

DIGITAL-BASED FOLKTALE TEACHING MATERIALS THROUGH YOUTUBE MEDIA TO IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS OF FIFTH GRADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the strategy of integrating the Saung Galah Kingdom folktale as Indonesian language teaching material through YouTube and analyze its impact on improving literacy and character development in elementary school students. The method used is descriptive qualitative with a literature study and media development approach. The results show that educational videos based on folktales can increase students' reading interest, listening skills, and writing abilities. Local values such as leadership, honesty, and cooperation also contribute to shaping students' character from an early age. The local culture-based approach and digital media have proven relevant to contextual learning in the Independent Curriculum.

Keywords: *folklore, Saung Galah, literacy, character, YouTube media, Indonesian*

Introduction

Reading comprehension is a crucial indicator of elementary school students' literacy development. Reading is not simply a matter of spelling words, but rather an active thinking process that involves the ability to comprehend, interpret, and reflect on the text's content (Anderson & Pearson, 1984). However, the reality on the ground shows that most students still experience difficulty in reading comprehension, particularly narrative texts that require mastery of story structure and understanding contextual meaning. This phenomenon presents a challenge in the implementation of the Independent Curriculum, which emphasizes comprehension-based learning, strengthening local culture, and developing character through relevant contexts.

As part of oral literature and the nation's cultural heritage, folktales have great potential as contextual teaching materials that instill moral values. Local stories are not only entertaining but also rich with ethical messages, heroism, honesty, cooperation, and leadership (Supriyadi, 2020; Siregar, 2021). Therefore, integrating folktales into Indonesian language learning can contribute to character formation and strengthen students' cultural identity from an early age.

On the other hand, advances in information technology have made digital media an integral part of students' learning lives. YouTube, one of the most popular video-sharing platforms among students, has proven effective in supporting audio-visual-