

**STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION IN ENGLISH
SPEAKING ACTIVITY**

(A Study at SMP N 1 Palembang)

THESIS

*Submitted As Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Obtaining Bachelor Degree of
Education (B.Ed) in English Language Education Program*



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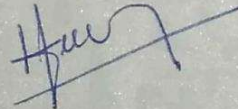
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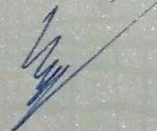
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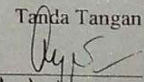
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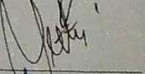
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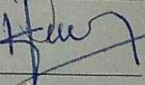
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ABSTRACT

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Small Group Discussion is as one of the techniques in the teaching and learning process such as for English speaking activity. In the teaching and learning process, students' perception need to be known so the implementation of small group discussion will be better in the future. This study was conducted to find the implementation of small group discussion in English speaking activity and to find students' perception on the implementation of small group discussion in English speaking activity. This study used descriptive research. The data was collected by a transcript of observation and shared questionnaire, and interview with the students. The participants of this study were the students of the second grade of SMP N 1 Palembang. It consisted of three activities that was taught by a teacher. There were 95 students in the academic year 2022/2023. The result of this study showed that the implementation of small group discussion in English activity was not good. However, all meetings using small group discussion followed the four stages of small group discussion including forming, storming, norming, and performing. Students had a positive perception on the implementation of small group discussion in English speaking activity with a percentage of 52% in the excellent category and 48% in the good category.

Keyword : Perception, Small Group Discussion, Speaking

ABSTRACT

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Diskusi kelompok kecil adalah salah satu teknik dalam proses pembelajaran seperti untuk aktivitas berbicara bahasa inggris. Dalam proses pembelajaran, persepsi siswa perlu diketahui agar pelaksanaannya lebih baik. Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menemukan pelaksanaan pembelajaran diskusi kelompok kecil dalam aktivitas berbicara bahasa inggris dan untuk menemukan persepsi siswa terhadap pelaksanaan dari diskusi kelompok kecil dalam aktivitas berbicara bahasa inggris. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif. Data penelitian ini diperoleh dari transkrip observasi dan membagikan kuesioner dan wawancara kepada siswa. Partisipan dalam penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas dua di SMP N 1 Palembang, yang terdiri dari tiga kelas yang diajarkan oleh satu guru. Total siswa pada tahun pelajaran 2022/2023 adalah 95 siswa. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pelaksanaan diskusi kelompok kecil dalam aktivitas berbicara bahasa inggris kurang baik. Namun, semua pertemuan pembelajaran menggunakan diskusi kelompok kecil dilakukan dengan empat tahapan pembelajaran dari diskusi kelompok kecil diantaranya forming, storming, norming, dan performing. Siswa memiliki persepsi yang positif pada pelaksanaan diskusi kelompok kecil dalam kelas berbicara bahasa inggris dengan persentase 52% dalam kategori sangat baik dan 48% dalam kategori baik.

Kata Kunci : Persepsi, Diskusi Kelompok Kecil, Kemampuan Berbicara

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language takes fundamental for human life since it is a means of communication. A person cannot communicate with others without language. English is one of the most languages in the world that has been the most important language. Many people in Indonesia take English seriously as a foreign language to have a good prospect in the international community. Therefore, the scope of teaching English is a special interest. It is due to the significance of English in all aspects of our lives. Learning English means learning language skills which are speaking, listening, writing, and reading.

Nowadays, there are many kinds of techniques that can be used in the teaching and learning process. This is to assist the students to become more independent learners and prepare them for success. One of the techniques is Small Group Discussion. In Indonesian education system has used Curriculum 13 (K-13) which improves students' competencies, personalities, and knowledge in preparing the students to be able to continue their education to a higher level and to communicate in English on the whole skill. By using the small group discussion technique, the students work together to achieve a common goal through interaction and interdependent relationships (Slavin, 1990). This technique can be applied to help the students understand in teaching and learning process.

Small group discussion has been used all over the world. As a technique in the teaching and learning process. According to Brewer (1997: 28), small group discussion is developing the cognitive and effectiveness of participants. Small-group learning has been shown to boost academic achievement, positive attitudes about

learning, and persistence in learning more about courses and programs. According to Beebe and Masterson (2015), the use of this small group discussion must prioritize goals and all groups are interdependent in completing tasks.

According to Brewer (1997), small group discussion has several advantages. The participants can participate in the group discussion which is a good way to get interested topic. Those participants may understand another participant's explanation more easily than a presenter's explanation. Small group discussions encouraged students' thinking, assisted in better communication, were interactive, and friendly, bridged the gap with the teacher, and improved students' communication abilities. Meanwhile, there are some disadvantages of small group discussion in its implementation needs a lot of time and will be quite noisy. Students may do other things besides discussing the subject matter and not all students will fully participate in group discussions (Harmer, 2001). However, small group discussion is very appropriate to be implemented in the teaching and learning process in English activity.

As a technique in the teaching and learning process, small group discussion has taken a role in the skills of English, especially speaking skills that come to be the most essential in learning English. Speaking is one of the skills that is an activity used by someone to communicate with others. When people speak, they would transfer their ideas, feeling, and thought to other people clearly and correctly through communication. According to Nunan (2003), speaking is a productive oral talent that entails the production of organized verbal utterances to transmit meaning.

Based on the researcher's preliminary observation in junior high school with the teacher who taught English in the activity, small group discussion is one of the hopes of the teacher. The teacher expects all students can participate well during

small group discussions. Students still have difficulties applying this technique. Besides that, small group discussion is one of the ways that teachers can use small group discussion to learn together and share opinions on the topic given. Meanwhile, some students are still less motivated. They don't know the importance of implementing this technique to improve the learning process which would impact the achievement of the students in the learning process. Moreover, the students also face difficulties doing the discussion, whether difficulties with group members or in understanding the material. By learning with this technique, students have been challenged to face their difficulties in completing the task. Besides that, the students have to adapt with group members to more quickly understand the learning materials using the small group discussion technique.

Several studies have been conducted related to the effectiveness of small group discussions. The first study is conducted by Eka (2017) that is to find out the effectiveness of small group discussion on speaking skills and speaking anxiety. The second study is conducted by Nilma (2018) about the effectiveness of the small group discussion method in the teaching of reading comprehension to the second-grade students of SMA N 3 South Binjai. Another study has been conducted related to the perception of small group discussion. This study is conducted by Servinus Yanse (2016) about students' perceptions of the use of group discussion and their engagement in the speaking of CLS 1. The last study has been conducted by Wardiatul Janna (2019). The research is about students' perception of the use of group work activities in learning English.

Based on the study above it can be concluded that what has been studied in previous studies are about the effectiveness of small group discussion and students' perception of applying this technique. The studies have been conducted on the

effectiveness of small group discussion on speaking skills and speaking anxiety and the effectiveness of the implementation of small group discussion in teaching reading comprehension. Moreover, at the perception focuses on the students' perception on the use of group discussion at the university and the use of group work activities at the senior high school level in terms of students' engagement and student achievement.

This study is different from the previous study that discusses the perception of students toward the implementation of small group discussion which will be analyzed from the stages of small group discussion. Moreover, small group discussions take a role to help students to get efficiently communication in English activity. This study will take the junior high school level to be researched.

Based on the background above, the researcher is interested in researching "Students' Perception on the Implementation on Small Group Discussion in English Speaking Activity (A Study at SMP N 1 Palembang)"

B. The focus of the problem

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher will focus on the students' perception on the implementation of small group discussion in English speaking activity analyzed from four stages of small group discussion. The stages are forming, storming, norming, and performing.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification above, the researcher is concerned to see the perceptions of students on the implementation on small group discussion in English speaking activity. The limitation of the scope is at the second-grade students in Junior high school in SMP N 1 Palembang.

D. Formulation of the Problem

The problem of this research can be formulated as follows: "How are the perception of the students on the implementation of small group discussion in English speaking activity at the second grade students in SMP N 1 Palembang?"

E. Research question

Based on the background of the problem above, the writer formulates questions as follows:

1. How is the implementation of small group discussion in English speaking activity at second-grade students of SMP N 1 Palembang?
2. How are the students' perceptions on the implementation on small group discussion in English speaking activity at the second-grade students of SMP N 1 Palembang?

F. Purpose of the Research

1. To find the implementation of the small group discussion in English speaking activity at the second grade students of SMP N 1 Palembang.
2. To find the students' perception on the implementation of small group discussion in English speaking activity at the second grade students of SMP N 1 Palembang.

G. Significant of the Research

There are two signs of this study including theoretical and practical. In theory, this research is expected to the advancement of knowledge, especially in the sphere of

education. In particular, the outcome would contribute to the theoretical aspect of students' speaking activity.

Meanwhile, in practice, there are several significant. They are for teachers, school principals, students, and researchers. It can be reflection and modification to the teacher in implementing small group discussion in teaching speaking after seeing the perception of students on the implementation of small group discussion in English speaking activity. The findings of this study should serve as a guide for school principals in regulating learning in the educational institutions they oversee. Additionally for the students, The findings of this study are intended to add to our understanding and knowledge of how to employ small group discussion techniques to teach speaking. It is intended to have a positive impact on students, and students will be able to more practice their speaking abilities. Moreover, this study is expected to be useful for other researchers who are interested to conduct a similar study, especially to research small group discussion techniques for teaching speaking.

H. Definition of Key Terms

1. Small Group Discussion

Small group discussion is an activity involving a group of members in a face-to-face interaction cooperatively to share information, make decisions, and solve problems.

2. Perception

Perception is someone's thinking about something to measure how they feel about using something, whether they agree or not.

3. Speaking Skill

Speaking skill is a skill to communicate with others by utilizing spoken language to express thoughts and share information.