

ENGLISH COMMUNICATION PROGRAM: SCHOOL'S EFFORT IN FACILITATING STUDENTS' SPEAKING

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to discover more about the communication program held by SMAN 1 Tembilahan in order to improve students' speaking skills. The qualitative data was gathered and a Google form questionnaire was distributed to get the data along with the purpose above. This study sample consists of 3 English teachers from SMAN 1 Tembilahan who actively guide their students in English extracurriculars. Based on the data result, there are two programs that can help students improve their speaking skills in this school. The one which facilitates students to have much exercises; English Club and another one facilitates students to compete each other at the end of every semester; English performance competition. Students in the English club program learn and practice debate, speech, and 4 main skills (listening, writing, reading, and speaking). Meanwhile, in the English performance competition, students compete in debate and speech presentation.

Keywords: English Communication Program, Speaking Skill

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui tentang program yang terkait dengan komunikasi Bahasa Inggris yang di laksanakan oleh SMAN 1 Tembilahan yang tujuannya adalah untuk meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara Bahasa Inggris siswa. Data kualitatif di ambil melalui angket yang disebarakan menggunakan Google form. Angket tersebut didistribusikan untuk mendapatkan data tentang tujuan penelitian ini. Sampel dari penelitian ini terdiri dari 3 orang guru Bahasa Inggris dan 1 kepala sekolah di SMAN 1 Tembilahan yang secara aktif membimbing siswa mereka dalam kegiatan ekstrakurikuler tersebut. Berdasarkan data yang didapat, ada dua jenis program yang dapat membantu meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara bahasa inggris siswa. Salah satunya adalah yang memfasilitasi siswa untuk mendapatkan banyak latihan, yaitu English club dan 1 lagi yang memfasilitasi siswa untuk berkompetisi pada setiap akhir semester yaitu English performance competition. Siswa belajar bagaimana melakukan debate dan speech dalam bahasa inggris dan belajar 4 skill utama dalam bahasa inggris pada program English club. Sedangkan pada "english performance competition", siswa melakukan lomba debat dan pidato.

Kata kunci: Program berkomunikasi Bahasa Inggris, Kemampuan berbicara

1. INTRODUCTION

Education is an activity to help a person to maximize their potential and abilities while also shaping their character. As a result, schools play an essential role in Indonesian education. Because students' achievement is a measure of success in the educational process at school. In another meaning, schools must strive to play an optimal role through students coaching and other means, because education is not only mental and logical issue, but also emotional. Furthermore, Students may learn not only

through verbal instructions given in a formal classroom setting, but also through non verbal instructions given in the field of extracurricular activities (Yildiz, 2016:164).

Therefore, extracurricular activities can be held for facilitating students' interest and talent. Especially in learning the language, school can create a program or more to help students in increasing their ability in using the language. Nowadays, English is one of the languages that is as global language used by people to communicate all over the world. It can not

be debated that English as an international language and a foreign language is very important in the 21st century, especially in international communication (Rohayati, 2018:270). Due to the importance of English language proficiency, education practitioners have provided sufficient space for schools to teach and learn English. The ability to speak does not come naturally. This skill is developed in schools through specially designed programs and exercises (Mudini S. Purba in Isnani, 2013). It means school program or extracurricular program for facilitating students' communication in English is really needed as a means for increasing students' speaking skill.

Some of the activities that can be carried out in the extracurricular activities include speaking practice (conversation), storytelling, debate practice (debate), and public speaking (speech). These activities were chosen because speaking skills are regarded as a determinant of success in English learning. In addition to improving English language skills, students are prepared to compete in high school level equivalent competitions that demonstrate students' achievement in mastering English (Sabaruddin & Jafar, 2021:834).

Amelia et al., (2017:83) stated the acceptance of a relationship between oneself and something outside oneself is what interest is all about. The more the interest, the stronger or closer the relationship. A student's interest can be conveyed by a remark suggesting that they favor one item over another, or it can be exhibited through involvement in an activity. Isnani (2017:5) also mentioned extracurricular activities are educational activities that take place outside of classrooms. These activities are carried out both inside and outside of the school environment in order to expand knowledge, improve skills, and internalize religious principles or regulations, as well as local, national, and global social conventions, in order to form a whole human being.

Learning four language skills, such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking, is beneficial in improving students' writing and oral abilities. However, not all students have good English skills. This issue must be addressed immediately in order for English learning in schools to function optimally. One of the efforts is to implement and develop several extracurricular activities or programs in learning English in schools in order to improve students' Speaking skills.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Facilitating Students' speaking with communication program

School as a place for students to learn is having responsibility to facilitate students to engage in positive activities. Not only for the learning and teaching process in the classroom, but also after It (another program outside of the curriculum to support students' talent and interest). Therefore, it can not be doubted that the components in it (head master and teachers) should prepare and help students to explore their talent out side of the classroom, especially for improving their speaking skill.

Meanwhile, It is difficult to prepare programs to assist students in speaking English. It could be because planning and implementing a systematic English program is difficult due to a lack of funds and government support (Suh, et al, 2021:112).

Eventhough some problems come out during the program, teachers and the head master still need to facilitae the students with some english speaking program. Let us say an extracurricular activities. This program has some main goals. They are intended to improve students' cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities, as well as to foster students' talent and interest in self-management efforts that contribute to positive human resource development (Suryosubroto, 2004 quoted by Kardiansyah & Qodriani, 2018:2). Yildiz (2016:164) also climes that Extracurricular activities are beneficial because they help students develop positive attitudes.

Therefore, by having the extracurricular activities especially for english communication program, Students with the talent on it or not will be able to have exercise to communicate in this program and they will master through.

Hence, according to Sabgini (2017:170) that Extracurricular activities are typically defined as activities that do not fall under the purview of the academic curriculum but are provided by an academic institution. She also adds that some extracurricular activities may focus on group, interaction, management, and other public skill-building and beneficial growth for members.

Besides, Extracurricular activities should emphasize Speaking skill to assist students in language learning; this can be done through role-play, debate, or topic presentation activities that require group work. Collaboration within the team is essential (Yildiz, 2016:162)

2.1.1. Kinds of English communication program as extracurricular

Different schools will have different English program as extracurricular for helping their students in enhanching their english communication skill. They are free to choose the activites and named the programs by their selves, Such as English club, English day,

Speaking Club, excellent English club, English discussion club and many more.

In the other hand, Sabgini (2017:170) says that there is one program that can specifically support English learning outside of the classroom as an extracurricular, that is English club, which is a club for people who are interested in English language practice. They all come to the club with the same goal in mind: to improve their English.

Although the primary goals of English clubs are communication and practice of English, activities in English clubs may include reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking, the emphasis is on practicing oral language skills—speaking and listening to English (Malu and Smedley, 2016 in Zulhermindra, 2018:391).

Besides, another program that can be conducted by school that can facilitate students in speaking English is English day program. A research conducted by Saputra (2011) showed that English day program 73.5% influence students' speaking ability of senior High school students of MAN 2 Model Pekanbaru. In this program, students follow some activities, such as debate, speech, reading poem, singing, and drama.

2.2. Speaking skill

Jaya, et al (2022) state that Speaking is usually the most preferred language skill that is used to determine whether or not someone has succeeded in learning a language, so having good speaking performance is a must.

Besides, Illinawati, et al (2021) state that "Speaking is a kind of activity where the students are flexible to express their idea by using all and any language they know".

In accordance with the above statements that Tarigan (2008) in Kardiansyah & Qodriani (2018:2) has also had a definition about what speaking is. According to him, speaking is the ability to pronounce articulation sounds or words in order to express feelings and ideas.

In the classroom setting, The characteristics of good speaking will be scored based on the components listed below (Huges, 2003):

1. Vocabulary
Vocabulary is a collection of words or terms that have the same meaning but are expressed in different languages in alphabetical order.
2. Comprehension
The ability to catch information with enough words to understand the meaning based on context is referred to as comprehension.

3. Fluency
Fluency is the use of natural language that occurs when a person is actively involved in communication where the speaker is required to interact well and that person can maintain easy to understand and sustainable communication even though they still have communicative competence limitations.
4. Accent
An accent is a distinct way of pronouncing a language, particularly one associated with a specific nation, region, or social class.
5. Grammar
Grammar is the entire system and structure of a language or of languages in general, typically defined as syntax and morphology (including inflections) and, on occasion, phonology and semantics.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research is qualitative research, which focuses on descriptive analysis, which explains the facts and phenomena obtained in the field according to the research subject presented in words (Zakaria, 2020). This research was carried out to find out what school's programs as extracurricular activities which help students in learning English are. The location of this research was at SMAN 1 Tembilahan. In this study, data collection was carried out by conducting observations, face-to-face interviews, and open-ended questionnaire via Google Form. The observations made in this study were observations for the school's program as extracurricular at SMAN 1 Tembilahan. Then, Interviews were conducted to obtain accurate data and appropriate data sources to collect information related to various provisions made by teachers in English studies in the English extracurricular program. In this study, we interviewed the principal of SMA 1 Tembilahan and two teachers of English.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researchers collected the data by giving a questionnaire which has been shared via online using Google Forms. From the result, it can be explained that SMAN 1 Tembilahan has two English programs to help students practice their speaking skills. The first is English Club, where this program explores more about English with many different

tutors and with fun methods and materials. Besides, it gives chance for students to practice their speaking by doing some activities such as debate and speech. Then, they also get more materials about four basic skills (Listening, Writing, Reading, and Speaking). Furthermore, the second is English performance competition. This program held by the school at the end of every semester together with sport program or they call it with "class meeting". All classes compete in this competition. They usually held two kinds of English competition, they are debate and Speech. Based on the claim of the teachers that those programs can improve students' speaking skills and help them to practice their public speaking skill.

Further, based on the interview result, it can be concluded that from two programs which school have, all the respondents agree that the best way to improve students' speaking skill in this school is by involving students in debate and speech both in English club program for exercising and in the competition. The English teachers in SMAN 1 Tembilahan also hope those programs could accelerate students to improve their four basic skills, especially speaking skills, and these programs can be done every week outside of school hours.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the data result above, it can be concluded that the communication programs that SMAN 1 Tembilahan have can improve students' speaking skills. The program is English Club and English performance competition. In English club program, students learn and practice debate, speech, and four basic skills (Listening, Writing, Reading, and Speaking). Then, at the end of every semester, English performance competition is held which are containing debate and speech competition.

Since, the programs bring positive impact to the students' achievement in learning English, especially speaking. Therefore all English teachers in SMAN 1 Tembilahan expect that this program always be continued and be better.

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