

Junior High School Students' Perception on the Online Teaching of Speaking

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

There are some important points presented in this chapter. The background of the study includes the reasons why the researcher was interested in researching the topic. Also, in this chapter, it presents statement of the problem, research question, objectives of the research, the significances of the research, and scope and delimitation of the research.

Background of The Study

Since English has become a global language, it has become an important subject to study around the world and particularly in Indonesia, where students must be able to understand English. Furthermore, English skills are essential in the business world, for that students must understand the use of English in formal and informal situations, which can help students feel confident in facing global competition.

In English learning, speaking is one of the four basic skills that students should acquire in English language study as defined in the Indonesian educational curriculum. They should be able to speak English in any situation as English Foreign Language students. One of the keys to success in learning a language is when they can improve their oral skill as a way to interact with others. In reality, despite the fact that English has been taught in Indonesian schools for many years, including in Junior High School and Senior High School levels in Curriculum 2013, as well as in elementary schools as a local content subject in Curriculum 2006, students still struggle to learn English, particularly in speaking.

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Nowadays, speaking can be challenging skill for students because they need to understand several aspects of speaking such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and fluency. Therefore, learning English is not an easy task, it needs motivation and effort to understand it. The role of teachers is the most influential factor in the learning process. They should be able to convey the aspects of speaking to students well. Teaching these aspects is a challenge for teachers because the learning situation has changed. Moreover, there are some teachers who no longer pay attention to these aspects and lack of interaction between teacher-students during online learning.

In case of studying English as a foreign language, the researcher found many problems in English learning at one of the junior high school that is SMPN 7 Gorontalo. The teacher rarely interact with students about the material during online learning. Furthermore, English skill that should be reading, writing, speaking, and listening are now only reading skill that students got. In online learning, the teacher rarely explain the material, it makes students have to read and learn the material by themselves. Thus, English learning has not been taught well. The teacher should explain the material, how to speak, and how to pronounce well in order that English learning goes well.

Based on previous explanation, it can be seen that teaching speaking aspects is very important in language learning. According to Nunan (1991), mastering the art of speaking is the most important component of learning a second or foreign language, and success is measured by the ability to have a

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conversation in the language. Thus, even when students are learning online, teachers should focus more on developing their speaking skills.

Talking about the importance of speaking in language learning, two important things that teachers should at least teach are vocabulary and pronunciation. Teaching vocabulary is a top focus in learning English. To improve their vocabulary knowledge, students should be well instructed. In the first stage of learning English, it is better to teach vocabulary than other aspect, and students can learn grammar and others when looking for the meaning of words in the vocabulary itself if students have a proper or sufficient vocabulary base (Nunan, 1991:17). After understanding the vocabulary well, students must also pronounce the words well.

In addition, pronunciation is an important thing besides vocabulary in learning speaking. It is one of the first impressions the other person will notice when starting a conversation. In fact, people will judge your ability to speak English just from how you pronounce words that are relatively easy. Thus, they should pay attention not just to their ability to use good vocabulary, but also to how they pronounce it. Then, in order to perfect their English skills, they must be taught grammar and fluency too.

Furthermore, there are several previous studies regarding this topic. The first is by Tasmia (2019) from The State Islamic University of Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi, the title of her study is about "Students' Problems in Speaking English at Eight Grade of Riyadhul Amien Islamic Boarding Junior High School

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Muaro Jambi". The goal of this study is to identify the difficulties faced by students in learning speaking skill. A descriptive qualitative method was used to conduct the study. The difference between this previous study and this study is the different learning situation. The second previous study that related is "Problems of Online Learning during Covid-19 Pandemic in EFL Classroom and the Solution by Leli Efriana, student from Universitas Islam Labuhan Batu" (2021). The purpose of this study was to look at the online learning issues that EFL teachers and students, as well as their parents, experience, and the solutions to these problems. As a result, the implementation of online learning, particularly in EFL learning, has caused various issues for teachers, students, and their parents.

These previous study showed the different aspects. The first study focused on offline learning, but this study focuses on online teaching with same issue. Another differences also can be seen from the focus of the research. The first research focused only on students problems in developing their speaking skills, while this research looked at speaking and its aspects whether or not it was intergrated. The second previous study is focused on the difficulties faced by teacher, students, and students' parents during pandemic and its the solution. This is clearly different from this proposed research which focused only on the speaking and its aspect in online learning.

Research Question

The problem of this research is "How is the perception of the students in the second grade of SMPN 7 Gorontalo toward online teaching of speaking?"

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Objectives of the Research

This research aims to find out students' perception whether aspects of speaking have been integrated or not during online of speaking in the second grade of SMPN 7 Gorontalo

Significances of the Research

- The researcher expects that all teachers will understand students' feeling by looking at their perception. Furthermore, the teacher will constantly remember to teach the four aspects of speaking during online learning.
- This study is expected to help junior high school students realize the significance of mastering four aspects of speaking in learning English.
- The last is to the other researcher, it can expand this research as source and reference for them who interested in the same study.

The Scopes and Delimitation of Research

The researcher limited the problem only to the students' perception on the online teaching of speaking and to found out whether aspects of speaking have been intergrated or not during online learning. This research would only focus on students' at SMP Negeri 7 Gorontalo and the teachers' perception are not included. The participants of this research only students' of eight grade in academic year 2020/2021.