

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' SPEAKING ABILITY THROUGH
ROLE-PLAY TECHNIQUE IN NEW NORMAL ERA AT GRADE 8 OF
SMPN 13 PADANG**

THESIS

*Submitted as a Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Bachelor of
Education (B.Ed) in English Language Education*



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2022

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Judul : An Analysis of Students' Speaking Ability through Role-play Technique in New Normal Era at Grade 8 of SMPN 13 Padang

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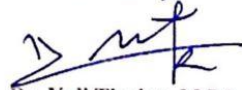
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris

Departemen : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

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Tanda Tangan



Elfajri, Fiolina. (2022). Analisis Kemampuan Berbicara Siswa melalui Teknik Role-play di Era New Normal pada Kelas 8 SMPN 13 Padang. Skripsi. Padang: Departemen Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

ABSTRAK

Pandemi *Covid-19* memberikan dampak yang besar di berbagai sektor kehidupan di banyak negara di dunia, salah satunya adalah sektor pendidikan. Bahasa Inggris sebagai salah satu mata pelajaran yang dipelajari di sekolah juga mengalami berbagai kesulitan dan tantangan dalam pengajarannya. Kemampuan berbicara sebagai kemampuan yang harus dikuasai mengalami tantangan sejak era *new normal* di Indonesia dimulai. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah menganalisis dan memperoleh data empiris mengenai kemampuan berbicara siswa melalui teknik *role-play* di era *new normal* pada kelas 8 SMPN 13 Padang. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kuantitatif. Informan dalam penelitian ini adalah 46 siswa kelas 8 dan seorang guru Bahasa Inggris kelas 8 di SMP Negeri 13 Padang. Teknik pengumpulan data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah test berbicara menggunakan teknik *role-play* yang dinilai berdasarkan indikator berbicara dan dikemas dalam bentuk rubrik penilaian dan wawancara dengan salah satu guru Bahasa Inggris kelas 8 di SMP Negeri 13 Padang. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kemampuan berbicara siswa di kelas 8 SMP Negeri 13 Padang berada di level *average* dengan nilai rata-rata 57. Komponen tertinggi adalah *comprehension* dengan persentase 63%. Selain itu, hasil dari interview dengan guru Bahasa Inggris menunjukkan bahwa ada beberapa masalah dalam pengajaran *speaking*, yaitu kurangnya kepercayaan diri siswa, stigma siswa yang menganggap bahwa pelajaran Bahasa Inggris itu sulit, dan kurangnya penguasaan kosakata. Pembelajaran online yang dilakukan sebelum era *new normal* juga memengaruhi kepercayaan diri siswa. Oleh sebab itu, guru menerapkan berbagai metode dan strategi dalam PBM Bahasa Inggris khususnya *speaking*. Metode dan strategi tersebut seperti selalu menggunakan Bahasa Inggris dalam kelas, mengingatkan siswa untuk selalu berbicara menggunakan Bahasa Inggris, dan juga menggunakan topik interaktif ketika mengajarkan *speaking*. Pada era *new normal* ini, guru menggunakan media seperti video, audio, dan lagu dalam mengajarkan *speaking*.

Kata Kunci: *Speaking, Speaking Ability, Role-play, New Normal.*

Elfajri, Fiolina. (2022). An Analysis of Students' Speaking Ability through Role-play Technique in New Normal Era at Grade 8 of SMPN 13 Padang. Thesis. Padang: English Department. Faculty of Language and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang

ABSTRACT

Covid-19 pandemic has impacted many sectors in life of many countries in the world. English as one of the subjects studied in schools also experiences various difficulties and challenges in its teaching. The ability to speak as an ability that must be mastered has experienced challenges since the new normal era in Indonesia began. The purpose of this study is to analyze and obtain empirical data on students' speaking ability through role-play technique in new normal era at grade 8 of SMPN 13 Padang. This research used quantitative descriptive methods. The informants in this study were 46 grade 8 students and an 8th grade English teacher at SMP Negeri 13 Padang. The data collection technique used in this study was a speaking test using a role-play technique which was assessed based on speaking indicators and packaged in the form of an assessment rubric and an interview with one of the grade 8 English teachers at SMP Negeri 13 Padang. The results of this study show that the speaking ability of students in grade 8 of SMP Negeri 13 Padang is at the average level with the mean score of 57. The highest component is comprehension with a percentage of 63%. In addition, the results of interviews with the English teacher show that there are several problems in speaking teaching, namely the lack of student confidence, the stigma of students who think that English lessons are difficult, and the lack of mastery of vocabulary. Online learning carried out before the new normal era also affects students' self-confidence. Therefore, teachers apply various methods and strategies in English PBM, especially speaking. These methods and strategies such as always using English in class, reminding students to always speak using English, and also using interactive topics when teaching speaking. In this new normal era, teachers use media such as video, audio, and songs in teaching speaking.

Keywords: Speaking, Speaking Ability, Role-play, New Normal Era.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillahirabbil ‘aalamiin, praised be to Allah SWT, the Almighty and the Most Merciful, who always gives knowledge, healthy, and opportunity to the writer along the process of writing this thesis entitled “**An Analysis of Students’ Speaking Ability through Role-play Technique in New Normal Era at Grade 8 of SMPN 13 Padang**”. Also, salutation and peace are always expressed to the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

This thesis is impossible to be accomplished without helps and support from many people. Therefore, the writer would like to express a sincere gratitude and appreciation to her advisor, Dr. Yuli Tiarina, M.Pd., who has patiently given her guidance, constructive comments, suggestions, and time during accomplishing this thesis. Then, special acknowledgements are addressed to the contributors, Dra. Yetty Zainil, M. A., Ph. D. and Leni Marlina, S. S., M. A., who has given valuable suggestions and supportive feedbacks to this thesis. Last but not least, the researcher also would like to express a sincere gratitude to her beloved family and friends who are really supportive so that the researcher could accomplish this thesis.

Padang, 11th of August 2022

Fiolina Elfajri

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Covid-19 pandemic has impacted many sectors in life of many countries in the world. The United Nations (UN) claimed that education is one of the sectors affected substantially by the pandemic. Thus, Indonesia becomes one of the countries that has been affected by this pandemic, especially in education sector. As the result, on March of 2020, Indonesian government made a new regulation as the alternative way to unleash educational process, that is switching face to face system in regular class into online learning. Furthermore, in May 2020, this pandemic that has been spreading all over the world for about two years, is starting to be decreased. Furthermore, in June 2020, Indonesia has entered the new normal era. Many schools in Indonesia are allowing their students to study at school, but they still have to follow health protocol and some schools are requiring vaccination for their students.

Teaching and learning process in new normal era has not been going smoothly. The changes in communication pattern between teachers and students from offline to online in learning process is the factor that made the teaching and learned process disrupted (Sewang & Aswad, 2021, pp. 282–283). In this new normal era, many schools in Indonesia have to implement not only online learning system, but also blended learning system or hybrid learning system. However, since the Minister of Education, Nadiem

Makarim decided to open the school in January 2021, only 50% of the students are allowed to do face to face learning at school. The rest of the students were joining the online class. According to Gikas & Grant (2013, p. 5), online learning in its implementation requires the support of mobile device tools such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops that can be used for information access anytime, anywhere. Teachers should use different methods that support the implementation of online learning. For example, virtual classes using Gschool, Google Classroom, Zoom Meeting, and WhatsApp. This condition makes the teachers who are not familiar in using those kinds of technologies are facing various difficulties. At the end, students cannot earn the learning material maximally from their teacher.

Based on the challenges of online learning described before, it can be seen that learning English using online learning system has also disrupted, especially in learning speaking skill. As one of the most important skills in English, teachers should teach the speaking skill to the students very well. Of all of the 4 skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) speaking is the most important skill in which people who realize a language are called 'speakers', and many language learners are specifically interested by gaining knowledge of to talk orally (Ur, 2012, p. 20).

Speaking is a complicated procedure which includes building a message in a form that different people can understand, and delivering the message by the use of proper pronunciation, stress, and intonation. Speaking also involves interaction - communicating with different people. This can

be done by doing a lot of practice, encouragement, and correction in order to make people understand in communication and conversation. The mastering procedure is stated to be successful if the elements that have an effect on the gaining knowledge of technique can play an active function in making students recognize and understand the knowledge conveyed (Fitri et al., 2021, p. 350).

Furthermore, speaking skill as productive skill needs to be taught interactively in the classroom, especially in oral performance. Indonesian students as the EFL learners have to practice their speaking ability in the classroom as the only way to practice since there is no chance to practice in daily life. Nevertheless, in new normal era, students cannot fully participate to do the oral performance in the classroom. Moreover, students just can learn from home using online media or searching the learning materials on internet. They cannot join the class activities as usual. When it comes to speaking practice, they cannot show it in front of the class or face to face with their teachers and other students, but they have to record it in form of video or audio recording. Those explanations show that there are several problems in speaking skill learning process, especially in oral performance in new normal era.

However, in mastering speaking skill, students should be able to applying speaking ability components correctly. Those components such as fluency, vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and comprehension are very important since the ability to master those components reflects how well the

speaking ability of someone. Hermansyah (2021, p. 75) stated that the students' problems in speaking English are now not just because of the components of speaking which include pronunciation, expression, vocabulary, and fluency, but it also can be come from themselves, those are encouragement, confidence and bravery.

Moreover, teaching speaking is currently pretty hard because the spread of covid-19 pandemic (Pinatih, 2021, p. 10). There are some problems and difficulties in speaking based on Ur (1996), those are students' worries in making mistakes, fearful of criticism, or shy (inhibition), students' low motivation in speaking English, students' low participation, and students' mother-tongue use. The students are likely to use their mother-tongue if they get difficulties to continue in speaking English. The students feel free in express their idea in their mother-tongue. Based on the previous research done by Pratiwi & Prihatini (2021, p. 17), there are some problems and difficulties occurred in students' speaking class, those are understanding the conversation, less of vocabularies, pronunciation, shy, worrying for making grammatical errors, lack of technology, and lack of motivation.

There are many activities in teaching and learning process of speaking skill which can be applied, one of them is role-play. Role-play is one of the speaking activities that emphasizes more interaction-based activities which is one of the Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) method. Role-play makes the students free to express their ideas by

imagining the real-life situation and it makes them can easily explore the language based on the situation created. Furthermore, it is important to adjust the age with the effect of that age aspect in determining the EFL learners speaking activity. Among two kinds of role-play which stated by Byrne (1986, p. 101) this research investigated students' speaking skill using scripted role-play where the students use the script to develop the conversation.

Thus, SMPN 13 Padang as one of the best school in Padang, as the data stated that SMPN 13 is ranked 8th out of 49 schools in Padang based on the average score of the latest examination in 2019 (Badrun, 2019). It means that conducting research in this school can give some inspirations and considerations for other schools whether in its teaching and learning process implementation or strategy and method used in this school. As a good school, SMPN 13 Padang should be a benchmark or guidelines for other schools. Thus, it means that it should be important to investigate the students' ability in this school, since other schools will take a look on this school in many aspects. It also involves the English subject teaching and learning implementation.

In this research, the researcher wanted to investigate the students' speaking ability in new normal era by using role-play technique, especially at grade 8 of SMPN 13 Padang. As we know, during Covid-19 pandemic students should learn remotely using online connection and they cannot join the class directly. The researcher also wanted to know the challenges, the

problems, the media used, the method and also strategy applied in English subject teaching and learning process in this new normal era.

However, there have been lack of studies exploring students speaking ability in new normal era for students in junior high school. Most studies investigated speaking field in new normal era for higher education, elsewhere those studies looked at students' motivation, speaking assessment, students' problem in learning speaking, etc. This is the gap in which the current study tried to fill. With this study, the researcher aimed at investigating students' speaking ability in new normal era especially for the grade 8 of junior high school of SMPN 13 Padang by using role-play technique as the instrument. More specifically, the researcher looked into students' ability in speaking and also the teachers' view about students' speaking ability as the support factors to make this research meaningful and insightful.

B. Identification of the Problem

Covid-19 pandemic has affected many sectors of life, and education is a highly impacted sectors of life due to covid-19 pandemic. In Indonesia, there are so many challenges that educators and students have to faced so that in learning English as foreign language. Moreover, students have their own problems in mastering four skills in learning English, one of them is speaking skill. While speaking in the fact is said to be one of the most difficult skills to be mastered by the students, covid-19 pandemic made it becomes more difficult to learn based on the problems appeared in speaking

class conducted during the pandemic. Both of the students and the teacher are facing the same problems in new normal era, where they have to mastered not only the speaking skill, but also the learning tools that is used in online learning.

To know how far is speaking skill has taught successfully to the students in this new normal era, the researcher wants to analyze the students' speaking ability in new normal era at grade eight of SMP Negeri 13 Padang by using role-play technique. Furthermore, there will be a description about the factors influencing the students' speaking ability in new normal era based on the interviews conducted with the teachers. Those factors are the challenges, the problems, the media used, the method and also strategy applied in English subject teaching and learning process in this new normal era in order to produce the best conclusion and suggestion to speaking skill learning process in the future.

C. Limitation of the Problem

In line with the identification of the problem, the focus of the researcher is on analyzing students' speaking ability through role-play technique in new normal era at grade eight of SMP Negeri 13 Padang. This research is purposed to improve students speaking skill teaching process particularly, and to achieve the learning success of students generally.

D. Formulation of the Problem

The problem is formulated as: “How is students’ speaking ability through role-play technique in new normal era at grade eight of SMP Negeri 13 Padang?”

E. Purpose of the Research

To analyze and obtain empirical evidence about students’ speaking ability through role-play technique in new normal era at grade eight of SMP Negeri 13 Padang.

F. Research Question

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the research formulated the problems as; How is students’ speaking ability through role-play technique in new normal era at grade eight of SMP Negeri 13 Padang based on the speaking ability components?

G. Significance of the Research

Theoretically, this research will give contribution to English teachers, especially for speaking skill teachers, as the information and input about students’ speaking ability in new normal era. By knowing the students’ speaking skill through role-play technique in new normal era at grade eight of SMP Negeri 13 Padang, teachers will be easy to conduct an effective learning in English speaking skill and also help the students to improve the speaking learning process in the future. Thus, it also can be guidelines for the parents to help the students solving the problems in learning speaking skill so that their speaking skill will increase. The

researcher hopes that this research will provide the insight and knowledge for readers and other researchers about students' speaking ability, especially in new normal era, in order to produce another relevant research in the future.

H. Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding in this research, there are several terminologies that the writer feels necessary to explain. The terminologies are as follow:

1. Speaking is media to exchange the message, information, feelings, or idea between the speaker and the listener in the target language using the correct speaking components so that other people can understand.
2. Speaking ability is the ability or capacity of a person to master a speaking skill, or to exchange the message, information, feelings, or idea between the speaker and the listener in the target language using the correct speaking components so that other people can understand.
3. Role-play is one of speaking activities where the students will be free to express their ideas by imagining the real-life situation and it makes them can easily explore the language based on the situation created.
4. New normal era is meaning a new way of living and going about our lives, work and interactions with other people. New normal

in Indonesia means adjusting to new habits due to the COVID-19 pandemic.