
**APPLICATION OF IMITATION TECHNIQUE TOWARD STUDENTS'
SPEAKING SKILL TO THE 12TH GRADE STUDENTS
OF MADRASAH ALIYAH AL-FATHAANAH 2023**

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Abstract

This study aims to identify the process of English language courses in improving students' speaking skills as well as the strengths and weaknesses that exist. This study uses a qualitative method. Data collection was carried out using observation sheets and interviews.

The students in this study were students from an English language course at Al-Fathaanaah Islamic Boarding School, Mempawah Timur District, Mempawah Regency. Mufradat course activities and English language training at the Al-Fathaanaah Islamic boarding school ran smoothly and well. The results of the study showed that Al-Fathaanaah MA students experienced an increase in speaking and gradual changes, especially in terms of pronunciation.

The advantages of the English course are the delivery of material well so that it is easy for students to understand and a relaxed atmosphere that makes students not feel tense while studying so that students become active and dare to ask questions. The weaknesses are the teacher's lack of ability to coach or persuade students to speak English during English club activities, lax regulations, especially disciplinary rules for students, and the absence of a structured approach, which make difficult to ensure the development of comprehensive skills in all areas of language learning.

Keywords: *Speaking, Teaching Method, Imitation.*

A. Introduction

In this era of globalization, drastic changes have taken place all over the world. These amazing changes happen when people have a strong desire to achieve something. People's desires are satisfied when they clearly express their ideas and views to others. Therefore, they must acquire communication skills to achieve their ambitions, desires, and goals. In the modern era of the world, communication skills play an important role, and one must master these skills to succeed in their respective fields.

Speaking is the ability to speak using language effectively (Siahaan, 2008:95). This means that speaking is the ability of one person to make meaningful and understandable sounds, to be able to communicate well. Furthermore, speaking is the use of language to speak to others (Fulcher,

2003:23). That is to say, the activity involves two or more people, namely the listener and the speaker, who must react to what they hear and contribute at high speed, so that each participant can intentions they want.(Siahaan, Fulcher, in Laksana 2016, 5). Therefore, speaking is the most important of the four language skills for good communication in this globalized world.

Additional pronunciation skills include: Word and phrase stress, intonation, rhythm, and use of the individual sounds of a language. A good way to practice your pronunciation is to copy. Just listen to how a person with a good pronunciation speaks and try to imitate them as much as possible. After the writer's observations on (August 25, 2022), the researcher found that part of the problem among students was that most students in Muslim boarding schools did not like English. Because it is very difficult in English pronunciation.

The students' speaking ability is very weak. Therefore, students should learn in the form of methods that allow them to learn English with ease and enjoyment so that their pronunciation is also correct. Imitation is the act of imitating something from behavior, actions, lifestyle to appearance. This is related to children's function of imitation in learning, especially human's ability to interact socially with the cultural decline of the next generation.

B. Method

1. Definition of speaking

Speaking is an oral communication language skill to express people's ideas, feelings, choices and thoughts or information that helps people communicate with each other. (Chaney and Burke in Purnawati, dkk 2014, 2). Communicating with other people can help us find information and main thoughts or ideas. Because, without communicating we will not get anything.

Speaking is the transmission of language through the mouth. In this situation, we make sound using several parts of the body, including lungs, vocal tract, vocal cords, tongue, teeth, lips. (Nurdin, Julfikar, 45) These limbs are an important part of communication. Because, that part will work to produce sound when communicating.

2. Teaching Technique

Teaching is to have many sets of methods. Teaching is addressing multiple goals, for a given group of students, at a certain time of the school year, with certain resources, for a certain period of time, in a given school and group. This means we strike a balance between face-to-face instruction and directing individual and group student activities. This means developing student learning skills and strategies while learning the content of the program. (Crawford, in Syarifah 2020). Teaching method is a technique or a way of teaching, especially according to prepared plans for the transmission of knowledge. The term teaching methods refers to the general principles used to teach in the classroom. (Kuamr, Ashwani 2022, 503)

3. Imitation Method

Meltzoff defined imitation as the ability to learn a behavior after observing it (Meltzoff, 1999). Imitation is an important aspect of skill development as it allows us to learn new things quickly and efficiently by paying attention to those around us. Most children learn everything from gross motor to speech to interactive play skills by watching parents, caregivers, siblings, teachers, and friends engage in these behaviors. (Garvey, Jenna)

Slade said imitation is an activity that imitates the behavior, style, and gestures of a model. The imitator does not necessarily understand the meaning of what he is imitating. Imitation can be of one type as well as many behaviors (Volkmar, 2012). A similar definition is given by Ingersoll and Gergans. Imitation or in other words, object imitation is an activity that imitates the behavior of the main object in the game, this imitation is performed by the child individually within 10 seconds after the parent gives the example. then the child can automatically imitate without parental guidance (Ingersoll & Gergans, 2006). (Stefani, Maria 1999, 19)

4. Research Design

The researcher use descriptive qualitative as the research method, this research design is very suitable for this study since it fulfills the characteristics of qualitative research. According to researcher Descriptive qualitative

research is a type of research that aims to gain an in-depth understanding of an event or problem in detail and describe its characteristics in detail. This study focuses on an in-depth understanding of the meaning, views, attitudes, and perspectives of students in using the limitation method.

5. Research Findings

In this chapter the researcher presents the research finding and discussion. As the researcher explained in previous chapter, the purposes of data collecting for the research there were observation and interview. In this chapter, the researcher would analyze the collected data.

The researcher explains the result of the research finding about “Application of Imitation Technique Toward Students’ Speaking Skill to The 12th Grade Studentsn of Madrasah Aliyah Al-Fathanah 2023“. The result of the reseach data finding from conducting observation and interview by researcher.

a. Students' difficulties in learning English pronunciation

As the researchers explained in previous chapters, this research was conducted at the Madrasah Aliyah Al-Fathaanaah school on Jalan Traju Mas, Pasir Panjang Village. Almost of the students come from the village of Pasir Mempawah Hilir. The observations were made on May 15, 2023 with an initial number of 13 students, thank God they were all present when the observation began. There were 11 girls and 2 boys. It was seen that some of the students were sleepy because of the activities that the researchers held after the dawn prayer until 06:00 in the morning. So that they look sleepy when attending lessons. The result of the test it can be see the table bellow.

Table 4.1 Observation result speaking skill in class

| No | Intials Students | Pronunciation | Fluently | Active Students | Reflection |
|----|------------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. | LH | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | - |
| 2. | YS | ✓ | - | - | - |
| 3. | ODF | ✓ | - | - | - |

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | WW | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5. | DPI | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6. | MA | ✓ | - | - | - |
| 7. | NIA | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 8. | MR | - | - | - | - |
| 9. | NARF | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ |
| 10. | ZB | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 11. | MI | - | - | - | - |
| 12. | MK | - | - | - | - |
| 13. | NA | - | - | - | - |

Tabel 4.3 The Percentage of the Each Aspect

| No | Aspect | Frequency | Percentage |
|----|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. | Pronuonticion | 9 | 69,23% |
| 2. | Fluency | 5 | 38,46% |
| 3. | Active students | 6 | 46,15% |
| 4. | Reflection | 5 | 38,46% |

The interview was conducted the next day on 16 May 2023. Based on interviews conducted by researchers there, what is highly recommended is correct pronunciation in English. This imitation event is attended by all students at school every dawn Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The event started after the Fajr prayer and the recitation of Asmaul Husna. The title of the material is determined by the researcher every week. This activity was also known by the principal of Madrasah Aliyah Al-Fathaanah and he supported this activity.

In teaching, the teacher gives a topic to be discussed by all class XII students. Because this method can make it easy for them to pronounce English vocabulary according to pronunciation. It can also make them add to their vocabulary when there is a word they don't

know and they ask for the vocabulary and remember it. The activity here is not just learning vocabulary but also training them to pronounce vocabulary properly and correctly according to what is pronounced by the teacher or researcher, whether using conversational text, songs or vocabulary.

In this study, the researcher used the Imitation theory, namely this theory that many students still had difficulty pronouncing English with the correct pronunciation when the researchers conducted observations and interviews.

b. Student responses during interviews

The interview was held the next day on June 16, 2023. The researcher selected several class XII students for the interview. Based on the observation results, it can be seen that all second grade students of the researcher only took 5 representatives for the interview, because the researcher saw that they had more problems in speaking. Based on the observation results, the researcher only took 5 students out of 13 students who were present at the time of observation. DPI, MI, MK, YS, NA

Following are the results of interviews with the 5 students:

1) Do you like English?

"I like English but don't really like it because it's difficult to pronounce," said DPI.

"I like English because if I can speak English I can go abroad and it will not be difficult for me to speak it," said MI.

"I like English because I want to know how to speak English," said YS

"I like learning English," said MK.

"I like English because learning English always makes me happy," said NA.

2) Have you ever attended an English Course?

"This is the first time I have taken a course at the Al Fathanah Islamic Boarding School program," DPI

"I took courses before, maybe up to 3 years at Colink," said YS

"I used to take courses but only 1 month when I was in elementary school," said MI.

"I used to take courses, only 1 month in junior high school," said MK.

"I took courses before, only 1 month at Mts Al-Fathaanah" said NA.

3) Are speaking classes often held?

"Rarely" they said "because here what is most prioritized is the speech, every Sunday night there is a speech appearance" said YS.

4) Do you find it difficult to learn English?

They say "every time" the hard part is "memorize, speak English, vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation" they say.

5) What causes your difficulty in speaking?

"Difficult to pronounce is very influential for English because it is difficult to pronounce, it is also difficult for me to memorize," said YS.

"There's rarely practical English so it makes it difficult for me to speak English," said DIP.

"I don't practice speaking English enough," said MK.

"Lack of practice speaking English" said NA.

6) What do you think about the imitation method that I gave?

"This method makes it easy for me to pronounce it because it was exemplified by the teacher." Said YS

"This method makes it very easy for me to model what the teacher teaches." Said DPI

"great, because it uses music and video." Said MK

"very tasty method." Said NA

"this method, made some of my friends improve their pronunciation." Said MI

7) What are the disadvantages of this method?

“this method is only focused on conversation not for listening, and translating.” They say.

Of the 5 students, all of them experienced problems in speaking English.

C. Discussion

Talking is an activity used by someone to communicate with others. It happens everywhere and has become part of our daily activities. When someone speaks, they are interacting and using language to express their ideas, feelings, and thoughts. They also share information with others through communication. (Armasita 2017, 3)

Accent is a combination of three main ingredients: intonation (spoken music), contact (connecting words) and pronunciation (spoken sounds of vowels, consonants, and combinations). As you continue, you'll notice that you're asked to look at stress in a different way. (Cook, Ann 2000)

Imitation is human nature from an early age, one of the advantages that humans have over lower animals is that humans are the most imitative creatures in the world and learn first by mimic. (Dugatkin, Lee Alan 2000, 1). Imitation is not only a common feature of social life, but also one of the most effective concepts in the biological, behavioral and social sciences and the humanities. (Boczkowski 2010, 15). English as a foreign language is something fun to learn even if it's not easy to learn. When learning English, many teachers try a variety of means, methods, strategies, and techniques. The purpose of this study is to describe how effective the use of imitation techniques is in learning English. In this study, researchers used imitation techniques in learning English to improve students' listening and pronunciation skills. Using video, students imitate what the speaker is saying. (F. Lengkoan, P.L. Hamp 2022). In this section, the researcher discusses finding of the research through observation and interview. The discussion is about students' difficulties in speaking English and cause of difficulties in speaking English.

Each factor can cause several difficulties, or a difficulty can be influenced by a number of factors. Difficulty in pronouncing English words is influenced by

vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and accent. This shows that a common problem in language is pronunciation.

1. Research Result

Process of using imitation techniques in the Madrasah Aliyah Al-Fathaanah. First the author conveys the material that is conveyed in the form of dialogue, music, vocabulary. Then, the writer practices the vocabulary repeatedly and is followed by the students. According to the author, this program is quite effective for practicing student pronunciation because of the author's experience when he was a student at Islamic boarding schools from Madrasah Tsanawiyah to Madrasah Aliyah, the teacher who taught courses at Islamic boarding schools used the imitating method, therefore the author followed the method he had learned when he became a teacher. Students in boarding schools. And thank God, some students who had difficulty speaking English began to show improvement in speaking English, especially in terms of pronunciation.

According to Student they are very happy and accept the imitation method because with us imitating the pronunciation that is exemplified by the teacher or writer. Then we will easily pronounce English correctly because it imitates what has been exemplified by the teacher or writer. But, it must also be accompanied by continuous pronunciation practice.

The results of the raw data and research analysis are that students of class XII at the Al-Fathaanah Islamic boarding school have shown improvement in terms of pronunciation. because through media such as dialogue, music, vocabulary, videos, speeches, then the teacher repeats what the media conveys, students experience changes little by little, especially in terms of pronunciation.

2. Prespective Students About Imitation Method

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D. Conclusion

Speaking is identified to be difficult to learn, where as speaking is very important in human life. By speaking, people can communication with other someone usually face some troubles in social interaction like he or she cannot produce his ideas, arguments and feeling communicatively.

Meltzoff states that imitation is the ability to learn a behavior after observing the behavior (Meltzoff, 1999). Imitation is a crucial aspect of skill development, because it allows us to learn new things quickly and efficiently by watching those around us.

Data collection techniques: observation, learning process, interview of reflection. Instrumen: observation and interview.

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The observation results show that most of the students are less interested in English because it is difficult to speak English, especially in terms of pronunciation aspects. Based on the results of observations and interviews with students, the researcher found that grade 12 students experienced a lack of pronunciation, especially in English lessons.

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