

An Analysis of Students' Challenges in Interactive English Speaking Through Group Discussions

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Abstrak

Berbicara adalah aktivitas komunikatif dengan orang lain, yang memiliki makna khusus dan proses berulang, didukung oleh struktur yang sederhana, jelas, dan lebih mudah dipahami. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mahasiswa semester kedua jurusan Bahasa Inggris FKIP Universitas Ekasakti yang mengalami kesulitan dalam berbicara, diantaranya kurangnya pengucapan, kurangnya tata bahasa, dan kurangnya kosa kata. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kuantitatif dimana sampel data dalam penelitian ini adalah mahasiswa semester dua Jurusan Bahasa Inggris FKIP Universitas Ekasakti. Populasinya berjumlah 11 mahasiswa dan sampel peneliti menggunakan teknik total sampling. Instrumen penelitian yang digunakan adalah tes berbicara. Dalam teknik pengumpulan data, peneliti memberikan kesempatan kepada mahasiswa untuk presentasi di depan kelas, Sedangkan teknik analisis datanya dilakukan dengan menggunakan indikator berbicara. Hasil penilaian tes berbicara ditemukan bahwa mahasiswa mengalami kesulitan dalam berbicara baik pada pengucapan, tata bahasa, dan kosa kata, diperoleh 1 mahasiswa dari 11 mahasiswa mempunyai kategori sangat baik, 8 dari 11 mahasiswa mempunyai kategori baik dan 2 dari 11 mahasiswa mempunyai kategori sedang. Melalui hasil tersebut peneliti memperoleh skor nilai rata-rata 76. Jumlah tersebut menunjukkan bahwa keterampilan mahasiswa berbicara bahasa Inggris melalui diskusi kelompok berada pada tingkat baik.

Keywords: Kesulitan Berbicara, Berbicara Interaktif, Diskusi Kelompok

Abstract

Speaking is a communicative and repetitive activity supported by simple structure and clear meaning. This study aimed to identify speaking difficulties among second-semester students of the English Department at FKIP Universitas Ekasakti. The main problems found were lack of pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. The research used a descriptive quantitative method. The population consisted of 11 students, and total sampling was applied, meaning all students participated. A speaking test was used as the research instrument. Students were asked to perform in front of the class, and their speaking abilities were analyzed using specific speaking indicators. The results showed that out of 11 students, 1 student achieved a very good level, 8 students were in the good category, and 2 students were in the average category. The overall average score was 76, indicating that students' speaking ability, especially in interactive speaking through group discussion, was at a good level.

Keywords: Speaking Difficulties, Interactive Speaking, Group Discussion

INTRODUCTION

In studying English, students must learn four skills of English, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing, one of them is speaking. Speaking is the capability of human to producing and receiving information in oral way in order to do interaction each other depend on the situation and who is the target of information (Puteri Y, 2022). Speaking is one of the most difficult aspects for students to master (Marzona et al., 2024). Speaking is an important skill when teaching and learning English because speaking makes it easy to communicate with someone interactively (Puspita Sari et al., 2023).

Based on the curriculum established in English Department of Faculty of Teacher Training and Education (FKIP) in Ekasakti University, it has three compulsory speaking subjects. The speaking subject that could be taken by students are: Basic Speaking, Interactive

Speaking, and Public Speaking. The researcher main focus in Interactive speaking. Interactive speaking is a type of speaking where the speaker and listener actively interact either directly or indirectly. Interactive speaking can take two forms transactional language to exchange specific information or interpersonal language to maintain social relationships. Examples of Interactive speaking are interview, role play, discussion, and debate (Giraldo, 2024; Phakiti & Leung, 2024). Consequently, Interactive speaking is crucial for helping students articulate their learned ideas and motivates them to think more broadly, all while enhancing their English-speaking skills (Henisah & Margana, 2023).

The researcher observation in English Department students, it was found several speaking problems they are lack of vocabulary, lack of grammar, and lack of pronunciation. Based on the problems above, the researcher is interested to do a research about “An Analysis of Students’ Challenges in Interactive English Speaking via Group Discussions”.

There were two questions that arose for this research: 1.) What were the students difficulties in Interactive speaking subject through group discussion of students at FKIP Universitas Ekasakti in academic year 2023/2024? And 2.) How was the English department students speaking skill in Interactive speaking through group discussion at FKIP Universitas Ekasakti in academic year 2023/2024?. Therefore, the purpose of this research are as follow: 1.) To find out students difficulties in speaking English in Interactive speaking subject through group discussion of students at FKIP Universitas Ekasakti in academic year 2023/2024. 2.) To find out students speaking skill in Interactive speaking subject through group discuscion at FKIP Universitas Ekasakti in academic year 2023/2024.

RESEARCH METHOD

The design of this research are descriptive quantitative research. Descriptive research is also called as survey research that collected numerical data to answer question about the correct status of the subject of the study. Descriptive quantitative research is a type of research that aims to describe or explain certain phenomena using numerical data and statistical analysis (Creswell & Creswell, 2022). According to (Gay et al., 2024) stated that descriptive research is a survey research. This research are involves collecting data in order to speaking test.

The population of this research are students second semester of English Language Education at FKIP Universitas Ekasakti in academic year of 2023/2024. The total of population are 11 students. According to (Sugiyono, 2023) the sample is part of the population becomes a source of data in research, of which the population is part of the number of characteristics possess population. Sample is a smaller group taken from a population, selected in such a way that its characteristics represent the entire population being studied (Ahmed, 2024). Total sampling is a sampling technique where the number of samples is the same as the population (Sugiyono, 2023). The reason for taking total sampling is because a the total population is less than 100, the entire population is used as the entire research sample. The sample taken from this research was 11 people.

The research instrument used in this research is speaking test. The test is used to obtain information about each students speaking skill. In this case the researcher will be give 120 minutes for the students. The researcher asked the students to form groups of two or more people and then decide which topic to discuss is “Internet and the World of Education”. The researcher explained the rules of discussion and students hold discussion with their groups in front of the class.

In collecting data, researcher was taken the following steps: The researcher gave students the opportunity to prepared what they would perform in front of the class, the researcher explained the rules of discussion, the researcher asked students to present what they had prepared before perform. At this time, the researcher gave the opportunity to directly test how the students difficulty in speaking, the researcher asked the students to pay attention the students' conversations, and the researcher gave score on each speaking component based on the speaking scoring rubric.

In analyzing data, the researcher followed steps:

1. Analyzed the data from oral speaking test and researcher followed some steps to do this:
 - a. The performance of students skill will be analyzed by replay their performance recorded.
 - b. The performance of students skill
 - c. Analyze based on the speaking indicators.
 - d. The researcher calculated the score of all the components based on the criteria above.

Table 1. Speaking Assessment Criteria

No	Category	Score
1	Very Good	81-100
2	Good	61-80
3	Average	41-60
4	Low	21-40
5	Ver Low	0-20

3. The researcher counted the average score of two reasearcher by using form

$$\frac{\text{Score 1} + \text{Score 2}}{2}$$

4. The researcher calculated the percentage of the students who had high, moderate and low ability by using the following formula:

$$P = \frac{f}{n} \times 100\%$$

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Findings

The researcher presented the result of the research on student's difficulties in English speaking subject through group discussion at the second semester of English department FKIP Universitas Ekasakti. Based on research questions, the researcher showed the finding of the research as follow:

1. The students difficulties in Interactive speaking subject through group discussion of students at FKIP Universitas Ekasakti in academic year 2023/2024

Based on the research of the researcher in Interactive speaking of students at FKIP Universitas Ekasakti in academic year 2023/2024, students had difficulties in speaking English. They are pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. In the pronunciation aspect, students are very hard to understand because of pronunciation problem, must frequently be asked to repeat. In the grammar aspect, the students were not able in making and the spoken

sentence, because students have grammar and word errors make comprehension difficult. In the vocabulary aspect, the students misuse of word and very limited vocabulary so extreme as to make comprehension quite difficult so the students hard to remember and improve their vocabulary.

2. The students speaking skill in interactive speaking subject through group discussion at FKIP Universitas Ekasakti in academic year 2023/2024

To determine the level of students' speaking skill in the Interactive Speaking subject through group discussion at FKIP Universitas Ekasakti in the 2023/2024 academic year, the researcher established assessment criteria as a reference for evaluating the students' speaking performance. This assessment covers several important aspects of speaking skill so that the results can reflect the students' abilities in a more objective and measurable way. The detailed criteria for assessing students' speaking skill are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Scoring students speaking skill

Students	Score	Percentage	Category
1	88	9%	Very good
1	80	9%	Good
1	78	9%	Good
5	75	45%	Good
1	73	9%	Good
2	70	18%	Good

Based on the analysis of the data obtained during the research, the researcher found that the students speaking skill in interactive speaking through group discussion was good category. This was evidenced by the results of the study showing that the good score of students was at 76.

a. Students speaking skill of pronunciation in interactive speaking subject through group discussion

Based on the assessment of students speaking score of pronunciation the word in interactive speaking through group discussion, the data analysis also showed the mean 71 (good score category).

b. Students speaking skill of grammar in interactive speaking subject through group discussion

Based on the assessment of students speaking score of using grammar in interactive speaking through group discussion, the data analysis also showed the mean 57 (average score category).

c. Students speaking skill of vocabulary in interactive speaking through group discussion

Based on the choosing of vocabulary on the students speaking skill in interactive speaking through group discussion, the result of data analysis also showed the mean 56 (average score category).

d. Students speaking skill of fluency in interactive speaking through group discussion

In term of students speaking skill of fluency in interactive speaking through group discussion, the data analysis also showed the mean 86 (good score category).

e. Students speaking skill of comprehension in interactive speaking through group discussion

The students skill in comprehension in interactive speaking through group discussion, the researcher counted the students score also showed the mean 91 (good score category).

Discussion

Based on the finding above the researcher found that the students speaking difficulties in interactive speaking through group discussion from 5 aspect speaking, students had 3 difficult in speaking they are miss pronunciation, mastery grammar, and vocabulary. For speaking skill, the researcher found that the students speaking skill in interactive speaking through group discussion from each element was average. It was indicated by the scientific fact that 1 students from 11 students had very good score (9%), 8 students from 11 students had good score (73%), and 2 students from 11 students had average score (9%). From the speaking test they had trouble for each element of speaking.

First, in pronunciation the students had good score 71. In this case, some students did not pronounce the word correctly. Such as students 3 said “*suggezen*” was pronounce “*suggestion*” but the correct is “*sə'dʒɛstʃən*”. Student 3 said “*through*” was pronounce “*through*” but the correct is “*'θruː*”. Students 5 and 8 said “*advantazes*” was pronounce “*advantages*” but the correct is “*æd'væntɪdʒɪz*”, and there were many other mistakes. Pronunciation is the way for students to produce clearer language when they speak (Harmer, 2022).

Second, in grammar the students had average score 57. The students were not able in making and the spoken sentence, because students have grammar and word errors make comprehension difficult. Grammar is a set of rules which describe how we use a language (Harmer, 2022). The aim of grammar is also to learn the correct way to gain expertise in language in oral written forms. Therefore, grammar is needed for students to arrange a correct sentence in conversation.

Third, in vocabulary students also got the average score 56. Some of the students making mistake said the word. For example student 8, said “*learn*” but the correct is “*learned*”. Vocabulary means the appropriate diction which is used in communication (Harmer, 2022).

Fourth, in fluency they had very good score 86. The students are fluently rather strongly in speaking because they still had many pauses when they want to express their thought. Fluency can be defined as the ability to speak fluently and accurately. Fluency in speaking is the aim of many language learners (Harmer, 2022).

The last in term of students speaking skill in comprehension they had very good score 91. The students understand nearly everything at normal speed, although occasionally repetition may be necessary. Comprehension also is the one components of speaking. Comprehension is the mind, act power of understanding exercise aimed in improving is testing ones (Harmer, 2022).

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion, it can be concluded that students in the Interactive Speaking subject through group discussion still experienced difficulties in three of the five aspects of speaking, namely pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. Overall, the students' speaking skill was categorized as good, with a mean score of 76. In detail, the

students' pronunciation skill was in the good category with a score of 71, while their grammar skill and vocabulary skill were in the average category with scores of 57 and 56 respectively. In contrast, their fluency and comprehension were categorized as very good, with scores of 86 and 91. These findings indicate that although the students generally demonstrated a good level of speaking skill, they still need improvement in pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary to achieve more balanced speaking competence.

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