

**IMPROVING STUDENTS' ENGLISH SKILL THROUGH NUMBERED
HEADS TECHNIQUE (A CLASSROOM ACTION RESEARCH AT
THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMP 8 MUHAMMADIYAH
SURAKARTA IN 2009 / 2010 ACADEMIC YEAR)**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, English subject has been introduced from elementary school or may be from kindergarten to university. The objective of teaching English beside to introduce English at early ages is to develop working knowledge of English reflected from effective reading ability, ability to understand speaking language, speaking ability, and writing ability. It means that the students are demanded to be able to use English to fulfill their daily need such as for reading newspaper and communicating both spoken and written for solving their life problem. In other word, the purpose of English teaching is to reach communication target. It refers to discourse competence including comprehension and production competence both of written and spoken text.

Studying English is not easy for many Indonesian students since it is a foreign language, especially for the second year students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta. Based on the information gotten from the English teacher of this class, English is one of difficult subject for their students, it can be seen from their achievement at every semester test are poor. And based on the interview with some students of this class, they give opinion that English is difficult because it is very complicated and they cannot understand it easily.

Some factors that cause these difficulties are that the students are not familiar with English because it is different from Indonesian. One of aspects that make it difficult to learn is its elements and one of the elements is the grammar, it is different from Indonesian grammar. Beside that, the students consider that the way teacher teach English cannot help them understand that subject well.

As we know, there are many Junior high schools which still use traditional methods in teaching English. Teacher just gives the material and explains it, give examples and give exercises without let them practice. This method is not effective because the students are bored and need much time to be able to master English skill. This condition is also happen to the second year students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta. So, because of that condition, teacher has some problems in teaching English. First, the students do not actively participate in the classroom; they often give no attention to the teachers' explanation. So, it makes them passive and not interactive that is very important for improving the learning achievements. Second, the students have less confident and often be shy and just keep silent in the class. Sometimes they are afraid of answering the questions given by the teacher because they are afraid of making any mistakes.

To overcome the problems above, the researcher wants to give a solution especially to use certain method that will help teacher in making the students understand English in order to improve their English skill. The solution is teaching English by using Numbered Heads technique because Numbered Heads

is cooperative learning technique that promote better learning, improve students' motivation, increase enjoyment and English understanding because they will be given many questions related to the material. Beside that, this technique focuses on group-works that can build the students ability to communicate and share their opinion because if they feel shy or not confident to share their opinion or ask questions to the teacher they can share and ask their friends who are cleverer in the group.

According to Olsen and Kagan in Fauziati (2009, 174), Numbered heads meets the criteria of being a structure since it permits students to have social interaction in the classroom; besides, Numbered Heads is kinds of teaching technique that will make the teaching learning process more attractive than before. The students will feel enjoy, relaxed, and of course easy in understanding and receiving the materials. Therefore, based on the explanation above, the writer decides to do a study entitled ***IMPROVING STUDENTS' ENGLISH SKILL THROUGH NUMBERED HEADS TECHNIQUE (A CLASSROOM ACTION RESEARCH AT THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMP MUHAMMADIYAH 8 SURAKARTA IN 2009 / 2010 ACADEMIC YEAR)***.

B. Limitation of the Study

In conducting this research, the writer limits the problem that is going to be discussed. This research deals with the implementation of Numbered Heads

technique to improve the English skill of the second year students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta. Here, the writer explains the implementation of Numbered heads technique in teaching English, whether Numbered Heads can improve students' English skill or not and how far the improvement get by the students. The writer applies the theories of four basic Skills of English, and Numbered Heads Technique. This limitation is going to be made in order to make this study easier, effective and efficient.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the following problems:

1. Can Numbered Heads Technique improve the English skill of the second year students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta?
2. How far is the improvement achieved by the students?
3. How is the implementation of Numbered Heads Technique in improving students' English skill for the second year students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, there are two objectives of the study, they are as follows:

1. General Objective

To improve the students' English skills.

2. Specific Objective

The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

- a. to describe whether Numbered Heads Technique can improve students' English skill for the second year students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta or not.
- b. to know how far is the improvement achieved by the students.
- c. to describe the implementation of Numbered Heads Technique in improving students' English skill for the second year students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta.

E. Benefit of the Study

The writer expects that this research gives much contribution for theoretical and practical field:

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. The result of the research can be useful input in English teaching learning process especially for the second year students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta.
- b. The finding of the research can be used as the references for those who want to conduct a research in English teaching learning process.

2. Practical Benefit

a. The teacher

- 1) This study can be used by the teacher to provide the better technique or method for teaching English especially in junior high school.
- 2) This study can be used by the teacher to be more selective in choosing appropriate technique that going to used in the class purposed to create the interesting class and make the students more active.

b. The students

- 1) By reading the result, students are motivated in mastering English skills.
- 2) The result of this study will help the students to increase their English skill.

c. The reader

- 1) The reader will get a large knowledge about teaching learning using Numbered Heads technique to improve students' English skill.

F. Research Paper Organization

The writer divides this research paper into five chapters in order to make easy in understanding this paper. They are as follows:

Chapter I is introduction. It covers the background of study, limitation of study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II presents the reviews of related literature which elaborating the previous study, English skills, Notion of Numbered Heads Technique, theoretical framework, and action hypothesis.

Chapter III is the research method. It delivers the type of research, object of research, subject of research, technique of collecting data, data and data source, and technique of analyzing data, and action procedure.

Chapter IV is research finding and discussion. It discusses about the implementation of Numbered Heads Technique to improve the students' English skill and the improvement of students' English skill through Numbered Heads technique for the second year students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.