

A STUDY OF THE STUDENTS' SPEAKING ABILITY IN SELF-INTRODUCTION AT THE TENTH GRADE OF SMKN 4 PAYAKUMBUH

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to describe the students' speaking ability in self-introduction at the tenth grade of SMKN 4 Payakumbuh. The researcher used descriptive method for this study. The population of this study was the tenth-grade students of SMKN 4 Payakumbuh. The researcher used stratified random sampling to select the sample, and the number of sample was 24 students. The instrument to collect the data in this study was a speaking test. In order for the test to be reliable, the researcher used inter-rater technique. The results of analysis showed that the test was reliable. It was supported by the fact that the correlation coefficient was 0.94. Then the test was valid in terms of content as it covered the material that the students had learned. In general, this study showed that the tenth-grade students' speaking ability in self-introduction at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh was high.

Keywords : speaking, ability, self-introduction,

INTRODUCTION

English has now become an influential language in all types of fields, including the education system in Indonesia. For students, English is needed to be able to study knowledge that exists around the world and provide great opportunities to be able to compete internationally. To master English, language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing must be learned by students. For successful English mastery, English language instruction must place equal emphasis on all four skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing [1]. Among the four language skills, speaking can be one of the most difficult language skills. Speaking English is often considered difficult to learn since it requires saying an order of word verbally as a way to communicate an idea or message [2]. English speaking skill is one of the skills of language to be required in global interaction or communication. Speaking is very important for students to express their knowledge, thought, experience. Speaking is a way to communicate that influences our daily lives [3]. This means that speaking is a way of communicating that can affect one's life.

At SMKN 4 Payakumbuh there are

materials taught, namely Introduction, Descriptive Text, Narrative Text, Recount Text, Hobbies & Interests. All materials taught include 4 language skills. In learning material, teachers teach in complex integrative skill, especially in self introduction teachers teach more in speaking. Self-introduction is one of the speaking activities that are commonly assigned in speaking class. It belongs to other accuracy-based activities [4]. In this learning, the researcher found that the students were lacking in speaking English well, hard to understand the meaning of words and difficult to express ideas. They were confused because of the lack of vocabulary and grammar. Lack of self-confidence, motivation and environment also have impact on students' speaking ability.

In addition, this study is related to a study conducted by Ashobah (2022) entitled an Analysis of the Tenth Grade Students' Speaking Ability in Introducing Themselves at Senior High School Adabiah 2 Padang. The result showed that the tenth-grade students' speaking ability in introducing themselves at Senior High School 2 Padang was high [5]. The next study was done by Azlina et.al (2015) entitled "A Study on the Speaking

Ability of the Second Year Students of SMK Telkom Pekanbaru”. The results showed that speaking ability of the second year students of Telkom Pekanbaru Vocational School in the expression of opinion, agreement and disagreement is good [6]. The other related previous study found by researcher is entitled “An Analysis of Students’ English Speaking Skill at Coastal Schools of Bengkulu City, Indonesia” done by Kurniawan (2018). The results of the data analysis reveal that general ability of students in coastal areas in speaking English is categorized into moderate. [7] Based on related research above, the researcher conducted research on students’ speaking ability at the tenth grade of SMKN Payakumbuh with a different topic. The researcher chose self-introduction to be tested as topic because it was the first material in English learning taught at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh.

METHOD

The researcher used descriptive method for this research. According to Refnita (2018: 17), descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test hypotheses or to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study [8]. The population of this study was the tenth-grade students of SMKN 4 Payakumbuh. The researcher used stratified random sampling to select the sample. Stratified random sampling is the process of selecting a sample in which certain subgroups, or strata, are selected for the sample in the same proportions as they exist in the population [8]. The total population consisted of 244 students, the researcher took 3 names randomly in each class and the number of samples was 24 students. This research instrument was a speaking test. The reliability index of the test was 0.94 which means that the test was reliable.

To collect the data, the researcher administered speaking test to the students. The researcher explained the instructions of the test to the students, then, the researcher provided the students the time for preparation about to 10 minutes to do self-introduction in front of class. Next, the researcher recorded the utterances while they were speaking and listened to the audio one by one while doing

the transcription. After that the researcher gave the scoring criteria, record, and transcription to the second scorer. The scoring criteria were based on the criteria given by Weir (2007) [9] with some modification. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the following steps: first the researcher counted the raw score of each student; second, the researcher classified students’ ability based on KKM at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh is (75); third, the researcher counted the number of students who had high ability and low ability; fourth, the researcher calculated the percentage of students who had high ability and low ability and finally, the researcher discussed the results of the study.

FINDINGS

The result of this research showed that more than 50% of the students had a high ability to introduce themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh. It was proved by the fact that 20 (83%) students had high ability. In specific, 23 students (96%) were classified as high ability to express content (ideas) when introducing themselves, 23 students (96%) were classified as high ability to use vocabulary when introducing themselves, 21 students (87.5%) were classified as high ability to use correct grammar when introducing themselves, 20 students (83%) were classified as high ability to use correct pronunciation when introducing themselves, and 24 students (100%) were classified as high ability in fluency when introducing themselves. These results can be seen on the following table:

Table 1. Research Findings

No	Aspect	Ability	Percentage
1	The students’ speaking ability in self-introduction	High	83%
2	The students’ ability to express content (ideas)	High	96%
3	The students’ ability to use vocabulary	High	96%
4	The students’ ability to use correct grammar	High	87.5%

5	The students' ability to use correct pronunciation	High	83%
6	The students' fluency	High	100%

DISCUSSIONS

1. The tenth grade students' speaking ability in self-introduction at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh Based on the findings above, the researcher found that most students had a high ability in their speaking ability in self-introduction at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh. It was proved by the fact that 83% students were classified as high ability in introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh. It is similar with previous study conducted by Ashobah (2022) in which the students who were samples from her research had a high ability. It was proven by the fact that 87.10% students had a high ability in their speaking ability to introduce themselves [5].

2. The tenth-grade students' ability to express content (ideas) when introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh

The tenth-grade students' ability to express content (ideas) when introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh was high. This research found that 96% students were classified as a high ability. It shows that the students are able to introduce themselves well, in accordance with the content in the self-introduction. It is in line with the previous research conducted by Ashobah (2022) since the students in her research sample also had a high ability (79.03%) [5].

3. The tenth grade students' ability to use vocabulary when introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh

Based on the analysis, the researcher found that students' ability to use vocabulary when introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh was high. It was proven by the fact that 96% of students were classified as high ability. This means that most students understand how to choose appropriate words in their sentences. Besides, a study conducted by Ashobah (2022) showed that

all students (100%) had a high ability [5]. However, it is quite different from the results of the completed research by Saputeri (2015) that found 61.90% of the students of her research sample were classified as moderate [10].

4. The tenth-grade students' ability to use correct grammar when introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh

Based on the analysis, the researcher found that students' ability to use correct grammar when introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh was high. The data showed that 83% of students were classified as high ability. In addition, it is in line with a research conducted by Fitri (2021) which showed that 98% of students had excellent ability in using correct grammar. It means most of students are able to use grammar when they are speaking in introducing themselves [11]. However, it is not in line with the research conducted by Ashobah (2022) that found 53.23% students classified as low ability to use grammar [5].

5. The tenth-grade students' ability to use correct pronunciation when introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh

The result of this research found that the tenth-grade students of SMKN 4 Payakumbuh were classified as a high ability. The data showed that 83% of students had a high ability. It shows that a lot of students are able to pronounce the word correctly. However, some phrases are not pronounced correctly the same as written in the Indonesian. Based on the previous research conducted by Ashobah (2022), 100% of students in her research sample had a high ability [5]. It is different from the previous research conducted by Nasution (2015) that found 100% of students had a low ability in pronunciation [12].

6. The Tenth-Grade Students' Fluency when Introducing Themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh

Based on the results, the researcher found that students' fluency when introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh was classified as a high ability (100%). It is in line with the previous research conducted by Fitri (2021) showing that 98% of students had excellent ability [11]. In contrast, it is not in line with the

previous research conducted by Nasution (2015) showing that the ability of the first grade students' speaking in terms of fluency was low. It was proven by finding that 67.8% of students had low ability [12].

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The results of this research shows that 19 (83%) students were classified as high ability in introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh. There are also five points concluded by the researcher based on the findings

1. The tenth-grade student's ability to express content (ideas) when introducing themselves at SMK N 4 Payakumbuh was high. It was proven by the fact that 23 students (96%) had high ability.
2. The tenth-grade students' ability to use vocabulary when introducing themselves at SMK N 4 Payakumbuh was high. It was proven by the fact that 23 students (96%) had high ability.
3. The tenth-grade students' ability to use correct grammar when introducing themselves at SMK N 4 Payakumbuh was high. It was proven by the fact that 21 students (87.5%) had high ability.
4. The tenth-grade students' ability to use correct pronunciation when introducing themselves at SMKN 4 Payakumbuh was high. It was proven by the fact that 20 students (83%) had high ability.
5. The tenth-grade students' fluency when introducing themselves at SMK N 4 Payakumbuh was high. It was proven by the fact that 24 students (100%) had high ability.

Related to the findings, the researcher suggests the teacher to continue speaking practice with students, and pay special attention to the students who have low speaking skills. The students are advised to keep practicing speaking English a lot because it can help them to be more fluent in speaking English. For future researchers, the researcher suggests them to study more related literature, to focus more on research objectives and increase accuracy in terms of scoring criteria and data analysis.

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