

# Early Childhood Naturalist Intelligence Through Animal Sounds in Audiobooks *What is That Sound? "Meilania's Novel Work"*

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## Abstract

This article discusses the development of naturalist intelligence in early childhood through the book "Hear, What Voice Is It?" by Novel Meilania. Naturalist intelligence, which relates to the ability to recognize and interact with the natural environment, is essential to the foundation of a child's understanding of the world around them. The book is designed with interesting illustrations and interactive elements, and includes animal sounds that are accessible to children. Through this approach, the article explains its benefits in improving cognitive abilities, language, and a sense of empathy for the environment. Thus, this book becomes an effective means to stimulate naturalist intelligence and create a fun learning experience for children.

**Keywords:** naturalist intelligence, early childhood

## 1. Introduction

Early childhood education (PAUD) is an important stage in children's development, where stimulation of various aspects of intelligence is needed to support their holistic growth. The task of educators is to take advantage of the early childhood years with high care, not waste it. One of the important aspects to develop is naturalist intelligence, which is the ability of children to recognize, understand and love the natural environment around them. This intelligence includes an interest in living things, natural phenomena, as well as the ability to identify flora and fauna. However, in reality, not all children have the opportunity to interact directly with nature, so a creative and effective approach is needed in developing naturalist intelligence in early childhood.

The current development of digital technology has a significant impact on early childhood learning and play patterns. Children are more often exposed to the screens of gadgets and other electronic media compared to playing outside and interacting with the natural environment. In fact, early childhood is a critical period to develop various aspects of intelligence, including naturalist intelligence which involves the ability to recognize, understand, and appreciate the natural environment and living things around it. Limited direct interaction with nature can hinder a child's ability to develop curiosity. Therefore, creative and educational solutions are needed to overcome this obstacle, especially in the context of early childhood education (PAUD). (Gardner, 1983)

The book "Listen, What Voice Is It?" by Meilania Novel is one of the efforts to answer this challenge. The book is designed with an interactive approach that combines visual and audio elements, where children can see images of animals and hear the sounds produced by each animal. This approach allows children to make connections between the sound and the source, which can increase their naturalist intelligence. With this fun and interesting learning method, it is hoped that children can still be stimulated to know, understand, and love nature, even though it is not through direct interaction.

This book is also expected to foster a sense of care and empathy for living things, thereby strengthening the aspect of nature-based character education which is very important for early childhood development. Therefore, this study aims to examine the effectiveness of this book in developing early childhood naturalist intelligence, as well as the role of interactive books in creating a more meaningful learning experience for them.

## 2. Research Methods

In this article, the author uses the approach of literature research. Research comes from the English language, namely research (re means return, and search means searching). From this sense, it can be understood that research means looking back. According to Webster's dictionary of New International, research is a careful and critical investigation in search of facts and principles-investigators; a very ingenious investigation to establish something. Meanwhile, according to Sugiyono in his book (Yousda, 1993) Quantitative, Qualitative, and R&D Research Methods, literature review is an important first step in the research process. Sugiyono explained that literature research involves collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing information from various written sources, such as books, articles, and other documents relevant to the research topic of the book "Listen, What Sound Is It?" can be done with a method that focuses on collecting, analyzing, and interpreting relevant written sources to understand the context, objectives, and educational values contained in the book. Analysis of the content of the book The use of animal sounds as a learning medium is how this book introduces children to animal sounds, such as the sounds of frogs, birds, bees, and others. This book focuses on naturalist intelligence supporting the development of naturalist intelligence by involving children in the process of listening, identifying, and understanding the animals they encounter through sound (Sugiyono., 2017).

## 3. Results and Discussion

In the context of early childhood education, children's introduction to these natural elements helps build sensitivity to the environment, observation skills, and hone their curiosity about nature. The importance of early childhood, so experts say that it is a golden age or The Golden Age (Suyadi, 2010).

In another reference, it is said that early childhood is an individual who is experiencing a very rapid process of growth and development, even said to be a developmental leap. This means that development is a process experienced by every human being, including children. Learning through animal sounds makes the experience more immersive and invites children to interact with stories through listening and imitating animal sounds. Delivery and Interaction Methods, one of the interesting aspects of this book is the use of voice as the main element in learning. This book invites children not only to listen to stories, but also to actively participate by imitating the sounds of the animals they meet. This supports a more interactive and engaging learning process for children. (Mulyasa, 2012)

The Relevance of Books to Naturalist Intelligence Intelligence is one thing that there are smart people who can be expected to perform well in various types of learning situations. Naturalist intelligence is the ability to recognize and understand natural elements, such as flora, fauna, and other natural phenomena. The book "Hear, What Sound Is It?" effectively facilitates the development of this intelligence by introducing children to the sounds of nature that are often found around them. Through the recognition of the sounds of frogs, birds, bees, and other animals, this book helps children build awareness of the diversity of nature in their surroundings. (Slavin, 2008)

The Usefulness of Books in Early Childhood Education. Story-based learning such as the one offered by this book is very effective in improving critical thinking and problem-solving skills in early childhood. For example, when children are invited to find out what sounds they hear, they are indirectly trained to think critically and analyze the information they get from those sounds. In addition, by visualizing animals that produce certain sounds, children also develop the ability to make connections between sounds and objects in the real world.

Intelligence is a thinking skill and the ability to adapt and learn from daily life experiences. Intelligence includes characteristics such as creativity and interpersonal skills. So it can be concluded that intelligence is closely related to daily life experiences, both good and bad. But of course, intelligence or ability has a positive value and moral system, so it can be seen from various aspects that surround it. (Santrock, 2002)

This book has a main theme that revolves around the introduction of animal sounds to children. Through the character Bello, children are taken on a journey through the forest where they can hear and recognize the sounds of various animals such as frogs, birds, bees, crickets, forest rats, and mosquitoes. This theme is very much in line with the development of naturalist intelligence, one of the eight types of multiple intelligences introduced by Howard Gardner. (Meilania, 2020)

This intelligence emphasizes the ability to understand, recognize, and categorize aspects of nature, including animals and the sounds they produce. (Gadner, 2013)

#### 4. Conclusion

Naturalist intelligence is an important component in early childhood development. The book "Hear, What Sound Is It?" by Meilania Novel is an effective tool to develop this intelligence through animal voice recognition. With an interactive and engaging approach, this book not only helps children recognize the sounds and characteristics of animals, but also enhances their love and empathy for the natural environment. Through fun learning, children can grow into individuals who are more sensitive to the biodiversity around them.

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