

# STUDENTS' PROBLEMS IN SPEAKING ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT THE NINTH GRADE OF SMP NEGERI 1 O'O'U

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## Abstract

*This research was conducted to investigate students' problems in speaking English in the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u. The objectives of this research were to find what are students problems in speaking English at the ninth grade of SMP negeri 1 O'o'u and what are factors cause the problems faced by students in problems speaking English at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u. This research was applied in a qualitative research design and the data were obtained through classroom observations and interviews. Data were analyzed using Miles and Huberman's theory such as data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions and verification. The results of this research indicate that ninth grade students at SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u experience problems in speaking English. It was found that 4 negative characteristics of successful speaking activity are experienced by students, namely student didn't talk a lot, participant or students are not even, student low motivation and language is not of an acceptable level. Factors that cause students' problems in speaking English include fear of mistakes, shyness, anxiety, lack of confidence and lack of motivation. This research show that students experience problem in speaking. It is suggested that students ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u should study more the characteristic successful speaking activity.*

**Key Words:** Problems; speaking; English; factors

## Abstrak

*Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menyelidiki masalah siswa dalam berbicara bahasa Inggris di kelas sembilan SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui apa saja permasalahan siswa dalam berbicara bahasa Inggris di kelas sembilan SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u dan apa saja faktor penyebab permasalahan yang dihadapi siswa dalam berbicara bahasa Inggris di kelas sembilan SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u. Penelitian ini diterapkan dalam desain penelitian kualitatif dan data diperoleh melalui observasi kelas dan wawancara. Data dianalisis menggunakan teori Miles dan Huberman seperti reduksi data, display data, serta penarikan kesimpulan dan verifikasi. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa siswa kelas sembilan di SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u mengalami kendala dalam berbicara bahasa Inggris. Ditemukan bahwa 4 ciri negatif keberhasilan aktivitas berbicara dialami oleh siswa, yaitu siswa tidak banyak bicara, partisipasi atau siswa tidak seimbang, motivasi siswa rendah dan bahasa tidak pada tingkat yang dapat diterima. Faktor penyebab siswa bermasalah dalam berbicara bahasa Inggris antara lain takut salah, malu, cemas, kurang percaya diri dan kurang motivasi. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa siswa mengalami masalah dalam*



*berbicara. Disarankan agar siswa kelas sembilan SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u mempelajari lebih lanjut mengenai karakteristik keberhasilan aktivitas berbicara.*

**Kata Kunci:** Masalah; Berbicara; Bahasa Inggris; Faktor

## A. Introduction

Language is one of the important systems or main communication tools that people use to transfer their ideas, feelings or messages to one another because of that language has an important role in human life. Without language, it is difficult for people to work together and interact with others. According to (Owens 2016), language is a complex and dynamic system conventional symbol that is used in various mode for thought and communication.

In English, there are four skills that must be mastered, they are: listening, speaking, reading, writing. One of the most important is speaking. Mastering speaking is the most important aspect of learning English and success is measured in terms of the ability to carry out conversations in the language. According to Penny Ur (1996:120), of all the four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) speaking seems intuitively the most important: people who know a language are referred to as 'speakers' of that language, as if speaking included all other kinds of knowing and many if not most foreign language learners are primary interested in learning to speak.

Speaking is one of the four language skills that is often considered the most important one to be mastered by every student to be competent in communication. Since speaking skills is

taken into account as very important skills that students should acquire, the progress of this acquisition is measured in terms of their achievement in spoken language.

In speaking English, the teacher expects students to be more courageous in speaking English, such as in the ninth grade the material was about "congratulations" the teacher expects students to be able to express hopes and desires to others, and students to be able to compose simple oral and written texts to say and respond to expression of hope or prayers and greetings, congratulation on happiness and achievement, taking into account social function, text structure, and linguistics elements that are correct and appropriate to the contexts

This research was conducted at the ninth grade of *Sekolah Menengah Pertama Negeri 1 O'O'U* which focuses on students who have problems in English, especially in speaking English in ninth grade. Beside of that, in this study the researcher selected ninth grade students to be research participants because it was based on a preliminary study through initial observations when conducted PLP 2 with ninth grade English teachers. The result they have experienced problems in making conversations and the students' English speaking skills are still low. In fact, when the researcher taught at the ninth grade of



SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u the material was about "Congratulations", the researcher asked the students to have a conversation with their friends in front of the class. Researcher found several problems, most of the students had problems in speaking English. It indicated that they lack of the confidence to speak in English, felt anxious, afraid of making mistakes, mispronounced English words in front of the class.

### **B. Research Method**

Research method as the strategy or architectural design by which the researcher maps out an approach to problem finding or problem solving. According to (Sidiq & Choiri 2019), qualitative research is an inquiry strategy that emphasizes the search for meaning, understanding, concepts, characteristics, symptoms, symbols or descriptions of a phenomenon, focused and multi-method, natural and holistic, prioritizing quality, using several methods and presented narratively.

The researcher use qualitative method as the approach which as appropriately applied in this research. This research was conducted at the Ninth Grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u. It is located in Simandraolo Village, O'o'u subdistrict, South Nias Regency. The researcher did the research at that school on 9<sup>th</sup> until 11 Januari 2024. So, it was three time the researcher visited the school to do the research. The researcher chose the students at the ninth grade students of SMP Negeri

1 O'o'u. Total participants were 32 students. The data collection of this research is observation. The Observation is one of the most basic data collection methods.

The data in this research were problems faced by students in speaking English at the ninth grade of SMP N 1 O'o'u. The problem obtained from the observation. Furthermore, the factors of the problem obtained by interviewing the students.

### **C. Research Findings and Discussion**

This research was conducted in SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u which is located in Simandraolo Village, Simandraolo Subdistrict, the regency of South Nias. This school was established in 2002. The total number of the teachers in this school is 17 teachers. There are 3 English teachers who teach at this school. Moreover, the total number of the students is 193 students which are divided into three classes such as class of seventh grade, eighth grade and ninth grade.

The resercher collected the data from observation and interview. During observation the researcher used the observation method to analyze the teaching and learning process in the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u, in addition the researcher conducted the interview to the students by asking them some question to make sure their problem in speaking English language, the researcher interviewed the students to make sure, that they had problems in



speaking and factor cause the problems faced by students' problems in speaking English language at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u

**1. The problems faced by the students at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u in speaking English language.**

After conducting research, data collection, data analysis, researchers found that students had problems in speaking English. The students' problems in speaking English at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u, based on )Urs'theory 1996). That concern problems on didn't talk a lot, participant or students are not event, students low motivation and language is not of an acceptable level in speaking english as the follow:

**a. Students didn't talk a lot**

Ninth grade students at SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u didn't talk much in English class, this was proven when the teacher asked the students to ask about the "congratulations" subject that would be studied that day. However, most students don't ask and even look passive and the students also unconfident answer question when teacher ask about the material. When teacher asked students to make conversations about congratulations in front of the class, most students only made simple and uninteresting conversations, this shows that most of the ninth grade students at

SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u were not active in speaking English.

**b. Participant or students are not even**

The researcher found most of the student at ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u are not active in speaking English. It can be seen from the observation in the class, when teacher gave students the opportunity to ask questions in discussions, students are mostly silent and even use Indonesian more in asking and explaining in English class. This is influenced by the student's unpreparedness in answering and asking questions, so that the student is unable to express what he wants to convey. It was dominated by some students' who have capability.

**c. Students low Motivation**

In learning process English class, most of the ninth grade students of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u do not have ambition to speak English because they are lazy about studying the material, this shows that students have less motivation to speak English. Also the researchers found that when learning English, students were less enthusiastic and had no motivation to study on the grounds that they were lazy, English was difficult, there were a lot of assignments, and it was boring.

**d. Language is not of an acceptable level**

In learning procces English class, the researcher found most of the student at ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u cannot express themselves in relevant

speech, students use language that is difficult to understand and unclear, making them unable to communicate properly. This happens when the teacher asks students to make a conversation in front of the class. The speaker cannot speech clearly so it made the listeners difficulties to understand what is stated.

## **2. The factors that cause the problems faced by the students at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u in speaking English language**

The researcher analyzed students interviewed based on Juhanas' theory. Juhana (2012:101) there are some factors that faced by the students when they speaking in the class: fear of mistake, shyness, anxiety, lack of confidance and lack of motivation. The researcher analyzed and classified the data based on students' interview result.

### **1. Fear of mistake**

Most ninth grade students at SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u have a fear of making mistakes when speaking English, it was found when researcher asked students "Kenapa kamu takut berbicara bahasa inggris pada saat guru bertanya kepada kamu? and students say "Saya tidak dapat berbicara bahasa Inggris dengan baik, jadi saya takut guru tidak akan paham dengan apa yang saya maksud." Based on interviews, students are afraid of making mistakes in speaking English and spend a lot of time looking for the

language needed to express the message they want to convey.

### **2. Shyness**

Shyness is an emotional thing that many students suffer from at the sometime when they are required to speak in English class. The researcher found that the students are shy when they tried to speak English in the class, because the students think that if they makes mistakes other friend will laugh at her when speaking in English. Students at ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u are too shy to speak English, this is one of the problems in speaking learning classes, most students are shy about speaking English because of limited vocabulary, so they cannot speak well, it was found when researcher asked students "Kenapa tadi kamu tidak aktif didalam kelas pada saat guru menjelaskan materi tentang congratulation?" and students say "Saya tidak aktif karena, saya tidak biasa berbicara bahasa inggris dengan benar, pronunciation saya buruk, jadi saya malu jika saya bertanya kepada guru, yang ada nanti teman-teman menertawai saya sir". Based on interviews, most of the English students feel shy when speaking the language because they think they will make mistakes when speaking it.

### **3. Anxiety**

Anxiety is one of the problems that can causes students do not feel comfortable when speaking English. Students at





ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u are anxious about speaking English, this is caused by poor comprehension in speaking English, it was found when researcher asked students "Tadi, kamu sudah diberikan kesempatan untuk menjawab pertanyaan yang diberikan oleh guru, kenapa kamu tidak menjawab?" and students say "Saya cemas dan gugup sir, karena tidak paham dengan pertanyaan yang diberikan guru". Based on interviews, Students at ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u not interested in learning English so students have poor comprehension in learning English.

#### 4. Lack of Confidence

Students who lack self-confidence and their English is definitely impaired in communication arrest. Students at ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u lack confidence in speaking English, this is caused by incorrect grammar so that communication cannot be understood well by listeners, it was found when researchers asked with students "Kenapa kamu kurang percaya diri berbicara bahasa inggris ketika guru memintamu menjawab pertanyaan tentang materi yang dibahas?" student say "Saya tidak percaya diri karena penyusunan kata saya tidak baik, jadi teman-teman dan guru tidak paham dengan apa yang ingin saya sampaikan". Based on interviews, Students at ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1

O'o'u have difficulty in compiling the structure of English sentences.

#### 5. Lack of Motivation

In speaking performance, motivation influences the success of speaking performance. Students at ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u tidak memiliki motivasi dalam berbicara bahasa inggris, they are lazy to learn English, it was found when researcher asked students "Kenapa kamu tidak tertarik belajar materi Congratulation?" student say "saya tidak memiliki motivasi untuk belajar bahasa inggris, saya tidak suka mata pelajaran bahasa inggris". Based on interviews, Students at ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u have low motivation so students have lazy to learn speaking English.

For the discussion, this research was conducted to find out the students' problem in speaking English at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u. The data obtained from observation, and interview to determine the factors that cause students' problem in speaking English at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u. Based on the result of the analysis, the researcher found that most the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u not have characteristics of successful speaking activities in English. This finding is in accordance with Ur (1996:120) explains some characteristics of successful speaking activities which include learners talk a lot, participant is even, motivation is high, and language



is of an acceptable level. Infact the the researcher found in negatif characteristics of succesfull speaking activities.

The first is students didn't talk a lot, which refers to students' are not active in the classroom. It is related in the observation at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u, where most of the students didn't talk much in English class, and students don't ask and even look passive and the students also unconfident answer question when teacher ask about the material.

The second is participant or students are not even, which refers to students do not have a opportunity to answer the questions. It is related in the observation at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u , where most of the students are not active in speaking English, when teacher gave students the opportunity to ask questions in discussions, students are mostly silent and even use Indonesian more in asking and explaining in English class.

The third is students low motivation, which refers to students' do not have ambitious to speak because the material provided is very difficult to understand. It is in the observation at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u, not have ambition to speak English because they are lazy about studying the material, this shows that students have less motivation to speak English, students were less enthusiastic and had

no motivation to study on the grounds that they were lazy, English was difficult, there were a lot of assignments, and it was boring.

The last is language is not of an acceptable level, which refers to the language spoken by students can not be accepted by their teacher or friends. It is related in the observation at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u, cannot express themselves in relevant speech, students use language that is difficult to understand and unclear, making them unable to communicate properly.

From the result of the problem in speaking above, there are source factors causes students made the problem in speaking English based on Juhana (2012:101), there are some psychological factors that faced by the students when they speaking in the class such as; fear of mistake, shyness, anxiety, lack of confidence and lack of motivation.

The first factor is fear of mistake. Most of students have a fear of making mistakes when speaking English, the students afraid of being criticized by the teacher and being laughed at by my friends.

The second factor is shyness. The students are too shy to speak English, this is one of the problems in speaking learning classes, most students are shy about speaking English because of limited vocabulary, so they cannot speak well.

The third factor is anxiety. The students anxious about speaking English, this is caused by poor comprehension in speaking English, even though the students have prepared their self well for language class, they are still feel anxious because of it, confused about the meaning of words and sentences and inability to connect ideas in a passage.

The fourth factor is lack of confidence. The students lack confidence in speaking English, this is caused by incorrect grammar so that communication cannot be understood well by listeners.

The last is lack of motivation. The students have no motivation to speak English, they prefer to use their first language (Mother-Tongue) when the teacher asks them to speak English, pronunciation was poor so their motivation was reduced.

#### **D. Conclusion And Suggestion**

After analyzing the result of the students' problem and the factors that causes faced by students' problem at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u in speaking English, speaking is productive skills and the ability the ability to express the communication with other. Because the main of purpose of speaking is to communicate in order to express thoughts effectively, it being understood to the students to understand the meaning of everything

and trying to communicate. The researcher draws the conclusion based on the result of analyzing data. The researcher also proposed some suggestions for teaching and learning process in reading sessions.

The researcher was found the problem faced by students' in speaking English, which have been classified based on their categories, the researcher found students problem is students didn't talk a lot, participant or students are not even, students low motivation, and language is not of an acceptable level. From the result of data, the researcher found five factors of causing students' problem in in speaking English, such as fear of mistake, shyness, anxiety, lack of confidence and lack of motivation.

After conducted the research, researcher wanted given some suggestion. The researcher hope this suggestion would give a new idea and reference to another researcher. Those suggestion related to result of this research especially for English teacher, for students and for the next researcher.

1. For English teachers, they should always guide the students' speaking activity by always giving motivation and habituating the students to often speak by using English language in daily activity so students can feel confident when speaking English. The teachers also should give the best solving when the





students face the problem especially the speaking skill, so that the students' speaking ability was improved.

2. For students, they have to understand that speaking is important. So, the students should improve their speaking ability by doing speaking more often or make a speaking activity as a habit. The students also should change their mindset that English is difficult. It will make the students motivate to learn more about English language, especially on speaking skill.
3. For other researcher, this research is far from the perfectness, so for other
4. researcher should prepare well before and during the research. The other researchers also can conduct the research about the analyzing the students problems in speaking English at the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 1 O'o'u.

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