METHODS FOR RECOGNIZING POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD IN THE FAMILY

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Abstract. This study aims to analyze the method of recognizing positive expressions in early childhood in the family. Positive expressions as a whole include ethics, morals and the right way of speaking to children. This type of research is descriptive qualitative with an analytical approach to events or phenomena in the field, either individual or group behaviour. The data source is from parents (families) of KB students (Play Group) at Wadas Kelir Creative House. Collecting data using observation techniques, interviews and documentation. While data analysis was carried out through several series of stages, namely data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions. The results of the study found that the introduction of positive expressions by parents in early childhood used several methods, namely habituation, exemplary and teaching. These three methods are very important for parents to do as an initial step in the introduction and are repetitive. The most basic positive expressions are introduced to children, namely apologizing when they make mistakes, asking for help when they need help, thanking when they are given help or something and saying excuse me when they are going to pass someone.

Keywords: Early Childhood, Family, Positif Expression

INTRODUCTION

There are widespread complaints from the public that today's children lack manners, especially in terms of language. As reported by Kumbol.com, today's children are called the alpha generation. What is an alpha generation? The Alpha generation is the generation born in the range of 2010 to 2025 (currently ongoing). Counted 2.5 million children are born per week and it is estimated that by 2025, the alpha generation can reach 2 billion children (Kumparan, 2022). The speciality of alpha generation children is that they grow and develop in the midst of the development of information and communication technology convenience. So it is natural that the alpha generation is very familiar, integrated and familiar with various media or other communication tools and sophistication. Add to that the impact of the pandemic in the last 2 years which has made schools conduct online learning (Fajriati et al., 2022), eventually getting children used to using handphones or online tools. This habit continues until learning is done offline and it becomes difficult for children to get away from it.

One part of information technology is social media, such as Youtube, Tiktok, Instagram, Facebook, and so on. The poor content that is presented sometimes does not pay attention to ethics, and manners, and even contains suggestions and is not suitable for consumption by early childhood (alpha generation). This is what makes today's children lacking in manners as well as ethics and moral values (Hidayat, 2022). What is seen and heard is not filtered first. Finally, children will imitate by saying harshly, saying dirty words, committing violence, not respecting elders, having no manners and so on. Including following the trend of slang and customs from western culture. Cultures that are ingrained in children, such as ethics, manners, polite speech, virtuousness, and language have begun to erode with shows that children find more attractive. Then who is most responsible for the child's personality like that? The answer is parents or family. The family is the child's closest person, who is the main educator in introducing, providing guidance and direction regarding moral values, ethics, manners and especially how to speak well (positive expression).

Speaking is the origin of the word from language and has another meaning, namely using language, manners and knowing customs (Sariyan, 2002). So the meaning of language is also closely related to society and culture that has been passed down from generation to generation. Good language reflects the quality of a person. Likewise, individuals who have good manners in their language, then these individuals have good language. Therefore, good language culture must continue to be introduced and inherited from the next generations. Language also involves the use of positive expressions used in communicating and socializing, which in this case starts from early childhood. Children who use positive expressions when communicating, especially with older people, will be more accepted in society and have a wider scope. This positive expression is one of habituation from an early age which will become the provision for the next child in social life. Such expressions as asking for help, apologizing, thank you, excuse me, and so forth.

Early childhood is an immature individual and is the easiest to receive stimulation from outside. The knowledge that children receive, whether intentionally taught or accidentally learned by themselves, will be more easily accepted by their minds. Childhood is an extraordinary and very fundamental period in the growth of living things and will be decisive in the future (Wiyani & Bastawi, 2012). So, what children get at an early age will have an impact on the next age. As stated by Ki Hajar Dewantara the father of Indonesian education, there are 3 education centres namely family, school and community. So, when viewed from the sequence, the family is the initial and primary education for children before other education (Kurniawan, 2015). The first education received by children is education from the family. The family should be a solid stronghold in providing care and introducing positive habits and exemplary character values from an early age so that outside influences will not easily affect children. The child is a clear glass that must be filled with water, what is given (filled) by the family is what will appear from the outside.

Family is the main milestone in the life of an individual. The family consists of a father, mother, brother and sister. The rest are extended families, such as grandparents, uncles, aunts, uncles, aunts and cousins. The family is the first vessel in creating the next generation who has a noble character, good manners, a social spirit, is polite, moral and ethical. The family is a guide in the right direction for children. Family and children have a strong relationship and this relationship is called a role relationship (Agustin et al., 2015). The relationship is also related to rights and obligations. Both parents, siblings and other family members have a role or obligation in the development of children. Likewise, children have rights over themselves in the family. One of them is education which shapes children's character. In a family which is full of harmony, comfort, security, affection, mutual respect, full of courtesy in language, children will be born as a generation of morals and noble character (Suarmini, 2014). Parents who have good habits or good habits in the family, one of which is politeness in language, these habits will flow and grow in the child (Nurhaeda, 2019).

The use of bad language and the increasing disrespect towards parents by children are signs of the destruction of a nation. Children are an asset to a nation, so if children from an early age do not have these morals, then a nation has seen signs of destruction before its eyes (Purwaningsih, 2010). Children already have bad traits and habits from an early age, so it is very difficult to change them at a later age. Unless the child gets extra handling or moves to a positive environment. Therefore, parents play an important role in the education of their children. The introduction of positive expressions to children is the key to this problem. Positive expressions that children always hear and do will become a habit (habits). For example, in everyday life children use positive expressions, namely apologizing, saying thank you and asking for help. These three words are simple words but have a huge impact on communication (Mutaqin, 2021). Today's children, to be precise, the alpha generation is very far from using these three words. The use of positive expressions as a culture and national identity. So, the habit of these positive expressions will be obtained by children starting from the family environment and then the children will practice and do it in a wider environment.

This research will perfect and complement research that has been done before. Research conducted by Aliana Alifah, et al regarding the Implementation of the Habituation Method of Saying Please, Sorry, Thank You for Character Building in Children 5-6 Years at Dzakra Beehive Islamic Kindergarten. That the formation of early childhood character increases with repeated habituation methods. These habits include routine habituation, spontaneous habituation, exemplary habituation, and programmed habituation (Alifah et al., 2021). Similar research was also conducted by Rifansyah and Yona on Welcoming the 21st Century Education: The Role of the Teacher in Instilling the Value of "Tomato" (Please, Sorry, and Thank You). The discussion is almost similar, namely about character education, the focus is on the habit of communicating politely with others (Kalimayatullah & Wahyuningsih, 2016). The two studies both examined the habit of saying please, sorry and thank you to improve character in children. In contrast to the two studies which focused on practice or habituation only in the school environment, be it habituation by teachers or children. The research that the researchers conducted was related to the method of recognizing positive expressions from the family environment because the family is the main education for children. How are these positive expressions applied to the family environment whose impact will reach the school, community and wider social environment?

RESEARCH METHODS

The research was carried out in a qualitative descriptive manner, namely the type of research analyzing events or phenomena in the field, individual or group behaviour, which will be summarized as data in the form of writing or orally (Moleong, 2012). These data are related to the method used by the family in introducing positive expressions. The main subject is parents (families) of KB (Play Group) students at the Wadas Kelir Creative House. Data collection was carried out in 3 stages, namely observation, interviews and documentation. Observations were made by looking directly at children's daily practices in the play environment and at school, with the aim of obtaining and gathering information related to the introduction and use of positive expressions that have begun to be applied and are used by children. While the interviews were conducted with parents as the main informants in the introduction of positive expressions in the family environment (Sugiyono, 2017). The data that has been collected will be analyzed through a series of stages, namely data reduction, data presentation and finally drawing conclusions from the application and habituation of parents (family) in using positive everyday expressions (Miles & Huberman, 1992).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The introduction of positive expressions to children really must be considered as the education of moral character and daily ethics that must be given and applied to early childhood. This was done early on through education in the family environment. The impact obtained is that children are more accepted in the outside environment and get a positive response in communicating with others. These positive expressions are like a child saying please when asking for help, thanking after being helped and apologizing when accidentally making a mistake. Apart from that, other positive expressions can also be seen from children saying excuse me when passing or walking in front of older peers and asking permission when they want to borrow or use something that is not theirs. The introduction of positive expressions in the family is very important, especially as lighter children are used to saying various things and other positive actions. However, introducing children is not easy, parents need the right method. Based on interviews conducted with parents, there are three methods used when introducing positive expressions to children, namely Habituation, Example, and Teaching.

1.1 Habituation

Children as great imitators will do things that are often seen, heard and done by other people, especially parents. Various daily activities, from waking up to sleeping again will be recorded in the child's memory. When this is done continuously and repeatedly, it will become a habit that is carried out by children (Gunawan, 2012). Likewise, with the introduction of positive expressions to children, it can be done through habituation. Parents must listen to children's positive sayings in their daily life and continue to do this every day at the right moments. For example, when eating activities, parents will start by putting rice on a plate, reading a prayer before eating, starting to eat and praying again after eating. This will continue to be repeated every day and become a habit for children to do. At that time, parents were introduced to reading prayers as gratitude for food or sustenance received or obtained at that time. Then, ask for help when you want to ask for rice or side dishes because you can't reach them. After what has been asked for has been found, one must say thank you, as a form of respect for the assistance that has been given. This is repeated and does not know old or young, father, mother, brother or sister, both use positive expressions.

Parents also provide an introduction to children in the extended family environment, such as with aunts, uncles, uncles, aunts, grandmothers, grandfathers, cousins and others. When playing with cousins of the same age, children will run to and fro and will lose control while playing. Introductions can be made by saying excuse me when passing an older person, asking permission when borrowing a friend's items (toys), apologizing when bumping or dropping things, asking for help when there is something a child cannot do and saying thank you when something is given. In addition, children must also know that positive expressions must also be done personally. When a child can make something, the child will give thanks and gratitude to himself. These positive expressions will be carried out and applied by children every day when they have become habits for children. Even when children are not accompanied by their parents, children are used to saying positive things around them. All good expressions, good attitudes, and good behaviour, if parents keep repeating them, will become a habit in the child. And these positive habits are not only carried out by children in the family environment but in the school environment, the community, with teachers, with peers, with animals or with other living things. Some parents face that their children forget to say please or thank you and so on, the parents will remind them by asking the child to say it again.

1.2 Exemplary

Parents are the child's closest family and become role models for children. Activities, attitudes, behaviour and speech will be good rule models or figures for children . Parents can be friends, idols, models, and imitations for children so that when children admire someone, that person will be a role model for children (Ritonga, 2021). Children's age is still difficult to give instructions, so parents or families must imitate or assimilate children. Behaviour, actions and exemplary speech in parents are seen from the child's perspective. What the child imitates will become his personality. Everything that parents do will not escape the attention of children. Starting from going to work or leaving the house, parents say goodbye to their children, kiss their children on the cheek or forehead as a sign of affection, and say hello. The parents did the same thing when they returned home. Such activities and attitudes become habits and children will imitate their parents, by saying goodbye to school or leaving the house, kissing their parents' hands and cheeks, and doing the same thing when they return home. When parents are at home, parents should not show and listen to bad words, such as speaking harshly, raising their voices, getting angry, insulting, and so on. This will make the child imitate him and the child will become indecisive and confused, about which is a good deed or a good word and which is bad.

When at home or in the family environment, children can be involved in various activities, so that children are more active in hearing and seeing the positive things their parents do. For example, when parents want a broom, parents must first ask for help. This will be exemplified or carried out by children when they need something they will ask for help first. Other things that can be used as examples by children are worshipping together, by inviting children to pray and thanking them for their good health and gratitude that day. When outside the home, parents can always set a good example. When finished shopping, say thank you, ask for help when you need help, say excuse me when going through and so on. Apart from that, the attitude of parents will also be an example for children, such as harmony and mutual love between family members, thanking anyone (including children), saying softly, asking permission when unable to pick up children from school or other places, asking sorry when you can't keep promises or come late, praise when family members make achievements or do good, and so on. So, parents are good role models that children will emulate. What is shown by the parents or the child's closest family, especially when it becomes a habit, will be imitated.

1.3 Teaching

Parents or family are in charge of teaching, educating, fostering, informing and training children. Teaching is a process of transferring knowledge between two parties, one party who becomes a teacher or teaches and a second party who learns or receives teachings. These parties can be from parents to children and can be from teachers to students. When the transfer of knowledge has been carried out, then there is a process of learning or learning and interaction between the two parties. The teaching process is the process of telling, conveying messages or transferring knowledge so that the child or student will receive the teaching (Rohani, 2010). Teaching begins through the home or family environment by providing effective teaching according to the child's age and the teaching given certainly contains positive things, for example teaching positive expressions. The teachings given can be done with a variety of methods. Parents can introduce children through direct explanation or teaching, stories (fairy tales), shows, events, someone's example, singing and children's daily life.

Giving good teaching directly can be taught by introducing positive expressions, distinguishing when they are used, and by what are the benefits of using them. Parents teach and practice directly, such as asking for help, thanking, apologizing, saying excuse me and other positive expressions. Then teaching through watching animation with Islamic nuances for children. For example Nusa and Rara animation. This show can be used as a medium to introduce the application of positive expressions in everyday life, both for oneself, family, community, friends, teachers and others. Parents can ask their children again at the end of the show, what words should be imitated and what should not be done. Children will feel they have an example that is the same age as themselves when watching and being entertaining for children.

In addition to the above, teach children the introduction of positive expressions through fairy tales, story books, comics and various children's reading materials. Children really like picture media and one of them is children's reading books. Parents can read it with their children and sort out which behaviours or expressions are good and which are not. At the end of the session, parents will explain that the expressions and actions of the characters in the story are positive and can be applied in everyday life. Children can be explained through character conversations, storylines, story illustrations, character expressions, character actions, as well as the moral messages and values contained therein. Another way can be through singing. Children really like singing, so when children are taught something by singing, children will quickly understand. Not only when communicating, but parents and children must also interact when singing. One of the songs that parents can sing with their children is "what do you say if you do something wrong? Sorry, if you need help, what do you say? please, if you have been given what to say? thank you, if you want to pass say what? excuse me". The song is sung by parents and children while answering and answering. So indirectly, parents teach the introduction of positive expressions to children through songs or chants.

From the findings and results of the research, it can be identified that the introduction of positive expressions in families in early childhood can be done through three methods, namely habituation, example, and teaching. These three things are not patterned or have no clear order. Parents can teach children first, then get used to it and finally become role models. It could also be, parents, must be role models first for children, then start teaching children and finally it will become a habit for children. A psychologist and executive director of the spiritual and ethical education council, David Streight, said that children are imitators, including imitating how their parents act, either through gestures or speech. The reciprocity given by the child is in accordance with what the parents reflect. Parents are like mirrors for children, what parents do, then that's what they will see (VOI, 2022). Parents can also be like a tree, so the leaves that fall will not be far from the tree. It's the same as what parents reap, so that's what parents will sow. When parents teach or educate children gently, the child will grow into a good person who always uses his conscience and has moral values in every journey of his growth. Children first learn from the family environment, because the family is the first and foremost education. Parents as people who play an important and responsible role in nurturing, educating and shaping the child's personality. Children are social beings who will carry out social interactions with outsiders, so it is important for parents to introduce ethics in communication. Such as using positive expressions.

The introduction made by parents will not necessarily be accepted by the child, but parents must continue to do it repeatedly so that it becomes a habit and will be reapplied by the child. Introductions such as apologizing, asking for help, thanking you, excuse me and other positive expressions must be familiar to children because children are easily affected by the nature or new conditions around them. Some things that parents must do so that children continue to practice the habit of saying positive expressions, namely: [1] Train and guide children to continue to practice positive sayings or expressions to family, friends, teachers and the wider community, [2] Always remind children when children forget or intentionally not

saying positive expressions, by not embarrassing the child in public, that is by aligning oneself with the child and conveying gently that, for example, the child must apologize or thank others, [3] Give appreciation to the child for saying good things, either in greeting or as a gift, [4] Do not use harsh words, reproaches, insults and so on when trying to get children to use positive speech, because children change their moods and emotions very easily. So when children do bad things or expressions, parents may not immediately shout at the child, but use soft words that are acceptable to the child (Gunawan, 2014).

In addition to these four things, parents can also make rules in the family, such as asking for help, thanking, apologizing, saying excuse me, asking permission and so on to anyone at home. When these rules are not complied with, they will get punishment or punishment. If this continues to be done, it will become a habit and the child will do or apply it outside. When parents are going to get used to children saying positive expressions, then parents must routinely familiarize children, can also make certain programs, and finally, that habituation can be seen in children who do it spontaneously (Shunhaji et al., 2021). Habitual activities are the most meaningful activities for children because they will be repeated and will always be remembered by children. Likewise, the habit of positive expressions in children will affect ethics and manners in children, both at home, school, community and more broadly.

The introduction of positive expressions to children is influenced by the child's closeness to their parents, so if children make parents as examples, role models, imitations or imitations, then what is conveyed or introduced by parents will be carried out by children. It is important for parents to be role models for children. Parents who can make the atmosphere comfortable, safe, loving, and caring, then the child will do things with his conscience, not just do what he's told. Parents are the first caregivers of children, so parents are the longest and closest to children and attachment is created. This is called the primary caregiver, parents build attachment with children so that children are more easily shaped, guided, taught, and directed (Cenceng, 2015). Parents who are close and attached to their children must set a good and positive example so that parents will be good role models for their children. Exemplary has a great influence on children, which can determine the good and bad of the next child.

Positive expressions that are introduced by parents to children become provisions for children in early life and the next age of the child in the future. The influence of parents plays a very big role because parents are the key to forming children's attitudes. Parents who introduce and equip children with a variety of positive things, one of which is expressions in interacting or communicating with others, will be well received socially. Conversely, if the child does not have these provisions, the child will deviate and not easily get along with the people around him. Parents as the main educators must be good role models and can be imitated by children, so that when parents always teach to use positive expressions every day, it will become a habit until the child is an adult and has an independent life and is in the middle of a social environment.

CONCLUSION

Positive phrases that parents will instil in their children start at an early age, starting with the introduction. The introduction is done by habituation, exemplary and teaching methods. Parents as the main educators and main caregivers have an important role in introducing positive expressions to children. Like apologizing, asking for help, thanking, excuse me, asking for permission and other positive expressions. Habituation is done by parents by frequently repeating these phrases every day when needed so that if these expressions are repeated continuously they will become a habit. For that, parents must be good role models, because it will have a good impact on the process of introducing children. When the child has started to apply positive sayings in the family environment, the child will also get

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used to being outside the home.

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