

STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN SPEAKING COMPREHENSION OF VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Kurnia Panjaitan¹, Enita Sihombing², Clawdy Clintin Pasaribu³, Christina Anita Elizabeth Siregar⁴

^{1,2,3,4}

University of HKBP Nommensen Pematangsiantar

E-mail: ¹⁾ kurniapanjaitan123@gmail.com, ²⁾ sihombingenita30@gmail.com,

³⁾ clawdyaclintin81414@gmail.com, ⁴⁾ christinaanita4@gmail.com

Abstract

This research was made to describe the problems and difficulties of speaking to students at SMK GKPI 2 Pematangsiantar. This research used descriptive qualitative research. Researchers used questionnaire as technique to collect the data for this research. The results of this research indicate that students of SMK GKPI 2 Pematangsiantar have several problems and difficulties in speaking subjects. There are several obstacles and difficulties in practicing speaking, namely 1) the understanding about conversation; (2) lack of vocabulary; (3) pronunciation; (4) less confidence (5) worries about making grammar errors, (6) lack of technology, and (7) lack of motivation. Based on the data, the majority of students showed that vocabulary was the most problem in speaking skills.

Keywords: *Speaking, Comprehension, Difficulties, Students*

1. INTRODUCTION

In English, there are four main skills that we know, namely listening skill, writing skill, reading skill, and speaking skill. But this research will be focus on the speaking ability or speaking skill. Speaking is an important part of effective communication. Speaking is a tool of communication and used to share any information. "Speaking is one of the most important and essential skills that must be practiced to communicate orally" (Casilli, 2013).

In fact, someone with a good speaking ability will be easier in communicating as well as sending and receiving information to others. Therefore, it can be concluded that speaking is a technique of constructing and sharing information, both verbal and nonverbal based on various context. Speaking is a technique in building meaning, including producing, receiving, and processing records. Speaking and the meaning of it relies on the context of where that happened, which is consist of contribution, experience, environment, and the function.

Harmer (2007) stated that speaking is the core skill of mastering how to speak fluently. Speaking is the capability to manage facts and language. Moreover, Quianthy (1990) defines "speaking is a process of transmitting thoughts and facts orally based on the situations.

It can be concluded that speaking is one of the most important skill that is used for making communication to others. Beside of the significance of speaking skill, many students still think that speaking is one of tough lesson in English.

Therefore, in this research, researchers focus on finding the students' difficulties in improving their speaking skills at SMK GKPI 2 Pematangsiantar, on the XII grade majoring Tata Busana.

2. THEORETICAL REVIEW

2.1. Speaking

Kayi (2006), stated that speaking is the use of language in a short time, and happen in few of unnatural pauses that can be called as fluency. It means that speaking is a process in building meaning, both in verbal and nonverbal, in various context.

Harmer (2007) stated that speaking is the ability of human in speaking fluently and in speaking, it requires knowledge of language feature and ability in processing information. In addition Quianthy (1990) stated that speaking is a process of transmitting information verbally based on the situations.

Based on the statements above, the researchers can conclude that speaking is human ability in producing language, which is used to communicate and share ideas to each other.

There are several types of speaking, including :

1. Monologue

Monologue is an activity of speaking that contains of a speaker utterances for a period of time. Monologue contains of speech, reading, lecture, information broadcast, and so on. The listeners of monologue can interpreted the things that they listen to by themselves without doing interruption.

2. Dialogue

Dialogue is an activity of speaking that contains of many speakers, at least two speakers. Dialogue consists of speaker and receiver. Dialogue allows feedback and interruption, so that the meaning of the passage can be understood well by all of the parties.

2.2. Speaking Difficulties

In speaking, people may find difficulties. As Khan (2005) stated in his research that several of his participants have problems to speak. Several factors that caused speaking difficulties may come several problems, such as :

1. Linguistic Problem

Linguistic is a study of language, which studies about the language structure (grammar), words, and phonology. Generally, linguistic consists of information about vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar. Linguistic problem is the problem that hinders students' speaking skills.

According to Richard (2008), several students' problems in speaking are :

a) Vocabulary

Vocabulary is someone's knowledge about words and the meanings. There are two forms of vocabulary, namely oral vocabulary and printed vocabulary. Oral

vocabulary is the word that we understand when we speak and read it orally. Printed vocabulary is the word that we understand when we speak and read it silently.

Khan (2005) stated that most foreign learners have difficulties to use words and expressions when they speak. This problem occurs because the students do not know how to combine their vocabularies to be a meaningful utterances.

b) Grammar

Grammar is the most important part of language. It is a examine, where sentences are established and formatted. Students' problem in grammar is they are not capable of recognising the regulations of the grammar, so that they can not speak in English effectively.

c) Pronunciation

Pronunciation means how to say the words. Students' difficulties in pronouncing word is because they do not know the correct way to spell it. This problem make the students' pronunciation gone wrong, then the meaning is not appropriate.

2. Psychological Problems

Psychology is a study that study the process of human thought and behavior in interaction with the environment. Psychological problems of speaking are related to students' emotional and physical health that can bring negative impacts to the students' speaking abilities.

3. Less Confident

Self confidence is someone's capacity in doing good thing with positive thinking. Self confidence is related to someone's personality, someone's ability, someone's power, that sometimes manifested excessively. Good self confidence comes from focusing on self.

Less confident may occur because of bad feelings and thinkings, such as feel guilty, shy, unrealistic expectation, false sense of humility, fear, depression, and so on. Less confident can make students become bad speaker. Thus, it is really important to build up students confidents, so that they can express their utterances in good manner when they speak.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The participants in this research were 51 students of SMK GKPI 2 Pematangsiantar who take speaking course. The researcher used google form contained of questions for the research.

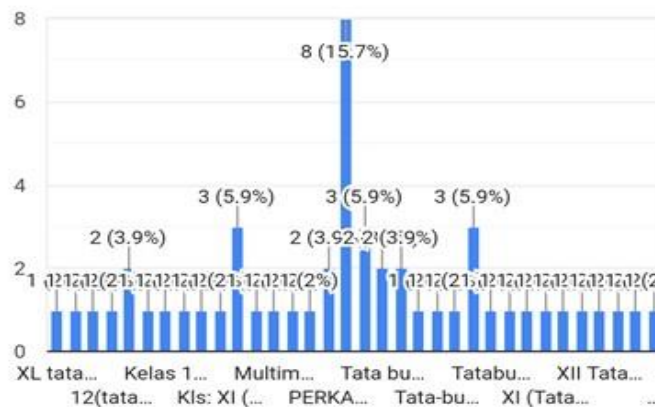
The questions were adopted from researchers' findings on students' difficulties in speaking course. After all the answers amassed and processed, the researchers analyze them by using descriptive quantitative method. This descriptive analysis done by analyzed the frequency and percent of students' answers for the questions.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Here are the findings of the research that researchers collected from the google form.

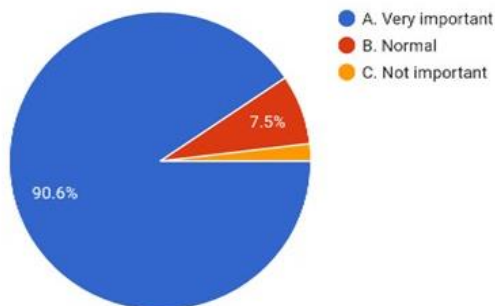
Major

51 responses



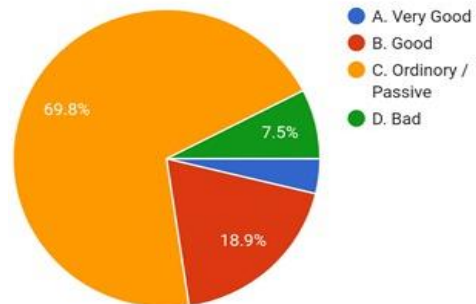
Do you think the ability to speak English is important?

53 responses



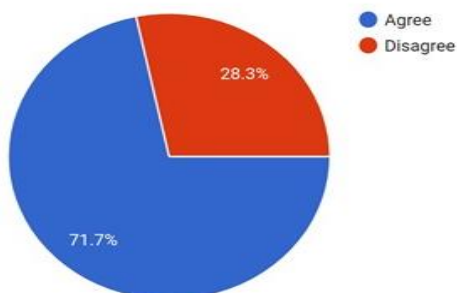
What do you think about your English skills?

53 responses



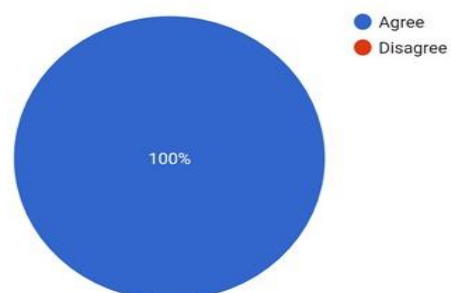
The ability to speak in English is very important for daily life

53 responses

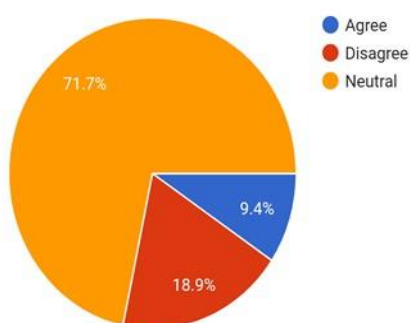


The ability to speak English is very important for the continuation of education

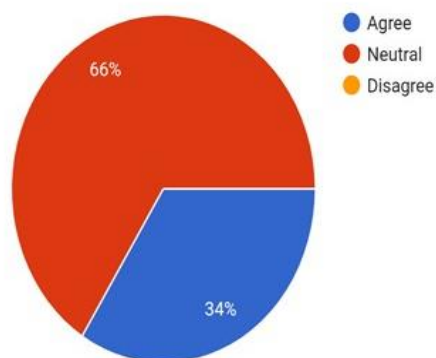
53 responses



Learning to speak English is not
interesting and boring
53 responses



Learning to speak English is fun
53 responses



Based on the results of the inventions above, researchers found that most students agree that speaking skill is important to master by them, but in mastering speaking skill, the students faced many difficulties. Based on the results found by researchers, some things that important, including :

- a) Students agree that speaking skill is very important in learning English.
- b) Most students feel they have not been able to speak English actively.
- c) Students agree that learning speaking in English is very important to support them in daily life.
- d) Students agree that learning speaking is very important for the field of education.
- e) Students feel that learning to speak in English is quite interesting.
- f) Students agree that learning speaking is fun.

From the points above, researchers can conclude that students are still difficult to speak in English. However, besides their difficulties, they remain confident and believe that speaking skill is a skill that is important for them to master, with the aim of being able to master English and benefit their lives. Thus, to overcome these problems, teaching strategies are needed by educators to teach them.

5. CONCLUSION

Speaking is an important part of effective communication. Speaking is a tool of communication and used to share any information. In learning speaking, students may face difficulties that hinder them for being able to speak. Several difficulties of speaking, such as linguistic problem, psychological problem, and less confident. To overcome these difficulties, the teacher or educator needs to apply appropriate strategies to help the students, so that they may become a good speaker with good knowledge.

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