

ABSTRACT

Khairani, Azmi Nur (2023) The Use of Small Group Discussion To Improve EFL Students' Speaking Skills (A Quasi Experimental Study at 8th Grade of SMP AL-MA'MOEN CIANJUR)

Speaking is one of the important skills that must be mastered by students in order to communicate in English fluently. Through speaking the students can express their idea and interact with each other in conversation. Most students have a problem related to speaking skills. They complained that they have nothing to say, they have not motivated to express themselves because feeling guilty to speak. With the techniques applied precisely, they can go around the class, view the ideas of each group, create ideas, and present in front of the class. Then, they can interact and communicate with their friends. It makes students more confident in making conversation.

The researcher formulate the research problem by the question, is there any significant difference between students who are taught by using small group discussion and those who are taught by using conventional strategy on speaking skill at ninth grade students' of SMP AL-MA'MOEN. Then, the researcher intended the research objective to obtain empirical data about the significant differences between students who are taught by using small group discussion and those who are taught by using conventional strategy on speaking skill at ninth grade students' of SMP AL-MA'MOEN.

The researcher applied a quantitative approach and uses a quasi-experimental study. In this research, the researcher used two classes that are taught by using different strategies. While the experimental class was taught by using the Small Group Discussion technique and the control class was taught by using lecturing, question and answer strategy. The population was ninth- graders students of SMP AL-MA'MOEN which consists of 68 students. The sample is 45 students (22 experimental classes, 23 control classes). The data were gathered through tests by the following procedure: giving a pre-test, applying the treatment; and giving a post-test. Then, the result of the pre-test and post-test were analyzed by using T-test. While, before using the T- test, the data analyzed by using the normality and homogeneity test.

The result of the research concluded that there is a significant difference between students who are taught by using small group discussion and those who are not on speaking skill. This is proved by the data results showing that the average pre-test of an experimental class was 47,8and the average post-test is 71,27. The value of t-test = 5,601 was consulted with 5% significant level with df 43, that is 2,016 (t-test > t table). So, Ha is accepted and H0 is rejected. So, it becomes an important thing for the teachers to increase and develop their ability in teaching. Theteacher should be able to use the appropriate technique in learning and teaching English, especially in speaking to make the students are more motivated in learning speaking.

Keywords: *Small Group Discussion, EFL, Speaking Skills*