An Analysis of English Speaking Practice through Online Learning for Students (Case Study to The Students Majoring in Management Class 64.1H.05 and 64.1G.05 Universitas Bina Sarana Informatika)

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ABSTRACT

An Analysis of English Speaking Practice through Online Learning for Students: This article is a descriptive study which is aimed to find out how English speaking practice through online learning goes, the supporting and obstructing factors during the lesson and the solution that could help students from the case. Data were collected by giving the questioner and having an interview to some class representatives that belong to the study. This research was held to the students of class 64.1H.05 and 64.1G.05 majoring in management Kaliabang branch University of Bina Sarana Informatika. The research found that suitable methods of the lecturers should be considered toward the students' level. It also revealed that the students found some difficulties to practice their English speaking because they feel not confident due to their lack of vocabularies, also the right partner is needed to make them able to practice and help them. The most important thing fact was a stable connection was the main thing to be concerned. The awareness of the lecturer is needed to fix the things. Using the right method such as Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Pair Work and Role Play could be helpful. How lecturers motivate the students also really matters. The internet provider should give their best service to all parties involved and also students' awareness to change their habit and always try to practice their English speaking not only when they study at the university, but also when they work and they can use it in their routines.

KEYWORDS

English Speaking Practice
Online Learning

1. Introduction

Education is one of the most important parts of life that people must have and complete all over the world. In Indonesia, there are two kinds of education, formal and non-formal education. Formal education such as Kindergarten, Elementary, Junior High School, Senior or Vocational High School and University are a must and can not be denied while non-formal education includes course, training and some others are additional lessons to support students’ skills in improving their knowledge. It is supported by the education rules contained in UU SISDIKNAS No.20 tahun 2003 stating that “usaha sadar dan terencana untuk mewujudkan suasana belajar dan proses pembelajaran agar peserta didik secara aktif mengembangkan potensi dirinya untuk memiliki kekuatan spiritual keagamaan, pengendalian diri, kepribadian, kecerdasan, akhlak mulia, serta keterampilan yang diperlukan dirinya dan masyarakat.”

There are several subjects that the students must have during their time having their education such as Mathematics, Science, Social studies, Civic, Bahasa Indonesia, English, etc. English, as one of the main subjects, is very important for students to be mastered because it is used globally all over the world. According to British Council, “English is the world’s common language. English has come of age as a global language. It is spoken by a quarter of the world’s population.” It means that English is a well known language to communicate each others from one country to another country. There are four main skills of English that we must posses, such as listening, reading, writing and speaking. Speaking is one of the skills that is a necessary for people to communicate, negotiate and make a deal, in order to get an information and prevent the miscommunication. According to Adam (2016:116) speaking is a productive skill that needs active language components of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation in order to be able to produce it. Speaking requires all aspects of English skills to make a good communication. People who can speak English fluently will be able to teach,
train, advise and even persuade others for positive things. University of Bina Sarana Informatika (UBSI), as one of the universities in Indonesia also determines English as one of the subjects to support and help the students in increasing their speaking skills. A General English lecture for every majors in UBSI is needed and be a good thing for students, especially to be applied in their daily life or furthermore for their jobs. As we know that speaking skill are very complex. It needs many aspects. The aspects make things difficult for them to learn and master. Many lecturers assume that there are less students that can speak English fluently. Students need to practice every day and every time, not only when they learn at college but also in other places. Even, every people compete to get the jobs so that being able to speak English fluently is one of the requirements for them to be put on their CVs. University students should always try to learn and practice their English, to make them ready to compete after they graduated from college. Retriving an article from Tribunnews.com on 23rd May 2021, The Ministry of Transportation of Indonesia, Budi Karya Sumadi when attended the Transportation English Olympics (ITEO) 2021 said that “ bahasa Inggris adalah bahasa internasional dan dalam bidang transportasi yang terkoneksi secara global, bahasa Inggris pasti menjadi salah satu kualifikasi yang harus dimiliki.” He said a strong statement that it is a must for students to possess English because it connects people globally. In one occasion, University of Bina Sarana Informatika held an online seminar entitled “Pentingnya Mahir Berbahasa Inggris untuk Karir” on 05th July 2021, the aim of this program is to prepare the students to be able to master English when they graduate from college. Agus Priadi, M.Pd as the Head of Study Program of Language and Literature said “Oleh karena itu diadakannya seminar ini, bertujuan mempersiapkan lulusan yang unggul dalam penguasaan bahasa Inggris. Semoga dengan kegiatan ini mahasiswa yang hadir dapat lebih percaya diri menggunakan bahasa Inggris dalam kehidupan sehari-hari dan mampu mengaplikasikan ilmu yang mereka dapat.” This shows that mastering English, especially the speaking is a real concern for the institution to support its students reaching their better future.

Unfortunately, the fact shows that students are not fully able to speak English, perhaps they also feel shy and unconfident, so that they are afraid to make mistakes when they try to speak. According to Sutanto (2006) “school leavers in Indonesia are not able to speak English confidently. They have no courage to speak, even though they actually feel that they have something to say in their mind. They are afraid to make mistakes when speaking because they never feel happy with their English grammar and vocabulary at school.” This point becomes crucial to be known more why they do think that way.

When students practice speaking English in the class, they cannot do it or even they do not want to start. It would be worse when the practice is through online. The students and the lecturer are not in the same place and seem difficult for the lecturer to control the students. There are some hindrances in the practice. Therefore, it is interesting observe more about English speaking practice through online learning that will discuss about the students process of practicing their English through online learning, supporting and obstacling factors that are found by the students majoring in management class 64.1H.05 and 64.1G.05 Kaliabang branch University of Bina Sarana Informatika.

The importance of understanding and knowing the supporting and obstacling factors in English speaking practice through online learning are to make the lecturers and belonging institution find the best solution in giving appropriate methods and teaching techniques for all parties involved and for the students to always speak English for their needs.

The students find it difficult to practice their English especially when the lecture holds online learning which makes their ways to practice their English speaking. Therefore, the researcher will only center the problems to find out the supporting and obstacling factors in students English speaking practice through online learning and it is hopeful that learning strategy to make students able to practice their speaking skills will be more structural and appropriate with the aim of study. The limitations of the problems are the supporting and obstacling factors in English speaking practice through online learning.

The aims of this research are to help the lecturers to decide the appropriate teaching methods and techniques, to help the institution to find out and solve the problems in English speaking practice through online learning and to improve students interest in learning English, specifically in mastering their speaking skills.
2. Method (bold, 11 pt) (one single space, 11pt font)

This research was held for the students majoring in management class of 64.1H.05 and 64.1G.05 Kaliabang branch University of Bina Sarana Informatika. The decision of taking the place was based on the consideration that the location is a place where the researcher works and the students are under the control of the researcher in English subject. The researcher could fully control the students routines, especially when the students had an English subject. Although, the learning process was online, but the lecturer could still manage the time if the students had something important to be discussed with the lecturer.

The data were collected through questioner, interview and library research. Questioner was one of the collecting data methods which were applied by giving some questions or statements in writing then will be answered by the respondents. In this research, the researcher used open questioner methods where all of the objects find in the case, the students could give the answer freely. After the observations process had finished, the researcher would also do an exclusive interview to find out the supporting and obstacling factors for the students of University of Bina Sarana Informatika. In this case, the objects of interview were the students majoring in management class 64.1H.05 and 64.1G.05 Kaliabang branch. In this research, the researcher used the credible sources in finding the theory and important information that belonged to the problem discussed in this research to support the needs of research such as from the books, scientific articles and news websites. It was important to use these kind of sources, because in a research it needs the awareness of the right theories that belonged to the topic of the research.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Results of Study

This research was carried out to figure out the problems of the students majoring in Management University of Bina Sarana Informatika in practicing speaking English through online learning. Then this research could be recommended to find out solutions to solve the problems. The researcher found that the English speaking practice through online learning could run well as it was expected by all of the parties involved by focusing on what components were needed during the learning process in order to decrease the obstacles that happened during the learning process, especially in English speaking practice. This research suggested the lecturers to be more patient and careful when they were delivering the lessons. Sometimes students might feel so obsesed of getting the best of the lecturers and they required many things. When the lecturers were not in a good mood, the students must be upset and they wanted to take more parts in the next meetings. In terms of guiding students’ English speaking practice, the lecturers should listen and control them carefully in order they would feel in touched with the lecturers. The lecturers should also have to be aware when students found any difficulties, the lecturers had to help the students and try to motivate them that they could do better. It was not only the lecturers who should make the difference, the students also needed to make the right attitude in order to match the learning process. If the students could show their eagerness and interest in this learning process, it would certainly help the lecturers to make them able to delivering the lessons well, especially when the lecturers gave the English speaking practice to the students.

On the other hand, the lecturers had to find the more attractive and effective method to support the students in practicing their English speaking. The students will be more interested in learning English, especially practicing their English speaking skills when they provide suitable manner from the lecturer. The method like Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), pair work, role play and others could help the students to engaging their English speaking practice. The most important thing is that the methods which are given to the students are the ones who can make them speak up and also they want to try even though their structures or pronunciations are not suitable. It is the lecturers’ job to make them can be confident to speak up. Sometimes, the lecturers can also give a task to students to make the video of interviewing people. The students will try to speak up and are brave enough to speak with others.

The other ways, the lecturer could give the students in the first five minutes of the lesson time to discuss and collect students’ ideas through whatsapp chat and followed by explaining the lesson clearly to the students. This is very useful because the students can get the the ideas of the lesson.
that they will get and the students can have a preparation of getting the explanation by the lecturers. The students feel more open about the lesson and it will make them easier to think more. After collecting the ideas, the lecturer may start explaining the lesson. The explanation can be by whatsapp chat, voice notes, google classroom or something like that. The lecturers have to deliver the explanation well by using the right words in order the students can understand the lesson well. Also the lecturers need to make sure that the students clearly understood about the lesson before going to the next step. Sometimes, students are afraid and shy to state that they have made no questions, and in the middle or the end of the class, they confuse of what the have to do. The English speaking practice may start if the students have known and understood the lesson well. The English speaking practice that the students have had, have come good unless the obstacles also found during the process.

The students also think that the right partner for them really matters. It is really unfortunate that the ability of students in speaking English is so weak, as a result of that, the students just a few students who can speak English well. When the students who are quite good at speaking English only less, the remaining students who are not good enough at speaking English must be more than that. And it makes the things difficult, because the right partner could make the impact to students comprehension of speaking English, so the lecturer needs to pair them with the right partner. The lecturers have to make the turn from one students to another when they are practicing their English speaking. The students who can speak English well can take turn with the other students and they can stimulate by themselves. It is hopeful that this thing could help the other students who can not speak English well improving their English.

The last thing that the researcher has found is that when the network connection is good, the students also would be more expressive and can do the practice better. It is something to be concerned that the network connection has been an issue for both students and the lecturers in an online learning. If the connection is good, the learning process must be acceptable, but if it does not work well, the learning process also will be abandoned. It really needs the care from the internet provider to provide better service in order to help the education of in Indonesia and all parties involved because it is not only for education but all people. In a bad connection, the lecturers need to find the solution to handle the problems. The lecturers can prepare the anticipation by giving the lesson in a text or a video, so then at the end of the class students can still learn about the lesson. Therefore, the learning process could run better and reducing the possibility of students from making a mistake.

3.2. Discussions

The researcher gave the students an open questioner through google form and the students gave their answers. The researcher thought that this step is the appropriate one due to the consideration of the safety because it is still in pandemic period and also it is easier to be used. The next step is an interview to some of students’ representatives in each class which was held online through whatsapp video call. This step is needed to get more complete information about the case of the study and the respondents can also feel closer to the researcher and so they can give their honest answers. According to all of the process of analyzing, the researcher has found the points of what has been the issues. The discussions of this research are based on the following.

1. Questioner

The questioner is given to all students of class 64.1H.05 and 64.1G.05 Kaliabang branch University of Bina Sarana Informatika through google form. The questioner used in this research is an open questioner which the students can give their answers directly and without limit words. They can give their opinion based on their own point of views and they can express their honest assessments of what they have felt during the learning process, especially in English speaking practice. The aim of using this method is to get the whole information of the research such as how good is the students’ ability in speaking English, the process of practicing their English speaking through online, supporting and obstdacing factors that they feel as of this research is held. All the things that they have to say is without limit words. They can have their say freely and could help to find out the solution.

The followings are the students’ answers according to the questioner given. There are 36 respondents who have given their honest opinion.
1) How good is your English speaking skills?

Based on the graphic shown above, there were 55.6% students said that their English speaking skills are in “beginner” level. The rest of students with the ratio of 44.4% claimed they were in “elementary” level. The answers have got from the options that the researcher gave in the questioner. From the graphic, It can be concluded that their English speaking skills are still as “basic speakers”. It is very inconvenient to see that the students find it difficult to learn English and as a result of that, their English speaking skills are still as basic speakers. The awareness of the educators need to be increased to make students who are still in basic speakers understand about the lesson explained by the lecturers. The lecturers need to give more motivation to the students in order they can take more responsible and also careness about their future, because mastering English speaking is a benefit for them to be used in their job and also their routines.

2) How is the learning process of English speaking practice through online learning?

“I think the process of learning is not quite conducive. Because there are no partners in the same place as us when we do the process of practicing our English speaking. It is not effective too, as we can not be monitored directly by the lecturer so we do not know if we make mistakes and the lecturer can not control us directly. Even though, sometimes the lecturer offers the chance to meet him to make sure about the lesson whether we have understood well or we still find a confusion.” Other students said “I feel that the class atmosphere is comfortable due to the lecturer’s way in giving the method of teaching. It started by a small discussion to cheer the students up and after that the lecturer delivers the main lesson that does not make us feel difficult.” Also another student said that “perhaps, because it is an online learning, it makes me difficult to practice the English speaking. Especially, I am still in a beginner level. I can not practice with my friend directly and I need to be patient if the connection is unstable. But I like the way the lecturer delivered the lesson. It makes me understand enough and I can apply it by my own.”

3) What are the supporting factors in English speaking practice through online learning?

“The main factor for me is to improving my career. It is a must for every people to master their English, especially their English speaking. By practicing my English speaking, I could get a better position in my job. And I can apply it anywhere that belongs to the jobs. Very useful” Other students said “The important factor is the partner. If we do not have partners for practicing our speaking, then it is finished. We need to have the right partner, and unfortunately, because we learn through online it makes the things even more difficult to be applied. The right partner is needed to make us feel more confident when we try to speak and also our partners can help us if we have mistakes” Other opinion stated “I personally think the right explanation from the lecturer and the use of teaching aids, such as video or other application might help us in practicing better. If we study with a flat method, we will feel bored and also we can not explore more things. Through the right methods, it probably eases us.”

4) What are the obstructing factors in English speaking practice through online learning?

“I think it is because of the lack of confidence I have when I speak English. I am afraid of making mistakes and if I make mistakes, I feel shy. Sometimes, when I see people speak English good I also feel nervous. Therefore, it is the kind of obstacle from me. I personally realize that i
should do better especially with my confident.” Some other students said “Because of the internet connection that is not unstable sometime. It is very stressful, especially when we are in a real focus and enjoy our learning then the connection lost, it is so pitty. And also the time is so limited, we need more time to practice, and if the connection is bad, our time is also reduced. We really hope that the connection will be better and so then we can practice better too.” Other opinion stated by students “I only have a few vocabulary, which means it is not enough to speak a lot. It becomes my problem since then, and I always try to keep it on my head and get more vocabulary, but it is still difficult for me. I also find it difficult to pronounce the words and it makes me feel unconfident to speak up. Eventhough, right now there is a sophisticated technology, i feel that i still need a guide for that”

2. Interview

The interview used in this research is a semi-structured to the representative students of class 64.1H.05 and 64.1G.05 Kaliabang branch University of Bina Sarana Informatika. The aim of this interview is to know further and to support the data from the questioner given to all of the students. The representatives gave their own opinion about the research and the researcher can also be closer to the students to get the suitable answers. The result of the interview will be discussed in the following.

1) How is the learning process of English speaking practice through online learning?

“I personally think that it is not effective enough because we can not directly interact with our partners and the lecturer. We need to take turn to practice our English speaking so then we can also practice with the students who have good English.” Another student added “The time is very limited and it makes us difficult to learn more, moreover we are still as basic speakers. So it makes us feel more difficult to practice our English speaking” The other opinion stated “I think we still have a lack of vocabularies. Therefore it is difficult to form the words and the sentences. It should be better and helpful if we have enough vocabulary and so the learning process will run well. And through online learning it makes us feel more difficult.”

2) What are the supporting factors in English speaking practice through online learning?

“We can use the online dictionaries to help us finding the right dictions and words before we practice our English speaking. We find it difficult if we do not know the meaning of the words and the dictionary is very helpful. It is so important because we can make sure the use of the words. Although, the lecturer has told us to use manual dictionary because it will benefit us especially when we try to find a word, we will see another words from in the same page.” Another student said “The right partner is the main factor in my opinion. When we speak, if the partner is not suitable and unhelpful, it makes the things worse. We realize that we are in basic level and we can not speak English well, but if it goes that way we can not improve ourselves. So we need to find the right partner to support our practice.” Another student told “Apart from what happened during the lesson, I think the supporting factor would be how English speaking help us brightening our future. It is a big motivation for us to speak English well, so we need to practice our English speaking eventhough it has to be through online.”

3) What are the obstacling factors in English speaking practice through online learning?

“I personally think, because most of us still as basic speakers, it makes us difficult to practice our English speaking. We are not familiar with some of the English words both how to pronounce it and how to write it. We need the right method that could guide us to practice comfortably that matches in our level. The lecturer has given his best during the lesson by giving us time to collect our ideas and explains about the lesson, and of course to practice. But i think, it still has to be more complex to find the solution” Other opinion stated “Of course the unstable connection really matters. Sometimes, when the connection is unstable and we are practicing our English speaking, it makes our concentration gone and we can not continue well. When we feel enjoy about the lesson, we want things to be progressed as it is expected, it is so pitty if the network connection does not work well.” Another student said “ I think it is about self-ability. I do not have enough vocabularies and knowledge about the use of grammar. And it makes me feel unconfident to speak and i am afraid of making mistakes. So if I have good ability in English, especially in speaking English, it will make the lesson runs better.”

Based on the research that has been done with a qualitative descriptive method and by giving the questioner and the interview to the students majoring in management class 64.1H.05 and

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Practicing English speaking is a necessary for students in order it could apply into their daily activity and furthermore for their jobs. It is a big issue and challenge for the lecturers to use the right method to support the students in practicing their English speaking. The lecturers need to be more creative to create the fresh atmosphere in the class and also how using the right method is the most important factor that could help the practice easier. It is hopeful that by applying those things could reduce the obstacles and the target of lesson could be reached. The supporting factors are also needed to give another point of view and for the lecturers to consider what could be helpful to fix the problems.

The students said that the supporting factors including the dictionary, the right partner, self-development for jobs and the suitable way from the lecturer when delivering the lesson are need to be examined more. Students can use the dictionary, either it is an online or manual dictionary, it can ease them and perhaps they could get the right diction. However, by letting this happen by ages, it is also not quite suitable, because the students will be depended with the dictionary and they can not think more. Another supporting factor is the right partner. The right partner could make the things better as if one student is not able enough to speak, the partner could help him. It is clear when the amount of students realize which one should be their partner, they can practice better. The suitable way from the lecturer when explaining the lesson is such a must. When the students practice, they need to understand well about the lesson at first. If they do not understand, it will make their English speaking practice not run well. They also will be less confident to speak. The lecturer has to make sure before the students practice their English speaking, they have understood enough. Various ways are needed to be used by the lecturers, because using technology as part of learning media is so crucial. Therefore, if the teaching method is not right enough, then the lesson which delivers through online also would be unreliable. The lecturers could give any kind of ways through online, because the students will easily follow the ways the educators give, because they are open minded of technology and have a big desire to learn.

The aim of learning is to make students understand and can apply what has been explained during the lesson. Andy Fisher (2014:11) said that “technology gives students a voice. It moves learners from being the consumers of information to being procedures of it.” From that opinion it gives us the point of view that technology is very important in this era. The educators must be aware of using and taking the advantages of it by finding the right ways that could make students get what is being delivered. The lecturers must possess the whole material and lesson and make sure that they have understood enough. Various ways are needed to be used by the lecturers, because using technology as part of learning media is so crucial. Therefore, if the teaching method is not right enough, then the lesson which delivers through online also would be unreliable. The lecturers could give any kind of ways through online, because the students will easily follow the ways the educators give, because they are open minded of technology and have a big desire to learn.

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There are also several obstacles that have been experienced by the students and they have said it through the questioner. Lack of confidence, the network connection and the lack of vocabularies
have become the issues for the students during their English speaking practice through online learning. It becomes a general problem that students are afraid of making mistakes and it makes their confidence down. Students should realize that making mistakes is normal in the process of learning and they need to be brave to speak if they want to be able to be active speakers. The network connection has been the main problem in online learning. Since the pandemic COVID-19 began and the online learning started to be used, this kind of case is something that can not be denied. In terms of reducing the network connection problem, the lecturers must find the right solution. For instance, when delivering the lesson the lecturer might use the media such as whatsapp or google classroom to explain the lesson instead of using video conference. When the explanation is complete, the English speaking practice could start using video conference. It might be better to prevent the bad connection. Another obstacle is a minimum of vocabulary mastery that students have. It is all about students’ awareness to possess more vocabularies to support their English speaking skills. Lecturers can also provide them by giving additional exercise and lift the students desire to learn more. By applying the solutions stated before, the obstacles might be reduced, eventhough it is only a few of percentages.

4. Conclusion

Based on the research that has been done and examined the problems in class 64.1H.05 and 64.1G.05 Kaliabang branch University of Bina Sarana Informatika in English speaking practice through online learning, it can be concluded that: The English speaking practice can be applied and run well by using the suitable method or the ways of teaching. Collecting students’ idea through whatsapp in the first minutes followed by explaining the lesson clearly and starting to let the students to practice their English speaking would be good enough to be applied. Also it needs the lecturer’s sense of teaching to put the students with the right partners when they start practicing their English speaking. Also a stable network connection will be the most crucial part of this learning process. The students awareness of being confident and not getting afraid of making mistakes also needed, because the students themselves who practice and they decide the outcome of what they have struggled. By applying those factors, the English speaking practice could run better and appropriate as it is expected. There are several suggestions that could help the English speaking practice to run well and better. The lecturers must prepare and use the right method that the students could receive based on their needs and the existing obstacles. The institution might facilitate the lecturers to select the suitable method by giving the seminar or training to the lecturers. Therefore the lecturers could have more knowledge and ideas to improve their teaching

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