

A Study on Students' Psychological Problems of Speaking

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ABSTRACT

The most difficult ability to learn is speaking. Thus, it is essential to understand speaking psychological problems during the teaching and learning process. The researchers used a descriptive quantitative method to conduct this present study. The goal of this research was to gain in a deeper understanding about the types and underlying causes of students' psychological speaking problems among eighth-graders of MTs NW Sepit. There were twenty students taken as participants. Data then were collected through questionnaire and interview. The result of this research indicated that the students of MTs. NW Sepit faced the psychological problems in learning speaking. From the data gained in questionnaire and interview, speaking difficulties were most frequently caused by a lack of confidence (50%) followed by a lack of motivation (38, 46%) and nervousness (11, 53%), which was the least common. It was hoped that by putting this study into practice, students would become more fluent in English and experience less psychological speaking problems.

Keywords: psychological problems, speaking

ABSTRAK

Kemampuan yang paling sulit dipelajari adalah berbicara. Oleh karena itu, penting untuk memahami permasalahan psikologis selama proses belajar mengajar. Peneliti telah menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dalam melaksanakan penelitian ini. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah menganalisa lebih jauh tentang jenis dan penyebab yang mendasari permasalahan psikologis siswa dalam berbicara pada kelas delapan MTs NW Sepit. Terdapat 20 siswa yang berpartisipasi dalam penelitian. Data selanjutnya dikumpulkan melalui angket dan wawancara. Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa siswa-siswi MTs. NW Sepit memiliki masalah psikologis dalam belajar berbicara. Dari data yang diperoleh melalui angket dan wawancara, kesulitan berbicara umumnya sering disebabkan oleh kurangnya rasa percaya diri (50%) diikuti oleh kurangnya motivasi (38, 46%), serta rasa gugup (11, 53%) yang merupakan hal yang paling jarang terjadi. Diharapkan dengan dijadikannya penelitian ini, siswa akan menjadi lebih mahir berbahasa Inggris dan masalah psikologisnya lebih berkurang.

Kata kunci: masalah psikologi, berbicara

INTRODUCTION

Speaking is an important English skill that enables us to interact with others and get information from many different types of sources. It is one way to express meaning in a variety of verbal and non-verbal contexts (Chaney & Burk, 1998, as referenced in Tetyana 2022). It is used as the "cornerstone" of communication and learning that emphasizing on linguistic expression and style (Haidara, 2016; Phuong & Huan, 2018; Tridinanti, 2018). To speak and communicate effectively, someone must have excellent vocabulary and grammar, including accuracy, complexity, and fluency (Rababah, Spring et al., 2019). Fluency is the most important aspect of verbal skills, which can be strengthened vocabulary through phonological development. These components are required for the exchange of ideas, negotiations, and social interaction (Leong & Ahmadi, 2017; Rao, 2019).

Besides, Holt et al. (2019) and Arifin, (2017) also emphasize the importance of psychology in understanding communication behavior. As numerous studies have shown, psychological issues like shyness, anxiety, low self-esteem, and lack of motivation have a serious negative influence on students' relationships, interactions. educational achievement, and life in general (Mesidor & Sly, 2016; Nijat, et al., 2019; Umisara, et al., 2021). In relation to the studies, Mustafa (2015) then investigates how these variables may affect students' English-speaking skills and proficiency.

Additional research also addresses this psychological concern. Siti (2020) claims that these problems prevent students from engaging in meaningful English-language conversation, which decreases feelings of expressing oneself and causes depression and dissatisfaction. Riftriani et al. (2019) claim that

these problems might cause students to be shy and lack confidence because they worry that that their classmates will laugh at them if they make mistakes.

Anxiety

The term "anxiety" refers to a psychological condition characterized by unpleasant feelings, rapid emotional responses, and increased nervous system activity (Hadi, et al., 2020; Spielberger, 2019). Anxiety is a complex experience that includes emotions, personality traits, and feelings. It is classified into two types: situational anxiety, which is temporary and repetitive, and trait anxiety, which is permanent and experienced in a variety of situations (Rajitha & Alamelu, 2020). The intensity of anxiety is can be influenced by the student's situation and also through his or her physical and mental health.

Teachers must identify and intervene when students indicate the anxiety indications such as headaches, tense muscles, pain, wiggling, fidgeting, and stuttering (Suleimenova, 2013). Other signs may include hand shaking, sweating, amnesia, blankness, stomach butterflies, dry mouth, sore throat, rapid heartbeat, and squeaky voice. In the context of Language, anxiety is a psychological disorder that interferes with language learning, which can be caused by social settings, taking exams, or worrying about getting a low score (Horwitz & Code, 1986 as cited in Tsai, 2018). In particular, speaking anxiety is a significant psychological factor that can negatively impact students' oral English performance in learning a foreign language (Meloah, 2013).

Although anxiety can negatively impact speaking fluency and accuracy, analyzing and integrating new information into existing knowledge can help reduce anxiety and provide better language comprehension (Suleimenova, 2013). Lesson plans and

learning activities can be strengthened by integrating vocabulary into speaking teaching strategies (Scarpino et al., 2019).

Lack Confidence

Confidence is an important aspect of life that influences behavior, shaped by value-based self-evaluation and childhood interactions. It is a sense of optimism derived from selfevaluation of one's own abilities that are determined interpersonal bv intrapersonal interactions (Fadhillah, 2015). In particular. education. individual experiences, social messages from peers, family, and community are all determinants. (Harris, 2009 in Salim, 2015).

Increasing one's self-confidence therefore has an impact on one's social and psychological well-being.' An inability to communicate effectively in English can also affect one's ability to make actions (Gulzira et al., 2021; Lee & Hsieh, 2019). As stated by Haidara (2016), successful learning outcomes and student achievement require addressing selfconfidence issues such as depression, fear of change, unrealistic expectations, shyness, and shame. More specifically when speaking with English teachers or native speakers, students frequently feel nervousness and uneasiness to express their ideas, and therefore, they often keep silent until they feel confident to speak. Furthermore, messages—both positive and negative—can affect one's confidence. Positive messages rarely cause harm, but negative messages frequently do.

Lack of Motivation

Motivation refers to the desire to act or do something. It is an important component of educational activities because it raises the desire of learners for academic achievement and builds good conversation (Özhan & Kocadere, 2020). According to Osabiya (2015),

motivation is an important factor in connecting people to their needs and expectations. Particularly, it helps them establish routines, meet deadlines, improve their lives, preferences, and goals, and eventually reach their full potential.

To boost students motivation in Englishspeaking, the study by Taufiqulloh et al. emphasize the importance (2018)motivation in students' language learning achievements and propose that teachers be knowledgeable about a variety psychological issues in order to increase student motivation **English-speaking** in classrooms.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

As mentioned earlier, the objective of this study is to investigate the psychological problems that students at MTs. NW Sepit experience, specifically with regard to their speaking abilities. Apart from that, it makes attempts to determine the problems that these students deal with and their primary causes, including discouragement, low self-esteem, and anxiety. To achieve the objectives of the study, MTs NW Sepit students' psychological speaking issues were investigated using a descriptive quantitative design to gain insight into the various types and underlying causes.

Rather than drawing comparisons connections between variables, the study focused on specific factors that influenced participants' speaking abilities. The researchers then used purposive sampling in this investigation. Furthermore, the method of choice demonstrates that the researchers chose a topic relevant to the objectives of their investigation. Twenty eighth-grade students from MTS NW were then included in the sample.

Data Collection

During the data collection process, the following steps were carried out:

a. Questionnaire

To investigate psychological problems such as anxiety, low self-esteem, and motivation, a questionnaire was distributed to eighth-grade students at MTsNW Sepit. Each problem was addressed by five of the questionnaire's fifteen questions. We assessed these issues using a checklist. The following statements were used to assess students' anxiety, insecurity, and motivation with regard to their speaking abilities.

Anxiety

- I do not feel anxious when I make a mistake in speaking English;
- I do not feel nervous when I speak English in front of the class;
- Anxiety does not affect my English speaking performance;
- I do not feel preassured when I attend the speaking class;
- I am not worried if the other students in my class speak English better than me.

Lack of confidence

- I like to speak Engish in front of the class;
- I feel confident when I speak English;
- I am not worried if the other students will laugh at me when I make a mistake in speaking English;
- I prefer to speak English and make mistake than keep silent when speaking;
- I like to be the first participant to answer a question if i know the answer.

Lack of motivation

- I learn English to pass my degree and get a job in the future;
- I feel motivated when I listen to music while I am learning;
- Speaking English is important for self-improvement;
- Studying English enables me to discuss interesting topics in English with people from the other country;
- When I am on my way to speaking class
- I feel very relaxed and confident.

b. Interview

To determine the underlying causes of psychological problems, researchers administered a questionnaire and conducted structured interviews with eighth-grade students at MTs NW Sepit. During the interview, the students were asked three questions to learn about and confirm their experiences with the problems at hand.

- In your opinion, what are the causes of the psychological problems that include lack of confidence, lack of motivation and anxiety in learning speaking,
- Among lack of confidence, lack of motivation and anxiety, which one is the most factor that can affect to your speaking performance?
- Finally, why do you feel a lack of confidence when you want to speak English?

Data Analysis

Based on the data collected, the researchers then analyzed questionnaire and interview results to identify common psychological issues in speaking instruction and their root causes, which significantly impact students' speaking abilities. The following steps were taken to analyze the data:

Questionnaire Data

Step 1. The researchers gave the students a questionnaire with 15 negatively phrased items in order to determine the challenges that students experience when learning to speak. The scores of the negative items were then affirmed to determine the overall percentage of psychological problems.

Step 2. The questionnaire items are divided into three categories: anxiety, lack of confidence, and lack of motivation. The Likert response scale includes 15 items, with scores ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Items 1–5 indicate anxiety, items 7-9 indicate lack of confidence, and items 1-4 indicate lack of motivation. The items are organized into their respective categories.

Step 3. The study used Likert points to determine the percentage of participants who reported having psychological problems while speaking, with the highest percentage being identified as the primary cause. The percentage was calculated by multiplying each item's total score by 100 and dividing it by the total score of all items.

a. Interview Data

Step 1. Transcribe – The researchers use transcription to transform the raw data from the interviews into sentences.

Step 2. Classifying – The researchers identified the most common problems that students experience when learning to speak after investigating within the interview data.

Step 3. Concluding - The researchers summarized the interview data to determine the psychological problems that students experience when learning to speak and also the underlying causes of these problems.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Researchers employed interviews and questionnaires, as previously stated, to obtain comprehensive data about psychological problems that students experience and their underlying causes.

a. The Findings of Questionnaire

According to the questionnaire results from the research investigation, a significant percentage of students have difficulty with speaking, with low confidence ranking as the most common psychological problem at 50%. Anxiety is followed by a lack of motivation, resulting in for 12 out of 38, or 46% of the problems.

Table 1. Total Percentage of Psychological Problem Types

No	Psychological Problem Aspects	Total	Percentage
1	Lack of Confidence	65	50 %
2	Lack of motivation	50	38, 46%
3	Anxiety	15	11, 53%

b. The Findings of Interviews

According to the study's findings of interviews, a lack of motivation and confidence are the most common causes of speaking psychology problems. In addition, speaking effectively gets more difficult for students, particularly those who struggle with the English language, because of their fear of making mistakes and getting harsh comments from others in their class. Their fear of making mistakes in front of the class and being criticized makes them even less confident.

Discussion

Based on the findings of the questionnaires, the study identified three major psychological issues that students experiences when speaking: lack of confidence, lack of motivation, and anxiety.

Lack of Confidence

The most common issue was a lack of confidence, due to a total score of 65 (50%). The most common issue was a lack of confidence, due to a total score of 65 (50%). Poor English proficiency, fear of being laughed at, preferring silence, and refusing to be the first to answer questions are all common issues that arise from students' lack of confidence. In agreement with this research finding, Fadhillah's research (2015) found out that students' lack of confidence in studying a foreign language is frequently happens due to experiences of difficulties their while interpreting and interacting with others. Due to this problem, many students in the class are remaining silent. According to Al Nakhalah (2016), the main reason why students lack confidence is because they are not proficient in English, which causes them to feel insecure and ashamed.

Given their similarities, self-esteem and selfconfidence both emphasize on a person's perspective of their own abilities. Salim's research (2015)suggested that early experiences—both interpersonal and intrapersonal—are thought to contribute to the increase of self-confidence, which is an of learning. Additionally, essential aspect Derakhshan et al. (2016) argue that teachers have an impact on students' speaking confidence. If teachers fail to reinforce their students, they could have difficulty speaking English in confidence.

Furthermore, Toubot & Seng (2018) claimed that lack of speaking confidence is the root of

communication anxiety, which is related to shyness and reluctance. Additionally, it is nervousness or fear of engaging conversation with others. In general, students who have difficulty to express their ideas or understand the opinion of others typically experience anxiety and frustration. In line with the Toubot & Seng's investigation, research conducted by Krismanti and Siregar's research (2017) at STKIP PGRI Banjarmasin revealed that the most significant difficulties to speaking are lack of confidence, shyness, nervousness, and fear of making mistakes, whereas a lack of motivation is not a major Again, Fitriani & Apriliaswatin's problem. study (2015) confirmed that the three largest difficulties faced by third-semester English Education Study Program students at FKIP Tanjungpura University Pontianak were psychological issues, with a mean percentage of 20.70%; lack of self-confidence, at 20.11%; and anxiety, at 21.27%. Linguistic problems came in second with an average percentage of 19.53%; these were followed by pronunciation (16.25%), grammar (22.16%), vocabulary (20.19%), and grammar (22.16%).

Lack of Motivation

The second psychological issue raised by students was a lack of motivation, which received a total score of 50 (38, 31%). This issue affects students' motivation to graduate or seek job opportunities, their opinions of the importance of English, their ability communicate with others. and their confidence in speaking classes. However, a lack in motivation may contributed to an insufficient goal-oriented desire.

In the framework of students' speaking task, motivation is defined as the ability to stay focused on a task for an extended period of time. Moods are the main drivers of motivation, and students who are motivated are more enthusiastic and happy with their

assignments. Students who are highly motivated are more likely to remain engaged for longer periods of time than students who are not motivated. That is why motivated students come up with their whole focus to their tasks by continually learning (Osabiya, 2015).

Besides moods, a challenge is another factors of motivated students. Giving students a challenging but manageable task has implications for helping them become persistent or motivated. After successfully finishing one challenge, a student gets motivation and a strong desire to take on new ones. As a result, motivated students will select a task that challenges them appropriately while maintaining an enjoyable challenge. Students feel extremely happy when they complete a task similar to it. Individuals lacking motivation (those who have not experienced early success) will choose a task that is relatively simple and ensures immediate success.

Another sign of motivation also was defined by Putri's research (2016). She found that an adult's motivation is significantly impacted by students' degree of dependency. Put another way, students' learning and achievement could be affected from an over-reliance on adults. For example, generally motivated students don't need continual guidance when they experience it difficult to work independently, nor do students who lack motivation. However, Özhan & Kocadere (2020) suggest that teachers' motivation can significantly impact engaging conversations. For example, gaining proficiency in English may help to increase motivation. In addition to these, developing a character basis, confidence, persistence. discipline, and cultural understanding are all useful strategies. To learn a foreign language, students must be motivated by an interest to improve their academic achievement, communication skills, and individual progress (Özhan & Kocadere, 2020).

Anxiety

Finally, anxiety was identified as the students' third psychological problem, with a total score of 15 (11.53%). The last problem includes stress, nervousness, worry, and fear of others' speaking abilities. Students might experience panic, fear of worsening situations, shyness, and speechlessness in class or public. Consequently, a student's level of anxiety has a significant impact on their ability communicate effectively; in cases of severe anxiety, students become completely paralyzed or unable to speak at all.

Anxiety is then identified as nervousness or worry about something to come (Haidara, 2016). It could be linked to problems that affect psychological self-efficacy and presentday stress levels. Krismanti & Siregar (2017) then identified that students' fear of worry, inexperience, or inadequate information as a significant challenge students experiences when learning speaking. Therefore, Hermaniar & Azkiya (2021) conducted a study on anxiety in an English speaking class. The study revealed that anxiety is a significant challenge for both advanced and non-advanced English language learners. The study then identified three major factors influence students' anxiety when speaking English: communication anxiety, fear of receiving a negative review, and test anxiety.

Besides, to identify a variety of factors that contribute to students' psychological issues, the researchers conducted interviews with students in addition to collected data through a questionnaire. The findings revealed that eighth graders at MTS NW Sepit had psychological problems due to a variety of factors. Their primary fear when speaking was

being laughed at, making a mistake, or receiving negative feedback from their peers. This hypothesis's conclusion is in line with the information provided by Arifin (2017), who found that psychological problems like anxiety and low self-esteem are common among students and can significantly affect their ability to speak.

Furthermore, the researcher's overall data indicates that the results of the present investigation differ from and are identical to the previous research for a variety of reasons. The students' particular situations, personality traits, and the setting in which the study is conducted all have the potential to influence how the research results are differentiated. As therefore, if teachers require to support their students improve their English language skills in the future, they must first become aware of and deal with their psychological problems.

CONCLUSION

Considering the data provided in the research findings, it can be concluded from the problem statements or some conclusions can be drawn. First, the study revealed that students frequently experience psychological problems when learning to speak, such as lack of motivation, confidence, and anxiety. These problems negatively impact their ability to speak effectively in English, as they often deal with low self-esteem and anxiety while speaking in front of others. Then, it was discovered that students' lack of confidence was the main cause of their psychological problems and the most important factor influencing their ability to speak English.

According to researchers, students' lack of confidence in their communication skills comes primarily from their fear of making mistakes, being judged, and being teased by peers. In addition, the students' lack of

motivation was also caused by their ignorance of the importance of learning English for personal development, their anxiety when speaking in front of the class, and their belief that their pronunciation was incorrect. Finally, the study recommends that future researchers look into psychological barriers to English proficiency, taking into account teaching techniques, learning styles, anxiety levels, and dealing with students' speaking difficulties.

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