English language as their second and for some, foreign language. There are four skills to be acquired in the English language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Out of the four skills, writing is a difficult skill to be mastered by ESL students. If it is difficult to write sentences in English, it is even more difficult to use idioms in their writing. They need to have idioms in their writing when they answer the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) 1119/1 paper. Idioms are to enhance their essays so that they will be scored higher by their teachers. Not many students are able to use suitable idioms in their essays. Hence, teachers play an essential role in helping their students to be competent users of idioms by selecting and providing easily accessible and suitable materials for them. This is where self-access learning (SAL) plays an important role. Looking at the current advanced technology, students should be able to access these learning materials at their own time, place and pace. Learning should be flexible, but it should be effective as well. It is still self-access learning, but the mobile way using Quizizz. Therefore, this creative and innovative way is developed to see if Quizizz is useful in helping 27 Form 5 secondary school students from a suburban school use idioms in their essays. Findings and discussion are based on the number of idioms used before and after they have completed the quizzes.

Key Words: English as Second Language (ESL), flipped classroom, idioms, self-access learning & mobile learning
1. INTRODUCTION

The English language is a global language widely spoken in most of the parts in the world. Realising the importance of the language, the Ministry of Education of Malaysia (MOE) introduced the MBMMBI (Memartabatkan Bahasa Malaysia Memperkukuh Bahasa Inggeris) policy in 2010. The English language is considered a second most important language which is being taught as a second language and for some parts of Malaysia such as Sabah and Sarawak, as a foreign language (Yamat, Farita, Umar, Muhammad, & Mahmood, 2014). Their competence in the language is tested when they sit for Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) in secondary school. They need to display the use of idioms, proverbs and high-level vocabulary in their essays.

However, acquiring the writing skill which is a production skill is not easy, especially for ESL pupils (Fareed, Ashraf, & Bilal, 2016; Gedion & Peter, 2016; Ismail & Mohd. Shah, 2015; Nusrat, 2016; Raimes, 1983; Saadiyah Darus & Kaladevi Subramaniam, 2009). According to Raimes (1983), pupils learn to write in the language through the learning of grammar rules, idioms and vocabulary. Teachers do not teach idioms in isolation so pupils need to add on to their knowledge of idioms and the usage at the cost of their own time. This is where self-access learning (SAL) comes into the picture.

Most of the schools have a self-access learning centre. SAL materials are commonly hardcopy materials such as worksheets, photostated exercises, printed materials and others. Hence, we came up with a creative and innovative way for students to practice their idioms via Quizizz. Quizizz is a kind of mobile learning which is a flexible way for them to learn without the presence of a teacher.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

ESL pupils are expected to know the grammar rules, idioms and the vocabulary of the English language before the acquisition of writing skill (Raimes, 1983). Idioms are a part of the English language syllabus in Malaysia. Pupils are expected to know idioms as idioms are taught in both primary and secondary schools. They need to demonstrate the use of idioms in their essays to qualify them for higher scores when they answer the 1119/1 paper for SPM. Idioms are referred to as a type of figurative language and they convey meaning through different expressions (Ayers, 2015). Therefore, they need to understand the meaning of the idioms first so that they will not make errors when attempting to use idioms in their essays.

Quizizz is a free online e-learning tool which works on any devices such as smartphones, tabs, notebooks and others. It is used by teachers to create online quizzes which is common nowadays (Basuki & Hidayati, 2019). Pupils can keep track of their progress as they can take the online quizzes repeatedly (Rahayu & Purnawarman, 2019). Games created are interactive and it allows pupils to learn interactively by participating in the activities via their devices (Zhao, 2019). Therefore, it is a convenient and fun way for them to do self-access learning. Self-access is defined as a process where pupils
evaluate their learning progress and identify which way suits their learning knowledge and ability (Blanche & Merino, 1989; Mcmillan & Hearn, 2008). With the growth of mobile technology, students are not limited to traditional classroom learning.

The growth of mobile technology also contributes to mobile learning which gives teachers and pupils access to the learning system in an environment where only portable devices and wireless network are needed (Kwon & Lee, 2010). The four qualities of mobile learning are mobility, easy access, unlimited learning resources and learning with real context. Learning is more flexible for students besides access to worldwide learning resources to help them improve whether they are in urban or rural parts of Malaysia.

3. METHODOLOGY

This innovative way to learn idioms was tested on 27 Form 5 pupils in one of the secondary schools in Malaysia.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of the use of idioms before and after the pupils have completed their SAL quizzes was done by the teacher. The teacher compared the number of idioms used in the pupils’ Section B for the 1119/1 SPM paper with the number of idioms used in their short essays after completing the quizzes. Findings in Figure 2 shows that there is a difference in the number of idioms used in their SPM trial exam papers with short essays. Before the quizzes, the teacher counted only 6 idioms were used in all the 27 SPM
English trial paper scripts. After the pupils have completed the quizzes, the teacher found that there was a total of 46 idioms used in the short essays written by the same 27 pupils.

![Diagram showing the use of idioms by Form 5 Proaktif](image1)

**Figure 2:** The number of idioms used before and after Fun and Mobile SAL

The number of students using idioms in their essays also increased tremendously after the SAL quizzes via Quizizz. From Figure 3, we can see that before the pupils completed their SAL quizzes, there were only 4 pupils who used idioms when they write for their SPM English trial paper essays. However, after they have completed the 3 levels of quizzes based on idioms, there was an evident increase in the number of pupils, from 4 pupils to 27 pupils. This means that all the pupils from Form 5 Proaktif used idioms when they wrote the short essays. The use of idioms increased from 14.9 per cent to 100 per cent.

![Diagram showing the number of pupils using idioms](image2)

**Figure 2:** The number of pupils used idioms before and after Fun and Mobile SAL

### 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Researches have been done previously on the use of Quizizz as a tool in language learning. However, limited researches have been done on the use of Quizizz as a tool in
self-access learning. The findings show that Quizizz is an effective tool in helping pupils learn idioms looking at the increase of number of pupils who used idioms when writing their essays after completing the quizzes. This shows that Quizizz is a creative and innovative way to help pupils learn idioms, their meanings and how to use them creatively in their essays. Learning idioms is one of the ways to enhance their writing skills. Therefore, through flipped classroom, they learn the idioms. Self-access learning takes place when they do the quizzes via Quizizz. They can do the quizzes repeatedly until they are satisfied with their achievement. Finally, results can be seen when all of them used idioms in their essays, which also indicates an improvement in their writing skill.

Teachers should use online e-learning tools so that pupils can learn regardless of whether they are in or out of the classroom. They can access the teaching and learning materials anywhere, anytime unlike a traditional classroom. Teachers should take into consideration the needs of Generation Y pupils who have constant access to mobile technology when planning for teaching and learning strategies. E-learning tools promote fun learning, resulting in enhanced learning.

REFERENCES


