
The Implementation of weekly English Conversation in Learning Speaking among EFL Learners

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Abstract

As humans who need each other, conversation is important for humans. Conversations happen when people talk to each other, such as a conversation with friends, parents, or other people. This study describes the implementation of weekly conversations as a strategy for improving English speaking skills. The problem that occurs is students are less able to improve and develop speaking skills in English in boarding schools. This study aims to describe how the English teacher applies the Weekly English Conversation in learning speaking skills and find out what are the benefits of this Weekly English Conversation in speaking learning also to describe how students respond to the implementation of Weekly English Conversation in learning to speak. The researcher has decided to use descriptive qualitative method in investigating the problems that occur at Ulil Albab Islamic boarding school especially in the implementation of conversation. The descriptive data analysis in this research is use the process of data collection, data reduction, data display, and data verification. After conducting the research, the researcher concluded that the implementation of Weekly English Conversation improves the English-speaking skills for students.

Keywords: Implementation; weekly conversation; speaking skill

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool that people use in their daily lives as a means of conveying informational arguments to others. As humans who need each other, conversation is important for humans. Conversations happen when people talk to each other, such as a conversation with friends, parents, or other people. English is an international language that is used in the world. The ability to speak English is one of the important things that everyone must have and learn. In learning English there for important things must be understood and learned by students, namely Reading, Speaking, Writing, and Listening. In this case, the research will focus on speaking. Practicing speaking skills is also very essential because without the practice of speaking then the material that has been learned will be in vain. In the implementation of speaking practice, of course, a method is needed that must be correctly prepared so that it runs well and smoothly.

Speaking skills are the most important thing to master when learning English because speaking is a process of constructing meaning it includes almost all components of the language. Through speaking can express thoughts, desires, and ideas freely and spontaneously. In addition, the purpose of Teaching speaking is guiding teachers and students to use targets Language as a common language in the process of teaching and learning even in everyday life. one of the methods or ways to develop skills in speaking using English is to train to speak English frequently, that method can be done individually or with others. Speaking in English with others is called a conversation. A good conversation requires balance-between simplicity and detail, staying on topic and changing it asking questions and answering them. Implementation is the intersection of research and practice. Successful implementation is the mechanism by which students benefit from the

practices and programs that research has identified as effective in a more limited context.

A Conversation is a dialog that a person to another person to discuss something that is considered important or not. It can be done by two or more people. Conversation is when two people speak together, they speak not together, but each in turn: one say something then stops, the other something else. In this case, if the method is carried out continuously or often applied, it will have maximum results. Therefore at least this method is made as an agenda that is carried out every once Sunday.

Ulil Albab is the one of Islamic boarding school located in the Probolinggo area, precisely in the village of Brumbungan Lor, Gending district. This boarding school is one of the places where the program of speaking is implemented using two languages, namely Arabic and English. This program has existed since the beginning of the boarding school's establishment. These two languages are used as colloquial language to help the development of the students' speech. The use of these two languages is done by dividing the days for the time of using the two languages. This Islamic boarding school is also a place for applying of weekly conversation programs. It was carried out to help them in practice the ability to speak using English. But even though there is a weekly conversation program, not many of them still have difficulties in communication. Weekly English Conversation is the program where this activity is carried out once a week to improve the speaking skills of students in the Ulil Albab Islamic boarding school.

This research that conducted in one class, exactly in the third grade of senior high school it students. There are 12 students of this class consist of 3 male students and 9 female students. It causes, this class is senior

class and they have more experience learn about English language, there are some students who are able to master the material but they are difficult to apply it. The researcher want to help them to be more confident in speaking and communication using English. The researcher have interviewed the chief of instruction section in this boarding school. She also control the program of weekly conversation, so she know the extent of the student ability in using English language. She said, Students mostly dialogue on their own rather than dialogue about what has been determined and sometimes just keep quiet with each other or don't have a conversation with each other. This is less student interest in learning English. But some also say that this method has a very good influence on English language learning, especially in speaking skills. Because this weekly conversation program must be followed by all students and this program trains them to have a dialogue using English.

The Researcher interviewed one of student from third Grade of senior high school Student, she said because with this conversation, it can improve the way of dialogue using English. And student can also use the English vocabularies that has been given by their respective teachers and can more practice how to use the vocabularies. This observation researcher will focus on the applying of weekly conversation in learning speaking English language, while limitation of this research is the use of weekly conversation in learning English Language by third grade Of Ulil Albab Senior High School.

The use of implementation English conversation in helping the student speaking ability also discussed by Superman. In the tittle of *The Effectiveness of the English Conversation to Improve Students' Speaking Skill*. The result of this study is that the average post-test value is higher from pre-test and t-test results using paired sample t-test shown That

level of significance value is lower. It means English Conversations are significantly effective in speaking skills for eighth graders MTs.Negeri Masbagik in the 2017-2018 year. Hijril Ismail also shows with the title *Improving Students' Speaking Skill through Conversation* the findings in the study show that the implementation of conversation can improve the speaking ability of English students at fifth semester of The University of Muhammadiyah Mataram 2013.

Ria Anugerah Prasanti,lasim Muzammil and Oktavia Widiastuti in the title *The Use of Conversation Diary in Enhancing Students' English Speaking Skill* This study investigated the effect of the implementation of the Conversation Diary on the English speaking ability of LP3I students of the F1 group. The findings suggest that students' English speaking skills improved significantly compared to students' English speaking skills before they got the Conversation Diary treatment. As a result, most students feel confident when they speak English in front of the class even without any preparation. Thus, the students are motivated and more enthusiastic in learning English Conversation.

From the explanation above, the researcher concluded that the students do not understand English language, but they just not interested in English. This method of applying weekly conversation has a good influence on speaking skills even though sometimes it does not run effectively. The researcher decides to carry out a research entitled "The Implementation of Weekly English Conversation Program in Learning Speaking among EFL Learners". Through this observation researcher will focus on the applying of weekly conversation in learning speaking English language, while limitation of this research is the use of weekly conversation in learning English language by third grade of Ulil Albab Senior High School. Hopefully this research can make students more

motivated to learn English. Although it takes a long process and time, because learning once is not necessarily able to understand the lessons that are being learned.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definition of Speaking Skill

Speaking skills are one of the four language skills. Speaking skills are very important in the process of communicating, because by having speaking skills which is good then the communication done will go well. Speaking is essential in daily life, especially among people who desire to learn a foreign language such as English. For most individuals, developing speaking skills is an essential component of learning a foreign language, and success to acquire a foreign language is determined in terms of being able of engaging in conversation (Nunan, 1991:39). In therefore, being capable of speaking that foreign language is the most important talent in the instruction and acquisition of foreign languages while it is the foundation for communication, and it is also the most challenging skill. Through conversation or the process of social interaction a person can develop his speech skills. Because in the process of social interaction a person is engaged in a conversation directly with another. When someone meets someone else, they greet them and engage in a simple conversation and then share their latest experience because they hope to be friends in interactions with others. Many experts use different points of view in defining speaking.

1. Suhendar said that speaking is the process of changing the form of thoughts or feelings into a form of speech in the form of meaningful language sounds.

2. Depdikbud defines speaking as conveying one's intention (ideas, thoughts, hearts) to others using spoken language so that the intention can be understood by others.
3. According to Tarigan, speaking is the ability to pronounce articulated sounds or words to express, express and convey thoughts, ideas, and feelings.

According to Brown and Yule (2007) speaking is the ability to pronounce the sounds of a language to express or convey thoughts, or feelings orally.

Thus, it can be concluded, the notion of speaking is the delivery of thought in the form of ideas, ideas, or hearts in the form of speech or spoken language.

2.2 Speaking Component

Based on the above, there are five things or factors that must be considered in learning speaking skills, the five factors there are:

1. Comprehension

For oral communications, it certainly requires a subject to respond, to speech as well as to initiate it. In teaching speaking that need practice to speech. Practical and easy to use, essential speaking is the definitive guide to teaching speaking to students of English as a second or additional language. By using brimming with invaluable advice on teaching approaches and practical classroom ideas and learning activities, especially use the handbook for teaching.

2. Fluency

According to FIP (2009,62), the fluency aspect is related to the causes and implications of this fluency aspect to be an important part of creativity which aims to explore the potential possessed by students so as

to generate a number of ideas and be able to develop them. According to Tieston (2005, 62), the component of creativity is fluency, namely the ability to produce an idea and detail (Elaboration), namely the ability to develop idea.

3. Vocabulary

According to Wardani (2015), vocabulary is an invaluable component of language since it occurs in every language skill, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This phrase implies vocabulary is an important aspect of a language and is crucial for speaking, reading, and writing. This suggests that people's reduced language skill is directly related to their capacity for vocabulary.

4. Pronunciation

Oxford Dictionary defines pronunciation as the manner in which a language, word, and phrase are expressed. "Pronunciation is the manner involving a language or a specific word or syllables is spoken. "However, the instruction on pronunciation is divided into three parts there are consist of sounds, pronunciation, and intonation. According to Ur (1996: 52), the purpose of pronunciation instruction is for students to acquire the skills able to say a word like a native speaker.

5. Grammar

A component that is said to make anything intelligible in a paper is grammar (Chin, 2000). This is extremely sensible since, as Thornbury (2002) stated, without grammar, very little meaning can be expressed. According to Frederick (2015), grammar provides an integral role in demonstrating how a person structures the material of his thinking.

2.3 Definition of English Conversation

Conversation is a form of exchanging information or ideas from one person to another. According to Pattison (1987: 210) and Zainil (2008),

the following conversation categories can help students improve their English speaking abilities while making it easy to comprehend all components of speaking skills:

1. Structural Conversation

Penny (2000: 75) indicates some grammatical instances are commonly referred to as structures. Past tense, plural nouns, adjective comparisons, and other structures are examples of structures. So grammar is an element that becomes very important in a conversation.

2. Functional Conversation

Functional Conversation Is an oral lesson attempts to influence learners' abilities to interact with language based on its context and function.

3. Situational Conversation

Situational Conversation is a conversation in English, using a grammar or language that is appropriate to the situation, such as the use of language when in the office will definitely be different from the language used when in the market or mall.

2.4 The Advantages of Weekly English Conversation in Learning Speaking

Weekly English conversations have become one of the weekly activities in the Ulil Albab Islamic Boarding School. There are also daily activities such as providing Arabic and English vocabulary to increase knowledge in Arabic and English. In learning English, students are not only emphasized to be unable to write, read, speak, and even be able to discuss. English is regarded as important, because English is a global language used to communicate with foreigners in various parts of the world. This implies can also be a media to teach students to be actively speaking English.

Weekly conversations are used to encourage students' ability to write or discuss certain topics as well as communicate with the English teachers by active discussion methods, and assist students in configuring themselves to communicate with foreigners. Conversations can follow according to the situation, as we know in pandemic conditions, teachers and students can use online media such as using WhatsApp. Teachers can create a group or use video calls and instruct students to talk about their weekly activities at home. In the WhatsApp application there are also features where someone can use a voice recorder if they don't want to write their message.

3. METHODS

This technique employs a qualitative methodology, with the purpose of revealing the variety and uniqueness that define individuals, groups, communities, or organizations in daily existence in a complete, accurate, deep, and scientifically responsible manner. Moleong (2009, p. 6). This study involves descriptive research, which desires the acquired data it occurs without making generalizations or establishing inferences. Furthermore, it clearly depicts the facts and qualities of the commodity and topic under investigation and does not necessitate theories because it basically attempts to explain the real situation. Researchers chose a qualitative approach to answered research questions that required to explanation. Qualitative approaches are aimed at answering research questions that required textual data.

This research will be observing at the Ulil Albab Islamic Boarding School Brumbungan Lor Gending. The researchers have decided to use descriptive techniques for data collection in investigating problems that occur in senior high school Ulil Albab, especially in the application of conversation. There were some step that researcher used to collect the

data, as follow: a) observation b) interview c) documentation. The data analysis that used in this research is the interactive data analysis. This technique comes from the theory owned by two figures, namely miles and Huberman, which includes data collection, data reduction, data display, data verification and conclusion drawing/verifying

The descriptive data analysis technique in this qualitative research is in the form of a process of analyzing, describing and summarizing events or phenomena from the data obtained through the interview process or direct observation to the field. The purpose of qualitative descriptive analysis is to describe in full and in depth the occurrence of various phenomena studied. By observing, researchers can observe, describe, or evaluate research targets appropriately (Sangadji & Sopiah, 2010: 152). The participants consist of 12 students. Researchers will conduct interviews with Two English teachers at Senior high school ulil albab with the aim of knowing the teacher's perception of the implementation of the Weekly English Conversation program in learning English speaking. In addition, the researcher will also conduct interviews with the ten students of third grade Senior high school Ulil Albab to find out students' perceptions about the implementation of Weekly English Conversation in learning speaking English.

4. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

4.1 FINDING

During the process of data collection, researchers obtained the results from the third grade students of Senior High School Ulil Albab in implementing the weekly conversation program at this boarding school. This research was carried out with three steps, namely observation, interview, and documentation. Observation was carried out during the

implementation of the Weekly English Conversation programs. Interviews were conducted after the Weekly English Conversation program had been implemented, and documentation was carried out during the Weekly English Conversation is run. From the interviews that have been conducted, the researcher found and obtained the results of the implementation of weekly English conversation at third grade students of Senior high school Ulil Albab Boarding School is a good program. In fact, there are ten students of third grade Senior high school Ulil Albab Boarding School who give a good response to the implementation of weekly English conversation program. After determining students who had a good response to this weekly program, the researcher conducted the next data collection procedures, namely interviews. Researchers conducted the observation stage at the first and second meetings on November 26th - December 2nd 2022. The interview in the current study was conducted on December 5th - 10th 2022.

4.1.1 The English Teacher Applying the Weekly English Conversation

The interviews data obtained are as follows:

How the English teacher applying the weekly English conversation program in learning speaking? One of The English teacher was said: the teacher make some group of conversation and the clustering of twelfth grade students is not based on their English speaking ability, but is done randomly. For students who already have better speaking skills in English can help their friends who can't speak English properly.

4.1.2 The Benefits of Implementing the Weekly English Conversation

The interviews data obtained are as follows:

What are the benefits of implementing the weekly English conversation program in learning speaking? 4 out of 12 students answer: Weekly conversations are a process to make them more accustomed to practicing their speaking skills and can be more confident when speaking in English. They can better understand what the teacher explains about English lessons. They can also provide arguments or conclusions to help the teacher's explanation because they have more vocabulary there are acquired in the implementation of this weekly conversation program. And also the teacher said: By organizing the weekly English conversation program, it can improve the accent in speaking English. Where initially speaking English was still with an Indonesian accent, but now it is gradually able to speak English with an English accent.

4.1.3 The Students Responses of Weekly English Conversation

The interviews data obtained are as follows:

How the Students responses of weekly English conversation program in learning speaking? 5 out of 12 students gives positive responses: there was an improvement in her English. In addition, the dormitory system at this school allows her to speak two languages every day, Arabic and English. And this program makes her speak English more fluently in her daily life, not being a passive person anymore. The application of weekly Conversation can train them to speak more English, and try to improve the way of speaking in every daily communication. And 3 out of 12 students had a negative response to the implementation of this program. They said: When the weekly conversation was enforced they were able to develop their English speaking skills, they gained a lot of new vocabulary. But after that, their English speaking skills still did not

improve, there was no more development after they participated in the weekly English conversation program because they only knew new vocabulary but did not practice it in daily communication with their friends. That means, they said this program was only an obligation as a student and they spoke only when the weekly English conversation program was being held. Based on the descriptions above, the researcher concluded the weekly conversations were very helpful for the students to enhance their ability to learn English especially in speaking, as most of them gave positive responses compared to the negative responses.

4.2 DISCUSSION

Furthermore, Gumperz (1982: 94) and Carrol (1980: 26) state that conversation is a form of cooperative activity in the context of communicative interaction. Meanwhile, Hoey (1983: 1) explains that conversation is a form of discourse involving two or more actors who communicate with each other. Conversation is the process of communication carried out by several people to provide a view, ideas, suggestions and solutions. Regarding to the English speaking ability it means helping students to be capable of performing speaking skills in the easiest way. The implementation of English conversation is one of the useful and effective strategies to improve speaking ability in English. From all the information about the implementation of weekly English conversation in learning to speak English at third grade of senior high school ulil albab Boarding School, the researchers received new theories about the implementation of weekly English conversation in learning to speaking English, and the problems faced by students when doing weekly English conversation, such as of less confidence in speaking English, shyness, and how to overcome these problems. And also the benefits of weekly English conversation in learning to speaking English.

4.2.1 The English Teacher Applying the Weekly English Conversation

Conversation is the process of expressing ideas, observations, opinions, or feelings orally between one to another. And weekly conversation is a weekly program implemented by third grade students of senior high school ulil albab Boarding School in improving English speaking skills. According to Pattison (1987:210) and Zainil (2008) there are several classifications of conversation can improve students English speaking skills as well to make it easier to mastery the entire component of speaking skills, as follows :

- a. Structural Conversation: students are provided with extensive opportunities to learn English structures comprehensively and completely to make students conversations in English are informational.
- b. Functional Conversation: Conversation learning aims to improve students' abilities in allowing them to appropriate the language depending on their context and situation.
- c. Situational Conversation: the use of specific functions in communication based on the situation.

4.2.2 The Benefits of Implementing the Weekly English Conversation

The advantages of weekly English conversation found by researchers in this study are by practicing speaking English every day or every week can help students to be fluent speaking with an English accent, by following this program students can better understand the explanation of the English teacher in the classroom, encourage students to be more active, and practice the use of new language or vocabulary in dialogues, as well as being able to read and translate the dialogues into their respective local languages.

4.2.3 The Students Responses of Weekly English Conversation

There were a variety of responses from the third grade students of senior high school ulil albab about the weekly English conversations. The requirement to communicate using English every day or every week makes them become accustomed to using it, and perhaps even uncomfortable if it is not practiced. Fearing of speaking incorrectly, and poorly structured language becomes a valuable experience for the future. It is necessary to study many times with intention and diligence to learn how to speak English.

5. CONCLUSION

In this particular study, the researcher only focused on the implementation of weekly English conversation at third grade students in learning speaking English. The weekly conversation was organized by the English teacher. These conversations consist of several groups, and they communicate with each other by discussing topics that have been given by the English teacher. The benefit of the weekly conversation is they can improve their language skills by acquiring a lot of new vocabulary which they can use in their daily conversations. They better comprehend how the English teacher teaches English lessons in the class, and they are more confident to speak using English. And students' responses about the weekly conversation. Most of them gave a good response to this program, even though this program is an obligation in the particular place but if they are actively speak in English they will become more accustomed towards it. Some people said that they have not felt the benefits after joining this program. Because they do not practice in their daily conversation, they only practice when they do this conversation as an obligation instead, if they use in everyday

conversation they can find it useful how to speak English in an appropriate and correct way.

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