

**LEARNING STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SPEAKING SKILL  
USED BY AN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENT OF  
MUHAMMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA:  
A CASE STUDY**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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**by**

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

In Indonesia, English is learned by all students from kindergarten until university level. In studying English, there are four skills to master namely speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Nevertheless, in some levels in education, the knowledge of English has been broadening. For example, in university level, the study of English has been broadening not only studying those skills above, but also translation, HEL (History of English Language), interpreting and etc. The English Department students must master the four skills when they are in first until fourth semester.

The curriculum design in English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta includes some content courses namely linguistics, literature and language skill. Linguistic and literature are elective courses. The students must choose one of them. But, it is a must for them to take the skills subjects.

One of four skills that must be mastered is speaking. Speaking is a skill that should be mastered by someone who uses English to communicate with the other person. The students can express their ideas, wishes, opinion and attitude in speaking. Then the partner must pay attention to the speaker to decode the message and finally is able to give appropriate responses to the partner (Boer, 1982:142). So, speaking helps other to know you and it help you to know others.

Speaking is learned in the first until the fourth semester. Usually, it is taught in small class. In teaching learning speaking, the lecturer gives the information about the topic of speaking and she or he gives information and exercise to the learner to speak in front of the class. Speaking is an important program in English Department to make the students master English language, Some program in mastery of speaking in English Department there are SEGA, English Debating Contest and English Speech Contest.

All of students must follow SEGA especially for the first and the second semester. They are the member of the SEGA while the third and the fourth semester are the instructor. Those programs are to increase student ability in speaking. And for students who have ability in speaking, they can join English Debating Contest to know their ability in speaking and to increase their bravery.

Every student has their own ability and learning strategies. But there are different achievements speaking ability. Some of them are fluent in speaking, because they have good grammar, enough vocabulary, and good pronunciation but others are unable to speak English, because they don't have enough vocabulary and poor on grammar. Understanding speaking depends on themselves in learning speaking.

In studying English the students have their own strategies of learning. We can see that certain learner seems to be successful in spite of method or techniques of teaching. According to O'Malley (1990: 188) good learners are aware of the learning process and of themselves as learners, and seek to

control their own learning through the use of appropriate learning strategy. Styles are general characteristics that differentiate one individual from another and learning strategies are the special achieve or behaviors that individual use to help them comprehended, learn or retain new information.

Since the amount of information that must be processed by language learners is high in language classroom, learners use different language learning strategies in performing the task, and processing the input they face. Language learning strategies are good indicators of how learners approach task or problems encountered during the process of language learning.

O'Malley, *et al.* (1985: 582-584) divided language-learning strategies into three main subcategories namely, metacognitive strategies, cognitive strategies and soccioaffective strategies. Metacognitive is a term to express executive function, strategies that require planning for learning, thinking about the learning process as it is taking place, monitoring of one's production or comprehension, and evaluating learning after an activity is completed. Cognitive strategies are more limited to specific tasks in learning and they involve more direct manipulation of the learning materials itself. As the socioaffective strategies, it can be stated that they are related with social-mediating activity and transacting with others.

Fauziati (2004: 185) states that "a case study is a study of a single individual, or an instance in action". In this research the researcher wants to investigate the individual learner who has ability in speaking skill. The student is Fitri Endah Pratiwi. She is a fourth semester student in English department

in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. She is a good language learner in English department which is shown from her. Especially in speaking she has good ability in speaking. She can produce English language very fluent and implement the component of the speaking. She has some strategies in improving her speaking skill.

Concerning with the description above, the writer will analyze the learning strategies of the English Department student in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta especially in the fourth semester and the writer limits her investigation on speaking ability. Besides that, the writer chooses a good language learner as her object. The name is Fitri. The writer thinks that Fitri has difference in learning strategy of speaking. Fitri also has ability in producing speech.

Based on the phenomenon above, the writer would like to conduct a research entitled: **“LEARNING STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SPEAKING SKILL USED BY AN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENT OF MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA; A CASE STUDY”**

## **B. Problem of the Study**

Based on the research background, the writer is going to discuss the general question is. “What are the types of learning strategies in improving speaking skill used by Fitri?” This question can be breakdown into five questions there are:

1. What strategy does she use to develop vocabulary mastery?

2. What strategy does she use to improve pronunciation?
3. What strategy does she use to improve grammar?
4. What strategy does she use to improve fluency?
5. What strategy does she use to improve comprehension?

### **C. Limitation of the Study**

The research covers only on the learning strategies in improving speaking skill used by an English department student especially the learning strategies in improving component of speaking especially vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, fluency, comprehension. The subject of the study is limited to an English Department student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in the fourth semester.

### **D. Objective of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to describe the learning strategies in improving speaking skill used by Fitri Endah Pratiwi as an English department student. Based on the problem statement above the specific objectives of the research are to investigate the strategies used to:

1. develop her vocabulary.
2. improve her pronunciation.
3. improve her grammar.
4. improve her fluency.
5. improve her comprehension.

## **E. Benefit of the Study**

### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

- a. The result of the research can be used as the reference for those who want to conduct a research in English teaching learning process.
- b. The reader will increase their knowledge about learning strategies by reading the result of the research.
- c. The result of research can give some gain for the English teacher in their teaching learning process, especially in teaching speaking.

### **2. Practical Benefits**

The strategies used by Fitri Endah Pratiwi can be adopted by the other students to improve their skill in learning speaking process. And the students can speak more effective after they applied those strategies.

## **F. Research Paper Organization**

The researcher organizes this research paper into five chapters as follows:

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

Chapter II presents a review related literature. It is the basic technique that is closely related to the topic. It consists of previous study, notion of speaking and learning strategy.

Chapter III discusses the research method. It consist of type of the research, subject and object of the research, data and data source, technique of collecting data, technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV research finding, consist of Learning Strategies Used by Fitri Endah Pratiwi.

Chapter V consists of Conclusion and Suggestion.