

**BOOSTING SPEAKING PERFORMANCE THROUGH DEBATING : STUDENTS
PERCEPTION AT UDS
(UMUSLIM DEBATING SOCIETY)
(Survey Research)**

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Abstract

The problem of this research is : what are the Umuslim Debating Society's student perception on the use of debate to boosting speaking performance. The objectives of this research is : To describe and to analyze the Umuslim Debating Society's students perception on the use of debate to boosting speaking performance. The type of this research is a qualitative research and the methodology that used is survey research with using interview and questionnaire as an instrument. The results of this research is debate The results of this study indicate that debate can help improve students' speaking skills because students are trained to speak a lot since they have to convey their arguments well and fluently. If they cannot speak English fluently then they will also not be able to present their arguments which is very much required in the debate. Debate also increase a lot of students' vocabulary because students are required to speak, read and hear with many things, this is always done repeatedly so that usually when students read or hear from English websites, in the end students will get used to those vocabulary. Debate can increase students' confidence so that the possibility of students feeling shy when speaking will not happen again when they have started arguing because when arguing they are required to convey their arguments confidently as a result of public speaking training. At the end it will also boost their speaking performance wich is very necessary for students. Debate will also help them in gaining confidency and ability to create an logic argument. Therefore, it can be one of the methods that should be used by teachers in learning English speaking classes because it can be an effective method to significantly improve students' speaking skills.

Key term: Speaking Performance, Debating, UDS.

INTRODUCTION

The ability to speak English is very important for every student because they can express their opinions freely without the boundaries of culture, language and country. English can also help them to challenge themselves in finding jobs or getting scholarships in the international community. Because of those reasons the writer realized how important English speaking skill is. However, although speaking has been included in educational plan for English teaching in colleges and universities in the past year, the percentage of time devoted to activities in which students can communicate with each other in English remains small in the whole class. There are three main problems that have to be faced by the students in learning speaking. There are several problems faced by students in speaking. First, it is related to condition of students who lack vocabulary which will make it difficult for them to pronounce words during class and also make them not confident to speak English. Second, those few students not confident to speak English for fear of being wrong. Some of them are scared because their pronunciation is not as good as native speakers. Third, students speak more in their first language or their mother tongue (Arya, 2017 : 4) One alternative strategy that is well known and has been implemented in many other countries outside Indonesia is a debating strategy. In Debating students can be trained to figure out their friends arguments and the more the students practice it so their communicative competence will be better as well. This journal discusses the findings of a study recently conducted to investigate the students' perceptions about how debating can improve their speaking ability which is conducted at Umuslim Debating Society (UDS).

METHOD

The research method used is a qualitative method. Qualitative research or qualitative research is the type of research that produces findings that cannot be achieved using procedures statistically or by other quantitative means (Nugrahani, 2014 : 4) This research used triangulation as instruments, they are observation, interview and questionnaire. Triangulation more interpreted as the merger of two way or more in collect the data about behavior of the subject research. This research was conducted at the AlMuslim university to be precise at the UDS (Umuslim Debating Society). The subject of this research is a member of the UDS (Umuslim Debating Society). The data of this research was collected through several techniques, namely interview, observations, and documentation.

Concept of Speaking Performance

Speaking Performance refers to public speaking, i.e. talk that conveys information in front of an audience, such as class presentations, public announcements, and speeches. Speech as performance tends to be monologue and not dialogue, often follows a recognizable format (such as, welcome speech), and is closer to written language than spoken language. Similarly, it is often evaluated according to its effectiveness or impact on the listener, something that is not possible with speech as an interaction or transaction (Richard, 2016)

Speaking is the verbal use of language to communicate with others. Speaking as interaction, and speaking as a social and situation-based activity (Uji, 2018 : 26) which means speaking can enable us to interact with other people well. While performance means it has meaning as “do a piece of work, something one is ordered to do, or something one has promised to Do” (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, 2021)

Concept of debate

Debate is an activity that is usually carried out to hone the ability to argue and also to improve public speaking skills, which is very important to be carried out usually in formal institutions or informal institutions, whether carried out in government or at universities.

While in definition debate is Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2021) defines debate as formal discussion of an issue in public meetings or in parliament. Debate is the exchange of arguments between two teams or individuals. The meeting took place on Regional, national and international levels around the world, mostly in educational settings such as: Schools and universities. The idea behind the whole discipline of debating is to teach or to do Approach to a particular topic from different points of view.

In addition, Debate develops critical thinking and research skills and requires cooperation. Debate is also an extraordinary conflict resolution tool emphasizing peaceful and tolerant communication and respect the opinions of others. In addition, it can make us to be a person who easily respects someone's opinion. Based on some of the definitions above, it can be concluded that Debate is a situation where students give their opinion and opposing arguments as possible solutions to problems and questions

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study were obtained by in-depth interviews directly with informants as form of direct search in the field. Then researchers also use the questionnaire distribution technique as a way to complete the data that has been found. This study focuses on students' perceptions of

debate by UDS (Umuslim debating society) members about how debate can help them in boosting their speaking performance.

1. Debate On Their Perspective

Basically there are various perspectives on how the debate really is but from the results of interviews with several members of the UDS (Umuslim Debating Society) it can be concluded that debate is an organization full of strategies and can also be a technique or a way to improve students' English skills, besides that debate also help students to hone their critical thinking, public speaking, problem solving and cooperating. All of which are very important for students, not only for English students but also for all students because debating directly help improve their soft skills.

2. The Reason Why of Joining Debate Club

Based on the research that has been done by the researcher, it can be concluded that the reason students join the debate club is because of the wish to learn English, the desire to improve critical thinking skills and the desire to challenge themselves, and also to expand their knowledge because in the debate students would explore many things which would increase students' knowledge at the end. What's more they said that in the debate club they would find people with the same interests, along with the fact that they would be individuals who are more knowledgeable or capable than anyone else.

3. The Difference between Learning English in common way and Debating

So based on the opinion that has been expressed earlier, it can be concluded that learning speaking in the usual way didn't make students remember vocabulary quickly because in ordinary way students only speak, learn grammar and try to speak formally while in the debate, students easily remember vocabulary, easily improve their speaking skills because they got forced to continue speaking in order to express their opinions well, even though the grammar produced is not good coupled with the fact that when for example you speak in ordinary speaking language then students can think about the grammar they use, but in the debate then they don't even have time to think

about the grammar they say because they have to think about the arguments they have to say at that time also with the fact that when they speak in ordinary speaking, they can say everything but they are emphasized to speak according to grammar, since when they debate they can say anything without making sure whether their grammar is correct or not because that is the most important thing in debate is about how they can make good and true arguments they can refute their opponent's arguments they also can give a very good case to the judge's.

Debate also makes it easier for students to improve their English-speaking skills due to the activities carried out during the debate compared to ordinary speaking, which only talks as usual without doing more activities that train speaking skills to get better even when students are told to study ordinary speaking students are only busy following the syllabus while debating students are free to how their abilities and speak based on their knowledge.

Moreover, there is no definite syllabus that must be followed during the debate. The most important thing is that every student is able to speak well, have good public speaking skill and have extensive knowledge. During debate, the possibility for students to increase their abilities is very huge because debate activities not only make students speak but also students are required to read and listen to English which in the end make students vary accustomed to socializing in an English-speaking environment.

Moreover in ordinary class usually if there is new vocabulary it is usually not used immediately and soon it be forgotten while in debate class when there is new vocabulary it's usually be used immediately because students immediately argue after learning the new vocabulary and make it easier to remember vocabulary.

4. The Perception on How Debating Can Improve English performance

Debate is about how students practice speaking English while arguing or putting forward arguments, en. This train students to speak intensely. Based on the research that has been done, it can be concluded that students' perception of debate is that it is true that debate can improve students' abilities faster than using the old method, but in debate students always be asked to

practice without stopping, as is known that practice make everything perfect. Even if students feel tired, the results that be obtained from Debating are real. In debate students are always told to speak, and if students cannot speak, then students are asked to do training, and if students do not practice then students did not be able to convey their arguments, therefore in debates because students often practice speaking, this able to improve students' ability to speak English significantly. Plus in the debate, students also discuss many things, both general knowledge and basic knowledge so that this is also increase the vocabulary that students get. In situations where students cannot understand the arguments said by their opponent or the giver, students look for the meaning or definition of the meaning of these words so that in the end this also help students improve their vocabulary.

In the end they said that in the debate students would discuss a lot about politics, economics, and various other sciences which would directly increase students' insight. Although debate give students a lot of stress but debate is a fun activity and feels like a game. The conclusion that can be drawn is that it is true that debate can help us improve English speaking skills because the pressure factor, which is usually a pressure factor, is not present in ordinary speaking classes, even if there is a small intensity. While in debate, the pressure factor is very strong because debate is about talking, and making arguments, if you can't speak then you can't make arguments, so speaking is an obligation, and debate also requires a lot of practice so that students often repeat or say the same thing every time.

5. Debating As A strategy to Apply For Speaking Class

Currently there are various methods used by teachers in teaching students how to speak English, but it is known that the results of these methods are very insignificant so that in the end students still cannot speak English fluently. Debate offers a strategy that can be practiced in the classroom as a way of learning speaking in English class.

Based on the research that has been done, they say that this is a very interesting idea to try because in debate students not only learn to speak, but also read, write and listen unlike ordinary

English speaking classes which only focus on speaking when it comes to speaking classes, but not with debate which improve students' speaking skills along with three other important skills. In debate also students not only be able to speak fluently but also be able to speak confidently because debate also trains students' confidence because usually in ordinary speaking classes students feel worried if they make mistakes in grammar but because in debate class grammar is not important and students can say whatever they want as long as what they say can be understood by the listeners which in the end this also make students' abilities better than most students.

After all, seeing how debate is able to give effective results in improving students' speaking skills, the teacher should try to apply the debate method in the classroom as a teaching technique because basically a good teacher should try various methods, not the hardest method or the easiest method but the most affective method. Which is give good results for students in improving their speaking abilities.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and discussion of data that has been carried out by the author, the authors obtain conclusions that can be drawn from the research on boosting speaking performance through Debating is debate is in line with the goal of the speaking training class which achieves the target of making students able to speak well and fluently as well as argue even though the grammar mastered by students is not high but slowly but surely in the end students will still master grammar and can speak well.

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