

# **The Effectiveness of Debate Practicing To Improve English Speaking Ability - A Case Study at Tactical English Enrichment**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research is intended to explore how debate practicing effects the improvement of speaking ability which focusing on the members of certain English course called as TEEN (Tactical English Enrichment). The researchers observe half of TEEN's members with purpose of discovering the mistakes made while speaking English in debate circle. In the first of members' debate session, the researchers find out that the common speaking mistakes caused them having difficulties to speak up consist of three points such as combining local language (Indonesian) with English, speaking haltingly (not fluent), and being afraid of having grammatical error to speak up (anxiety). Then the researchers monitored 16 members (half of TEEN's members) to discover the mistakes of each of them referring to mentioned three points, and when it is calculated, encountered 38 mistakes entirely found out. After three months since the observation conducted, the researchers do the action of reobserving to find out whether the mistakes stated previously has reduced or not. The findings show that the members' English speaking ability improved due to the practical activity (debating), when the three point mistakes is reviewed and calculated again, it is only 14 mistakes encountered of theirs in total. It means that debating practice effects the speaking ability as it is applied frequently. In addition, the factors of members' speaking ability improvement includes three major factors all of which related to the debating process itself. Firstly, the members are required to enrich vocabularies before debating activity, thus they do not combine the language while arguing, secondly, the members are habituated to speak up, so that they do not speak haltingly, and thirdly the members indirectly are encouraged to speak up because of worrying to be defeated by the opponent party, it leads to reduce their anxiety.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

In this modern era, the need of adequate communication has been increasing widely because of the importance of communication itself which is utilized by people as social human. In terms of communication, one requires the ability to speak between groups of people. Thus, the necessity of speaking ability is highly needed as an essential aspect in communicating. The term of speaking (adj)

which is always associated with the term of speak (v) defined as the ability, and act to say words in order to express thoughts, feelings, opinions, etc. in a particular way to someone.

Developing speaking ability is a crucial step both in working and studying world of earning comprehensible communication. For instant in working area, one does have to speak clearly to their partners what they are thinking. Before conveying of what they are thinking fluently in public, there is a need to reducing ambiguous sentence as it is extremely important to reach understandable communication. Thus it will not leave the with poor communication habits, which they must work hard to recognize and overcome.

Speaking is also considered as a key to communicating some sort of interest among people to avoid poor communication. Equally important, one must have the ability of speaking to minimize the distortion while communicating. The role of speaking ability is more than that. Language also plays an important role in speaking. People from different countries may not only speak different languages but have different bodies of knowledge, different educations, and different cultures. The fact that such differences have to be coped with independent of language barrier which can easily be performed by applying the ability of speaking.

In addition to the term of speaking, it is discovered that there has been several difficulties while performing the ability of speaking. Further explanations about speaking difficulties could be seen in discussion section. Those several difficulties could be come by debate practicing. Debate practicing is assumed as an appropriate method to deal speaking difficulties due to the practical activities itself. Debate lets people involved to experience further their speaking ability. It allows them to make contact and speak directly to their potential partners. While performing debate, those who involve in the circle must not rely on other people to express opinions.

### **1.1 Purpose of Research**

The major purpose of this research is to showing the effectiveness of debate practicing to improve English speaking ability. This research is expected to give a

new brief of knowledge in academic area especially in teaching field.

## **2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **2.1 Definition of Effectiveness**

Effectiveness is defined as attaining of purposed goals already determined within a specified time. According to Steers (1985), it is regarded as the activity of reaching up program as a system with certain resources and means in order to attain decided target without pushing down the doer [1]. Aligned with Emerson in Hadyaningrat (1994), when the effectiveness is reviewed from the point of goal achievement, it is not only focusing on acquiring target but as well as notice the defense in process of gaining target since it is sufficient crucial to heed [2].

Moreover, the effective way to gain target is able to be considered as how to reach up the target which means the method used is being the focus on obtaining goals within determined time based on an accord. This definition in line with Hidayat (1986) who also defines the effectiveness as standard to clarify how the targets or goals are obtained included quantity, quality, and timing which have been specified in advance [3].

Thus, the definitions of effectiveness above are able to be deduced that effectiveness itself is regarded as standard or measure to gain the purposed goals which actually has a process.

### **2.2 Definition of Speaking**

Speaking is the action of conveying information or expressing one's minds and feelings in spoken language (in various language). According to Guralnik (1995), speaking is one's ability to communicate in certain language with purpose of obtaining communicant's understanding towards the conveyed message contained in the conversation [4].

To most people, mastering speaking skill particularly in foreign language mastery is a necessity for the communicant does not invariably come from the same country that is not using various language. Thus, having proper speaking ability assists people to interact with others particularly when the communicator masters the foreign language that officially used by lot of countries.

### **2.3 Definition of Debate**

Debate is oral communication that is expressed by the language to defend his opinions. Every party who argue would state arguments, give reasons in certain ways so that the opposing side would be convinced and sided with him. According to Smanda (2013), debate is carried out by two groups that argue a topic as a foundation of debate process in which each group has different point of view or side towards the topic [5].

Thus, debate is recognized as arguing process of two groups that focus on owned argumentations or opinion relating to the topic critiqued.

## **3. RESEARCH METHOD**

### **3.1 Research Design**

The research method conducted is quantitative. The researcher performs the observation for two months to the center of English learning named Tactical English Enrichment (TEEN) contained 30 members that focus on English debate practicing. The sample taken only for 16 members of TEEN, it refers to  $\frac{1}{2}n + 1$  formula.

The first, the researcher observes members at the beginning of study to discover the mistakes of theirs (members) in speaking English. And the second, until all members learn for 3 months the researcher observes the members whether they obtain the improvement or not particularly in English speaking mastery and find out the improvement factors pushed them.

### **3.2 Place and Date of Research**

This research is conducted in Jl. A. H Nasution No. 105 Bandung Indonesia. Meanwhile the date of conducting research is on May, 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## **4. DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 The Mistakes Discovered at the Beginning of Study**

At first, the researcher observed the members at the beginning of their study in TEEN. They debated several topics provided by tutors for 2 hours. The researchers discovered three general English speaking mistakes of theirs during first debate process such as:

1. Combining local language (Indonesian) with English.  
While arguing the opinion most of TEEN's member mixing the language (Indonesian and English). It indicates they definitely recognize less vocabulary then encounter difficulties to speak up due to less vocabulary mastery.
2. Speaking haltingly (not fluent).  
Majority of TEEN's members have not stated the argument fluently yet that leading to indistinct speaking. They are only able to speak up haltingly.
3. Being afraid of having grammatical error to speak up (anxiety).  
The last point refers to members' anxiety to stating the arguments as they worry about encountering grammatical error.

After attaining those points, the researchers start processing data by monitoring 16 members selected randomly, and the findings are provided in the following table:

Table 4.1.1. Data of Members' General Speaking Mistakes at First Debate Process

No	Nama	General Speaking Mistakes			Total
		Combining	Not Fluent	Anxiety	
1	Ahmad NM		√		1
2	Alfarji		√		1
3	Anggil				0
4	Deswita R		√		1
5	Litya S A				0
6	Nadiyah				0
7	Nayla Q			√	1
8	Rahmawati H		√		1
9	Suhendar				0
10	Rafi fachmi	√	√		2
11	Dzikri	√	√		2
12	Rizki S				0
13	Eggy S		√		1
14	Esty D			√	1
15	Dede S		√	√	2
16	Dewi F		√		1
Total					14

Table 4.1.1 shows the data obtained by monitoring 16 members during their first debate. The members' mistakes at first observation and debate circle are 38 in total. The data would be utilized as the comparison for measuring the effectiveness of debate practicing to improve member's speaking ability.

Then, the researcher monitored 16 members carefully for 3 months in debate process to obtain the final data as the measurement of effectiveness of debate practicing whether it influences members' speaking improvement or not. After 3 months conducting observation, the researcher discovered the final data of members relating to their speaking improvement, the data served in the following table:

Table 4.1.2 Final Data of Members' General Speaking Mistakes after 3 Months

Table 4.1.2 shows the data attained from observation and monitoring for 3 months to 16 members selected

No	Nama	General Speaking Mistakes			Total
		Combining	Not Fluent	Anxiety	
1	Ahmad NM		√	√	2
2	Alfarji	√	√	√	3
3	Anggil	√	√		2
4	Deswita R		√	√	2
5	Litya S A	√	√	√	3
6	Nadiyah	√	√		2
7	Nayla Q	√	√	√	3
8	Rahmawati H	√	√		2
9	Suhendar	√	√	√	3
10	Rafi fachmi	√	√	√	3
11	Dzikri	√	√		2
12	Rizki S	√	√		2
13	Eggy S	√	√	√	3
14	Esty D		√	√	2
15	Dede S	√	√	√	3
16	Dewi F		√	√	2
Total					38

randomly at the beginning of their study (debate practicing). The data provided on the table indicates the effectiveness of debate practicing to improve members' speaking ability since the amount of mistakes get decline. On the table 4.1.1 the mistakes of members are 38 in total, then after having debate process for 3 months they got speaking improvement and at the final data the mistakes are 14 in total.

Based on the researchers' observation and monitoring, there are three points as the factors of members' speaking improvements, generally could be sequenced as bellow:

1. The members are required to look up dictionary frequently to prepare the material of debate would be delivered and critique, therefore it indirectly forces them to enrich their vocabulary with purpose of influencing all minds of participant and the opposite party to side them.
2. The members are required to speak up using English in debate session, thus after performing debate session for 3 months at least 24 debate sessions have been conducted, they are being habituated to speak in English and gradually fluent.
3. The members have emotional stimulus that invariably encourage them to speak up because of worrying to be defeated by the opponent party.

Thus, from the discussion above could be deduced that debate practicing is considered sufficient effective to improve one's speaking ability since the result shows the decline of mistakes encountered by the members when debate session is frequently applied in speaking learning process.

## 5. CONCLUSION

So, does debate practicing effect to the members' English speaking improvement? Based on the finding above, it is clear that debate practicing does effect to the members' English improvement due to several reasons. The members themselves, who are member of english course named TEEN, have been observed by the researchers in order to explore the improvement of speaking ability during debating practical conducted. In terms of speaking ability, the finding also shows that there are certain difficulties effecting the members' themselves to say their expression, opinions, etc. The difficulties copedare combining local language (Indonesian) with English, speaking haltingly (not fluent), and being afraid of having grammatical error to speak up (anxiety).The major reasons supporting the members speaking ability improvement are the need to enrich the vocabularies before debating activit ystarted, the need to be habituated to speak up in public, and the anxiety or worry about being defeated by the opponentparty during debating process. The researchers identify debate as a form of play that helped those who are poor in speaking English to advance their ability of speaking. Thus, debate practical is sufficient effective to improve speaking ability.

## 6. REFERENCES

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