

**STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARD ENGLISH SPEECH CLUB
TO SUPPORT THEIR SPEAKING PRACTICE**

THESIS

Submitted by

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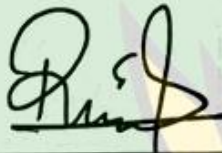
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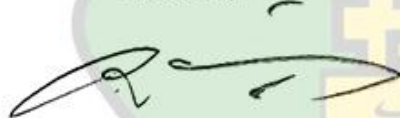
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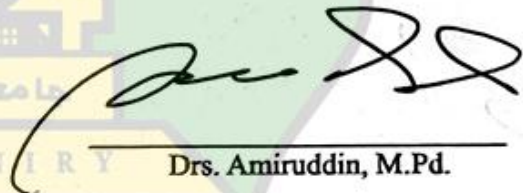
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Students' Perception Toward English Speech Club to Support Their Speaking Practice

Adalah benar-benar karya saya, kecuali semua kutipan dan referensi yang disebutkan sumbernya. Apabila terdapat kesalahan dan kekeliruan di dalamnya, maka akan sepenuhnya menjadi tanggung jawab saya. Demikianlah surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sesungguhnya.

Banda Aceh, 30 Desember 2024

Saya yang membuat pernyataan



Aufar Fathullah R

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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Banda Aceh, December 17th, 2024

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ABSTRACT

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English speaking skills are crucial for effective communication in today's globalized world. Extracurricular activities, such as English speech clubs, provide students with platforms to enhance their language abilities. This study investigates students' perceptions of the English Speech Club at Pesantren Modern Al-Manar Aceh Besar in supporting their English speaking practice. Through semi-structured interviews with active club members, the study found that the club plays a significant role in providing a supportive learning environment, developing their public speaking skills, offering opportunities for practical application of English knowledge, and preparing members for speech competitions—which psychologically boost their eagerness in learning. Moreover, the students agreed and underscored the importance of the clubs in supporting and facilitating their overall English language proficiency.

جامعة الرانيري

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introductory chapter describes the reasons for conducting the research. It discusses the backgrounds of the study, research questions, the aim of the study, the significance of the study, and terminologies. The information needed is elaborated in the following section.

A. Background of Study

Language serves as a vehicle for conveying ideas through both spoken words and symbolic representation, facilitating communication among individuals. Sirbu (2015) asserts that language is essential for communication within societies, serving both as a tool for sharing information and as a means of expressing cultural identity, values, and beliefs. In contemporary times, English holds significant importance. According to Kholili (2023), in the contemporary global context, mastering the English language has become increasingly indispensable. Furthermore, Sholihah et al. (2024) stated proficiency in foreign languages is increasingly essential in our interconnected world, serving as a vital bridge for facilitating interactions among nations in political, socio-cultural, and business realms. In brief, English plays a crucial role as a widely used language in the contemporary era of globalisation, facilitating global communication, interaction, competition, and cooperation across various domains.

Speaking is a crucial language skill that enables effective communication in both professional and personal contexts. It serves as the foundation for interpersonal interactions, allowing individuals to express ideas, beliefs, and emotions clearly and engage in meaningful dialogues. While innate, speaking proficiency requires practice to ensure clear and effective communication, facilitating the exchange of information and fostering relationships. As stated by Leong & Ahmadi (2017), effective communication heavily relies on the development and refinement of speaking skills. It is widely acknowledged that speaking plays a crucial role in facilitating meaningful interactions and conveying messages accurately.

Extracurricular programs are optional activities in schools that support students in developing their talents and interests beyond their regular coursework. For example, the school's English club aims to enhance students' speaking skills and English proficiency through additional learning opportunities outside of regular classes. According to Mulyasa (2007), an extracurricular program refers to activities conducted outside regular school hours aimed at enhancing students' competencies and skills. Moreover, according to Speaker (2011), an English club serves as a platform for individuals to connect, not only enhancing their speaking proficiency but also bolstering student motivation and confidence in verbal communication. It represents an alternative avenue for students to cultivate their speaking abilities, functioning as a facilitator in their mastery of English skills, particularly speaking proficiency.

While mastering speaking skills in English presents challenges, proficiency in English speech can offer a viable solution. Saksomo (2009) defines speech as the act of presenting oneself before an audience to articulate heartfelt sentiments or thoughts through a sequence of words, aiming to engage the listener emotionally and intellectually. Moreover, Kasmalinda (2012) discovered that incorporating English speech can enhance students' motivation and develop their speaking skills.

Some schools have implemented an English speech club as a regular weekly activity to promote students' speaking skills. The club, initiated by teachers, caters to students interested in English language learning. Its main objective is to provide a platform where respondents can share knowledge, information, and ideas with others. This is in line with Hanim (2018), which highlights that English clubs offer a friendly environment for learning and practicing diverse English-speaking styles, fostering friendships and cultural awareness. Respondents can improve vocabulary, phrasal verbs, speaking, and listening skills, enhancing confidence in everyday English communication. Therefore, the researcher conducted a study titled "Students' Perception Toward English Speech Club to Support Their Speaking Practice" to investigate how students' perceptions of the impact of English Speech Clubs support their speaking practices.

The previous study was conducted by Nahdah & Fatimah (2019) entitled Students' Perception toward English Club as an Extracurricular Activity in Speaking Practice of the Eleventh Grade Students in SMAN 1 Ngaglik. The study indicated that most students viewed English clubs positively for improving their

speaking skills as an extracurricular activity. Among ten students surveyed, eight had positive perceptions while two had negative views. Students believe that English clubs are crucial for practicing English speaking and motivating them to engage with friends. Overall, respondents expressed satisfaction with their English club experiences, citing opportunities for gaining knowledge and practical skills.

Furthermore, Jayati et al. (2022) investigated the impact of speaking clubs on students' speaking skills. They found that participating in these clubs significantly enhances students' English-speaking proficiency, including improvements in pronunciation, vocabulary, and fluency. Engaging in speaking activities also boosts students' confidence in articulating their thoughts effectively. Their research specifically explores how activities like debates contribute to students' speaking abilities, focusing on oral communication skills development. This study, however, delves specifically into one activity of the English club, namely "speech," to examine how it aids middle school students at Pesantren Modern Al-Manar Aceh Besar in practicing their English-speaking skills.

B. Research Question

The following question for this study is based on the explanation provided above:

1. What are students' perceptions on English speech club to support their speaking practice?

C. Aim of Study

Considering the problems above, there is an aim to be obtained in this research:

1. To discover the student's perceptions on English speech club in supporting their speaking practice.

D. Significances of Study

The researchers expected that the study's findings would provide valuable insights, emphasising the diverse implications of their research, those are:

1. **For students**, students can use the English Speech Club to improve their speaking ability. Students can use the English Speech Club as a method to practice the oral communication skills that are essential for both their professional and academic pursuits.
2. **For lecturers**, this research provides valuable guidance and insights into effective strategies for improving students' classroom performance through participation in English speech activities. It also suggests that students involved in English Speech Clubs can serve as role models for enhancing speaking confidence among their peers.
3. **For future researchers**, the findings of this study can be referenced and be useful in giving insight to future research related to methods that can be used in improving speaking skills. And last, the research paper will be useful to facilitate the reader who is interested in analysing the speaking ability and can serve as a guide for the researcher as they conduct additional research on

this subject in the future.

E. Terminologies

To avoid potential misinterpretations of this study, it is necessary to provide further clarification on several terms used in the research.

1. Students' Perception

Perception is essential for human beings to assess and determine the qualitative value of objects or experiences. Perception plays a crucial role in fostering effective learning by placing learners at the center of the educational process. According to Sinaga (2018), students' perception refers to their personal interpretation of information about events. The impact of schools on students' academic performance is influenced more by students' individual perceptions rather than the objective reality of activities and interpersonal dynamics within the educational setting.

2. Speaking

Speaking is an essential skill for students learning English, as it is vital for enhancing their communication abilities with others. Speaking is a way to verbally express ideas, interact with others, make requests, or give speeches. It is a specific form of language practice that helps students improve their communication skills, even while they are still learning the language. Moreover, Salma (2018) emphasises the importance of speaking

as a fundamental skill in learning English, acknowledging its long-standing recognition as a critical component of language acquisition.

3. Speech

Speech represents a form of one-way communication that requires significant speaking skills. It allows individuals to express their ideas and opinions to others. Mehmed (2022) highlights Speech refers to the human capability to articulate thoughts verbally. Typically, formal and often predetermined, speeches are designed to convey specific ideas from the speaker to a targeted audience.

