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A STUDY ON THE SPEAKING ABILITY OF THE FIRST GRADE STUDENTS OF SMA SWASTA TERAKREDITASI PGRI KUPANG

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Abstrak

Artikel ini berjudul Studi tentang Kemampuan Berbicara Siswa Kelas Satu SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang Tahun Ajaran 2023/2024. Penelitian ini mengambil lokasi di kelas satu SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang. Penelitian ini dirumuskan sebagai berikut. (1). Sejauh mana siswa kelas satu SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang mampu berbahasa Inggris (2). Apa saja kesulitan yang dihadapi oleh siswa kelas satu SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang dalam berbicara bahasa Inggris? Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah: (1). Untuk mengetahui sejauh mana siswa kelas satu SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang mampu berbicara bahasa Inggris, dan (2). Untuk mengetahui kesulitan-kesulitan yang dihadapi oleh siswa kelas satu SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang dalam berbicara bahasa Inggris. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan metode deskriptif. Kemampuan siswa semester pertama Program Studi Bahasa Inggris pada tahun akademik 2023/2024 dalam studi tentang kemampuan berbicara berada pada tingkat yang baik. Hal ini dibuktikan dengan nilai individu mahasiswa yang berkisar antara 70 hingga 79 dan tingkat kemampuan mahasiswa sekitar 44% lebih tinggi dari yang lain. Diikuti dengan tingkat kemampuan kurang, cukup, dan sangat baik. Berdasarkan tingkat kesulitan butir soal, menunjukkan bahwa ada empat butir soal yang dianggap sebagai butir soal yang sulit, yaitu butir soal nomor 3 (80%). 12 (76%), 26 (64%) dan 29 (60%). Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa beberapa siswa mengalami kesulitan dalam mengerjakan tes parafrase yang berhubungan dengan topik keluarga dibandingkan dengan tes mencocokkan percakapan. Dalam hal ini, mereka memiliki keterbatasan dalam berbicara untuk mengekspresikan kata-kata baru yang diberikan kepada mereka.

Kata kunci: Bahasa Inggris, berbicara, kemampuan, kesulitan, yang dihadapi

Abstract

This article entitle A Study on the Speaking Ability of the First Grade Students of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang in the Academic Year 2023/2024. This

study takes place at the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang. This study formulated as follows. (1). To what extend are the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang able to speak English?. (2). What are the difficulties encountered by the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang in speaking English? The aims of this study are: (1). To know the extend of the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang able to speak English, and (2). To find out the difficulties encountered by the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang in speaking English. In this research, the writer used descriptive method. The ability of the first semester students of English Study Program in the academic year 2023/2024 in a study on the speaking ability were in at good level. It was proved by the students' individual scores which is about 70 to 79 of their score and the students' ability level is about 44% which is higher than the others. It was followed by poor level, fair level and excellent level. Based on the students' item difficulty, it shows that there were four number of items who considered as the difficulty items, namely, item number 3 (80%), 12 (76%), 26 (64%) and 29 (60%). It indicates that some of the students had difficult in doing paraphrasing test which deals with family topic than matching speaking test. In this case, they had speaking limitation in order to express the new words given to them 52.

Keywords : English language, speaking, ability, difficulties, encountered

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INTRODUCTION

Human beings are social creatures that need to associate with one another. They communicate with a language to keep their relationship. It is stated by Clark & Clark (1973:3) that language is the main means of human communication. Effective communication is all about conveying messages to other people clearly and unambiguously. It is also about receiving information that others are sending, with as little distortion as possible. Doing this involves effort from both the sender of the message and the receiver. And it's a process that can be fraught with error, with messages muddled by the sender, or misinterpreted by the recipient. When this is not detected, it can cause tremendous confusion, waste effort and missed opportunity. By successfully getting your message across, you convey your thoughts and ideas effectively. When not successful, the thoughts and ideas that you actually send do not necessarily reflect what you think, causing a communications breakdown and creating roadblocks that stand in the way of your goals both personally and professionally. Communication happens at many levels (even for one single action), in many different ways, and for most beings, as well as certain machines. Several, if not all, fields of study dedicate a portion of attention to communication, so when speaking about communication it is very important to be sure about what aspects of communication one is speaking about. Knowledge of language use is the knowledge of how to use language appropriately, how people get it to do what we want it to do in the right circumstances, or as Nunan (1991:15) wrote, "success is measured in terms of the ability to carry out a conversation in the (target) language.". There are two important forms of communication, namely: verbal and non-verbal communication. Verbal communication means to communicate with words whether oral or written words, while non-verbal means without words. It is agreed that most of human activities are in the form of verbal communication that uses oral language.

Speaking is the form of oral language that is inevitably used to communicate ideas and feelings. A lay man likes to judge the

success of learning language from the ability to express the idea orally. It is the cats that the goal of people learning language is to be able to speak. From the explanation above shortly we can say that the communication is closely relate is the speaking ability. It means that the ability to speak clearly must be support by good speaking competence. Many students often faced with such problem, mainly about their competence to deliver their idea or thought through spoken. Speaking is very important in English study and in training the students' ability to use English. Even if a student may be good at listening and writing, it doesn't follow that he will speak well. "A discriminating ear does not always produce a fluent tongue." (Geoffrey, 1980:51) There has to be training on the productive skill of speech as well. There are several requirements must be fulfilled as student to achieve good speaking competence, there are vocabulary, pronunciation, structure, fluency, comprehension etc. However, some students have difficult to speak even in using simple expressions during teaching and learning process. The difficulties are caused by the fact that the system of English different from Indonesian. Based on the researcher observation, she found that the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang have low motivation in learning English because they think English is a difficult subject.

This study tries to know about the student ability level in speaking skill. So, she is really interested in conducting research at the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang under the title: "A Study on the Speaking Ability of the First Grade of SMA SWASTA TERAKREDITASI PGRI KUPANG in the School Year 2023/2024".

RESEARCH PROBLEMS

Based on the background above, the problems of this study can be formulated as follows. (1). To what extend are the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang able to speak English? (2). What are the difficulties encountered by the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang in speaking English? The aims of this study are: (1). To know the extend of the first grade of

SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang able to speak English, and (2). To find out the difficulties encountered by the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang in speaking English.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Concept of Speaking

According to Webster Dictionary (1984:256) speaking is outer words, to express thought by words, to outer speech, discourse, or argue, to talk, to make mention, to tell by writing, to communicator ideas in any matter. Horn (1980:76) implies speaking also means to use a language in ordinary, not in singing. Above theories emphasize that speaking is an effort to use language freely, being able to speak which puts more emphasis on inter action, communication and understanding each other. While according to Ratih (2002:9), speaking is the form of oral language that is in evitable used to communicate ideas and feelings, no matter what the language is.

Based on definition above, speaking include some components which should be mastered: structural accuracy, vocabulary, pronunciation, fluency and comprehension for oral communication in the classroom context. The speaking component in a language class should encourage acquisition of communication in and out classroom. Those components will be used as measurements description in order to check the correctness in terms of non- using the score.

English speaking ability as an ability your skill that the learner shave to communicate, to convey meaning, and to have a meaningful conversation English. In learning English, the main goal is to be able to speak well so they can use it in communication. Speaking skills believed as an important aspect to be success in English speaking. The success of learning English can be seen and measured from their performance in speaking and how well they present their English in communication. English the target language should be mastered well, either its language skill language area. In acquiring second

language, learners should be involved into a meaningful inter action of the target language that only found in natural communication. Learners learn to speak and concerned to themes sage that they are conveying and understanding. Ratih (2002:12) explained that when people speak, they construct ideas in words, express their perception, their feelings and their intentions, inter locutors grasp meaning of what the speakers mean. If the learners do not have speaking skill, does not understand the English words that saying by the speaker, does not acknowledge the language, they cannot grasp meaning of the speaker's mean.

Speaking skill requires two aspects, namely linguistic aspect. Linguistic aspect is the main requirement that the English learner should possess in order to speak it well. It involves comprehension, pronunciation, grammar and word order, vocabulary, and general speed of speech, sentence length and etc. and Non-linguistic aspect is an aspect to support learners to achieve a success in acquiring speaking skill. This aspect involves personality such as self-esteem and extra version. dimensions, To be success in English speaking, learners should master the linguistic aspect and possess then on-linguistic aspect. They both correlate each other. So, English speaking ability here not only focuses on the knowledge of language that the learner shave, but also focuses on the personality dimension that will affect them in presenting their knowledge of English and they know how and when to present it. Many people believe that "speaking skill" is an important aspect to acquire when learning a second or foreign language and the success of learning the language is measured from the performance of learners to speak the language learned. However most people learning language have goal to be able to speak so that they can communicate. Clark & Clark (1977:3), state that the nature of language is a principle means for communication among human beings. Noticing the process of communication, it is assumed that two main activities occurring it, namely listening and speaking.

Finocchiaro (1974:2) also convinces that all normal human beings are able to speak and note robe is found without an oral

language. From this, it is regarded that an oral language/ speaking is language skill that is absolutely posed by every normal human being. The ability to speak can be seen from daily activities. Asocial creatures, people always inter act with one another, surely they could not live alone and it is the oral language that is used as an instrument to inter act.

(Bygate, 1955:40) says that communicative inter action can be defined through the existence of participant negotiating a meaning and in a general term their existence is to control interaction by noticing who is saying, to whom the speakers are saying, what is discussed, and when the interaction occurs. Consciously or not people who are speaking experience those particulars.

In a language teaching process in which goal of teaching is to enable learners to communicate, the learners need to be given a lot of chance to practice using the language learned. It is only through practices that the ability of learners to speak can increase. Offner (2001:2) convinces us that the only way to acquire English speaking skill is through practices. The learners who want to be skillful at speaking English must practice to speak using English. Forth is reason, speaking can be regarded as the ability to express ideas and feelings that can be acquired through practices. Shortly we can say that speaking is very important in English because by speaking we can express intention and willingness to the other people and communicate all of the ideas.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

In conducting a scientific research, a method or design is extremely needed in answering the problems. In this research, the writer used descriptive method. It is a method used to investigate a group of people, an object, a set of conditions, a set of concepts or class of events on the spot (Seville at al, 1988:52). That is why this method was used to describe the ability and difficulties of the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang to speak English.

Population

Population as the whole objects of an investigation which contains human being, things, test scores, or events as the source data

that have certain characteristic in an investigation. The population of this study is the first grade of SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang which consists of 30 students.

Sample

Sutrisno Hadi (1980:70) explains that sample as part of population taken by using certain ways for research purpose. Then, Arikunto (1998:120) asserts that if the subject of the population is less than 100, the population will be taken as a sample. On the other hand if the subject of the population is more than 100 the sample can be taken 10-15% or more, based on:

- The capability of researcher based on the time, energy and fund
- The area of the observation from each subject whether it is narrow or wide has relation with more or less the data
- High or low risk which must be graduated by the researcher.

Based on Arikunto's prescription, the writer took all the population as a sample because it consists less than 100 students or subject. So, the sample of this study is 30 students.

Research Instrument

The instrument will be used in conducting this research is test. It is a set of stimuli given to someone in order to get the answer as the basic to give the score. In this case, the writer will use speaking test.

Data Analysis Technique

The data will be analyzed in descriptive based on the following procedures: (a) checking the students answer sheets and (b) grading those answers. There are some rules or formula will be used by the writer in calculating the students' speaking ability. These are can be explained as follows.

1. In getting the individual students's core the writer will use the formula as follows:

$$S = \frac{x}{N} \times 100$$

Note:

S- Score

n= The correct answers

N= The total number of items

2. To determine the level of the student's capability, the writer will use Arikunto's Formula as follows:

- 80-100 of the students is giving right answers is excellent
- 70-79 of the students is giving right answers is good
- 60-69 of the students is giving right answers is fair
- 0-59 of the students is giving right answers is poor
- The student's speaking ability is calculated as follows:

$$Y \ X = NX100\%$$

X - The percentage

Y-Total number of students in the level

N-Total number of students who join the test.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

In this part, the writer presents the data which she took from the result of the test which has been joined by 25 students of first semester students of English study program in the academic year 2023/2024. The result of the test can be classified into the individual score of students, the percentage of each student's level and the items' difficulty level.

The Individual Score of Students

In this part, the writer presented the table of the individual score of students in a study on the speaking ability. It could be calculated by using formula as; the total correct answer were divided by the total number of items, and then multiplied by one hundred.

For example

The score of the student number. 1, he got 34 of the score from 40 of the total score. So, it can be calculated as follows;

$$34 \div 40 \times 100 = 85$$

Table I
The Scores of the Students

No	Students	Scores	Poor	Fair	Good	Excelent
1	Student 1	85				✓
2	Student 2	80				✓
3	Student 3	80				✓
4	Student 4	75				✓
5	Student 5	75			✓	

6	Student 6	70			✓	
7	Student 7	70			✓	
8	Student 8	70			✓	
9	Student 9	70			✓	
10	Student 10	70			✓	
11	Student 11	70			✓	
12	Student 12	70			✓	
13	Student 13	70			✓	
14	Student 14	70			✓	
15	Student 15	65		✓		
16	Student 16	65		✓		
17	Student 17	65		✓		
18	Student 18	65		✓		
19	Student 19	65		✓		
20	Student 20	65		✓		
21	Student 21	65		✓		
22	Student 22	55	✓			
23	Student 23	55	✓			
24	Student 24	50	✓			
25	Student 25	50	✓			
	TOTAL		210	440	780	245

Based on the table above, it shows that there were 3 students who included into excellent level because the range of score between 80 to 100, 11 students who included into good level because the range of score between 70 to 79 and 7 students included into fair level because the range of score between 60 to 69 and 4 students included into poor level because the range of score between 0 to 59. The highest score (85) was achieved by two students and the lowest score (50) was achieved by two students. So, the writer concludes that the ability of the first semester students of English study program in the academic year 2016/2017 in a study on the speaking ability was included into good level, because there are 11 students achieved the good score which is the highest. Then, it was followed by poor level and excellent level.

The Students' Ability Level

In this part, the writer presented the percentage of the students' ability in a study on the speaking ability. It can be obtained by

counting the total number of students in each level and divided by the total number of students who join the test, then multiplied one hundred. Therefore, the percentage of each student's level was calculated by using the following.

Formula:

$$X = V/N * X * 100\%$$

X = the percentage

Y = total number of students in the level

N = number of students who join the test

There are four levels of category which are measured, namely: poor level, fair level, good level, and excellent level. Most of them are calculated as follows:

A. Poor Level

For measuring the percentage of poor level, the total number of the students of poor level was 4 students and the total number of the students who join the test was 25. So, it can be calculated as follow: $X = Y/N * 100\%$ $x = 4/25 * 100 = 16\%$

The percentage of poor level was 16%

B. Fair Level

For measuring the percentage of fair level, the total number of the students of fair level was 7 students and the total number of the students who join the test was 25. So, it can be calculated as follow: $X = Y/N * 100\%$ $7 X = 28\%$ the good level was 44% and the percentage of excellent level was 12%. From the percentage, it proved that the ability of the first semester students of English study program in the academic year 2016/2017 in a study on the speaking ability were included into good level, because the percentage of good level was the highest. Then, it was followed by poor level, fair level and excellent level.

The Items' Difficulty Levels

For measuring the 25 students' incorrect answer per item, it can be calculated as follows. In item number 1, there were 16 students who choose the incorrect answers. The total numbers students who join the test were 25.

$$N = \frac{X}{Y} \times 100\%$$

$$N = \frac{16}{25} \times 100\%$$

$$N = 64\%$$

Table II
The Item's Difficulty Level

Item Number	Total of Incorrect Answer	The Percentage Incorrect Answer
1	16	64%
2	8	32%
3	20	80%
4	14	56%
5	4	16%
6	11	44%
7	9	36%
8	14	56%
9	15	60%
10	8	32%
11	12	48%
12	19	76%
13	15	80%
14	8	32%
15	11	44%
16	11	44%
17	14	56%
18	11	44%
19	11	44%
20	7	28%
21	13	52%
22	11	44%
23	9	30%
24	16	64%
25	11	44%
26	16	64%
27	13	52%
28	13	52%
29	15	60%
30	14	56%

Based on the table above, it shows that there were four number of items which considered as difficulty items, namely: item number 3 (80%), 12 (76%), 26 (64%), 29 (60%). The item number 3 was considered as the difficult one because there were 20 students who chose incorrect answer in that item. It was proved by the percentage of the students' incorrect answer was 80% which is the highest.

Discussion

In this part, the writer describes about the students' difficulties in a study on the speaking ability. Actually, the ability level of the first semester students of English study program in the academic year 2023/2024 were included into good level, however, there were some students who had difficult to a study on the speaking ability. It shows that there were four number of items who considered as the difficulty items, namely, item number 3, 12, 26, and 29. These were explained as follow:

Once upon a time, there was an old man was gathering sticks in the forest. He was stopped by age and work hard. When he hobbled painfully, he thought of this troubles and began feel regret for himself. With a hopeless gesture, he threw his bundle of sticks on the ground and groaned, "life is too hard". I can't bear any longer. If only death would come and take me "while the words were out of his mouth. Death in the form of the skeleton in a black robe stood in front of him. "I heard you call me, sir. What can I do for you"? he said. "please, sir, could you please help me put this bundle of sticks back on my shoulder again?" replied the old man.

1. What can we learn from the story above?
 - a. Take care your body
 - b. We will die someday
 - c. Work hard is good for our health
 - d. Be careful when you say and wish
 - e. Enjoy your life

Anybody who is over the age of six knows that there is nowhere safe for skateboarders to skate. This prevents young people from enjoying an active, energetic and adventurous past time. Just watch a local street for a short while and note the steady stream of the skaters speeding up and down the footpaths. Toddlers can be trample on and old ladies can be knocked down as they struggle home carrying their cat food from supermarket. Thunderous rattles are heard on our main roads each night as skaters travel without lights and without signs to oncoming cars. Skateboarding is a serious sport that improves young's pe health. It increases fitness, improves balance and strengthens the joints knees ankles. Although it appears to be

a solo sport, when groups practice together compete to perform stunts or runs they form firm friendship. Young people should be prevented from becoming overweight couch potato they are actively involved in skating, they do not smoke, take drugs or break la for fun. Kids will always seek thrills and excitement. They need to practice the 180s, 360s and Ollie's free from restrictions. We must build skate parks in t suburb so that streets are safe for small children and senior citizens and skate have spaces, where they can race, chase, speed, and soar towards the sur

2. The main idea of the third paragraph is.....
 - a. There is no safe place for skateboarders
 - b. Kids seek an excitement in skate
 - c. The goodness of skateboarding
 - d. The skateboarding is a serious sport
 - e. How to prevent overweight of skateboarding
3. Y: How do you like the food?
X: The food was lousy
The underlined sentence expresses..
 - a. Satisfaction
 - b. Dissatisfaction
 - c. Intention
 - d. Admitting
 - e. Requesting

CONCLUSIONS

In this part, the writer presents some conclusions and suggestions relating to this writing based on the data finding and discussion

Conclusions

The ability of the first semester students of English Study Program in the academic year 2023/2024 in a study on the speaking ability were in at good level. It was proved by the students' individual scores which is about 70 to 79 of their score and the students' ability level is about 44% which is higher than the others. It was followed by poor level, fair level and excellent level.

Based on the students' item difficulty, it shows that there were four number of items who considered as the difficulty items, namely, item number 3 (80%), 12 (76%), 26 (64%) and 29 (60%). It indicates that some of the students had difficult in doing paraphrasing test which deals with family topic than matching speaking test. In this case, they had speaking limitation in order to express the new words given to them 52

Suggestions

By looking at all of this writing and result of the research, the writer presents some suggestions, as follows:

- The English lecturers who teaches in English study program in the academic year 2023/2024 have to give more practice to the students in learning English in order to increase their English.
- The first semester students of English study program in the academic year 2023/2024 have to pay more attention about a study on the speaking ability in order to enrich their in English.

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