

**STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ON SPEAKING PRACTICE
AT KOPLO ENGLISH CLUB COMMUNITY**

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Abstract

This research aimed to find out and describe the students' perception on speaking practice at Warkop English Orchestra (KOPLO) English Club Community. The researchers used descriptive quantitative method in which the data were gained from questionnaire consisting of 10 close-ended questions. There were 22 members of the club selected to be the respondents of the study. Data were analyzed by using a five-point of Likert Scale, mean score, weighted mean score, combined mean score and score interval. The result presented that the highest mean score is 4.09 as in question number 11. The members frequently use vocabulary that they have encountered when they speak English. The lowest score falls to number 10 with a score of 3.27 which means that students are not really fluent without stutter when speaking English. Based on the combined mean score, the respondents show their good perception of speaking practice at KOPLO which obtained the mean score 3.62. It means community plays a very important role and has a positive effect on students who join it, one of which is being able to increase student vocabulary. However, students still have deficiencies in fluency.

Keywords: Speaking practice; English Club; Perception; KOPLO

1. Introduction

Speaking is considered necessary in this modern era. People who are fluent in foreign languages are considered more successful in their careers nowadays because the skill is much preferable in work life within this technological era. However, being able to speak both native and foreign languages is not easy to do for some people. This is because speaking a foreign language requires practice as much as possible. One way to get exercise for students is by taking part in an English club. It is a medium that connects one individual with others. It is aimed to enhance not only their communication skills but also to drive the confidence of students to talk as much as possible. Having an English

club allows the students to share their ideas in English. It might also be a better site to share students' struggles with speaking practice and future strategies to solve their problems. Speaking club is one of the English ways for students to improve their English. According to El-Bahri (2009), English proficiency can be increased by using it in the context and practicing it informally in a community or extracurricular activities.

Unfortunately, the majority of students in Indonesia still find it challenging to speak English fluently. Causes of this issue include a lack of motivation, anxiety when speaking English, poor grammar knowledge, a limited vocabulary, a fear of making mistakes, student inhibition, silence, a low level of participation, the topic to be discussed, and the use of one's native language. Ali and Savas (2017) confirm that motivation, a key factor for achieving success in language, can help students learn to speak in an EFL setting.

In addition, many students continue to struggle because they feel shy, experience anxiety and have a lack of practice in English. Those factors are seen as the main hindrance to their speaking. Each teacher has a unique strategy to address such students' speaking issues. According to Hidayati (2016), using games in English classes can make students relax and enjoy speaking.

Because of those reasons, students have to practice speaking by finding and taking part in a community of practice, such as the English Club, as an alternative to improve their skills. According to Wenger (1998), there are several criteria for a good community of practice, such as shared practices, internally built membership, actively built dependences, constructed personal and group identities, shared social or instrumental goals, and boundary maintenance. Based on these criteria, the community of practice provides a more flexible space for students to practice or develop their skills without any pressure. Similarly, according to Hildreth and Kimble (2004), as cited in Sayer (2014), the community of practice can increase inner motivation that encourages students to generate knowledge and create an environment for students to discover and share information while practicing.

There are many English clubs in Indonesia nowadays that students can join and they spread across the country, including in Banda Aceh Regency. For example, Warkop English Orchestra or KOPLO is one of the most popular English Club in the regency. KOPLO Community has all the criteria for a good community of practice based on the experts' elaboration. First, the KOPLO Community is a welcoming community to the public. Based on the opinions of several students, they said the KOPLO Community is one of the learning-speaking communities that is easily accessible today, especially for students in Banda Aceh Regency. In addition, this community is very consistent with English activities, and they conduct many programs related to speaking skills and sharing sessions in English. The KOPLO community frequently invites speakers from outside as speakers in sharing session activities. Moreover, a community of practice can be a place

to develop a shared skill group of students. In brief, in this community, students can practice their abilities in speaking by interacting or communicating with other students.

Numerous researchers have been performing studies relevant to this study, including the following. Baihaqi (2016), in his study entitled “The Influence of Speaking Club In Improving Students' Speaking Ability” found that the speaking club enhances students' speaking abilities and students responded to the speaking club's adoption. It is crucial in assisting the student in developing their public speaking skills. Sugiyanto (2014) states in his thesis entitled “The Effect of English Club Extracurricular Students' Speaking Ability” that there is a notable difference in the descriptive speaking abilities of students who join English and those who do not participate in the English Club Extracurricular and the club. He says that English Club Extracurricular is a beneficial activity to aid pupils in speaking English.

According to Melviza (2017), in her journal entry titled "Students' Perception toward English Club Activities," English clubs are crucial in helping students develop their speaking skills. In the English club, they are more focused on improving their English. Most students are happy about English club activities, according to the students. In other words, they will gain more knowledge and experience by participating in the English club.

Based on the positive results of the previous related studies, the researchers also would like to conduct a study at the English community in Aceh, namely the KOPLO Community, to find out students' perceptions of speaking practice at the KOPLO English Club community. The Researchers formulated research questions as follow: what is the students' perception on speaking practice at KOPLO English Club Community? The study aims to find out and describe the students' perception of speaking practice at the KOPLO English Club Community.

2. Method

The study was conducted by using a descriptive quantitative method. According to Sugiyono (2018), quantitative data is a research method based on positivism or concrete data, research data in the form of numbers that will be measured using statistics as a numerical test tool. The respondents of this study were 22 active members of KOPLO English Club Community.

The instrument used to collect data is questionnaire. It is in form of written or printed list of questions that must be answered by the chosen sample. The students or participants had to complete a questionnaire to provide data. Each student was given a questionnaire as part of the research sample in this study. The researchers gives a questionnaire consisting of 15 in form of closed-ended questions.

The researchers used the Likert Scale to measure the data from the questionnaire's responses. A five-point Likert Scale was used to score each option of the statements within the questionnaire, ranging from (5) Strongly Agree, (4) Agree, (3) Neutral, (2) Disagree, and (1) Strongly Disagree. Then, the researchers calculate combined mean score, score interval and the interpretation of the category of the mean score as proposed by Sugiyono (2013) in Muliawati and Yusnida (2022).

Table 1. Interpretation category of mean score

Criteria	Scale
Very Bad	1.0 – 1.8
Bad	1.9 – 2.6
Neutral	2.7 – 3.4
Good	3.5 – 4.2
Very Good	4.3 – 5.0

3. Research Findings

Table 2. The Result of Mean Score of the 15 Statements

No	Statements	Frequency					Total	Mean Score
		1	2	3	4	5		
1.	After joining the KOPLO Community, my English speaking ability has improved.	1	2	24	28	25	80	3.63
2.	After I joining the KOPLO Community, my confidence in English has increased.	1	2	21	24	35	83	3.77
3.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I have been able to deliver opinion in English.	1	2	18	32	30	83	3.77
4.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I have been able to compose grammar on sentences in communicating English so that it sounds decent and polite.	1	4	27	24	20	76	3.45
5.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I have felt confidence when I speak English.	1	0	15	32	40	88	4
6.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I have felt confidence when I have to deliver English materials in public.	1	1	27	20	30	79	3.59
7.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I do not feel depressed when I have to communicate in English with friends, lecturers and people I	1	1	18	24	40	84	3.81

	met							
8.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I have been able to come up with ideas on various topics using English.	1	1	24	20	35	81	3.68
9.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I have been able to speak with good pronunciation of words and appropriate intonation.	1	8	18	28	20	75	3.40
10.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I have been able to speak English fluently and without stammering.	1	8	27	16	20	72	3.27
11.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I have felt that my mastery of English vocabulary needs to be further improved.	0	2	15	28	45	90	4.09
12.	After joining the KOPLO Community, my English vocabulary mastery has increased.	1	2	27	24	20	74	3.36
13.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I have been able to capture the meaning of the vocabulary while in the communicating.	1	6	15	32	5	79	3.59
14.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I have been able to use the right vocabulary in Speaking English.	0	6	21	28	25	80	3.63
15.	After joining the KOPLO Community, I often use vocabulary that I have just encountered when I speak English.	0	2	24	32	25	83	3.77

The combined mean score of the 15 statements of the questionnaire can be presented by the following formula.

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{X}_c &= \frac{\sum X_1 + \sum X_2 + \sum X_3 + \sum X_4 + \sum X_5 + \sum X_6 + \sum X_7 + \sum X_8 + \sum X_9 + \sum X_{10} + \sum X_{11} + \sum X_{12} + \sum X_{13} + \sum X_{14} + \sum X_{15}}{n} \\ &= \frac{3.63 + 3.77 + 3.77 + 3.45 + 4 + 3.59 + 3.81 + 3.68 + 3.40 + 3.27 + 4.09 + 3.36 + 3.59 + 3.63 + 3.77}{15} \\ &= \frac{54.41}{15} \\ &= 3.62 \end{aligned}$$

4. Discussion

The questionnaire data shows that students can speak English better than before joining the KOPLO community. The survey results have been answered by students who

entered the KOPLO community, showing they can speak English better. Competence in using English after joining the KOPLO community is also related to speaking English in public, using good grammar, conveying ideas in English, having good pronunciation, and communicating on various topics in English. According to Rafid (2020), community practice improves English pronunciation and fluency.

However, in the KOPLO community, differences were found in fluency, so some students thought that they needed to be more fluent to speak English. One of the reasons was that they were nervous when speaking English. The score shows this based on the statement they answered, namely 3,27 in the number 10. Hence, they need more practice for fluency.

In addition, from the questionnaire data it can be showed that the highest mean score is 4.09 obtained on the statement number 11. The statement relates to vocabulary enhancement. The respondents admit that they strongly agree with this statement, after joining the KOPLO community they feel that their English vocabulary is starting to increase and is much better, one of the factors that causes their vocabulary to increase is because many students use different vocabulary, which in turn indirectly it will have a very positive influence on students who join the KOPLO community.

The combined mean score, then, reveals that joining an English Club is strongly correlated to English proficiency. It is proven by the obtained score, namely 3.62. It means that the respondents' perception of speaking practice at KOPLO English Community Club is good. Freeman (2017) states that by joining a community of practice, students can participate in various learning about cultural diversity and practice their speaking skills. It means that English practice communities help students with vocabulary, pronunciation, and speaking skills. However, this research found other effects of joining a community of practice, such as using good grammar and conveying ideas in English.

5. Conclusion

The practice community is a place for people to achieve profitable goals. In this community students can also develop themselves by interacting with people from various backgrounds. One of the communities of practice discussed in this research is the KOPLO community. The KOPLO Community is one of the communities in Aceh which was created to improve the English language. On average, KOPLO members are dominated by students in Aceh.

This study found that by joining the KOPLO community, many of the benefits gained by its members were related to their proficiency in English and increased speaking confidence such as students being able to overcome anxiety and nervousness when speaking English in public, students are easier to achieve. By paying attention to the

listeners' attention, students are able to speak English in public, and have a better understanding of how to convey ideas, opinions, and arguments in English.

On the other hand, this study also found that although there are many benefits to be gained from the KOPLO community, of course there are still many other things that also need to be improved, this is related to fluency and vocabulary problems. Because in the KOPLO community, fluency and adequate vocabulary are required in speaking, sometimes there are members who also experience difficulties and feel the need to improve their English skills better.

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