

Engaging the student's speaking activity by practicing the various simple conversation in pair group

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ABSTRACT

Learning activity now is a very worth since the pandemic was almost two years affects Indonesia. The pleasure is about the government's regulation of new normal system in direct teaching learning. After being vaccine, the learning process has been allowed. Teaching English at non English class is not easy at it seen, lecturers / teachers should motivate their students to be spirit in their English learning class. Beside it, the lecturers have to find a good method for their subject in order to reach the success learning. The limitations of the research are; the students' speaking activity, practicing the various simple conversation in pair group. The goals of this research are: to describe and analyze the students' speaking ability and to describe and analyze the students' practicing various simple conversation in pair group. The method uses in this research is a descriptive method which describe and analyze the student's phenomenon in learning English at third semester of Physic department Graha Nusantara University Padangsidimpuan. The physic students feel happy to learn English speaking with various simple conversation by pair group. The students' have positive respond towards the importance of English for the university students.

Keywords: speaking ability; practicing the various simple conversation; pair group

INTRODUCTION

Teaching and learning process have become happiness for all University's students and lecturers at this newly semester 2021 – 2022year academic in Graha Nusantara University Padangsidimpuan North Sumatera. The pleasure is about the government's regulation of new normal system in direct teaching learning. He allows the teaching process face to face or direct learning in the classroom. The Mayor of Padangsidimpuan city in his circulated letter number 188.45/3940/2021 on the date 2nd of September 2021 about the limited learning face to face implementation at Padangsidimpuan city(Realitasonline.id, 2021). Learning activity now is a very worth since the pandemic was almost two years affects Indonesia. While in the previous time, the learning process activity is a prohibition for the whole schools and campus(Siahaan, 2020). Indeed, direct learning becomes a valuable thing for every student, lecturer and parent in this city, but before it all of them should do the vaccine 1 and 2 which university holds two weeks before lecturing time.

A researcher herself is a lecturer for an English subject at English department, but it was the golden opportunity for her to teach English at the other department such as Civic department, Physic department, Indonesian Literature department, Social and Politics department and Engineering department. And now her focus on teaching English at Physic department. As known, English is very important to learn, because English is an international communication in the world. English is spoken in the academic societies, English for business, politics, technology, tourism etc. Everyone who lives in this era are expected to master English for their bright future(Putra, 2020) by mastering English they can go anywhere around the world without hesitation. It is because they have the supply to speak with many people in the other country.

The previous teaching at the other department is the reason why a researcher chose the speaking class by giving the students about simple English conversation to the Physic students. The topics of

the conversation were taken from the real phenomenon of the students, the discussions are also taken from the local places, and the conversations suit to the students' need.

Teaching English at non English class is called teaching English for special purposes, a lecturer should know the student's need, condition and goals (Agustina, 2014). Teaching English at non-English class is not easy at it seen, lecturers / teachers should motivate their students to be spirit in their English learning class. Beside it, the lecturers have to find a good method for their subject in order to reach the success learning. For this valuable chance, a researcher focusses on speaking skill which given to the learner in the class. Speaking is need for communication. It is special about the daily conversation and it is simple. The conversation was not too long and too short. It is suitable to the student's condition. The conversations cover of introduction, introduction in front of audience, conversation at terminal, at cafeteria, at the airport, at campus, at classroom, at home, at garden, asking address, at hotel, and so forth. Brennan S states conversations means dialogues between two or more people which use the nonverbal activity. The conversation is not as simple as speaking, it should be managed with good grammatical and linguistic (Brennan, 2010). Speaking is one of the favourite skill for students to master, because practicing in speaking is more interactive learning than other skills. By speaking, students able to show their idea, their opinion, their willing to someone else. They able to communicate to others by speaking. It can be done from families at home, friends in the classroom, colleagues in business and large societies (NOVI MURNIA PERTIWI, 2020).

Harmers (2007) states that students should practice speaking in some conversations or dialogues and repeat it in many times in the classroom. It is hoped they able to relate the materials with their daily conversation in the real-life situation. Usually, if the materials is taken from their real life condition, they will remember it for a long time (M. Intan, K. A, Muthalib, I.A, 2021).

Scott Thornbury recommends some good speaking activities in the class, then dialogues and communication tasks are the suitable activities for speaking class. Dialogues can be expressed by two students or more. If only two students practice the speaking class, it called as a pair group. Pair group is the best technique for students to practice the simple conversation. The couple of pair group can be changed in the other times to makes the class alive and not be bored class. Pair group means two students who practice their speaking dialogues, they can analyse the text easily and able to change the part in the conversation (Pratiwi, 2020).

Losito and Storch states in their research result that learners who did pair group work produced more language than small groups. It is because the students can be focus on their task in a short time and can practice their conversation for many times. Sometimes in the small or big groups the times cannot be controlled, every member in the groups want to express their ideas. Meanwhile, Dobao and Bloom have the similar opinion about pair group. They said that learners have more chance to be active in the group to do the task from teacher/ lecturer (Winarti, 2019). The limitations of the research are (a) students' speaking activity and (b) practicing the various simple conversation in pair group. Meanwhile the goals of this research are: (a) to describe and analyze the students' speaking ability (b) to describe and analyze the students' practicing various simple conversation in pair group. This research can be a reference to the English students in learning English speaking skill.

METHODS

The kind of research method is a descriptive method which tells the student's phenomenon in learning English through various simple conversation. The data is taken from the third semester students of Physic department at education and teaching faculty of Graha Nusantara University Padangsidempuan. The total students are fifteen. A researcher did some direct interviews to them in the classroom since the first meeting, because the first meeting is the introductory time between students and lecturer. At this time a researcher started in collecting information toward the research.

According to Banister et al, he said that the most important things in qualitative research are describe and analyze the explanation about phenomenon, but it needs deep investigation to the subject. In addition, Moleong states the process to know the phenomenon condition in qualitative

research have many characteristics such as attitude, idea, motivation, willing and so forth (Royadi et al., 2019).

The presence of a researcher as an English lecturer in the field of population helps the research run successfully. The populations are the third students of Physic department Graha Nusantara University Padangsidempuan. The location of the research is at Tor Simarsayang Graha Nusantara University Padangsidempuan and the most of the populations are also come from Padangsidempuan city. The result resources are from the direct interview to the population at the classroom, garden, office or at canteen of campus. Sometimes the interview is done in informal way. It is hoped the students enjoy in answering the researcher's questions.

The techniques of collecting data are (a) observation (b) interview and, (c) documentation. Observation means observes the real situation and condition of the population. This technique uses in the qualitative research in order to know the populations' phenomenon in the field. Then, interview, the technique of interview is a core of qualitative research to collect the whole information from the subject. All the data in the field are collected and analyzed in qualitative technique. (Harahap, 2021):

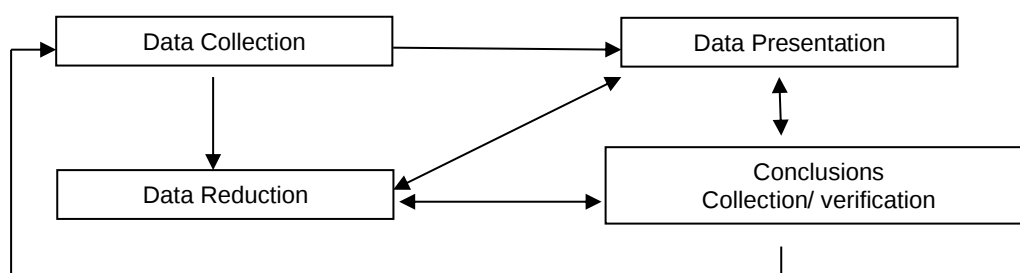


Figure 1. The draft of qualitative research adapted from Miles & Huberman in Ritonga (Ritonga, 2020) (2020)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

First is about the observation phase. In this phase a researcher did the observation before deciding the appropriate English materials to the students. She comes to the head of Physic department to tell what are the physic students' need about English. Because English subject is not their focus, then the discussion is needed to make a better progress. The consultation is very good for the lecture and students in order they enjoy leaning English in the classroom and get advantage from their knowledge. Then, the next observation phase is to the students, before teaching in the classroom done, a researcher makes the students' class group in the Whatsapp application. By group, a researcher able to ask the students many information about their interest in English. To my surprise, some students tell that they really dislike learning English since elementary school. Although the have learnt English almost six years at senior and junior high school, they still not able to speak English well. Talking about the theories in English, they have forgotten it all. One of student states that she chooses Physic at university level because she wants to avoid leaning English. Indonesia is a developing country, Muttaqin said that Indonesian's government are still fight to develop the education sector for all society in Indonesia (Muttaqin, 2018), English is a must learnt subject at Junior and Senior High School in Indonesia (Byslina Maduwu, 2016), indeed there are many elementary school that choose English as a subject at class four, five and six. Although the English subject are now become local capacity, the elementary schools able to make English as their extracurricular subject. On the contrary, there are still many students could not speak and understand well about English.

As a matter of fact, the reason why English is a must to be learn at Junior and Senior High School in Indonesia is to give students supply for their better communication towards this millennial era. This era, English becomes the number one language in the world. Kusuma states that English is a widest language that people spoken around the world, it uses from the academic international conference, news, until the popular music (Kusuma, 2018). The reality in the schools, sometimes the success target of the English subject at Junior and Senior High School in Indonesia have not reached. There are so many theories and subjects to learn, but no one can be focused. In addition, Sudirman

and Huzairin stated in their research about the students' attitude in learning English at Lampung, attitude towards the learning becomes a significant factor to reach the improvement in the classroom learning process. Agree with this, Gardner states that in learning language, language's attitude influences the learner's motivation. The learner who has a positive attitude, has a tendency to be success than a negative attitude (Sudirman & Huzairin, 2017).

When a researcher knows well about the condition of the population, she chooses the speaking skill with various simple conversation in pair group to teach them in the English class. She observes the students' motivation and attitude towards the English subject for the Physics' students. It is expected they happy to learn English for their better skill in English.

Second discussion is about the result in the interview phase. In this time a researcher gives them four specific questions. The questions are (a) about their opinion in learning English whether they are not an English field (b) about their opinion towards pair group of the various simple conversation in improving their speaking ability (c) about the important English to learn moreover in university scope and (d) about their favorite skill in learning English. All questions need logic reasons.

The enlightenment of the first question about the students' opinion in learning English is have a positive respond. It can be seen from their responses in answering the researchers' question in interview time. Most of them said that is very good to study English whether they study at physic. The materials they learnt in physic are also use English such as the terminology, the formula and so forth. Students feel so happy to know about English in university which they can apply in their daily live at home, social media and campus. By knowing English, some students said that he/she becomes a real university student and feel confidence to speak with other friends from other universities. Most of Entertainment, education tools, and social media's live use English as the language for communication, that is why English is the core of communication and a must to learn in this era (Kusuma, 2018).

Become a master of English at physic department is a gift, because the subject at his/her department are so serious. Then, when learning English by practicing various simple conversation with good motivation makes them spirit. The students feel so happy and enjoy the English conversation class. The second question is the students' opinion of pair group using various simple conversation in improving their speaking ability. According to this question, most of students agree that this method helps them in improving their English skill. By pair group they can be confidence to speak up with his/her partner. Moreover, when they have mistaken in pronouncing the words, a lecturer or friends able to correct it or they able to ask the correct pronunciation directly.

The advantages of pair group in speaking, students feel not nervous because it only consists of two students, feel confidence because everyone should speak up with his/her partner without hesitation, feel enjoy because every practice they can change friends, really help them because the conversation is simple. Besides, the short conversations in many situations that relate to their daily activities. The happiest thing to the students is the loud voice in practicing short conversation in front of class. They said it is so happy to speak English loudly that in the previous time they do not ever speak English like this pair group conversation.

The third question is about the importance of English to be learnt for university's scope. In this phase most of students agree to the importance of English. Everyone should know and understand about English language. They said, there are so many books in education sector using English language, it needs to be understood. Besides it, the university students are recommended to be able to communicate in English whether in speaking or writing. English so important because the job vacancy recently looks for the multi talent people for the various work.

By the student's opinion, a researcher realizes that they really live in the millennial era, they know that English is so important for them, they also aware of English as the International language in the world. A researcher feels so proud of them, their spirit in joining the classroom process should be appreciated.

Question number four is about their favourite in English skill. There are two students like to the listening skill, it is because their hobbies are singing, they used to listen the English song. Both of

them sometimes learn English from the songs. It can be seen from their ability in the pair group conversation. Both of them have better pronunciation than their friends in the classroom. The two of them always have questions in every meeting and are familiar to the English vocabularies. One of them tells that she prefers to listen than to speak, listen means silent but speak needs movement. The rest students like speaking skill in English. It is because they have practiced English conversation by pair group in the class. Most students state speaking skill is easier than reading, listening moreover writing.

The other opinion from one of student, she states that she likes speaking because she interests in someone whom able to speak English fluently. She admires someone who speaks English because in her opinion, who able to communicate using English it means smart. In the end, she said she really enjoys listening to someone's English speaking even she does not understand about his/her speaking. The other one said, I like speaking because it relates to his daily activity, he knows the vocabularies in the daily activity conversation can be applied in every day's speaking. In additions, one of student argues speaking subject is not the boring subject because practicing every meeting can lose a boredom in a classroom.

CONCLUSSION

Based on the finding in this research, the conclusions can be taken are: it is very good to learn English although they are not the English students, they are so happy to practice their speaking skill by pair group with various simple conversation, English is so important to learn moreover they are the university students and most of students prefer to learn speaking skill than other skills in English. The suggestions for the next researcher, pair group method can be applied in the other skills in English and for the English lecturers may apply the other methods for speaking class.

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