

**English Department Students' Perception of Public Speaking
Course: A Narrative Inquiry**

A Thesis

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for the Degree
of *Sarjana Pendidikan* in English Education



By:

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**ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FACULTY
OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING
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K.H. ABDURRAHMAN WAHID PEKALONGAN
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Demikian nota pembimbing ini dibuat untuk digunakan sebagaimana mestinya. Atas perhatian bapak/Ibu, saya sampaikan terima kasih.

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“So what you are today is not important, the most important thing is that you can be useful for others.”

PREFACE

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The Researcher

TABLE OF CONTENT

COVER	i
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN KEASLIAN SKRIPSI	ii
NOTA PEMBIMBING	iii
PENGESAHAN	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
MOTTO	vi
PREFACE	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
ABSTRACT	x
ABSTRAK	xi
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of Study.....	1
1.2. Formulation of the Problem	5
1.3. Operational Definition	5
1.4. Aims of the Research	6
1.5. Significance of the Research.....	6
CHAPTER II THEORITICAL BACKGROUND	
2.1. Literature Review	7
2.1.1. Public Speaking.....	7
2.1.2. Students Perception.....	8
2.2. Previous Study	9
2.3. Conceptual Framework	11
CHAPTER III RESEARCH DESIGN	
3.1. Research Design.....	13
3.2. Research Context	13
3.3. Setting and Participants.....	13
3.4. Data Collection.....	14
3.5. Data analysis	14

3.6. Research Procedure	15
CHAPTER IV RESULT AND DISCUSSION	
4.1. Results	17
4.1.1 Positive Perception of Public Speaking	17
4.1.2 Negative Perception of Public Speaking	18
4.2. Discussion	20
4.2.1. Positive Perception.....	20
4.2.2. Negative Perception	23
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION	
5.1. Summary of the Findings	29
5.2. Recommendation.....	29
References	31

ABSTRAK

Public speaking adalah sebuah seni berkomunikasi yang dilakukan secara lisan untuk menyampaikan ide, gagasan, pesan dan pendapat yang bertujuan menginformasikan, menghibur, mempengaruhi dan dilakukan di depan audiens dengan metode dan struktur tertentu. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkap seberapa kepercayaan diri mahasiswa saat berbicara didepan umum. Untuk melancarkan penelitiannya dalam proses pembuatan penelitian, penelitian ini menggunakan metode *narrative inquiry*. Data penelitian telah diambil dari hasil wawancara mahasiswa Tadris Bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini memberikan rangsangan kepada semua orang seberapa pentingnya memiliki *skill public speaking*, karena skill tersebut akan dibutuhkan dimanapun, terlebih lagi dalam karir seseorang.

Kata kunci : Public speaking, kepercayaan diri mahasiswa, rangsangan, karir seseorang.

ABSTRACT

Public speaking is an art of communication that is carried out orally to convey ideas, ideas, messages and opinions that aim to inform, entertain, influence and be carried out in front of an audience with a certain method and structure. The purpose of this study is to reveal how confident students are when speaking in public. To expedite researchers in the process of making research, this study used the narrative inquiry method. Research data was taken from the results of English Department Students interviews. This research provides a stimulus to everyone how important it is to have public speaking skills, because these skills will be needed anywhere, especially in one's career.

Keywords : Public speaking, student self-confidence, stimulation, one's career.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. Background of Study

In the modern era, public speaking is crucial since it is a skill that everyone needs and because effective public speaking abilities are essential for any career. Speaking is categorized as the most difficult skill since it requires people to elaborate all language skills and speaking techniques at the same time (Mufanti, 2018). Some students, however, believe that speaking in public is difficult, and they might feel anxiety when doing so. When standing in front of many people, a lack of confidence might cause anxiety. A student must have self-confidence in order to achieve in life, because confidence fosters excitement and motivates pupils to respond effectively to challenges and opportunities. Students with higher self-esteem find it easier to establish friends and communicate without feeling uncomfortable or other negative emotions (Khoriroh & Muhyadi 2018). Therefore, students sometimes have different perceptions about public speaking.

In this study, perception refers to the students' sample points and perspectives on reality. According to Altman, Valenzi and Hodgetts (1985), perception is the process through which a person chooses and organizes stimuli so that they can be meaningfully interpreted. Perception has an impact on how well kids learn languages Kleinke (1978). Every person has a different perspective on certain aspects of life. Perception is the ability to organize one's perceptions, including the ability to separate, categorize, and focus. People create what they

see as their own world from their perspective at some time, and then they pursue financial success in order to feel satisfied (Soraya, 2018).

According to Qiong (2017), the three elements of perception are: (a) How you think about something and how you see it; (b) How you perceive things using your senses of sight, hearing, etc.; and (c) Your basic ability to understand or notice things quickly. Student perceptions can also be applied to courses, one of them is public speaking courses.

Speaking in public is a two-way exchange of information that takes place between the speaker and the audience on a constant basis (Zarefsky, 2008). According to Girsang (2018), in public speaking, "public" refers to whom we will be speaking to, and "speaking" refers to how we will be delivering our statement. A beautiful language can be created by anyone who can speak fluently, but only those who have the ability to combine words into a beautiful language can draw the public's attention. Public speaking, in conclusion, is the ability to speak in front of an audience and engage in a "language game". Public speaking as a method of delivering a message to an audience. Science of communication includes both public speaking and the investigation of how others communicate. This is because communication is a two-way sharing of information. A person's brain searches for data/delivers information by first packaging a number of abstract ideas or deep thoughts, which, if history is any guide, is how the communication process begins. Directly or indirectly, the message can be conveyed (Girsang, 2018).

Developing soft skills in public speaking is important not only for educators; after completing lectures, public speaking can be the foundation for various job routes. Therefore, students have to understand the method of public speaking, there are 4 public speaking methods according to Webster (2012). He mentions the first method, named **“impromptu”** (without any preparation). Because of this, the speaker must be able to develop material, understand the art and technique of speaking. Secondly, it is called **“manuscript”**, a method of public speaking that allows the person or someone to create and prepare the text before speaking in front of an audience, this method aims to prevent misunderstanding and blankness in speaking in public. And the third, called **“memorized”**, a method that allows the speaker to memorize word by word. The last is **“keyword”**, this method is similar to the memorization method but the speaker just memorizes the important word to remind the speaker about what they will convey.

These skills are absolutely essential for professionals in a wide range of fields ranging from the law to banking and finance; from teaching to public relations to sales; and from banking and finance to counseling. The ability to influence others is an essential part of leadership, and these skills are essential for all professionals in all fields who aspire to leadership (Morgan & Luna, 2015). A business student, for example, needs to know how to give learning programs, marketing presentations, investment proposals, briefings, status reports, technical business presentations, and/or research presentations (Morgan, 2009; Guffey, 2006). College graduates also agree that communication skills, including oral and

written communication, public speaking, and leadership, are "most essential for career advancement" (Zekeri, 2004).

At the English Department of UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid there is a public speaking course that can help students to grow confidence when delivering information in front of an audience. The Department of English Education's major goal is to teach students how to communicate knowledge in a public setting. However, students do not fully have their public speaking abilities. Due to low self-confidence and a lack of public speaking technique, this reluctance to speak in public is caused. Having this inability causes communication to become useless. graded. It is not unusual for people to have misinterpretations in public (Oktavianti & Rusdi, 2019).

This research aims to investigate what students studying English think about the public speaking course in their program. The English department focuses on language skills and communication, offering a wide range of courses to help students express their thoughts and ideas confidently. Among these courses, Public speaking is a term that relates to communicative universal learning activities. The learner must learn to use communicative tools, particularly speech, to solve diverse communicative difficulties, construct a monologic statement, communicate and justify his point of view, and assess events (Ivanova et al 2020).

While public speaking has been studied extensively from different perspectives, such as theories, teaching methods, and its impact on learners, there

has been limited research specifically on how students perceive public speaking courses, especially in the context of the English department. Understanding students' perceptions of the public speaking course can provide valuable insights into their learning experiences, the challenges they face, and areas where improvements can be made.

2. Formulation of the Problem

Public speaking has several benefits for educators. They must have a good foundation in public speaking so that their messages are clear to the audience and feel more inviting. This will help them from feeling nervous while delivering their messages, as nervousness can cause misunderstandings. Therefore, the researcher has questions.

They are :

1. How do the students perceive after completing the public speaking course?

3. Operational Definition

Perceptions: a process that starts from the use of the five senses in receiving a stimulus, then it is organized and interpreted so that it has an understanding of what is sensed. Perception is a process that starts from the use of the five senses in receiving a stimulus, then it is organized and interpreted so that it has an understanding of what is sensed (Nugroho, 2012).

Public Speaking: an ability to speak in front of an audience.-According to Novakovic (2017) Public speaking is the process or act of giving a presentation (a speech) in front of a live audience in a structured, deliberate manner in order to inform, influence, or entertain them.

4. Aims of the Research

This research aims to find out what students feel after completing public speaking courses

5. Significance of the Research

5.1 Theoretical Use

The results of this study provides more information about students' perception on public speaking courses while contributing to Rookes and Wilson's (2000) theory about the meaning, development and organization of perception.

5.2 Empirical Use

The researcher expects that the finding of this study can provide empirical insights about student's perception of public speaking courses.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary of the finding

Based on research data, students have positive perceptions. Students feel more confident after completing public speaking courses, they feel they have more vocabulary after completing public speaking courses, students can master the technique of speaking in front of many people after completing public speaking courses, they feel happy that there is a public speaking course in the department, because they can improve their public speaking skills through this course, and students can understand how to speak in public that is good and right after taking public speaking courses.

According to research data, students have negative perceptions of public speaking courses; they lack confidence when speaking in public due to a lack of vocabulary for conversation material when speaking in public; some students also experience anxiety when speaking in front of a lot of people and some students have difficulty transferring something when in class.

5.2 Recommendation

Based on the conclusion above, the study would provide suggestions for further research. Dealing with the number of participants, further research may add more participation because this research only took five participants. It would

be better if the participants are added to many variations from the background or characteristic. This can strengthen the research.

I suggest to future researchers to collect the necessary data not only by interview method, it will be better when participating in the learning process of the course. Because it can add data needed in research.

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