

**INVESTIGATING STUDENTS' ABILITY TO SPEAK
ENGLISH: A CASE STUDY OF THE FIRST SEMESTER
STUDENTS' OF DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
IN MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
IN 2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department**

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UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
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APPROVAL

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**Investigating Students' Ability to Speak English: a Case Study of
the First Semester Students' of Department of English Education
in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in 2018/2019
Academic Year**

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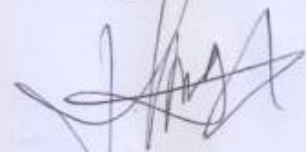
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Surakarta, August 4th 2019
The writer



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INVESTIGATING STUDENTS' ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH: A CASE STUDY OF THE FIRST SEMESTER STUDENTS' OF DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA IN 2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menyelidiki kemampuan berbicara dalam bahasa Inggris di Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta di Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris di semester 1 tahun akademik 2018/2019. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Data adalah kemampuan berbicara siswa yang diambil dari siswa sebagai informan. Metode pengumpulan data adalah observasi, wawancara dan dokumen. Teknik analisis data adalah reduksi data, penampilan data, kesimpulan dan verifikasi. Temuan dari penelitian ini adalah, level siswa adalah Level B2 memiliki 4 aspek yaitu, (1) Tata bahasa dan kosa kata, (2) Manajemen wacana, (3) Pengucapan, (4) Komunikasi interaktif, dan aspek siswa menguasai lebih baik. adalah tata bahasa dan kosakata. Kesimpulannya adalah bahwa mereka memiliki berbicara yang baik dan tata bahasa dan kosa kata mereka dapat dipahami.

Kata Kunci: Investigasi, studi kasus, kemampuan berbicara, faktor, kelancaran berbicara bahasa inggris.

Abstract

This study aims at investigating ability to speak in English at the Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta at the Department English Education in semester 1 of the academic year 2018/2019. This research is a qualitative descriptive research. The data are students' speaking abilities taken from the students as informants. The methods of collecting data are observation, interviews and documents. The technique of analyzing data are data reduction, data appearance, conclusions and verification. The findings of this research are that, the students level is B2 Level has 4 aspects namely, (1) Grammar and vocabulary, (2) Discourse management, (3) Pronunciation, (4) Interactive communication, and the aspects of students master better are grammar and vocabulary. The conclusion is that they have good speaking and their grammar and vocabulary can be understood.

Keywords: Investigating, case study, speaking ability, factor, speaking fluency.

1. INTRODUCTION

Speaking is the way to express ideas, thoughts, and feelings orally. It is among the most important skills in English learning. However, other skills, such as listening, reading, and writing need to be taught all together (Oradee, 2012). This is understandable because in fact that in interaction we need to involve more than one skill, ranging from listening to the speaker reacting to what the speaker said

and so forth. Even, fluency in speaking is a crucial component that need to pay attention by learners and teachers. English is divided into four skills which are as follows: listening, speaking, reading, and writing; therefore, speaking is the second skill and has an important role in communication.

This study is an extension to the previous researches which were conducted in the deficiency of English speaking. The researcher's main interest was to investigate this problem among the learners of English language at the Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta particularly among those who specialize in English Department. The researcher provided a number of factors that cause the deficiency then set out a group of suggestions to deal with it.

Based on the description above, the researcher tries to investigating speaking ability in first semester students' of English Department of UMS. So, the researcher can analyze the students' ability to speak English. The researcher takes data from observing speaking classes in the first semester. The researcher is interested in investigating the first semester students' ability in speaking skill in speaking class of English Department at UMS. Therefore the researcher proposes a research entitled: *Investigating Students' Ability to Speak English: a Case Study of the First Semester Students' of Department of English Education in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in 2018/2019 Academic Year.*

There are three problems that will be answered by researchers, namely: (1) What is the level of students' ability in speaking English measured by Cambridge speaking rubric, (2) What aspects that students' master better, and (3) What are the factors that affects students' to speak English well.

2. METHOD

The type of this research was a descriptive qualitative research. The research was conducted at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. The subjects of the research there were three English Department students first semester by three speaking classes who consisted of 1 male and 2 female students. The object of the research focused on the investigating students speaking ability for English speaking learning of Department English Education at Muhammadiyah University of

Surakarta in 2018/2019 academic year. The data were taken from the subject of the research in the form of observation, interview and document.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The level of students' ability in speaking English measured by Cambridge speaking rubric

B1 / B2 level, the students meet the criteria of grammar and vocabulary, they are able to use grammar well and master more than 30 vocabulary words. discourse management criteria, this is where the level of the Cambridge speaking rubric from A1 / A2 to B1 / B2, for this criterion the students have been pretty good even though there are still hesitation and repetition in speaking English. In the pronunciation criteria, the students are able to use sentences with good stress. The last is the interactive communication criteria, the students are able to respond quickly to what is asked by the lecturer. On these criteria, the students are quite good but it is difficult to proceed to the next level because their discourse management is standard or average. Based on observations, the students are competent at B2 level.

3.2 The aspects that students master better.

The researcher used the B2 level with the aspects of grammar and vocabulary, discourse management, pronunciation, and interactive communication. There are 3 students who will assess based the rubric.

Table 1. The Students Who Will Assess Based The Rubric

ASPECT	NAME			AVERAGE
	S1	S2	S3	
G&V	5	5	5	5
DM	3	3	3	3
PRONUN	5	3	5	4
IC	3	3	5	4

So, the aspect which students master better is grammar and vocabulary, because it gets a high or average number that is 5 points by the other aspects. In this aspect, the three students have words and sentences that are simple and easy to understand.

3.3 The factors that affect students to speak English well

In order to help students overcome problems in learning speaking, it is necessary for the teachers to figure out factors that affect their speaking performance. Students' speaking performance can be affected by the factors that come from performance conditions (time pressure, planning, standard of performance and amount of support), affective factors (such as motivation, confidence, and anxiety), listening ability and feedback during speaking activities. Based on the data, the researchers can conclude that affective factors were more dominant and very influential in students 1, 2 and 3.

Grammar and vocabulary are the main factors of success in speaking well, on finding stating that grammar and vocabulary get the highest average points, it is rated based on *Assessing Speaking Performance - Level B2*. Michael Swan (2005: xix) states that "The rules that show how words are combined, arranged or changed to show certain kinds of meaning." Students are able to arrange grammar well and regularly even though there are still some errors in using it such as the addition of "s" behind the word. Actually there are other aspects put forward by several experts such as Darmodihardjo in Fauzi (2012, p. 7) states about the aspects of speaking that is "the requirements of effective speaking such as intonation, phonetic transcription, and environment expression", researchers do not use This aspect is because the researcher uses the theory of "*Assessing Speaking Performance - Level B2*" from Cambridge that is in accordance with the abilities of students and also contains assessments for students.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research finding and discussion, the researcher draws conclusions as follows:

The conclusion of first question that the students are competent at B2 level, which has the following criteria: Grammar and Vocabulary, Discourse Management, Pronunciation, and Interactive Communication. Their ability can be measured with this level, therefore researchers use level B2 to assess how their speaking ability is in accordance with the rubric. The student has mastered grammar and vocabulary. Finding stated that their average grammar and vocabulary criteria were 5, and 5 were the highest points based on assessing

speaking level B2 performance. The discourse management aspect gets an average of 3 points, the pronunciation aspect gets an average of 4 points and interactive communication aspects get an average of 4 points. Factors that affect students' to speak English well most of the students English speaking fluency were affected by affective factors, listening ability feedback during speaking activities and topical knowledge. Self-confidence and motivation by the lecturers become the most influencing factor. The process of becoming fluent speaker takes long time. It started as they learned to love English and then interested to mastering.

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