

CHALLENGES FACED BY STUDENTS IN ONLINE ENGLISH SPEAKING CLASSES

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Abstract

This research is a qualitative research that aims to find (a) the challenges faced by students in learning to speak English online (b) the efforts made by students in overcoming the challenges of speaking English online. The population of this study was all students in the school of SMKN 6 Makassar. The sample collection technique from this study used purposive samples consisting of 16 students. This research instrument uses interviews. The results showed that there are five things that challenge students in learning to speak English online, namely students find it difficult to keep up with lessons, the internet connection is sometimes unstable, learning English online is difficult from learning English offline, students have many other activities when they study online, and students need to pay extra money for the internet. Furthermore, there are two things that students do in their efforts to learn English speaking, namely they first learn the method of learning English speaking, then strive to learn independently.

Keywords— Speaking English, Students Challenge, Students Effort, Online Learning

INTRODUCTION

One of the languages that some people still find hard to grasp is English, particularly students in Indonesia. Despite the fact that English classes are necessary to stay up with the rapid technological advancements in the present globalization period, there is still a severe lack of understanding of the relevance of English education in Indonesia. Throughout this process, they must master the four core language abilities of listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Speaking is one of the major skills required to speak English fluently. Speaking is a language skill developed in a child's life (Tarigan, 1,990:3-4). This speaking skill is acquired through listening ability. "Speaking as the ability to express oneself" (Ladouse 1991). Face-to-face training was substituted by online instruction in Indonesia from March 2020 to early 2022 as a result of the Covid-19 sickness pandemic at the time. Due to Covid-19, schools and even colleges in Indonesia must close so that students can finish their online coursework from a distance. Changing their methods for selecting instructional materials is undoubtedly a challenge for educators, particularly those working in classrooms.

The difficulties experienced by English instructors in the teaching process during the pandemic have already been studied (Diana 2021), according to that research. The findings were converted into a table and showed the challenges experienced by English teachers in the online teaching and learning process. However, his research, it is not explained the challenges of speaking English, only explaining the challenges of English teachers in online learning in a quantitative approach. Furthermore, research conducted (Wiramarta's 2021). His research addresses the challenges of English learning in the aspect of speaking. This research is qualitative research. Where his research is discussed in the outline of his hands. However, this study it is not explained the efforts made by teachers and students in overcoming the problem.

Based on the research above, it is very important to discuss challenges in students speaking classes. The author wants to do further research with the title “Challenges Faced by Students in the Classroom Speaking English Online”. In his research, the author wants to conduct Qualitative research by speaking to conduct research from the shortcomings of previous research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Some of these related ideas are focused on explaining in detail information about speaking concepts, the challenges of English speaking in online classes, and the efforts made by students to overcome challenges in learning English online.

The concept of speaking

Speaking is one of the most important language skills for students to master if they are to be great communicators. Students must choose how to communicate through speech in order to express themselves and form social bonds. Speaking is defined as having the capacity to utter articulated sounds or words in order to transmit ideas, emotions, and feelings (Tarigan 1983). Speaking skills are the ones that are most important for learning a second language or a foreign language. Of the four basic language abilities, speaking is seen as being the most important to acquire while learning a foreign or second language. Speaking teaching can be started by introducing Speaking English first, then teaching students how to speak well, especially speaking English as one of the foreign languages that they must master. In their teaching, they will be trained first, especially in pronunciation, then train students by getting used to memorizing English vocabulary before starting to learn in English classes.

The Challenge of Speaking English in an online classroom

From the facts found, challenges during online learning also turned out to be experienced by parents of students who sometimes did not have the ability to explain the material in detail (Anugrahana, 2020). This is of course based on the weak understanding of the material by parents as stated by Wardani & Ayriza (2020) in their research related to the Analysis of Parental Constraints in Accompanying Children to learn at Home During the Covid-19 Pandemic. In addition, parents also feel burdened because they have to carry out the role of a teacher to teach to always supervise their children and even harder for parents who continue to work (Arwen, 2020).

Efforts made by Students in Overcoming English Language Barriers While Online.

The following are some quick and easy techniques to enhance your English, especially when using the internet:

- Reading
- Observe
- Write
- Speaking Practice
- Laveraging gaming and social media
- Take small

METHODS

1) Research Design

Descriptive qualitative research approaches are being used in this study. This study intends to shed light on language situations, particularly the difficulties of speaking in online learning, hence the qualitative technique was used.

2) Time and Place

The selection of the place of study is an important part of the study. This research has been conducted at SMKN 6 Makassar. It was done in November 2022 for two weeks.

3) Population and Sample

- **Population**

The population consists of all the items that are part of the observation. People, gender, social class, animals, plants, jobs, etc. are all examples of objects. Every student at SMKN 6 Makassar is the study's population.

- **Sample**

Sample Population in this study is all students while the sample of this study will select 12 students from that class.

4) Research Variable

Variables are the objects of study that are the focus. The researcher conducted this research to find out the challenges of learning to speak English during online, and the efforts students make in overcoming the challenges of speaking in online classes.

5) Research Instruments

A tool was required to perform the study and assist the researcher in gathering data. Interviews were employed in this study's data collection process

6) Procedures of Collecting Data

To help the researcher in collecting data, below are procedures have been guide the researcher based on Heigham and Cooker (2009):

1. Developing research design.
2. Preparing interview guide.
3. Selecting participants.
4. Establishing a rapport with the participants.
5. Conducting and transcribing interviews.

7) Technique of data analysis

The researcher used the data analysis method described by Miles & Huberman (1984:21-23), which was mentioned by Emzir (2010), in order to analyze the interview results:

Data reduction

The processes of choosing, concentrating, simplification, abstraction, and transformation of the "raw data" that may be found in recorded field recordings are referred to as data reduction.

However, the researcher modified the interview results to fit the research topic throughout the data analysis phase.

Data display

Data display is the process of planning the columns and rows of a matrix and selecting the type of information to be placed into each cell.

Withdrawal / verification of conclusions

The last step of analysis data is to take the withdrawal and find verification of conclusion.

RESULTS

1) Challenges students face in learning to speak English online

Based on the results of interviews with 12 students at SMKN 6 Makassar, researchers found that there are five things that are challenges in learning to speak online. Here are some examples of interviews with students about the challenges of learning English online:

Students find it difficult to follow the lesson

...Di kelas online pembelajarannya agak kurang bisa dimengerti kak. (The material provided during online learning, the discussion is difficult to understand).(Nadia, 22/11/2022)

...Kurang mengerti sama penjelasan materi, semacam cara bicaranya juga tidak dipahami saat dijelaskan. (When explaining, the material presented is not understood because what is said by the teacher is not well understood)(Caca, 22/11/2022)

The internet connect is sometimes unstable

...Susah ki dipahami, karena jaringannya jelek dan kadang tidak didengar juga suaranya itu guru kak. (Learning is difficult to understand because the network is not good, so the material spoken by the teacher when explaining does not sound well)(Yuni, 22/11/2022)

...Kadang putus-putus suaranya itu guru kalau menjelaskan, jadi tidak ditau apa na bilang... (Sometimes the teacher's voice is interrupted when explaining so that the explanation is not understood)(Nadia, 22/11/2022)

Learning English online is difficult from learning English offline

...Kalau pas online kayak biasa ada gangguan kayak jaringan kak, tapi kalau offline agak mengerti ki karena na jelaskan secara langsung ki gurunya... (Learning that is carried out online is sometimes hampered by poor networks, while offline learning is easier to understand because the teacher explains directly in the classroom) (Lala, 22/11/2022)

...Kurang belajar, kayak susah ki belajar saat online kak, tapi saat pembelajaran offline bisa ki lebih banyak praktek berbicara sama teman, dan ibu guru juga bisa lebih mudah koreksi yang mana salahnya dari pengucapanta... (English speaking learning is less efficient when

online, while offline learning is more efficient because in addition to practicing speaking directly with friends, teachers can also easily correct mistakes from our pronunciation)

(Tiara, 22/11/2022)

Students many have other activities when they are learning online

...Kadang juga kalau zoom ribut kak, atau biasa juga ada di suruhkan ki sama orang tua di rumah saat sementara ki belajar kak. (Sometimes students are noisy during zoom meetings, sometimes even focus is distracted by other activities that parents tell them to do).

(Linda, 24/11/2022)

...Biasa kalau sementara ka zoom dan ada temanku datang dirumah, langsung ku kasih tinggal mi itu zoom ku kak. Jadi tidak belajar ma. (Sometimes when while zooming and his friend come to the house, his zoom learning is immediately abandoned)

(Tiara, 24/11/2022)

...Biasanya gurunya tidak masuk di zoom, dan mengajar lewat whatsapp ji, jadi kalau mengajar lewat whatsapp, nonton ji saya ku kerja. (Sometimes the teacher only explains on whatsapp and doesn't explain on zoom, so I do other activities by watching)

(Aysa, 24/11/2022)

Students need to pay extra money for internet

...Kuota internet kak, karena harus ki pake kuota jadi harus beli kuota terus karena cepat habis kuoatanya... (Internet quota, because learning is carried out online so that it utilizes internet quota continuously, and as a result internet quota is easily used up)

(Hilda, 24/11/2022)

...Selama pembelajaran online cepat sekali habis kuota ku kak, jadi biasa tidak cukup ji satu bulan paket ku saya pake. (During online learning, the internet quota runs out quickly so that one month's internet quota is not enough to use).

(Tiara, 24/11/2022)

From some of the challenges that have been mentioned by the students above, it can be seen that: Shiva finds it difficult to follow learning because she feels that online learning is difficult to understand, an unstable internet connection makes it difficult for students to understand and listen to the teacher's explanation, online English learning is difficult from lesson English offline because during online learning it has many distractions while during offline learning the teacher can explain directly well to students, students many other activities when they are learning online such as abandoning learning and focusing on other activities, and lastly is because students use internet quota continuously during online learning so that students need to pay extra money for the internet.

2) The efforts students put into overcoming the challenges of speaking English online.

After conducting interviews about students' English speaking challenges during online, researchers next conducted interviews about the efforts students made in overcoming the challenges of speaking English during online. Here are some examples of interviews with students about the effort they put in:

Students learning methods

...Metode hafal vocabs kak... (Methods of memorizing pronunciation)(Hikmah, 29/11/2022)

...Dengar music bahasa inggris kak... (Listening to English music)(Rhima, 29/11/2022)

...Memanfaatkan google translate kak, trus itu hasil translatenya di putar mi kembali supaya di tau pengucapannya... (Make use of google translate, after that listen to the translate results to find out the exact pronunciation).(Hilda, 29/11/2022)

Learn to speak English independently online

...Selalu kak. Kalau misalnya nonton ka YouTube atau film semuanya itu yang ku nonton tanpa adanya subtitle bahasa Indonesia, jadi nanti saya cari sendiri mi artinya. (Everyday. For example, when watching YouTube or movies as much as possible without using Indonesian subtitles, so I tried myself to find out the meaning of the sentence being said)

(Nur, 01/12/2022)

...Pernah. Kek misalnya berbicara sendiri di depan cermin latih pengucapannya kak. (Yes, by practicing pronunciation in front of the mirror)

(Sri, 01/12/2022)

...Pernah. Biasanya belajar mandiri ka dengan perkenalkan diri kak. (Yes, by learning independently introduce yourself)

(Hilda, 01/12/2022)

From some of the efforts that have been mentioned by the students above, it can be seen that there are two efforts made by students to overcome their learning challenges, namely learning in advance the learning methods they have done by memorizing vocab, listening to music and utilizing Google translate. Then after knowing the method, the second way is to learn independently. Shiva does learning independently watching YouTube, practicing her pronunciation by learning to speak in front of a mirror, and learning independently by introducing herself.

DISCUSSION

The results of the research in this section explain the challenges that students face in learning English online and the efforts students make in dealing with learning to speak English online. The results of the discussion were known from the interview answers for 12 students in each class representative, namely class XI Busana 1 (three students), XI Busana II (three students), XI AK 1 (three students), and XI AK II (three students).

1) Challenges students face in learning to speak English online

Students find it difficult to follow the lesson

During online learning, students find it difficult to learn English speaking, this is because the material presented by the teacher is difficult for them to understand, and there is a lack of speaking practice during online learning. So that the learning process is less efficient than when learning is carried out directly at school.

The internet connect is sometimes unstable

From interviews with 12 students, they said that during learning one of the challenges they learned to speak English was from an unstable internet connection. Sometimes what is conveyed by teachers is not heard clearly because the internet network is not good so they have difficulty in receiving learning well.

Learning English online is difficult from learning English offline

From the results of the research conducted, students argue that offline and online learning, especially in students' speaking skills are very different, where students feel that the material taught offline (directly at school) is easy for them to understand because the teacher explains well and there is a practice of speaking directly in the classroom, different when learning is done online, students feel that the results of learning to speak English online are less efficient.

Students many have other activities when they are learning online

Student learning during online is that students have many other activities when they are learning online. From the results of interviews with several students at SMKN 6 Makassar, it is known that during learning students leave zoom during learning to do other activities such as activities told by their parents, even other activities such as playing.

Students need to pay extra money for internet

The last challenge felt by students during learning is from the internet quota. From the results of interviews with 16 students, they revealed that their learning difficulties were because they had to have internet quota during online learning, even their internet quota was not used enough in a month because of the use of zoom and YouTube that were used every day.

2) Efforts made by students while learning English speaking online

Student learning methods

From the results of the study, it was also found that there are several methods revealed by students in learning English speaking online, namely memorizing vocabs, listening to English songs, watching YouTube and English movies, utilizing Google translate, and making speaking learning groups in pairs. Based on the presentation of the findings above, it can be said that teachers in schools have an important role in teaching student learning methods. The choice of learning methods greatly affects student learning motivation (Larsen-Freeman, 2000; Saville-Trolke, 2006; Brown, 2007) so that learning objectives are achieved (Brown, 2001).

Learn speaking skills independently

The effort that can be done to improve English language skills is to read a lot of literature in English (Kustanti, 2016). There are 4 simple ways that can be done to improve English skills, namely by observing, writing, speaking practice, and utilizing games and social media (Sofiyanti 2014). Then from the results of this study, it was found that the efforts made by students in improving their speaking skills while online were by utilizing social media, watching YouTube or English-language movies, memorizing vocabs, training themselves to speak in front of a mirror, and learning to independently introduce themselves.

Based on the results of this study, there are several implications of the research results, namely that it can be revealed about the challenges and difficulties experienced by students during online

learning, especially English speaking. During learning, the teacher only knows that the student's challenge in learning is from himself (laziness), but after conducting research that was revealed from student interviews, the teacher was able to find out several things that were obstacles for students in learning.

In addition, the second implication is being able to know the results obtained by students during online learning. From the results of student interviews, it was revealed that during online learning, especially speaking English, the results obtained during learning were non-existent, but by doing learning independently students get maximum results.

From the two implications above, this can be a lesson for teachers to find out student learning challenges and change their teaching methods according to student needs, before doing learning so that the learning outcomes obtained by students can be maximized properly.

Research Limitation

In this study, there are still many shortcomings due to limitations in the study. However, researchers try their best to minimize existing limitations. The limitations that occur during the study are: The time for conducting research is tight because when starting to conduct research, students in schools prepare themselves to conduct semester exams so that the research time is limited, besides that the second limitation when conducting research is from the research subject. This study was supposed to use many students to be interviewed, but due to time constraints, researchers were only allowed or received permission from the school to interview a maximum of two students in one class (only a few representatives).

CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

1. There are 5 things that challenge students in learning to speak English online, namely: the first challenge is that students find it difficult to follow learning because they feel that online learning is difficult to understand, then an unstable internet connection makes it difficult for students to understand and listen to the teacher's explanation, the third challenge is learning English online is difficult from lesson English offline because during online learning has many distractions meanwhile, when offline learning, teachers can explain directly well to students, students many other activities when they are learning online such as leaving learning and focusing on other activities, and the last is because students use internet quota continuously during online learning so that students need to pay additional money for the internet.
2. There are two important things that students do in their efforts to learn to speak English online, namely they find out the right English speaking learning method, where students feel that the suitable method they use in learning to speak English during online is memorizing vocabs, listening to English music, and utilizing Google translate. The second is that they learn independently by practicing talking in front of the mirror, watching YouTube, and learning to introduce themselves.

Suggestion

Researchers suggest several recommendations based on the results of the study on the findings of challenges students face in online English-speaking classes:

1. For Teachers

Researchers found that during English speaking learning carried out online, teachers are still less effective in the teaching process, besides that teachers must also make more use of other learning media on the internet to maximize the learning process of speaking English students.

2. For Students

Researchers found that there was a need for motivation for students to learn more independently on their speaking skills to get good results.

3. For future researchers

This study only provides information about the challenges faced by students in online English speaking classes challenges students face in the classroom speaking English online. And it is hoped that it can be used by subsequent researchers as a source and information to conduct further research

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