

ABSTRACT

Fatiya, Nabila Salwa (2023): **Exploring Students' Performance (Acting, Speaking, And Nonverbal Expression) in Their English Drama as Project-Based Learning**

Project-Based Learning (PjBL) is recognized as a meaningful approach to promoting students' language skills and social situations which drama serves as one of the projects that have many benefits for English Language and Teaching (ELT) by integrating verbal and nonverbal aspects of communication. The current study aims to: 1) uncover how students acting in the English drama project, 2) to discover how students' speaking performance in the English drama project, and 3) to find out how students' nonverbal expression in the English drama project.

The current study employed a qualitative with a case study design. Document analysis is used to gain the data using the theory of Ferdinal et al (2020) and Knapp & Hall (2002). The participants were 6th-semester students who previously had a role as main casts and supporting casts in their final project in the prose and drama course at State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. To be more specific, two main casts and three supporting casts from D class are taken as participants.

The findings reveal that students' acting, speaking, and nonverbal expression during the drama stage can show the developments in each scene. However, there are also decreased and constant performances in several scenes that the students carry out. The supporting cast shows a better performance than the main casts, and it may be influenced by the students' practice, interpretation (empathy), confidence, and concentration. Moreover, inflection/intonation comes as the best component in speaking that is carried out by students as well as eye contact in the nonverbal expression component.

Hence, the current study put forwards to continue to apply drama as PjBL in classrooms or courses to enhance students' language skills as their social skills also improved. Students must optimize PjBL to maximize their ability to be developed. Furthermore, the current study is expected to become a reference for future research on the same topic and for teachers who want to know comprehend picture regarding drama performance.

Keywords: Project-Based Learning (PjBL), Drama Performance, Drama in Education, Theater in Education, Acting, Speaking, Nonverbal Expression