

# **A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STUDENTS' LEARNING STYLE AND THEIR ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILL**

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**Abstract:** This study aimed to find out is there any relationship between students learning style and their speaking skill usually applied by students when they are in learning process. This study used quantitative method. The researcher took students of the fourth semester students of English Department of University of Islam Malang. The linguistic major students as the participants consisting of 50 students from two classes. Qquestionnaire is the instrument of this study. To analyze the data, the researcher used SPSS version 20. The finding of this study showed that correlation is significant at 0.05 where the result of r value or computation  $r = 0.303$ . in term of size r –obtained was on interval 0.20-0.40 it means that the relation between learning style and speaking skill used by fourth semester students of English department of UNISMA correlated. But on low correlation, it supported by the mean score of students learning style that is 75.80 and the mean of students speaking skill 76.8. It means that the students of the fourth semester of English education department of UNISMA need support from their lecturer to use learning style to develop their speaking skill based on their style of learning. Therefore, it can be concluded that the learning style is one of the basis of every students to be the main success in increasing their skill. To improve students' speaking skill, it is necessary to practice more about how to use the learning style themselves. In addition, students also need to recognize their learning style so that the learning process might be effective.

**Key Words:** Learning Style, Speaking Skill

## INTRODUCTION

Language is the way that used by community or country to communicate. They use language as media to express their thought or feeling, either in the form of spoken or written. This is line with the statement that stated by Selvi and Raja (2011). That “Language is a very important means of communication it is very difficult to think a society without the language, it sharpens people’s thoughts and guides and controls their entire activity” Nordquist (2018) argue that in order to make some agreement and comprehension, human used the language revert to some rules, norm, and the other one is pattern or grammar that follow by the human to find utterance or sounds in ways that they can understand each other. Meanwhile, according to Cambridge Online Dictionary in particular country people used the language as a media or ways to communicate, the term of language is interpreted as a system which are consisting of sound, grammar and system.

Teaching and learning language is priority in the field of education and English language is an essential need as an international language. Extending English language is prerequisite due to growing development the field of technology and science. Now days, English language has been become the first foreign language in Indonesia. The position of English language in Indonesia comes after Bahasa Indonesia and many local language that spread around the country. In educational aspects, English has an importantly strategic palace. Now days, almost all the scientist papers in all subject are published in English and English has been largely taught and used to instruct students, the aims is to make students in schools and universities more competitive internationally and English language itself become a bridge that helps knowledge development improvement such Indonesia. Indonesia government has determined several subjects or lessons that have to be taught in the school by the teachers. English language included one of the subject. Mostly, Indonesia people start learning English as they reach primary educational level. As it stated in Rini (2014) that learning English language in Indonesia started in early of 1990s, there have been some curriculums changes since English was taught for the first time until today. Yet, the learning of

English at school or universities do not bring much different in real practice of teaching and learning from what has been going on these years.

Speaking is one of the main aspect of English communication use. In fact, it is true that speaking plays a quite important part in English Major. Speaking is one of the language skill in English study as a process of communication, the process of changing thought or feeling becomes utterance or fully meaning utterance. Aitchison (1999) in his linguistic book told common vocabulary, simple structure, fragment, in explicit, concrete, more than one participants are the type of spoken, that is way we called all the types of spoken above are still process in speaker's mind.

Learning style is one of the educational instruments which can determine learning process successfully that is why Torre (2013) the teacher could be able to understanding students' learning style to evaluate the students' individual preference. While Dunn (1994) said learning style is the way in which each learner begins to concrete on, process and retain new and difficult information. To ensure learning objectives is running well and evaluate the students' learner style is needed for the teacher in teaching and learning process Torre (2013).

According to Warn (2009), learning styles refers to way of each individual absorb the learning. Furthermore, learning styles commonly believed that is not only "what" the learners learn but also "how" the learners learn, so not everyone learns in the same way, they have their own preferred way of learning. This is in line with statement by Mohamad and Omar (2014) aid that "learning styles involve the strategies that students like to apply in teaching situation "each person has learning environment Moussa (2014). So, it is commonly true that, each person has very learning styles, it is according to inclination of each individual. Tree of most dominant one are visual or learner by observing and seeing and kinesthetic learn by moving and touching and auditory learn by hearing. Based on the introduction of the study that has been discussed, the researcher for mulates the problem: is there any correlation between student learning style and their Speaking Skill in lower and higher students score?

## **METHOD**

The researcher used quantitative research the research design used in this study was correlation which is to measure and determine the relations among two or more variable. Latief (2017) declares that a correlation research design is used to measure the correlation between two or more variables using correlational statistic. According to Creswell (2012:338), a correlation is a statistical test to determine the tendency or pattern that very concisely for two or more variable. In this research, there are two variables that are: language learning style and speaking skill (Y). The purpose of correlation is to determine relations among variables.

In this study, the researcher want to investigate the relation between the student learning style were used the fourth semester students of English education department of UNISMA and their speaking skill with higher and lower score. Hence, the independent variable of this study was the use of students learning style, while the dependent was students' speaking skill. In this study, the researcher choose students of English department of Teacher training and education of University of Islam Malang. There are six class in fourth grade of English department, the total participants were 50 students from two classes that class A and class C.

In conducting this study, the researcher used two instruments for collecting the data. The first instrument was questionnaire to measure the use of students learning style, and the second was documentation that is the scores of students' speaking test. There were some steps to collect the data. The first was data administration, checking completeness of the data, checking content of the data. The questionnaire contained 33 questions that are divided into three parts; for visual is questions number 1 until number 11, auditory is questionnaire from number 12 until 22 and kinesthetic is question from number 23 until number 33. Is means that when students have higher score for point part 1 than others parts, they are called visual learners and vice versa for part 2 and part 3.

The second is the researcher asked a license from administrative staff of English education department to conduct the study. Then the researcher asked permission to the speaking lecturer who is teaching speaking courses in class 4A and 4C to carry out the study. After getting the permission, the researcher distributed the questionnaire by goggle form.

After all the questionnaires were submitted, the researcher calculated the score which used a like scale model which applied number 1 to 5. Score 5 for item strongly agree, score 4 for the item agree, score 3 for the item neutral, score 2 for the item disagree, and score 1 for the item strongly disagree. Then the researcher took the students' learning style scores by calculating all item that had been already answered by the students around number 1 to 5. Finally the researcher got the data of students' learning style.

For collecting the second data, the researcher asked permission to the speaking lecturer to ask the students speaking scores that had already been collected by her in each meeting of speaking class.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS**

The findings of this study were to verify the research problem proposed by the researcher in Chapter I. It was aimed to investigate whether there is a strong correlation between students learning style and students their English speaking skill used by fourth semester students of English education of UNISMA or not.

**Table 4.1 Descriptive Statistic of Learning Style and Speaking Skill**

	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Learning Style</b>	88	164	75.8	16.761	50
<b>Speaking Skill</b>	65	88	76.8	4.646	50

Table 4.1 showed that the descriptive statistic of learning style and speaking skill, the samples of the study are 50 students. The minimum score of learning style is 88 while the maximum score of learning style is 164. Moreover, the mean score of students learning style is 75.80 and the standard deviation of students' learning style is 16.761. For the students' speaking skill it showed that

the minimum score of the students' speaking skill is 65 and the maximum score of the students' speaking skill is 88. Moreover the mean of the speaking skill is 76.8 and the standard deviation of students' speaking skill is 4.646.

Students had been given a questionnaire which consist of 33 questions related to the use of their Learning style. Then the researcher checked and counted each questionnaire sheet that had already been answered by the students to figure the total scores and the students learning style were used by the students to enhance their speaking skill. From the data above the researcher got the result that the minimum score of the students learning style is 88 while the maximum scores of the students learning style is 164. Moreover the mean score of learning style is 75.80 and the standard deviation of learning style is 16.761.

The students' speaking scores were taken from documentation of the speaking lecture. The lecture scored of the students' speaking skill through daily speaking performance which had been done by the students every meeting with their lecturer. The lowest score of the speaking performance is 65 and the higher score is 88. Than the mean of the speaking skill is 76.8 and the standard deviation is 4.646.

In this study the researcher used SPSS version 20 to analyze the data whether there is significant correlation between student learning style and speaking skill. Below is the result of the computation using person product moment coefficient correlation.

**Table 4.2 Summary of the Correlation Between Students' Learning Style and Students' Speaking Skill**

		Learning Style	Speaking skill
Learning Style	Pearson Correlation	1	-.303*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.032
	N	50	50
Speaking skill	Pearson Correlation	-.303*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.032	
	N	50	50

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

From the table above, the result of r-value of computation showed  $r = 0.032$  meanwhile the P value (sig.(2.tailed)) that obtained from table of Person Product Moment Coefficient Correlation value, was 0.032. Therefore the level of significance indicated that P value was than 0.05. It means that there is significant correlation between two variable which is showed by the r-value is higher than P value.

In term of size, considering high and low of the correlation between those two variables should be consulted to the interpretation level as taken by Mistar (2013).

**Table 4.3 the Interpretation Level of Correlation**

<b>Product Moment ®</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
0.80-1.00	Very High
0.60-0.80	High
0.40-0.60	Moderate
0.20-0.40	Low
0.00-0.20	Very Low

Based on the result of the score obtained to the table interpretation level of correlation, it can be concluded that the correlation between those two variable was on low correlation.

the result of the study conducted by the researcher and tried to answer the statement of the research problem in Chapter I. in this study the researcher analyzed the data by using SPSS version 20 to fin the correlation between independent variable and dependent variable. The purpose of this study is to investigate whether there is a correlation between student learning style and speaking skill used by forth semester students of English department of UNISMA,

Based on the result on the table 4.1 the researcher found that the mean score in learning style is 75.8. It showed that the students have applied learning style when they found some troubles in their speaking performance even though

not frequently. As stated by Dunn (2003) defines that learning styles as “a term that describes the variations among learners in using one or more senses to understand, organize, and retain experience” Ehrman (1989) define the term as referring to learner’s “consistent way of responding and using stimuli in the context of learning”. Hence, the students of the forth semester of English education department of UNISMA used learning style found some difficulties in speaking and most of them used learning style which appropriate with the problem they faced.

This study talked about relation speaking skill and 3 style of learning; visual, auditory and kinesthetic. Learning style became one of factors to get success in absorbing the knowledge. Fleming (2001) defines learning style as “an individual’s characteristic and preferred ways of gathering, organizing and thinking about information. It mean that learning style is important to know and recognize by the students and the teacher. The appropriate way to teach also needed to consider the students style. Therefore, to combine in variable among learning style and skill were need a research process.

Furthermore, the calculation of mean score of students’ was 76.8, based on that result it can be concluded that the students’ speaking skill is good enough. Some of the students are aware that speaking skill is one of delivering basic language skills that has important role in daily communication delivering some information among speaker and hearer as well as possible. As stated by Itania (2014) that speaking skill is ability to talk the words in order to convey or express the intent ideas, thought and feelings”. Based on the mean score of speaking skill it showed that the speaking ability of the students of the fourth of English education department of UNISMA is good. In order words they need to improve their speaking skill by applying learning style during their speaking process.

The finding of this study showed that correlation is significant at 0.05 where the result of r value or computation  $r = 0.303$ . in term of size r –obtained was on interval 0.20-0.40 it means that the relation between learning style and speaking skill used by fourth semester students of English department of UNISMA correlated. But on low correlation, it supported by the mean score of

students learning style that is 75.80 and the mean of students speaking skill 76.8. It means that the students of the fourth semester of English education department of UNISMA need support from their lecturer to use learning style to develop their speaking skill based on their style of learning. It is supported by Clark (2004) said that a learning style is a student's consistent way of responding to and using stimuli in the context of learning. Stewart and Felicetti (1992) define learning styles as those educational conditions under which a student is most likely to learn.

The finding of this study is different with the previous study that was conducted by Fahrudin (2015) entitled "*The Correlation between Students' Learning Style and students' Speaking Achievement*" in SMA Negeri 1 Tumpang. The purpose of the study was to find out significant correlation between learning style and speaking achievement". The finding of the study was students' learning style had not correlation with students speaking score of the third grade in SMA Negeri 1 Tumpang. What distinguishes previous research from the results of this study are: Previous researchers did not explain or did not examine in detail between students who got high speaking scores and low speaking scores.

From all the findings above, it can be summed up that learning style is the important things for students to increase the understanding in learning English and can improve students' skills.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Based on the description of the data analysis findings and discussions it can be concluded that learning style which were used fourth semester students of English education department of UNISMA is correlated with their speaking skill though on low correlation because the result of r-value of computation showed that  $r = -0.303$  which r-obtained was on interval 0.20-0.40. Furthermore, according to the table in the previous chapter, it summed up that learning style and speaking skill have a significant correlation. It means that learning style affect the score of speaking score student.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the learning style is one of the basis of every students to be the main success in increasing their skill. To improve students' speaking skill, it is necessary to practice more about how to use the learning style themselves. In addition, students also need to recognize their learning style so that the learning process might be effective.

Based on the finding of this study some suggestion are addressed to the future researchers to employ a wider sample from the population are operate probability procedure. Second, it is suggested for future researcher to deepen the study. They can categories the students based on gender. The third the researcher took the students speaking score to collect the data by giving the test and the last is the researcher suggested to the future researcher for conducting research about relationship between learning style specifically with other English skill such as writing or reading.

Hopefully the students can increase their speaking skill they should apply learning style during the learning process. For it plays important in developing students speaking skill and solves some difficulties which faced by students while speaking in any conditional and situation.

As English lecturer they should be model for their students, they are expected to make their students confidents to speak up any time. They also can support he students to used learning style to increase speaking skill and give the students chances to practice their speaking as much as possible so the students speaking skill will increase naturally.

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