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## THE EFFECT OF USING HOT POTATOES APPLICATION IN TEACHING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT

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**Abstract:** *Hot Potatoes application* is one of educational software that contains exercises. The teacher can make the exercise by his own. It consists of JCloze, JQuiz, JCross, JMatch, JMix, and The Masher. Each of them has their own features. The researcher had two statements of the problem. First, he focused on how to create the teaching material using hot potatoes application. Second, he focused on how to apply the hot potatoes application in teaching descriptive text. Next, the subject of this research was the seventh grade students in one of private schools in Surabaya. The research design was descriptive qualitative. The research was conducted in three meetings. Every meeting, the students got different descriptive text.

**Keywords:** *Hot Potatoes Application, exercises, descriptive text*

**Abstrak:** Aplikasi Hot Potatoes adalah salah satu aplikasi pendidikan yang berisi latihan-latihan. Guru bisa membuat latihan-latihan tersebut sendiri. Hot Potatoes berisi JCloze, JQuiz, JCross, JMatch, JMix, dan The Masher. Setiap fitur tersebut mempunyai karakter tersendiri. Peneliti mempunyai dua rumusan masalah. Pertama, dia focus bagaimana membuat materi pelajaran dengan menggunakan aplikasi Hot Potatoes. Kedua, dia focus bagaimana menerapkan aplikasi dalam mengajar teks deksriptif. Kemudian, subjek penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas 7 di sekolah swasta di Surabaya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deksriptif qualitative. Penelitian ini dilaksanakan selama 3x pertemuan. Setiap pertemuan, para siswa mendapatkan teks deksriptif yang berbeda-beda.

**Kata Kunci:** *Aplikasi Hot Potatoes, latihan, teks deksriptif*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Finocchiaro (1974:77) says that reading is an activity of getting meanings out from printed or written material. It means that reading is an activity that finds out or understands the meaning of the printed or written material. Meanwhile, Destari (2010:11) says that reading is a process whereby one looks at and understands what a reader has read whereas Clapham (1993:11) says that reading is a skill to make sense of written and printed symbols. It means that reading is the skill to get the points of the written or printed symbols. Therefore, if someone cannot get the points of the written or printed symbols it means that he is not reading because he is not able to make sense of what the written or printed symbols means.

Unfortunately, reading becomes a boring and tiring activity for most students nowadays so that they are lazy to read because they have no interest in reading books. They can even get sleepy easily when reading a textbook. They may dislike the topic and passage or they may be more interested in other things such as android games because those things are very attractive, amusing, and audiovisual. Some students even hate reading. This is a serious problem because if they dislike reading, they will have limited knowledge. For instance, they may not know some important people and information. They may not know a certain place that is famous and frequently visited by visitors. They may not even know much about certain fruit, animal, or things around them. Therefore, teachers should develop the students' reading habit especially reading descriptive texts because this text genre gives people information about anything in detail.

One of the solutions that can get students' attention is hot potatoes application. It provides some features that can make the learning process different so the students will not get bored. It consists of 6 features. They are JQuiz, JCloze, JCross, JMix, JMatch, and The Masher.

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## **Method**

This type of research was designed to obtain information concerning to current status of phenomenon. It was directed toward determining to nature of a situation as it existed as the time of study. It aimed to describe 'what exist' with respect to variables or condition in a situation (Ary:1985, Azwar: 1999, Sukardi: 2004). In this research, the researcher created the descriptive material using Hot Potatoes Application. The material was discussed with the teacher previously. Then, the researcher conducted it three times through the English class process. Every meeting, the students got different descriptive text. He observed and reported anything happened. The subject of the study was the seventh grade students of a private junior high school in Surabaya. There were 27 students in the class; 13 girls and 14 Boys.

## **DISCUSSION**

One of free software that can support the teacher in teaching descriptive text is Hot Potatoes version 6.0. There are six basic programs in the Hot Potatoes suite. The steps of each program will be discussed as follow.

### ➤ JQuiz

It creates question-based quizzes. Questions can be of four different types, including multiple-choice and short-answer. Specific feedback can be provided both for right answers and predicted wrong answers or distractors. In short-answer questions, the student's guess is intelligently parsed and helpful feedback to show what part of a guess is right and what part is wrong. The student can ask for a hint in the form of a "free letter" from the answer.

There are four steps in creating jquiz of Hot Potatoes. They are:

1. Applying the application of jquiz in the hot potatoes version 6.0

2. Choosing the kind of quiz whether multiple choice, short answer, hybrid, or multi-select.
3. Filling the title, the number of question, and the answer.
4. Clicking the symbol export to create a Hot Potatoes version 6 web page.

➤ JCloze

It creates gap-fill exercises. Unlimited correct answers can be specified for each gap, and the student can ask for a hint and see a letter of the correct answer. A specific clue can also be included for each gap. Automatic scoring is also included. The program allows gapping of selected words, or the automatic gapping of every nth word in a text.

There are six steps in creating jcloze of Hot Potatoes. They are:

1. applying the jcloze of Hot Potatoes version 6.0
2. filling the title and the passage
3. blocking the word that will be made to miss.
4. clicking gap
5. filling the gapped word alternatives such as clue and alternative correct answers.
6. Clicking the symbol export to create a Hot Potatoes version 6 web page.

➤ JCross

It creates crossword puzzles which can be completed online. You can use a grid of virtually any size. As in JQuiz and JCloze, a hint button allows the student to request a free letter if help is needed.

There are six steps in creating jquiz of Hot Potatoes. They are:

1. Applying the jquiz of Hot Potatoes version 6.0
2. Filling the title
3. Writing the words both across and down. It is illustrated as follows (revise the picture)
4. Clicking add clues
5. Inserting the clue.
6. Clicking the symbol export to create a Hot Potatoes version 6 web page.

➤ JMix

It creates jumbled-sentence exercises. You can specify as many different correct answers as you want, based on the words and punctuation in the base sentence, and a hint button prompts the student with the next correct word or segment of the sentence if needed.

There are 5 steps in creating jmix of Hot Potatoes. They are:

1. Applying the jmix of Hot Potatoes version 6.0
2. Filling the title

3. Filling main sentence randomly
4. Filling the alternate sentence
5. Clicking the symbol export to create a Hot Potatoes version 6 web page.

➤ JMatch

It creates matching or ordering exercises. A list of fixed items appears on the left (these can be pictures or text), with jumbled items on the right. This can be used for matching vocabulary to pictures or translations, or for ordering sentences to form a sequence or a conversation.

There are five steps in creating jmatch of Hot Potatoes. They are:

1. Applying the jmatch of Hot Potatoes version 6.0
2. Filling the title
3. Filling the left (ordered) items
4. Filling the right (jumbled) items
5. Clicking the symbol export to create a Hot Potatoes version 6 web page.

➤ The Masher

It is designed to create complete units of material in one simple operation. If you are creating sequences of exercises and other pages that should form a unit, you may find the Masher useful.

There are three steps in creating the masher of Hot Potatoes. They are:

1. Applying the masher of Hot Potatoes version 6.0
2. Adding files jquiz, jcroze, jcross, jmix and jmatch
3. Clicking the symbol export to create a Hot Potatoes version 6 web page.

Next, the steps of applying hot potatoes application will be explored as follows.

The first is JQuiz. The teacher asked a student to come in front of the class to do the quiz. Then, he would choose the multiple choices. If chose the wrong answer, it would show sad motion on the screen. Otherwise, if he chose the correct answer, it would show happy motion on the screen.

The second is JCloze. The instruction is “fill in all the gaps, then press “check” to check your answers. Use the “Hint” button to get a free letter. If an answer is giving you trouble. You can also click on the “(?)” button to get a clue. Note that you will lose points if you ask for hints or clues.” The teacher asked one of students to do gap-fill exercise. Then, he read the text. He had to fill the gap based on the clues.

The third is JCross. The instruction is “complete the crossword, then click on ‘check’ to check your answer. If you are stuck, you can click on ‘hint’ to get a free letter. Click on a number in the grid to see the clue or clues for that number. Then, teacher asked a student to complete the crossword.

The fourth is JMix. The instruction is “put the parts in order to form a sentence. When you think you answer is correct, click on “Check” to check your answer. If you get stuck, click on “Hint” to find out the next correct part.” Then, the teacher asked a student to come forward. Then, he operated the computer to order the correct sentence. After, he ordered the sentence, he could

click on check. If he clicked on check, he had a mistake; the words were still random or incorrect order. If, he clicked on undo, it meant he wanted to rearrange the sentence again before submitted it. If he got stuck, he could click on hint, he would find out the next correct part.

The Last is JMatch. The instruction is “match the items on the right to the items on the left.” The teacher asked one student to do the matching exercise. Then, the student came forward to match them. He matched the items on the right to the items on the left.

When the students did the exercises above, they looked very interested and fun. They were curious to what the synonyms, what the correct order, and what the correct answer. It took their attention in joining the classroom activities. If one of them had a difficulty in doing the exercises, the others raised their hand to get a chance to do the exercises.

All the features of Hot potatoes software can be used for teaching descriptive text.  
For (Let see the photo)

### **Conclusion**

The application of Hot Potatoes can be applied in teaching descriptive text to junior high school students. It consists of 6 programs. They are JQuiz, JCloze, JCross, JMix, JMatch, and The Masher. Each of them has their own features. Besides, it can get the students’ attention because they have new activity in teaching and learning. The students felt interested in joining the class. They were enthusiastic.

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