

ABSTRACT

Efrillia, Nova Dhea., 1192040082., (2023). EFL Students' Responses to The Use of Teachers' Reinforcement Strategy during Teaching and Learning Speaking Skills (A Case Study at SMP Mekar Galih)

English, as an official international language, has a vital role in language communication. In updating education, English language skills must be improved because many sources related to the field of education are written and explained in English. Because speaking is considered to have an essential role in communication, a student needs to learn English speaking skills with the aim of being able to communicate with people around the world. The readiness of human resources needed to achieve educational goals is essential. Teachers are one of the determining factors who have a strategic position to achieve educational goals because they have an essential role in the teaching process. The reinforcement strategy is present to facilitate the process of teaching and learning speaking skills.

This research aims to investigate teachers' reinforcement strategies in teaching and learning Speaking skills and to determine students' responses to the teachers' reinforcement strategies in teaching and learning Speaking skills. In order to explore the use of reinforcement strategies during teaching and learning speaking skills, the researcher used qualitative methods with a case study design. This research involved observing an English teacher, administering questionnaires to 18 eighth-grade students, and conducting interviews with teachers and students. The results of observations and interviews show that the use of reinforcement strategies when teaching and learning speaking skills at SMP Mekar Galih has been effective, even though it is the first time the teacher has used this strategy. Through questionnaires and interviews, students expressed responses that they appreciated learning to speak English with the use of reinforcement strategies.

In conclusion, using reinforcement strategies during teaching and learning speaking skills in class aligns with the theoretical framework, so its application is proper. Apart from that, students showed a positive response. So, implementing reinforcement strategies during teaching and learning speaking skills can increase motivation, interest in speaking English, confidence in speaking, expand vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and comfort students practicing speaking English. Therefore, this research is recommended for teachers who must improve students' speaking skills.

Keywords: Reinforcement strategy, responses, speaking skills, teaching and learning.