# STUDENTS' VIEWS ON ONLINE SPEAKING CLASSES AT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE DEPARTMENT OF UNP

## **THESIS**

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Master's Degree (S2)



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#### **ABSTRAK**

Elfy Syafyeni. 2022. Pandangan Mahasiswa terhadap Perkuliahan Online Speaking di Fakultas Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris UNP. Tesis. Magister Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pandangan mahasiswa terhadap kelas online Speaking pada Fakultas Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris UNP. Pandangan mereka dilihat dari aspek materi perkuliahan, strategi perkuliahan, dan penilaian. Jenis penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan dari 40 orang mahasiswa di Fakultas Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris UNP terdaftar pada tahun ajaran 2020/2021 dan 2021/2022 yang dipilih menggunakan teknik proportional random sampling. Kuisioner dan wawancara merupakan instrumen yang digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data. Hasil penelitian menemukan bahwa skor rata-rata pandangan mahasiswa terhadap kelas *online* Speaking terkait materi perkuliahan, strategi perkuliahan, dan penilaian adalah 3.16, 2.98, dan 2.83. Hasil tersebut menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar mahasiswa memiliki pandangan yang positif terkait perkuliahan *online Speaking* dalam hal efisiensi waktu dan biaya, yang berarti: (1) Sebagian besar mahasiswa setuju bahwa materi perkuliahan yang digunakan dapat membantu mereka untuk memahami perkuliahan dikelas online Speaking selama pandemi; (2) Penerapan strategi perkuliahan di kelas online Speaking bermanfaat bagi mahasiswa dalam menyesuaikan diri dengan lingkungan perkuliahan online dan memudahkan mereka dalam mengikuti perkuliahan selama pandemi; (3) Sebagian besar mahasiswa setuju bahwa penilaian yang diberikan oleh dosen dikelas online Speaking membantu mereka dalam mengembangkan keterampilan berbicara mereka dalam pengucapan, kosakata, dan kelancaran selama pandemi. Disamping itu, beberapa saran terkait perkuliahan di kelas *online Speaking* juga diberikan.

Kata kunci: Kelas online Speaking, Pandangan mahasiswa

## **ABSTRACT**

Elfy Syafyeni. 2022. Students' Views on Online Speaking Classes at English Language and Literature Department of UNP. Thesis. Master of English Education of Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

This research aims to find out the students' views on online speaking classes at English Language and Literature Department of UNP. Their views were seen from the aspects of learning materials, teaching strategies, and assessments. The type of this research was a descriptive qualitative study. The data were collected from 40 students at English Language and Literature Department of UNP registered in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 Academic Years chosen by using the proportional random sampling technique. The questionnaire and interview were the instruments used to collect the data. The results found that the mean scores of students' views on online speaking classes in the aspects of learning materials, teaching strategies, and assessments are 3.16, 2.98, and 2.83. Those results indicate that most of the students' views on online speaking classes are positive in terms of time and cost efficiency, which means: (1) Most of the students agree that the learning materials used in online speaking classes helped them understand the lessons during the pandemic condition; (2) The implementation of teaching strategies in online speaking classes was beneficial for the students in adapting themselves to online learning environment and eased them in following the classes during the pandemic condition; and (3) The majority of students agree that the assessments given by the lecturers in online speaking classes assisted them in developing their speaking skill in pronunciation, vocabulary, and fluency during the pandemic condition. Besides, some suggestions related to online speaking classes also arise.

**Keywords**: Online Speaking Class, Students' Views

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Padang, Agustus 2022 Saya yang menyatakan,

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Padang, August 2022

The Writer

# **DEDICATION**

This thesis is entirely dedicated to my one and only precious husband,

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-es-

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#### **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

## A. Background of the Research Problem

Speaking is one of the essential skills and a required subject that English Language and Literature Department students must take since their first semester at university. As stated by Naciri (2014), speaking is part of the language skills which is important for language learners to be developed. Likewise, Aleksandrzak (2011) asserts that speaking is generally perceived as the most fundamental skill to acquire. It can be said that speaking is a crucial subject for language students to develop and enhance their ability to learn and gain proficiency in a foreign language. Furthermore, students can be considered successful if they can communicate effectively in the language.

In teaching and learning speaking, students are provided with several levels, starting from the basic interaction of speaking to the advanced level. Each level of speaking class has different topics but has the same aims: to enhance the students' ability to deliver their ideas, build communication with others, and develop their skills well. In addition, during the process of learning speaking in each level, they do some activities to practice and master their speaking skills. Discussions, roleplay, simulations, interviews, storytelling, and so on are the activities that are provided in speaking class and can help the students to promote their speaking skill (Kayi, 2006).

Despite its importance, acquiring foreign language proficiency in a classroom setting is a difficult task. It is based on the character and inadequate

frequency of speaking opportunities in the classroom compared to the abundance of natural varieties and genres of oral communication (Aleksandrzak, 2011). Other problems that frequently arise in the language classroom are related to the individual learners' personalities and attitudes toward the learning process, particularly in speaking. According to Efrizal (2012), the problem faced by the students in speaking class is the lack of motivation to speak English in the students' language conversation in classroom activities. They seem to avoid themselves getting involved in speaking activities because of their reluctance to reveal their thoughts when they have something to say. Another reason that inhibits them from speaking is they have difficulties to convey their ideas due to their lack of self-confidence. Some of the students might try to speak but then they get stuck when they find that it is difficult to keep on conveying their ideas in English (Juhana, 2012), they then switched to their native language to continue expressing their ideas.

In line with challenges in teaching speaking in a conventional classroom, currently due to the Covid-19 pandemic condition, the process of teaching and learning speaking should be changed into an online way, which gives new and enormous impacts to the students. It is related to Gultom's (2020) statement, who argues that teaching and learning speaking in online speaking class is more complex than face-to-face learning. Barriers and problems come insistently during the learning process going on from students.

The challenge that students encounter in online speaking class is they are forced to attend the class in different ways that are new to them. For instance, they

are forced to use online platforms like Zoom, Google Meeting, WhatsApp, or e-Learning which are provided by the university, accept the lessons or learning materials in online ways, and obligate them to be able to develop their speaking skill without the real practice. It means that what they got in the previous way of learning, which was held in the classroom, such as getting the lesson through face-to-face learning, getting direct explanations from the lecturers related to the materials, and the way they practice their speaking skills with their friends directly will fully transform into online. As a result, they need to put more struggle to prepare themselves to operate online learning platforms to make it more accessible in participating online classes.

Above and beyond, online learning also challenges the students to manage their time and autonomy, besides, technical problems related to internet connection or the malfunction of technical devices also hinder the learning process (Negoescu, Boştină-Bratu, & Morar, 2021). By facing this new condition, the students need more effort to take responsibility, be more disciplined, and manage their time effectively in order to succeed in online learning, due to the fact that the online learning environment is more dynamic with complex tasks. Moreover, the technical problems cause the students frustration, resulting in their anxiety and low motivation to attend online classes. This condition will impact to their achievement in following online classes.

In the meantime, the implementation of online speaking classes due to the Covid-19 pandemic condition could generate changes in students' views on this way of teaching compared to the conventional classes they previously attended. The

students' views about how the process of online learning occurs are essential to discuss because it will have an impact on how they think about the online learning class, which leads to their achievements and attitudes. Besides, the meaning of views is related to perceptions. As Johns and Saks (2019) argue that perception is the process of interpreting the messages or information of our senses to get meaning from the environment through human perception and it is constantly in contact with the environment. By getting involved in certain environment like online speaking classes, the student can form their own views based on what they experience during the process of getting the lessons.

In accordance with views and perceptions, there are several research discuss students' views or perceptions related to how teaching and learning online occurs. First, the research conducted by Babayiğit, Cizrelioğullari, and Altun (2020) found both positive and negative views toward online learning by the students. The ones claiming positive attitudes feel more safe and relaxed throughout online classes, whereas the others feel insecure and unsuccessful during online classes. Moreover, there have been fewer of them was a user of online programs and they were not aware of the online processes for education before coronavirus. In addition, many participants claimed that the instructors at university do not have enough knowledge on how to use these online programs well. Lastly, it is clear that many students said they could not update or program for their classes and that is seen as a limitation of online learning. It can be concluded that the research found both the positive and negative views form the students on online learning in general.

Second, Bagata, Umamah, and Fikri (2020) in their research found significant differences between male and female EFL students' perceptions about the use of online learning platforms. Male students' perspectives are more favorable than females', because male students naturally prefer the practical and using internet technology will help them quickly complete the assignments. However, the students of both genders felt the advantages of the online learning platform during the pandemic. The process of teaching and learning is fully online in the sense of saving time and effort in doing and submitting an assignment electronically. In short, this research focuses on university students' perceptions about the use of online learning platform and their perceptions differ based on gender.

Then, Yusnilita's (2020) study revealed that online learning provides the students practical and flexible way of learning, which also makes them more creative and active in online classes. Online learning gives them some benefits in learning. Moreover, most of the students said that their lecturers give them feedback about their assignments and they independently explore and find the solution to the materials given by the lecturers in online ways. Although, the majority of the students also found the challenges of online learning due to the unstable internet connection. To concluded, this research focuses on the students' point of views related to online learning during Covid-19 pandemic condition.

Nevertheless, several studies conducted by Wibowo and Khairunas (2020); Marzetta (2020); Fitriani, Bandung, and Kadri (2020); Rahmawati, Sihombing, Ginting, and Arrimonnaria (2021); and Al-Amin, Al Zubayer, Deb, and Hasan (2021) discovered negative views on students related to their challenges in

attending online class or online speaking class. The students' views on online speaking were that it made them difficult to follow the class due to the problems with enhancing their confidence and improving their good public speaking; there was no clear correction of mistakes from the lecturer; there was less time to practice their skill; and the unstable internet connection and lack of devices that inhibited them from attending the class. Thus, a lack of preparedness, participation, and scope of classroom activities and the impact of using online platform that made students difficult to comprehend lessons and made them lazy to speak English were also the others impacts of online learning. Nevertheless, most of these research only discuss the students' views on online learning in speaking class in general, which means the challenges of using online tools and media without including more specific points in teaching and learning in speaking class, for instance the strategies, materials, and assessments.

In a nutshell, most of the previous studies that exposed the students' views or perceptions related to the implementation of online learning still focused on students' problems and online learning media. Nevertheless, the views associated with the use of learning materials, teaching strategies, and assessments in continuous online classes are found to be few and far between. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting research about students' views on online speaking classes at English Language and Literature Department of UNP. This research was conducted on the Second and Third Semester Students at English Language and Literature Department of UNP registered in 2020/2021 and

2021/2022 Academic Years respectively who have already taken Speaking classes conducted through online mode in the previous semesters.

## B. Identification of the Research Problem

Dealing with the background of the research problem above, there are several issues that can be identified. The first is related to the difficulties faced by the students in attending online speaking classes. The students have to do more efforts in comprehending speaking skill materials even in the condition of online learning. For example, they not only have to increase their knowledge to comprehend the materials of learning, but also they need to have capabilities in operating electronic tools and using some online learning media during online classes, such as *Zoom, WhatsApp*, and *e-Learning*. The online learning requires them to build more motivation to engage in the teaching and learning process, do more independent learning and find more sources related to the lessons they learn. Besides, during the process of teaching and learning, online speaking class also challenges them with limited access to the internet connection that inhibits them to attend the online class easily. Furthermore, they also face new kinds of learning strategies which force them to practice their speaking skill independently and they have limited time to practice them.

Second, it is about students' views on how they attended online speaking classes and experienced those kinds of learning activities. Also, they may have different perspectives about how the lecturers use the learning materials, teaching strategies, and assessments during online speaking classes.

#### C. Limitation of the Research Problem

In this research, the researcher limited the problems to the students' views on online speaking classes. Moreover, the students' views were seen from the aspects of learning materials, teaching strategies, and assessments used by the lecturers during teaching and learning on online speaking classes.

## D. Formulation of the Research Problem

Based on the focus of the research above, the formulation of this research is: "How are the Students' Views on Online Speaking Classes at English Language and Literature Department of UNP?".

## **E.** Research Questions

Referring to the formulation of the research problem above, this research was conducted to answer the following research questions:

- 1. What are the students' views on materials given by the lecturers in online speaking classes at English Language and Literature Department of UNP?
- What are the students' views on teaching strategies used by the lecturers in online speaking classes at English Language and Literature Department of UNP?
- 3. What are the students' views on assessments given by the lecturers in online speaking classes at English Language and Literature Department of UNP?

## F. Purpose of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the purpose of this research can be stated as follow:

- To find out the students' views on the materials given by the lecturers in online speaking classes at English Language and Literature Department of UNP
- To find out the students' views on the teaching strategies used by the lecturers
  in online speaking classes at English Language and Literature Department of
  UNP
- To find out the students' views on the assessments given by the lecturers in online speaking classes at English Language and Literature Department of UNP

# **G.** Significance of the Research

The results of the research are expected to be useful and give valuable contributions to people who want to enrich and study about teaching speaking course through online learning mode. Besides, for the lecturers, the results of this research also give more insights about the students' views during their online speaking classes, particularly in terms of learning materials, strategies, and assessments used in online learning. The lecturers can find out other effective strategies to be used in online speaking classes or integrate them during the teaching and learning process, find out the suitable and various kinds of learning materials that may help students comprehending the lesson well, and make appropriate assessments in terms of giving assignments and feedback which can assist the students in developing their speaking skill, which these aspects in general help the lecturers create better changes of learning in the future.

# H. Definition of the Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding of certain key terms in this thesis, the researcher needs to define important concepts:

## 1. Students' Views

Students' views are the perspectives from English Language and Literature Department students related to their experiences in following the teaching and learning on online speaking classes, including the process of getting the lessons from the aspects of using materials, teaching strategies, and assessments.

## 2. Online Speaking Class

Online speaking class is a process of teaching and learning speaking that held by using online media such as *Zoom* and *e-Learning* which can help the process of teaching and learning running well during Covid-19 pandemic.