

<https://jurnal.unigal.ac.id/jeep/article/view/17392>

P-ISSN: 2460-4046 E-ISSN: 2830-0327

Journal of English Education Program (JEEP), Vol. 12 No. 1, January 2025

MALE-FEMALE YOUNG LEARNERS' PERSPECTIVE ON THE USE OF CROSSWORD PUZZLE AIDS TO ENRICH THEIR VOCABULARY

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APA Citation: Berliana, Nina, Friatin, L.Y., & Said, I. (2025). Male-female young learners' perspective on the use of crossword puzzle aids to enrich their vocabulary. *Journal of English Education Program (JEEP)*, 12 (1), 9-13. doi: 10.25157/(jeep).v12i1.17392

Received: 8-11-2024

Accepted: 1-12-2024

Published: 22-1-2025

Abstract: Vocabulary is very essential in communication, but the fact indicates that lack of vocabulary still hampers the effective communication. This paper investigates the perspective of young female and male learners on the application of Crossword puzzle aids to enrich their vocabulary. The goal of this study is to find out male and female young learners' perspectives on the use of crossword puzzle aids to enrich their vocabulary. The research design of this current study uses the type of case study so that twenty-one students from grade seven in a Junior High School in Ciamis were involved. The data come from a questionnaire which deals with the perspective of young female and male learners on the application of Crossword puzzle aids to increase their vocabulary. The close-ended questionnaire data are then analyzed and proceeded. The result shows that the young female and male learners perceive the application of Crossword puzzle as the aids to enrich their vocabulary. In learning, vocabulary can enrich their vocabulary with different skills based on gender because gender differences can influence young and female learners to increase their vocabulary skills. Besides that, Crossword puzzle aids are interesting, gives many opportunities, and helps male and female learners to receive and understand the vocabulary more easily. Further, using crossword puzzles aids learning vocabulary and can increase the achievement of male and female young learners. Also, it makes change towards the situations such as playing games when learning vocabulary process.

Keywords: *perspective; gender; puzzle; vocabulary*

INTRODUCTION

In the world of education, the role of English in Indonesia is very significant because English can be used for certain purposes or activities such as in English teaching and learning activities. English teaching and learning activities are essential for advancing science and preparing for the globalization era. It might make people more competitive with one another globally. So, they should prepare themselves with vocabulary. Vocabulary is the foundation of English language learning (Wang et al., 2015). Vocabulary is vital in learning English unless it was difficult for them to communicate with others or they were difficult to express their ideas.

Communication in English can run well if vocabulary mastery is excellent despite of less

grammar competence. As reported by Alqahtani (2015) in Purbandari et al., (2018) states that by mastering vocabulary, language learners can construct successful communication. It implies that to effectively communicate after learning a large amount of vocabulary and being able to use it in the right situations, it is important to grasp what each word means as well as how to utilize it in the right context.

The most serious issue facing EFL learners is a lack of vocabulary resulting in EFL learners who do not understand the vocabulary. Some EFL learners can master it easily, but some cannot. Afterward, EFL learners consist of female and female students who have different styles in understanding vocabulary, especially in perspective (Arianti & Hamid, 2022). They have different perspectives about the use of crossword puzzles in learning vocabulary based on their mind. So, the researcher is eager to support the students to learn vocabulary willingly. This good way is to foster crossword puzzle aids. A game that may be easy to teach vocabulary is crossword puzzle aids.

According to Webster in Puspita & Sabiqoh (2017), a crossword puzzle is a set of numbered squares to be loaded with words. A letter is placed on each square in the form of a horizontal word and vertical word, as well as numbered synonyms and definitions put as clues for the words. Moreover, as claimed by Pratiwi, Latief, & Hamid (2018) and Puspita & Sabiqoh (2026) that the crossword puzzle is a game that can help teacher and students in teaching and learning process of vocabulary. In crossword puzzle design, there will be many words given as clues that should be understood by them in order to be able to fill the squares with the suitable words too (Sukirman, & Ningsih, 2016). These aids can make kids easier to master vocabulary by giving them the chance to remember as much of it as they can. That is because there were many terms provided as clues that they must understand to be able to fit in the squares with the appropriate words.

Several studies has been conducted previously which are related to the present study Andini & Prasetyowati (2021) utilize gender differences in EFL classroom resulted in the fact that females employ all types of language learning strategy more frequently than males, mainly in term of metacognitive. Similarly, Ansyari & Rahmi (2016) report on that both females nd males have the same preferences in using language learning strategy, i.e, metacognitive stragey. Anwar & Efransyah (2018) evidence the fact that teaching English vocabulary using crossword puzzle game is effective to improve the students' vocabulary mastery. Unlike Anwar & Efransyah (2018), Nurhayati, Alfani, & Setiani (2019) broaden their research on the effectiveness of crossword puzzle game in learning motivation in science learning. The investigation on the perspective of young female and male learners on the application of crossword puzzle aids to enrich their vocabulary, especially in seven grade students at one of a Junior High School in Ciamis Regency has not been studied yet. For that reason, the present research tries to fill the gap by focusing on finding out the way the young female and male learners perceive the application of crossword puzzle aids to enrich their vocabulary.

METHOD

The methodology of this research was the qualitative method with the type of case study design. Qualitative research is an approach to exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem (Creswell, 2018). The researcher carried out a case study research design to gather and analyse the data to get detailed and more in-depth about the case. The case in this study was male and female young learners' perspectives on the use of crossword puzzle aids to enrich their vocabulary. This study involved twenty-one young learners or one class in one of Junior High School in Ciamis. The researcher used a paper-based questionnaire with a close-ended questionnaire to gather the data with the purposes of investigating the perspective of young female and male learners on the application of Crossword puzzle aids to enrich their vocabulary. The close-ended questionnaire was administered to respondents and analysed by using percentage calculating.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study was conducted to figure out the male-female young learners' perspective toward the use of crossword puzzle aids in learning vocabulary. The researcher collected data using a paper-based questionnaire to male and female students as respondents. The questionnaire was adapted and modified from Fauziah et al., (2018). There were ten questions in the questionnaire session. In this study, twenty-one participants filled out the questionnaire from one class of seventh-grade young learners in one Junior High School in Ciamis. The result of the questionnaire is presented in the following Table 1:

Table 1. Questionnaire result.

No	Statements	Gender	Yes	No
1	Through my learning experience, I feel happy to learn vocabulary by using crossword puzzle aids.	Male	64%	36%
		Female	88%	12%
2	The use of crossword puzzles aids in learning vocabulary and can help me to understand the new vocabulary.	Male	85%	15%
		Female	100%	-
3	The use of crossword puzzle aids in learning vocabulary makes me get more new vocabulary	Male	69%	31%
		Female	88%	12%
4	Crossword puzzle aids can help me in the process of remembering a new vocabulary in English.	Male	100%	
		Female	63%	37%
5	From my learning experience, the use of crossword puzzle aids helps me to master vocabulary more easily.	Male	62%	38%
		Female	75%	25%
6	From my learning experience, the use of crossword puzzle aids helps me to master vocabulary more easily.	Male	54%	46%
		Female	63%	37%
7	I feel more interested in learning vocabulary using crossword puzzle aids.	Male		100%
		Female	12%	88%
8	I find it easier to remember all the vocabulary that has been learned by using crossword puzzle aids.	Male	54%	46%
		Female	63%	37%
9	Using crossword puzzle aids makes me bored during vocabulary learning.	Male	-	100%
		Female	12%	88%
10	In my belief, crossword puzzle aids are good to be used in learning vocabulary processes.	Male	92%	8%
		Female	100%	

Table 1 showed that most male and female students gave a positive perspective on the use of crossword puzzles in learning vocabulary. According to male and female students' perspectives, the use of crossword puzzle aids was exciting and helped them in understanding and remembering the vocabulary given by the teacher. Moreover, most male and female students perceive that crossword puzzle aids are interesting and funny to use in learning vocabulary. This findings are consistent with what have been found by Anwar & Efransyah (2018) and Nurhayati, Alfani, & Setiani (2019) in that crossword puzzle can help teaching and leaning process of vocabulary mastery.

In this case, the researcher could conclude that male and female perspectives on the use of crossword puzzle aids in learning vocabulary could helped and given positive feedback because the crossword puzzle aids were exciting, funny, and easier to understand the vocabulary. As claimed by Pratiwi, Latief, & Hamid (2018) and Sabiqoh (2026), the crossword puzzle is a game that makes the teaching-learning process attractive and funny, and also gives much opportunity for students to practice and repeat the sentence pattern and vocabulary. Crossword puzzle aids have many opportunities and good feedback to remember male and female students' vocabulary skills. So, they argue that crossword puzzles could make it easier to understand the vocabulary material and make male and female students critically thinking.

CONCLUSION

English teaching and learning are important for advancing science and preparing for the globalization era so that vocabulary becomes one of the English skills that must be mastered by students. A very significant effect can be felt by young female and male students with a lack of vocabulary. This makes vocabulary learners have to be creative in using teaching media so that learning continues with new situations. Female and male young learners gave positive perspectives about using crossword puzzle aids in learning vocabulary. Also, it gave many opportunities for male and female young learners at which these aids are interesting for them and can help to enrich their vocabulary skills. Further research involving different educational levels is recommended to be conducted to get more in-depth and specific results related to the use of crossword puzzles aids in learning vocabulary.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research would not have been possible without the contributions and support of many individuals and organizations. The researcher was deeply grateful to all those who helped and played a role in this research. Moreover, express sincere gratitude to the advisor, Lilies Youlia F, S.S., M.Pd. BI. and Dr. Iskhak, M.M., M.Pd., for their invaluable guidance in accomplishing this research. Lastly, grateful to the participants for their time and efforts and also to their stakeholders for allowing this research conducted properly.

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