



Character Building Through 3 Magic Words for Third Grade Students at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin

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ABSTRAK

Pada zaman sekarang, banyak permasalahan dalam dunia pendidikan salah satunya tersebut adalah kemerosotan akhlak. Salah satu cara memperbaiki kemerosotan akhlak dengan penanaman karakter, peran guru sangat diperlukan dalam penanaman karakter sehingga artikel ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan bagaimana penanaman karakter siswa kelas 3 di SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin, peran guru dan metode apa yang digunakan dalam penanaman karakter siswa. Artikel ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Informan penelitian yaitu wali kelas dan siswa-siswi kelas 3 SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin. Kumpulan data dilakukan melalui cara observasi, terapan, wawancara, kepustakaan. Penanaman karakter dilakukan dengan cara menerapkan 3 kata ajaib, kata tolong digunakan saat meminta bantuan, kata maaf digunakan saat membuat kesalahan, dan kata terima kasih digunakan saat mendapat hadiah saat di sekolah. Peran guru terhadap pengembangan karakter pada siswa sangat penting. Guru-guru di SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin melakukan 7 langkah sederhana dan melakukan metode pembiasaan dalam penanaman karakter siswa SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin. Dengan demikian peran guru terhadap penerapan 3 kata ajaib tersebut dapat membangun karakter anak yang baik memiliki sifat sopan dan santun.

ABSTRACT

Nowadays, there are many problems in the world of education, one of which is the decline in morals. One way to improve moral decline is by hiding character, the teacher's role is needed in fortifying character so this article aims to describe how to trap the character of grade 3 students at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin, the role of the teacher and what methods are used to hide student character. This article uses a qualitative method. The research informants were homeroom teachers and grade 3 students at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin. Data collection was carried out through observation, application, interviews, and literature. Character building is done by applying 3 magic words, the word please is used when asking for help, the word sorry is used when making a mistake, and the word thank you is used when getting a gift at school. The teacher's role in character development in students is very important. Teachers at SDN Mawar 4 take 7 simple steps and carry out the habituation method in cultivating the character of the students at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin. This the role of the teacher in applying these 3 magic words can build good character in children who are polite and courteous.

1. INTRODUCTION

Humans are social beings who always need help from others. In the process of asking for help, interactions between individuals occur. When interacting, politeness in language is necessary to create harmonious relationships and good character (Sukatin & Al-Faruq, 2021). With the development of the times, the world of education faces various challenges and problems. One of the most crucial problems is the decline in morals among students (Andrean & Muqowim, 2020). In this condition, the role of teachers becomes very important in nurturing and developing students' character at school. Teachers are not only tasked with imparting knowledge but also serve as guides and role models in daily life (Evi Nur Khofifah & Siti Mufarochah, 2022; Mansur & Sholeh, 2024). As the second parents in the school environment, teachers must be able to set a real example in attitude, speech, and behavior (Nisa & Sholeh, 2021).

One effective way to shape students' character is through the habit of communicating politely, whether with friends, teachers, or family members. A concrete example of polite

communication is by making it a habit to use the three magic words, namely “please,” “sorry,” and “thank you” in the school environment (Allinda Hamidah & Andina Nuril Kholifah, 2021).

This habit aims to foster respect for others, increase empathy, and shape children's character to be polite and ethical. Helping one another, forgiving one another, and expressing gratitude are part of commendable behavior that reflects noble character (Evi Nur Khofifah & Siti Mufarochah, 2022). However, in reality, many students are still not accustomed to using these words. They sometimes forget to say them because they feel superior, selfish, insensitive, or are not used to appreciating others. Therefore, it is very important to instill character through the habit of using these three magic words (Ramdhani, 2014).

In this context, the role of teachers as role models is crucial. Teachers must first get used to using these words in various situations at school to serve as concrete examples for students to follow. Additionally, the habit-forming method must be consistently applied in both classroom activities, interactions outside the classroom, and extracurricular activities. With this method, students will find it easier to absorb and imitate these positive behaviors because they are repeated consistently in their daily lives. Thus, through character development using the three magic words and the example set by teachers, it is hoped that students will grow into polite, respectful, and virtuous individuals, ready to become the next generation of noble-minded citizens of the nation.

2. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. The purpose of this study is to determine the process of teaching three magic words (please, sorry, and thank you) to third-grade students at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin, as well as to understand the role of teachers in encouraging students to use these words in their daily lives at school. The informants in this study consisted of 27 people, including 1 homeroom teacher and 26 students. Data collection techniques included direct observation in the classroom, interviews with the homeroom teacher and several students, literature review to support the theory, and applied research through the implementation of the habit of using the three magic words in teaching and learning activities. The data obtained were analyzed qualitatively by reducing the data, presenting them in narrative form, and drawing conclusions based on the findings in the field.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Character Building Through 3 Magic Words

Character is the personality, morals, or behavior of students that describe a person's personality. For example, when students speak politely and respectfully, they have good character. This aligns with the research by Sukatin and Shoffa Saifillah Al-Faruq (2021), who state that character is innate, the heart, soul, personality, moral values, behavior, personality traits, nature, temperament, and disposition. (Sukatin & Al-Faruq, 2021, p. 4)

Additionally, Muhammad Ali Ramdani (2014) defines character as the unique way of thinking and behaving that is characteristic of each individual, whether in the family, community, nation, or state. Having character refers to personality, behavior, traits, and disposition. Character is a reflection of one's personality. (Ramdhani, 2014, pp. 29–30)

Positive experiences can help children learn to instill character education from an early age. For example, teaching children to get used to saying three magic words, namely “sorry, thank you, and please.” Although these are small actions, this habit will give children a foundation for learning to interact socially well in their environment and will have a very good impact on children's character education. (Aprily et al., 2023, p. 127)

Character building in students by providing moral and ethical values education can be done by instilling three magic words in third-grade students at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin so that they become a habit and give rise to respect, responsibility, and care for friends or teachers at school.

This aligns with Didit Nantara's (2022) research, which states that character education is referred to as moral values education, moral attitudes, and character development. Its purpose is to instill all abilities, both good and bad, in school members with full awareness, thereby turning them into habits. Character education is crucial in instilling specific values such as respect, responsibility, honesty, care, fairness, and helping students understand, pay attention to, and practice these values in their daily lives. (Nantara, 2022, p. 2253)

In the mental development of children, the application of the three magic words helps children interact more easily with others and build a good personality and character. People around children will view them in a positive light because they use good words.

The three basic words, please, sorry, and thank you, are often referred to as the “three magic words,” a term used to describe words that are very important or significant. By using this term, it is clear that these three words have extraordinary power to maintain communication. By encouraging children to develop positive personalities and character, these three words greatly influence their character development at an early age (Sakinah, 2022).(Mawarda & Ummaya, 2024, p. 265)

Schools play a crucial role as institutions for character education, where students receive character values instilled by teachers or the school environment. A student's character can be observed through their manners and behavior while at school, both toward teachers and peers.

This aligns with the research by Dinie Anggraeni et al. (2021), which states that character education plays a vital role in the implementation of character development in students. Character education is fundamental to the success and progress of students' character. Educational institutions hold the key to instilling character and moral values in students, such as manners, politeness, honesty, sense of responsibility, integrity, discipline, hard work, and solidarity.

The importance of using the three magic words in character development is emphasized. The author employed an applied research method, introducing the three magic words through singing to help third-grade students at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin easily remember and apply them. The third-grade students at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin know when to use the three magic words. The word “please” is used when they are in difficulty, need help from others, or ask the teacher to explain the lesson again. The word “sorry” is used when they make a mistake, such as spilling food or drink on a friend, teasing a friend, being disrespectful to the teacher, or causing a commotion during class. The word “thank you” is used when they receive a gift, receive help, receive praise, and express gratitude to the teacher after class.

This is in line with the research by Ariesma Setyarum et al. (2022), which states that the habit of using the words ‘please’ and “thank you” is basic etiquette that everyone should master. By teaching basic ethical words, children can develop social skills to interact with others, both at school and at home. (Setyarum et al., 2022, p. 869)

Mr. Taufik Akbar, S.Pd, as the class teacher of 3rd grade at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin, stated that the words “please,” “sorry,” and “thank you” are referred to as the “three magic words” because if children use these three words in communication, they can be considered polite, both in communicating with friends and teachers.

This aligns with the research by Elvita Yenni, Yusriati Yusriati, and Ambar Wulan Sari (2018), which states that children should be encouraged to say “please,” “sorry,” and “thank you.” These three words can be called “magic words” because once children are accustomed to

using them, there is no doubt that they will use these magic words in their communication, and they will be recognized as polite children.(Yenni et al., 2018, p. 57)

The words please, sorry, and thank you cannot be separated when students communicate with friends or teachers. If students apply these three magic words at school, they can be said to have good character and be polite in their communication.

This aligns with Ary Setyadi's (2021) research, which states that the use of “please,” “sorry,” and “thank you” is like an inseparable chain. The presence of all three, whether individually or combined, is always present in communication during language activities. Their use is appropriate for anyone, whether in formal or informal settings.

Factors supporting the implementation of the habit of using the three magic words include student activity, demonstrated by enthusiasm, discipline, and reminding peers to speak politely. Students can apply the habit of using the three magic words, such as immediately apologizing when they make a mistake, and peers can remind them politely when they see their peers making mistakes. This is because they know that the habit of using the three magic words will help them speak more politely and not selfishly. Second, parental guidance: Parents play an important role in shaping the character of children in the family. Parents do not only supervise their children.

Inhibiting factors include selfishness, which makes them feel that they are always right. Parents, besides being a supporting factor, can also become a hindering factor if they do not pay attention to or support the habit of using the three magic words at home. Lastly, the environment that can cause hindering factors is selfish friends who speak badly, which can hinder the habit of using the three magic words. (Aulia et al., 2022, p. 4)

b. The Role of Teachers in Character Building

Mr. Taufik Akbar, S. Pd, as the homeroom teacher of grade 3 at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin, stated that teachers have an important role in building students' character, especially during learning and teaching activities, because students need the role of teachers in helping them develop their character.

Before instilling character in students, a teacher should first strengthen their own character. The simple steps taken by Mr. Taufik Akbar, S.Pd, as the third-grade homeroom teacher, as well as all teachers at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin, in character development include: 1) serving as a good role model for students, such as by consistently using three magic words to encourage students to imitate the teacher's actions, 2) being an appreciator, which means valuing every student's effort, as this is crucial in character development, 3) instilling moral values in every lesson by encouraging the use of three magic words, such as “please” when borrowing a worksheet, “sorry” when students make a mistake (e.g., after a fight or argument, the teacher separates them and asks them to apologize to each other), and “thank you” when receiving praise or gifts, 4) instilling honesty, which enables students to take responsibility for their mistakes and apologize to their friends. This should not only be applied to students; teachers must first demonstrate honesty themselves, 5) Teaching good manners, even though it seems easy, a teacher must behave appropriately so that students can distinguish between right and wrong. For example, students should be able to say “please” and “thank you” when asking for help from others. 6) Providing opportunities for students to become leaders is also important to be applied to students. It would be good if teachers could help students in training their leadership skills. By having leadership skills, students will be able to behave well towards their friends and teachers. 7) Sharing experiences with students. Teachers can also share interesting stories from their lives to motivate students to behave well.

This aligns with the research by Azka Salmaa Salsabilah, Dinie Anggraeni Dewi, and Yayang Furi Furnamasari (2021), which states that the role of teachers in character development includes: 1) being a good role model for students, 2) being an appreciator, 3) instilling moral values in every lesson, 4) instilling honesty, 5) demonstrating polite behavior, 6) providing opportunities for students to become leaders, and 7) sharing experiences with students.

Helping friends or teachers, apologizing, and expressing gratitude are considered good deeds or behaviors. However, currently, students are sometimes lazy or forget to use the three magic words in communication. Therefore, the role of teachers in character development through the three magic words is crucial so that students at SDN Mawar 4 can get used to using the three magic words in communication.

This aligns with the research by Aulia, Suhendra, and Yono, who found that helping others, forgiving one another, and expressing gratitude are considered good behaviors that Allah promises rewards for those who practice them. All of these are part of Allah SWT's commands to His servants.

However, nowadays, students sometimes forget to say “please,” “sorry,” and “thank you” because they feel superior and selfish or are insensitive and find it difficult to appreciate others. In the eyes of students, educators are the best examples of behavior and manners, which are recognized and followed by students. Students' attitudes or behavior are always influenced by the words, actions, and appearance of educators.

A teacher's example greatly influences the formation of students' personalities, because students who have good educators will also have good educators. (Putri et al., 2022, p. 38)

Teachers play a very important role in building students' character. Obstacles faced by teachers, including teachers who are unable to fully serve as role models in instilling character, also become obstacles. Teachers must have good personalities to teach their students. (Arifin et al., 2024, p. 54).

c. Method Habituation

Character education is a component of education that a person can receive from elementary school. Children at the elementary school level experience an important period in which they learn many things. It is very important to instill good character education at this age. Children in elementary school, who are between the ages of six and twelve, are considered the most suitable age to learn about character education. (Sitinjak et al., 2024, p. 91)

The formation of relatively stable and automatic attitudes and behaviors through a process of repeated learning is known as habituation. Behaviors or perspectives that become habits are usually relatively stable and do not require sufficient thinking skills. In fact, the process of habituation depends on repetition, so that something becomes a habit.

Habituation must be applied in children's daily lives so that what they habituate, especially those related to building responsibility and discipline, will form a good personality that they will have until adulthood. (Anggraeni et al., 2021, p. 101) Habituation is repetition, something that is remembered, and is very effective for training good habits in children.

Nurturing children's attitudes through habit formation is very effective because it trains good habits in children. One of the most important educational tools is habit formation, especially for young children, because they do not yet have religious and moral knowledge. (Evi Nur Khofifah & Siti Mufarochah, 2022, p. 61)

Mr. Taufik Akbar, S.Pd, as the homeroom teacher of 3rd grade at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin, stated that in instilling character in children through the “3 magic words,” the teachers at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin use the habit formation method with their students, as done by Mr. Taufik Akbar, S.Pd, with his students, especially those in 3rd grade. Habituation is an activity carried out repeatedly. This method aims to shape children's character at an early

age in a proper and effective manner. The steps taken by Mr. Taufik Akbar, S.Pd, include training students until they understand the importance of using the three magic words in communication during class, reminding students if they forget to use the three magic words in class, giving appreciation to students who have applied the three magic words, and not scolding students during the habit-forming process or when students forget to apply the three magic words.

This aligns with Liana Alifah's (2021) research, which states that a method is a procedure or set of steps to solve a problem. Habituation is the process of becoming accustomed to doing something.

Steps that can be taken to maintain good habits include: 1) training until students fully understand and can perform the task without difficulty, 2) reminding children who forget to do something in a friendly manner if they forget or intentionally do not carry out the positive activity that has been taught, but without embarrassing them when reminding them, 3) giving appreciation to children, as this can make them happy, but care must be taken to avoid jealousy among other children, 4) avoiding criticizing or scolding children. In the process of habit formation, patience and sensitivity on the part of educators are very important, as sometimes teachers may scold children, causing them to lose motivation.

According to Mulyasa, education through habit formation can be applied in a structured manner in lessons or in an unstructured manner in daily activities. In structured learning, habit formation activities can be carried out with special planning over a certain period of time to help the personal growth of individuals and groups of students. (Allinda Hamidah & Andina Nuril Kholifah, 2021, p. 73)

The advantages of the habit-forming method include a focus on shaping students' character at school and teaching students to always demonstrate positive and commendable attitudes. Additionally, this method has proven to be the most effective in shaping students' personalities. The drawback of the habit-forming method is that teachers must be patient in guiding students through habit-forming activities. (Pustikasari, 2020, p. 266)

4. CONCLUSION

Character is innate, heart, soul, personality, morals, behavior, personality, nature, temperament, disposition. Character education plays an important role in the implementation of character building in students. Character building is fundamental to the success and progress of students' character.

The roles of teachers in character building include: 1) being a good role model for students, 2) being an appreciator, 3) instilling moral values in every lesson, 4) instilling honesty, 5) teaching good manners, 6) providing opportunities for students to become leaders, 7) sharing experiences with students

Teachers instill character in students through the method of habit formation, which involves the following steps: 1) training students until they fully understand and can do something without difficulty, 2) reminding students who forget to do something in a friendly manner, 3) giving appreciation to students, 4) avoiding criticizing or scolding students.

Students in grade 3 at SDN Mawar 4 Banjarmasin know when to use the three magic words: "please" is used when facing difficulties or needing help from others, asking the teacher to explain the lesson again; "sorry" is used when making a mistake, such as spilling food or drinks, teasing friends, being disrespectful to teachers, or being noisy during class. The word "thank you" is used when receiving a gift, receiving help, receiving praise, or thanking the teacher after class.

In addition to parents, teachers also play a crucial role in character development, as they serve as role models for children at school. Therefore, teachers should instill good character values in children, one of which is teaching them to communicate politely by using the three magic words: “please,” “sorry,” and “thank you.” Understanding when to use these three magic words and their benefits is essential for building children's character.

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