

**TEACHING SPEAKING BY DESCRIBING PICTURE**

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Department of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education  
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**By**

**BESTI YUNANDA SARI**

**0910013121049**



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
THE FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY  
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# TEACHING SPEAKING BY DESCRIBING PICTURE

Besti Yunanda Sari<sup>1)</sup> Ernati<sup>2)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup> Mahasiswa Jurusan pendidikan bahasa inggris FKIP Bung Hatta, email:  
thechibes\_pretty@yahoo.co.id

<sup>2)</sup> Staf Pengajar Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa inggris FKIP Universitas Bung Hatta

English Department The Faculty of Teacher Training and Education  
Bung hatta university

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## ABSTRACT

This paper aims to teaching speaking by describing picture; the teacher should apply an interesting media. Speaking is important for us because by speak we can make interaction with the other. In teaching speaking there is a media that can help the teacher, for example teaching speaking by describing picture. We can use a picture to increase students' speaking ability because by using the picture they can express their idea with their own word by see the picture. The teacher hangs a picture in the board and asks the teacher to make a list of word that related with the picture. And then the teacher explains the picture with his/ her own word. And then the teacher asks the students to describe the picture with their own word in front of the class. Every student who has been presented in front of the class will get a point. And then suggestion that ought to be considerably the teachers when they conduct the teaching and learning English, it is important for teacher to have interesting picture in order to catch up student's attention and the picture should be clearly

**Keywords:** *Teaching speaking by describing picture*

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## A. INTRODUCTION

English is a tool for communication. It plays very important role since it is as an international language. The purpose of studying English is to master four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Therefore, an English teacher should motivate the students in studying English, especially in speaking skill. They are also expected to use that language in any kind of situation such as giving opinion, offering, like, dislike, agreeing, disagreeing and giving opinion

Most of the English students have difficulties to speak English. There are

several reasons of having difficulties to speak. First, they are shy to speak if their teacher asks them to speak. They do not know how to use appropriate grammar, so it makes them afraid of making mistakes. Second, they do not have enough opportunities to practice English because they have lack of vocabularies. Third, the teacher spends much time on explaining the material instead of giving them opportunity for teaching speaking. Based on the reasons above, we must solve this problem as soon as possible and encourage the students to speak well and be active in speaking class. Concerning to problem

above, the writer will focus on one of the strategy that can be used to increase the students' ability in speaking. A picture is a suitable media that can be used to overcome the existing problem, because by using pictures most of the students are interested to speak and they are comfortable to express their idea about what they see.

### **Concept of Speaking**

The ability to speak is very important and the goal of language learning English is to enable learners to interact freely to each other. Speaking ability is a means of communication to express human being thought as well as a form of social behavior, it is an active productive skill involving complex mental and physical action of speaker when he/she produce language (Brown and Yule, 1999: 25). Furthermore, Finnochiro and Bonomono (1987:109) state that the speaker must think of the idea he/she wishes to express, he must change the position of the tongue in order to articulate the appropriate sound, he must consciously be aware of the grammatical, lexical and cultural needed to express his ideas, he must be sensitive to any changes in register or style necessitated by the person to whom he is speaking on the situation in which the conversation is taking place.

Language is used to communicate the idea or message to someone. Language

is a means of communication whether in oral or written form. Oral communication is a good way for learners who normally concern with the ability to speak and understand a foreign language. Widdowson (1987:56) states that speaking is the active or productive skill. Communication through speaking is commonly performed face to face and occurs as a part of dialogue or other forms of verbal exchange.

In speaking, the ability to compose the sentence is highly needed because oral communication takes place when someone writes a sentence. According to Morris (1980:24), speaking serves as a natural means of communication among member of a community, both for expression of thought and as a form of social behavior. Widdowson (1984: 54) adds that speaking is a productive skill that makes the knowledge of language complex mental and physical aspect of the speaker when they produce sentences.

Speaking ability can be defined as the ability to use words in essential normal communication situation and signal system of pronunciation, stress, intonation, grammatical, and vocabulary of foreign language at normal rate of delivery for native speaker of the language.

In conclusion, Speaking skill is a natural means of communication to express human being thought as well as a

form of social behavior, emotion or feeling by the human being and speaking ability is the ability of how to compose the sentence and how to produce sentences with other people.

### **The Importance of Speaking in Language Teaching**

Speaking is an important ability in our life. It means that we can communicate each other people by using speaking. Speaking is ability to interact or to do dialogue with others. According to Boyd (2004) speaking is a activity of presentation information from the speaker to the listener. Rees (2002) adds that speaking is a verbal communicative interaction between the speaker and the listener. Koptyug(2003) states that speaking is an action which happens due to a gap between speakers, and the gap leads them into a spoken communication.

However, berlinger (2000) states that providing the students with a gap which create speaking opportunities alone is not enough since speaking requires the mastery of sufficient vocabulary, grammatical and syntactical understanding, cultural and social awareness, as well as confidence and fluency

So, we can conclude that speaking is important in order to communicate and interact directly with other people by

composing our thoughts and speaking can present our mind.

### **The Components of Speaking**

Speaking skill can be described as the ability of a person to express his /her ideas and feeling in spoken language. Speaking has several components. The components are as follows (Harris, 1979:81- 82):

#### **A. Grammar**

English grammar is different from Indonesian grammar. English has many tenses which are not found in Indonesian grammar. So, in speaking one should master and know exactly grammar if they want to talk smoothly. If the speaker makes mistakes in grammar when communicating with other people, it can make the listener miss understand what the speaker says.

Grammar is how to combine words to be a good sentence (Hornby, 1987:375). Because grammar is one of the components of speaking, the listener's ability to understand what the speaker says is in part determined by his grammar mastery. According to Brown (2001), grammar is the system of rules governing to conventional arrangement and relationship of word in a sentence. Cross (1991) mentions that grammar is the body of rules which underlie a language. Furthermore, Thornbury(2000) states that

grammar is the description of the rules that governs how language sentence are formed.

Hall (1993) says that grammar is description of certain organizing aspect of particular language. It usually includes phonological (sound), morphological (word composition), and syntactic (sentence composition) points. In short, structure or grammar is very important part in speaking.

### **B. Vocabulary**

In learning English, when if we want to say something, one thing that should be mastered and known is word. If we have many vocabularies, it can help us to express our ideas and combine sentences into other sentences. Finocchiaro (1981:16) says that at the beginning level we should concentrate on the function words and more frequently used vocabulary items, which are needed to give practice structures and sound of the language. At the beginning level, it should be given to the vocabulary that is intimately related to the environment and experiences of the students. She also says that vocabulary is practiced and aimed at providing with opportunities to interact with one another and the teacher as “ natural situation as possible

To get more extensive vocabulary, the English students are expected to read

English books as frequent as possible. By reading they will find new words. In addition, the new words can be looked up in the dictionary. As a result, they can use the words in practicing speaking English

### **C. Pronunciation**

In speaking, we should master pronunciation because it will influence the meaning of words. Hornby (1978:497) states that pronunciation is the way in which a language is spoken, person's way of speaks a language, a way in which a word is pronounced. According to Morris (1980:58), the goal of learning English is to make the learners understand how to speak and understand the sentence. Syaifei (1988:14) states that pronunciation involves two processes: the recognition of sound and the production of sound. Therefore, the learners must know how to pronounce that language appropriately. There are several reasons why we must master pronunciation well in learning English. They are as follows:

- English has differences in writing and pronunciation. In English, the pronunciation of word is not similar with written text and each of the words that is pronounced has different meaning. If we are wrong in pronouncing the words, the meaning will be different and make the learner difficult to understand

- Intonation in English can change the kinds of word. If it is separated one by one, it will show the other meaning. It means that if the intonation cannot spell correctly, the meaning of the sentence will confuse and change the meaning

Concerning to the important of pronunciation, Hill (1982:4) states that there are three basic reasons for practicing and developing English pronunciation:

- Other people will understand us more easily when we speak.
- It helps us to hear English sounds better.
- To be able to speak a word with correct English pronunciation. Correct English pronunciation helps us to “fix” a word in our memory

From the definition above we can see that good pronunciation is an important think in mastering speaking because pronunciation can influence the meaning of the words. If she does not speak appropriate pronunciation, the listener cannot understand her say.

#### **D. Fluency**

According to Harris (1979:81), fluency is the ease and speed of the flow of speech. It means that it exerts a significant influence of the communication between the speaker and listener. If the speaker

speaks with great difficulty, the listener does not understand and perhaps give irrelevant response to what the speaker says.

Concerning to the explanation above, the important thing in speaking class is to ask the students to speak and the teacher gives correction whether the students can master or not the subject in speaking class. So the teacher tries to to give the strategy by using describing pictures

### **The Types of Speaking**

In general, there are two forms of language – formal and informal language. In English speaking, people use formal speech with people of higher status, and informal speech with family and friends.

Moreover, Ponsner (1982:105-110) categorizes speaking into three types:

#### **A. Active dialogue**

Active dialogue is a type of dialogue that is not one side and both participant utter only direct comment. An active dialogue allows all interlocutors great freedom in the selection of topic. It enables everybody to give the discussion a new turn without interrupting the train of thought.

#### **B. Reactive dialogue**

Reactive dialogue is a type of dialogue that is one side and the commentator utters only direct comment.

At each moment in the dialogue he regards as relevant whatever his informant makes appear relevant.

### **C. The Direct Dialogue**

Direct dialogue is a type of dialogue that is not one side and all participants use only direct comment in taking point of view. In direct dialogue each interlocutor refers to the main information contributed by his predecessor. Therefore, there is no collision of communicative interest in direct dialogue, and everyone is in the framework of point of view and develops a common topic further.

#### **Basic concept of pictures**

Picture is one of the visual aids. Pictures are used to support and help a teacher to interest the students because it is considered as a part of visual aids that have many functions in the teaching process. A number of experts propose their opinions and ideas related to the picture. A picture is the description of what something is like (Evison, Alan: 1992), Collin (1979) picture is a visual representation of something, such a person of scene, produced a surface as photograph, painting, etc. surface. So, picture is a visual representation of something such as person or scene and it can be painting, photograph, drawn or

map. Goodman (2000) adds pictures is a set of scene or context and give information. They are also common in everyday life. Picture can also be of key importance in communicative and interactive classroom.

According to Hamalik (1980:27) pictures are visual media that are very important and easy. Pictures are more effective because they can make students able to catch the idea is clearly. Burn (1975:11) states that pictures will help us to initiate a new topic or catch student's interest as they look and talk about them. Lado (1983) adds that picture can be used to produce more systematic cultural experience necessary for a full understanding and use of the language. According to. In other word pictures are the manifestation of real things, for example the picture of person, pictures of animal, a picture a flower, pictures of outdoor scenes, etc. Finochiaro (1989:39) adds that pictures are aids that the teacher uses to help their students to understand the lesson easier. Jin (2008) adds the five primary reason of using picture: it is easy to prepare, to organize, interesting, and meaningful authentic

#### **Types of picture**

According to Finochiaro (1989:39) there are three types of pictures:

- a. Pictures of individual persons and individual object
- b. Pictures of situation in which they are doing something with objects and/or people can be seen
- c. A series of pictures on the chart.

According to Brown (1994), there are two types of pictures they are: Stick pictures and motion pictures. Stick picture can be defined as pictures that are available in many form in prints or in slide presentation. For instance, cartoon, chart, magazines picture. On contrary, motion pictures are defined as the picture that can be seen from film or videotape.

According to Mackey (in Susi, 2001:15) there are three types of picture they are:

- a. Thematic picture  
Thematic picture is the picture that is used as illustration theme
- b. Memonic picture  
Memonic picture is the picture that is made to help the student to recall the meaning of certain words of sentence
- c. Semantic picture

Semantic picture is the picture that has function only to teach meaning

In conclusion, there are three experts that have opinion about type of picture. First, Finochiaro (1989:39) says that there are three types of pictures, they are: pictures of individual persons and

individual object, pictures of situation in which they are doing something with objects and / or people can be seen, a series of pictures on the chart. Second, Brown (1994), says there are two types of picture they are: Stick picture and motion picture. The last, Mackey (2001:15), says there are three types of picture they are: thematic picture, mnemonic picture, and semantic picture.

Nielsen (1989) suggests that there are five criteria for choosing pictures for teaching, they are: (1) they establish an ample, categorized file, (2) they present a single activity or project, (3) they can be seen by all student clearly, (4) we should avoid “bending” the semantic of picture, (5) they can limit the time.

### **The Advantages of Picture for Student**

Five advantages of using picture:

- a. The students will be relaxed and have higher motivation. It is caused by pictures that can be stimulate students in studying
- b. It provides motivation and lower stress
- c. It encourages students to interact and communicate with their friends
- d. Each of students in group of course wants to be the winner,



so they will motivate themselves to speak and answer correctly

- e. Through these pictures activities, students will learn another culture and increase their knowledge about the world

## **B. THE PROCEDURE OF TEACHING SPEAKING BY DESCRIBING PICTURE**

### **1. Pre- Teaching Activity**

There are several steps in pre- teaching activities that will be done. They are as follows:

1. The teacher puts a picture taken from internet or magazine and write the words that will be used to describe the picture

For example:



- Ivory → gading
- Proboscis → belalai
- Big → besar
- Wide hear → telinga yang lebar
- Mammal → mamalia

2. The teacher asks the student to elaborate some other words related with the picture

3. The teacher asks the student some question to the student  
For example:

- a. What picture is it?
- b. Where can you find this animal?

4. The teacher asks one of student to answer the question

For example:

“Rani! Can you answer the first question?”

5. The teacher gives explanation about the picture

6. The teachers asks the students to tell everything that they do not understand

For example:

- What does ivory mean?
- How do you say mamalia in English?
- What do you think about this picture?

7. The teacher introduces other expression to practice about the material that they did not understand

For example:

- How do you spell ivory?
- How do you pronounce this (word)?
- Ivory - wide hear

- Mammal
- proboscis

## 2. Whilst- Teaching Activities

In whilst- teaching activities, a teacher elaborates the material to the students. This stage is composed of several steps as follows:

1. The teacher hangs a picture in the board and write a list of word that related with the picture

Example:



List of word

- Lion
- fast
- Brown
- fang
- The king of jungle
- - four legs
- Fur

1. The teacher writes “What do you think about this picture?” on the board
2. The teacher finds a students who wants to know about the word that they do not know

Teacher : Mery, do you know the meaning of the king of jungle?

Mery : I do not know miss

3. The teacher explains the meaning of word one by one

Teacher : I will explain them one by one and describe the picture for you

- Lion is singa
- fast is cepat
- Brown is coklat
- fang is taring
- The king of jungle is raja rimba
- four legs is empat kaki
- Fur is bulu

Lion is the king of jungle. He has brown fur and four legs. He run very fast when he wants to catch up his prey. His fang is sharp he can to pieces his prey.

4. After ten minutes the teacher invites One by one student to present the picture that she/ he has accepted in front of the class orally

Teacher : Leny, can you practice it in front of the class?

Leny : yes miss

Lion is the king of jungle. He has brown fur and four legs. He run very fast when he wants to catch up his prey. His fang is sharp he can to pieces his prey.

5. The teacher gives a point to the students’ perform if the word is correct and still another points if their sentence is pronounced loudly and clearly. Other

students can also get a point if they do same perform

6. The teacher invites another students to perform in front of class
7. The teacher gives a comment or suggest a word if necessary

### 3. Post- Teaching Activities

Teacher's activities in Post-Teaching Activities, it can be followed the next steps:

1. The teacher gives opportunities for the students to ask question if they still cannot understand
2. The teacher reviews again about the lesson for the students
3. The teacher leads the students to conclude the lesson
4. The teacher says leave taking

Good bye

See you

### 4. Conclusions

The conclusions of this paper are as follows:

1. Speaking is very important in our life because it is an ability to interact or to do dialogue and communicate even formal and informal with other. There are four components of speaking, they are: Grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, and fluency

2. There are several reasons that students have difficulties in speak English. First, they are shy to speak if their teacher asks them. Second, they do not have enough opportunity to practice English because they have lack vocabulary. Third, the teacher spends much time on explaining the material instead of giving them opportunity for teaching speaking

3. Picture as one of the teaching material can help students to be more understand about the material because they will use their own word to express what they see

4. Picture is one of the visual- aids. Picture is used to support and help the teacher to gives more explanation to the students. Picture also can help the students able to catch the idea and they will talk about the material

5. The teacher has to consider about the criteria for choosing pictures for teaching. They are: (1) they are establish an ample, categorized file, (2) they present a single activity of project, (3) they can be seen by all students clearly it should be 20 X 25 cm, (4) we should avoid “ bending” the

semantic of picture, (5) they can limit the time

6. If the teacher wants to be successful in his/her teaching, he or she has to know properly to motivate the students to speak through his/her best media in teaching. It is not easy to do because the teacher should know a great amount of material to be taught before teaching in the classroom. Besides, he/she has to choose one of the most appropriate media in teaching

#### **4.1 Suggestion**

In this paper, the writer gives some suggestions as follows:

1. The writer suggests English teacher to apply this media as an alternative media in teaching speaking. It is very useful because it can increase students' ability in speaking. It can also motivate them to speak confidently.
2. The writer also suggested that the English teacher who teach speaking guide the students to speak by providing them much time and ask them to use their own word to oral communication through this

media ( picture) in the classroom

3. In presenting the material, the teacher should explain it clearly

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