

THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE SECOND SEMESTER STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITAS ISLAM MALANG IN SPEAKING COURSES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract: This study aims to find out the difficulties and the way the students solve the problems in learning speaking through online learning. The researcher used a qualitative design. The population of this study is second-semester students with 47 students as the subject of the study. In collecting the data, the researcher used questionnaires and interview questions. To know the student's difficulties the researcher used both questionnaires and interviews and the way to solve their difficulties the researcher only used interviews. The result of this study showed the student's problems in learning English speaking through online learning were: limited vocabulary, pronunciation trouble, internet connection, students feel boring, and students less of practicing. The way to overcome these problems includes increasing vocabulary mastery, keeping speak English, practicing a lot, finding an appropriate way to learn English, and networking support systems.

Key Words: Difficulty, Speaking Courses, Online Learning.

INTRODUCTION

English has become a primary language of communication in the world. In Indonesia, English was taught from primary school to university for students of the foreign language. The government of Indonesian is also trying to implement English as a foreign language as efficiently as possible. Therefore, English should

be mastered by any foreign language learner. Al-Roud (2016) claimed that most people who learn English have in mind that they like to master the goal of developing proficiency in speaking skills, although it is a difficult task.

Heriansyah (2012) stated that most learners of foreign languages, speaking in the target language is not an easy task, as learning to speak a foreign language requires more than understanding the grammatical and semantic rules. This is because English as a foreign language, which has a different structure and vocabulary, is very different from our mother tongue and our national language. The grammar between English and Indonesian is certainly different. There are aspects or rules between Indonesia and English, especially in terms of structure.

Speaking is not only learning about the term of speaking knowledge; it is bigger than that. The way how to know whether students can speak, it can be checked by asking them to say something in English with the background of students' knowledge of the grammar, and vocabulary. Through offering students the practice and oral test, they have to realize that there is a difference between understanding of the language and the ability to use it. Students often need to speak confidently to carry out many transactions. Some students may produce a correct and appropriate sentence, but with a wrong intonation and stress. Most of the students do not dare to speak English because they lack of self-confidence and limited vocabulary mastery.

Ur (1996) stated that there are many reasons that cause difficulties in speaking such as inhibition, nothing to say, low contribution, and the use of mother tongue. Besides, Raba'ah (2005) pointed out that many reasons cause

difficulties in speaking English. Some of these factors relate to the learners themselves, the teaching method, the syllabus, and the environment.

Considering the different situation today, the researcher would like to identify the difficulties of students during Covid-19 pandemic, in which the speaking learning process was done through digital media. So that the essential point of this study is the learning process of the participant. The students usually learn English at school but this pandemic they have to online learning. It will affect the way they learn English. Therefore, the researcher wants to conduct a study about the difficulties and the way students solve the problems in learning speaking course through online learning. Based on the research problem, the purpose of this study is to find out the difficulties and the way to solve their problems in learning speaking through online during covid-19 pandemic.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed qualitative research as a research design. Latief (2017), qualitative research is a research methodology focused on understanding human behavior by constructing a detailed, realistic representation of the social and cultural context in which such a transaction occurs. The researcher chose descriptive qualitative analysis to present the results.

The population of this study is the second-semester students of the English Departement of the University of Islam Malang in the academic year 2019-2020. The researcher used 47 students as a subject of the study because early-stage learners have difficulty in learning speaking. In this study, the purposive sampling technique was used by the researcher to collect the data. Marguerite, (2006)

defined a purposive sampling method is a common technique used in qualitative research that identifies key informants or individuals with specific knowledge of the subject that is studied.

The researcher used both questionnaire and interview questions as an instrument and to gain the data adopted from (Khampreted, 2012). The questionnaire delivered to the students through Google form and all the participants have to fill out the questionnaire. After the questionnaire was given the researcher chose the students who got the lowest score to be an interviewer. The interview session conducted via call phone and being recorded to enable the researcher to transcribe the result. Then, the researcher investigated the cases that make the students' difficult to learn speaking.

After completing all the data collected from questionnaire and interviews, the researcher analyzed the data. The qualitative analysis used three three steps: data reduction, data display, and description (Miles and Huberman, 1994).

In data reduction process; the researcher took all information from raw data included from the questionnaire guide for students. Then, the researcher selected important information and omit irrelevant data.

In data display process; after the data is reduced, the researcher displayed the data and explained the main important detailed information that had been being selected before writing down in the text. It focused on investigating students' difficulties in learning to speak.

Description is the last step of the research. After knowing and narrating the facts the researcher describe the data, the researcher ensured that the data display was valid to get the accurate conclusion.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this part, the researcher collected the data from questionnaires and interviews with the respondents. There are 47 respondents that gave the data needed.

Based on respondents that 51.3% of students find speaking English is difficult. It indicates that half of the respondents find it difficult to learn English. It can be seen, that there are 56% of students feel a lack of vocabulary. They think that vocab is the biggest problem in speaking. Students cannot learn much vocabulary in online classes due to the limited time to ask the lecturer unfamiliar vocabulary. While 51.3% of students think that gaining confidence in speaking is a big barrier; it is because many students lack it. They get incomplete sentences from the lecturer when the internet has a problem. In addition, all the words that pronounce wrong can not directly correct by the lecturer like in the classroom.

Another 52% of students think that the way they speak will not be understood by other people or 23 out of 47 students. They feel afraid to speak to others in English because they think someone will not understand the pronunciation. Then 48.9% of students difficult to speak English because of limited pronunciation; it is because of internet connection through online learning.

Besides, the interview result about the difficulties faced by the students in online learning is the student's bored. Boring happens because the students learn

by staying at home. They feel lazy and bored to get the material in online learning instead of traditional learning. It may happen because they usually learn in the classroom than in the online classroom. The last problem that faced is the student's less of participating. Online learning becomes a barrier for the student to participate more in the learning process. So this condition obstructs the student's contribution to delivering experience and opinions in learning English speaking.

The difficulties that students faced in learning speaking English need to be solved and, the researcher has to find out the solutions. The solution is based on an interview with two respondents. The solutions to the problem concerning speaking English problems are 1). increasing vocabulary mastery. 2). Practicing a lot. 3). Keeping speak English. 4). Finding a suitable way to learn speaking. 5).

Networking support systems

The finding of students' difficulties in this study also correlated with the theory first Gunning (2002), cited in Pisut (2012), limited knowledge of vocabulary will be the biggest concern of language learning. Second related to the theory of Heriansyah (2012) one of the kinds of students difficulty is the students' poor pronunciation. Third, Cassandra (2020) stated that online learners are required to maintain an up to date computer and other technology tools to complete tasks. Next, Stephan, Markus, and Zikuda (2019) claimed that students who attend online learning are getting bored, and they are simply not interested in taking the online class. Last, in online learning students cannot practice and the learning process does not reach its full potential (Gamelearn, 2019).

The finding of students' way to solve the problem of this study also correlated with the theory of Swary (2014) mastering English vocabulary was the most important component, so to solve that problems, all of the students have to increase their vocabulary knowledge first. Second, Swary (2014) stated that they have to practice as often as possible they can. Third, Cahyono (1998 in Darsi, 2017), speaking opportunities can be made to communicate and interact with teachers and other learners through the use of English. Next, Brown (2000) stated that the use of the technique is one of the solutions to solve the problems in English speaking. And the last, in an online learning environment, self-discipline and self-motivation are important components for success (Cassandra, 2020).

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The difficulties in learning speaking faced by the English students from the second semester at Universitas Malang need to be solved. The majority of students were unable to speak English clearly and they also were difficult to produce words and sentences in English. In learning speaking English, most of the students have problems. The problem makes them feel so difficult to say everything by using English. The problems itself can be caused by many factors. But in second the semester students at Universitas Islam Malang. The factors were low mastery vocabulary, pronunciation problem, internet bad connection, students feel boring, and students less of participating.

There are some ways for students to solve the speaking English problem. In line with this, there are several ways to solve the problem in learning speaking

through online learning such as increasing vocabulary mastery, practicing a lot, keeping in speaking English, finding an appropriate way, and networking support systems.

The suggestion of the lecturer, they should give the motivation to increase the student committee to learn to speak English through online learning. Select the most interesting method and media suited to the class situation during the pandemic. So the students will not feel bored to accept the material from the lecturer. For the students, they should study hard and practicing a lot, because this is the key to communicate in English. And for the further researcher, they must make something different in doing research for students and lecturers especially in the teaching and learning process in English speaking skills. The researcher also should conduct a study about the suitable media to use in teaching and learning English speaking in online learning.

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