

## AN ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST GRADE STUDENTS' SPEAKING ABILITY IN DESCRIBING PERSONS AT SMPN 7 PADANG

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### Abstract

**This research has attempted to describe the speaking ability of the first grade students at SMPN 7 Padang in describing persons orally in English. The design of this research was descriptive. The total number of population was 256 students. The writer used cluster random sampling technique to select the sample. The data was collected by using oral test. The writer only measured the ability of first grade students' speaking in describing person orally by considering five components of speaking: (content, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and pronunciation). And their speaking had been recorded by using tape recorder. Based on the result of the study, it is indicated that the first grade students' speaking ability in describing persons at SMPN 7 Padang in general was good. It was provided by the evidence that 31.25 % of them can describe persons orally. There were 43.75 % of the students who had been classified in good criteria in expressing ideas (content) in describing persons, 40.63 % of the students who had been classified in very good criteria in using appropriate grammar in describing persons, 43.75 % of the students who had been classified in very good criteria in using appropriate vocabulary in describing persons, 40.63 % of the students who had been classified in very good criteria in fluency of describing persons, 37.5 % of the students had been classified in good criteria in pronouncing words in describing persons. Based on the research finding, the researcher suggested to English teacher to consider their teaching learning process to improve the students' speaking ability. The students are suggested to do more practice in speaking English. And to any further researcher, it is suggested to conduct the reasearch on students' difficulties in describing person orally.**

**Key words: Analysis, Ability, Speaking, Describing Person.**

### A. Introduction

There are four integrated language skills that students have to master well in learning English. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. The acquiring of listening until writing skill is based on how someone acquires the language in life. The first thing they

learned is listening, and then come to the next level – learn how to speak, next learn reading and then how to write.

Speaking is skill that someone should learn after they have learned how to listen. Someone who has mastered listening well might not master speaking

well too. Such Broughton *et al.*, (1980: 76) state that however, a student may be good at listening and understanding, it might not follow that he will speak well, a discriminating ear (listening) does not always produce a fluent tongue (speaking). In learning English, speaking is important to master well by the students because by mastering the speaking skill, someone can communicate with others. They can interact with others and can deliver some information that they have.

Because of the importance of speaking, the English teachers teach speaking or include speaking activities in every topic of the lesson to make the students have better speaking ability. It can be seen in lesson plan that teacher provide some exercises about speaking activities. Based on this fact, there were still number of first grade students in junior high school who did not have enough ability in speaking English. They cannot give any answer on some questions given orally, they cannot do oral conversation automatically. This was caused by some factors, one of causal factor was student's factor. They did not have confidence to speak in English moreover they cannot speak English well, so they just keep silent during teaching and learning process.

Various techniques were developed by the teacher in order to improve the ability of the students in speaking. Teacher asked

the students to tell the very simple one such as tell the single word to tell the most difficult one such as telling a story or describing someone's personality.

The identification of the research just focused to investigate the students' speaking ability in describing person at the first grade students in SMPN 7 Padang by considering the five components of speaking suggested by Brown: grammar, vocabulary, content, fluency, and pronunciation.

The main purpose of the research was to analyze the students' speaking ability in describing person at the first grade of SMPN 7 Padang. And the specific purposes were to answer the questions formulated above. They are to:

- (1) Describe the first grade students' ability in expressing ideas (content) in describing persons.
- (2) Describe the first grade students' ability in using simple present tense in describing persons
- (3) Describe the first grade students' ability in using appropriate vocabulary in describing persons
- (4) Describe the first grade students' fluency in describing person
- (5) Describe the first grade students' ability in pronouncing words in describing persons

## B. Research Method

The design of this research was descriptive design. According to Gay (1987: 89) descriptive research involves collecting data in order to answer the questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study. This research was designed to describe the ability of the first grade students of SMPN 7 Padang in describing person in English speaking. A population is whole subject of the research, it is a set (or collection) of elements processing one or more attributes of interest, while sample is partially or representative of the population studied (Arikunto, 2010: 173 – 174 ). The population of this research was the first grade students of SMP N 7 Padang. The population consisted of eight classes: they were class VII.1, VII.2, VII.3, VII.4, VII.5, VII.6, VII.7, and VII.8. The sample took by using the cluster random sampling technique. According to Gay (1987: 110), cluster random sampling is sampling techniques in which group (not individual) is randomly selected.

The instrument used to collect the data was oral test. It was used such media as a recorder to record the students' speaking ability in describing person. According to Brown (2010: 3) test is a subset of assessment, it was prepared administrative procedures that occur at identifiable times

in a curriculum, in scientific terms, a test is a method of measuring a person's ability, knowledge, or performance in a given domain. the test was evaluated according to the five components; grammar, vocabulary, comprehension of the students to the idea/topic, fluency, and pronunciation.

To obtain data on the students' speaking ability, it was administered the speaking test in form of monolog, it is one of the stage of types of speaking. This research was done on June 14 until June 17 2014.

In analyzing the data, the writer used the descriptive analyzing technique. First, got the raw score by counting the score from each components and multiplied by 4 to obtain the final score of each subject. Second, Presenting the raw score for each sample. Third, Calculating the average ability (M) by using this formula (Arikunto, 2012: 289). Fourth, Calculating the Standard Deviation (SD). Fifth, classify the students' ability into five criteria, excellent ability, very good ability, good ability, bad ability, and very bad ability. And the last, Find the percentage of students in each components.

## C. Findings and Discussion

### Data Description

The data consisted of the results of the oral test of describing person given to 32

students (one class) as the sample of the study. The lowest score was 36 and the highest score was 92. The Mean score was 62.94. The number of students who got grade above and equal to average (M) 15 students (46.87 %) and the students who got less than average were 17 students (53.13 %). Based on data analysis, the students' grade can be classified into five categories. The range of the students' score were as follows:  $\geq 87.38$  was excellent ability,  $>71.09 \rightarrow < 87.38$  was very good ability,  $>54.79 \rightarrow \leq 71.09$  was good ability,  $>38.5 \rightarrow \leq 54.79$  was bad ability, and  $\leq 38.5$  was very bad ability. From the data percentage of students on each level is observable. There were two students (6.25 %) classified as excellent ability, nine students (28.13 %) classified as very good ability, ten students (31.25 %) classified as good ability, six students (18.75 %) classified as bad ability, and five students (15.62 %) classified as very bad ability. So the highest percentage was 31.25 % ( good ability).

### The percentage of student' ability in describing person in general

Score	Students Number	Ability	Percentage
$\geq 87.38$	2	Excellent	6.25 %
$> 71.09 \rightarrow \leq 87.38$	9	Very Good	28.13 %
$> 54.79 \rightarrow \leq 71.09$	10	Good	31.25 %
$> 38.5 \rightarrow \leq 54.79$	6	Bad	18.75 %
$\leq 38.5$	5	Very Bad	15.62 %
$\Sigma$	32		100 %

The students' ability in expressing ideas (content) in describing persons was good, because there were 43.75% of the students had been classified in good criteria.

The students' ability in using appropriate grammar in describing person was very good, because , there were 40.63 % of the students had been classified in very good criteria.

The students' ability in using appropriate vocabulary in describing person was very good, because there were 43.75 % of the students had been classified in very good criteria.

The students' fluency in describing persons was very good because, there were 40.63 % of the students had been classified in very good criteria.

The students' ability in pronouncing words in describing person was good, because, there were 37.5 % of the students had been classified in good criteria.

## Discussion

The students' speaking ability in describing person was good since there were 31.25 % of them classified as good ability. It means that most of the students can speak well through describing person orally. Although there were still numbers of students who classified as bad (18.75 %) and very bad (15.62 %) ability because they have some problem in describing persons, the most problems that they have were pronunciation and fluency when they were speaking.

In more details, it is described as follows:

1. The students' ability in expressing ideas (content) in describing persons was good because 43.75 % of them classified as good ability. Most of them had been classified as good criteria in describing person orally. It means that the students were able speak well by considering the ideas (content) that they delivered. Most of them have understood well, they can make the audience understand to what she/he delivered. Although there were number of students who classified as bad ability (31.25 %) because they have some problems in expressing ideas (content) in describing person, such as they didn't speak about personal appearance, or they didn't tell about the characteristic of the person that they described.
2. The students' ability in using appropriate grammar in describing person was very good because 40.63 % of them classified as very good ability. It means that in describing person the students can considered the grammar well. Most of them have understood how to use appropriate grammar in describing person. Grammar that they use was simple present tense. Although there were 12.5 % of students classified as very bad ability, because they have some problem in using appropriate grammar in describing person, they did not use simple present tense in describing persons.
3. The students' ability in using appropriate vocabulary was very good because 43.75 % of them classified as very good ability. It means that they have mastered vocabulary well that relate to the describe persons, most of them using appropriate vocabulary. And there still 12.5 % of them classified as very bad ability because they have problem in using appropriate vocabulary in describing person.

4. The students' fluency in describing person was very good because 40.63% of them classified as very good ability. It means that the fluency of the students in describing persons was good. Although there were 6.25 % classified as very bad ability, it was because their ability in applying good fluency in describing persons usually hesitant and more repetitions.
5. The students' ability in applying good pronunciation in describing persons was good because 37.5 % of the students classified as good ability. The students' accent is intelligible though often quite faulty. But there were 31.25% of the students cannot applying good pronunciation in describing persons. And they were classified as very bad ability because errors in pronunciation are frequent and very hard to understand.

#### **D. Conclusions and Suggestions**

##### **Conclusions**

Having the result of the data analysis, it is concluded that:

1. In general the ability of the first grade students at SMPN 7 Padang in describing persons orally was good, because 31.25 % of the

students were able to describe persons in English orally.

2. The ability of the first grade students of SMPN 7 Padang in describing person by considering the ideas (content) which was delivered was good. It was proved by the data that 14 students (43.75 %) classified as very good ability.
3. The ability of the first grade students at SMPN 7 Padang in describing person by using appropriate grammar was very good. It was proved by the data that 13 students (40.63 %) classified as very good ability.
4. The ability of the first grade students at SMPN 7 Padang in describing persons by using suitable vocabulary was very good. It was proved by the data that 14 students (43.75 %) classified as very good ability.
5. The ability of the first grade students at SMPN 7 Padang in describing persons in terms of fluency was very good. It was proved by the data that 13 students (40.63 %) classified as very good ability.
6. The ability of the first grade students at SMPN 7 Padang in describing persons by considering good pronunciation was good. It

was proved by the data that 12 students (37.5 %) classified as good ability.

### **Suggestions**

Based on finding of the reasearch, it is proposed some suggestions as follows:

1. The English teachers are suggested to consider the five components: content, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and pronunciation when measuring students' speaking ability in describing persons. And based on the research, the researcher suggested to English teacher to develop material in English speaking to improve the students' pronunciation, because based on the result the most students classified as bad ability in pronunciation. The English teacher can make the students to be more active in speaking English to improve their good pronunciation.
2. The students are suggested to do more practice in speaking English. First, the students are suggested to improve their comprehension about the content, because based on result there were 31.25% of them have bad ability. Second, to

improve the ability of grammar, students are suggested to learn more about the grammar such as, remembering about the verb that is used in simple present tense. Third, students are suggested to enrich their vocabulary especially in describing person, they just do not know about the characteristic about someone, but also know about the name of part of body. Fourth, in part of fluency, the students should improve their ability in fluency when speak in English to make their speaking is better. And the last is pronunciation, the students should do more practice in pronouncing words in English, because most of them tell incorrect pronounce in some words.

3. The researcher hoped and suggested to any further researcher to conduct the reasearch with another topic of monolog text in measuring students' speaking ability.

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