

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS'  
SPEAKING ABILITY AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF BUNG  
HATTA UNIVERSITY**

**THESIS**



**By:**

**Jovan**

**1210013121050**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
THE FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY  
PADANG  
2017**

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*Submitted to fulfill a Partial Requirement for S-1 degree at English  
Department, Teacher Training Education Faculty, Bung Hatta University*



**By:**

**Jovan**

**1210013121050**

**Advisor I : Dra. Fatimah Tanjung, M.Hum.**

**Advisor II : Dra. Ernati, M.Pd.**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



First of all, the researcher would like to express his great thanks and praise to Allah SWT for blessing him and gave inspiration to conduct the research and accomplishing this thesis entitled **"An Analysis of the First Year Students' Speaking Ability at English Department of Bung Hatta University"**. It was submitted to fulfill a partial requirement for getting S1 degree at English Department of Bung Hatta University.

Next, the researcher would like to express his sincere gratitude to his advisors, Dra. Fatimah Tanjung, Dra. Ernati, M.Pd for their careful guidance, suggestions and encouragement during writing this thesis. The researcher also would like to express his gratitude to Drs. Khairul, M.Sc, as the Dean and Drs. Yusrizal, M.Si, as the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Bung Hatta University, to Dra. Ernati, M.Pd, as the chief of English Department, Dra. Lisa Tavriyanti, M.Pd, as the Secretary of English Department and also to all of lecturers in English Department who had given guidance, motivation, support, help and knowledge during studying in this campus.

Then the researcher would like to say thanks to his family; his beloved mother, Risnawati and his beloved father, Yennis Junaidi who have given pray, materials and motivation to the researcher. And also the researcher would like to say thanks to his grandmother, Aminah, his grandfather, Bakri and all family who gave prayer, support and everything that had precious meaning for his life.

The researcher also would like to express his gratitude to his beloved girlfriend, Yezza Kurnia Utami, S.Pd for her motivation, help, support and inspiration during this time. The researcher would like to say thanks to his beloved best friends, Afif Aqsha, Dolly Dwi Saputro, Ikhsanul Ikhwan Effendi, Hellisa Putcani.

Finally, the researcher realizes that this thesis still has some weaknesses. Thus, he welcomes for comments and suggestions from the readers in order to be a better thesis.

Padang, January 2017

The Researcher

## ABSTRACT

**Jovan. (2017) : An Analysis of the First Year Students' Speaking Ability at English Department of Bung Hatta University.**

**Advisors : 1. Dra. Fatimah Tanjung, M.Hum  
2. Dra. Ernati, M.Pd**

The purpose of this research was to analyze the students' speaking ability at the first year at English Department of Bung Hatta University. Specifically, it aimed at describing the students' speaking ability. The design of this research was descriptive research. The population of the research was the first year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University. In selecting the sample, the researcher used total sampling technique. The number of sample was 32 students.

The result of this research revealed that in general the first year students' speaking ability at English Department of Bung Hatta University were classified into having good ability. It was proved that (10%) students had very good ability, (66%) students had good ability, (24%) students had moderate ability, (0%) students had low ability. The students' speaking ability in categories of content was moderate. It was proved that (41%) students had moderate ability. The students' speaking ability in categories of grammar was low. It was proved that (72%) students had low ability. The students' speaking ability in categories of vocabulary was very good. It was proved that (52%) students had very good ability. The students' speaking ability in categories of pronunciation was good. It was proved that (76%) students had good ability. The students' speaking ability in categories of fluency was good. It was proved that (84%) students had good ability.

Based on the result, lecturer are suggested to improve students' ability into very good by giving some more practice in speaking and give exercise in grammar because the students' ability in grammar is low. For students, they should do more practice in speaking to improve their speaking ability, especially in grammar.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	i
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	iii
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b> .....	iv
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....	vii
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b> .....	viii
<b>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1. The Background of the Problem.....	1
1.2. The Identification of the Problem.....	2
1.3. The Limitation of the Problem.....	3
1.4. The Formulation of the Problem.....	3
1.5. The Research Questions.....	3
1.6. The Purposes of the Study.....	4
1.7. The Significance of the Study.....	4
1.8. The Definition of the Key Terms.....	5
<b>CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE</b>	
2.1. The Concept of Speaking.....	6
2.2. Types of Speaking.....	7
2.3. Component of Speaking.....	9
2.3.1. Pronunciation.....	9
2.3.2. Grammar.....	10
2.3.3. Vocabulary.....	10
2.3.4. Fluency.....	11
2.3.5. Comprehension.....	11

### **CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHOD**

3.1. The Research Design.....	13
3.2. The Population of Sample.....	13
3.3. The Instrumentation.....	14
3.4. The Technique of Gathering Data.....	16
3.5. The Technique of Analyzing Data.....	18

### **CHAPTER IV**

4.1. Finding.....	22
4.1.1. Students' Speaking Ability .....	22
4.1.2. Students' Speaking Ability in Category of Content.....	23
4.1.3. Students' Speaking Ability in Category of Grammar.....	24
4.1.4. Students' Speaking Ability in Category of Vocabulary.....	25
4.1.5. Students' Speaking Ability in Category of Pronunciation.....	26
4.1.6. Students' Speaking Ability in Category of Fluency.....	27
4.2. Discussions.....	28
4.2.1. Students' Speaking Ability in Category of Content.....	29
4.2.2. Students' Speaking Ability in	

Category of Grammar.....	30
4.2.3. Students' Speaking Ability in	
Category of Vocabulary.....	30
4.2.4. Students' Speaking Ability in	
Category of Pronunciation.....	30
4.2.5. Students' Speaking Ability in	
Category of Fluency.....	30
<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	
5.1. Conclusion.....	32
5.2. Suggestions.....	33
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>36</b>



## LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1. The Poupaltion of the Forst Year Students at English Department of Bung Hatta University.....	14
Table 3.2. Scoring Criteria.....	17
Table 3.3. Scoring Criteria in Bung Hatta University.....	20
Table 4.1. Percentage of Students' Speaking Ability.....	23
Table 4.2. Students' Ability in Speaking.....	23
Table 4.3. Percentage of Students' Speaking Abilitiy in Category of Content.....	24
Table 4.4. Percentage of Students' Speaking Abilitiy in Category of Grammar.....	25
Table 4.5. Percentage of Students' Speaking Abilitiy in Category of Vocabulary.....	26
Table 4.6. Percentage of Students' Speaking Abilitiy in Category of Pronunciation.....	27
Table 4.7. Percentage of Students' Speaking Abilitiy in Category of Content.....	28

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Instrumentation.....	36
Appendix 2: The Score of the First Year Stuednts' Speaking Ability at English Department by First Scorer.....	37
Appendix 3: The Score of the First Year Stuednts' Speaking Ability at English Department by Second Scorer.....	38
Appendix 4: Reliability of Coefficient Correlation of Two Scorers.....	39
Appendix 5: The Average Score of Students' Speaking Ability.....	41
Appendix 6: Raw Score of Students' Speaking Ability.....	43
Appendix 7: Percentage of Students' Speaking Ability.....	44
Appendix 8: The Students' Score on Content.....	45
Appendix 9: Raw Score of Students' Speaking Ability in Category of Content.....	46
Appendix 10: Percentage of Students' Speaking Ability in Category of Content.....	47
Appendix 11: The Students' Score on Grammar.....	48

Appendix 12: Raw Score of Students' Speaking Ability in	
Category of Grammar.....	49
Appendix 13: Percentage of Students' Speaking Ability in	
Category of Grammar.....	50
Appendix 14: The Students' Score on Vocabulary.....	51
Appendix 15: Raw Score of Students' Speaking Ability in	
Category of Vocabulary.....	52
Appendix 16: Percentage of Students' Speaking Ability in	
Category of Vocabulary.....	53
Appendix 17: The Students' Score on Pronunciation.....	54
Appendix 18: Raw Score of Students' Speaking Ability in	
Category of Pronunciation.....	55
Appendix 19: Percentage of Students' Speaking Ability in	
Category of Pronunciation.....	56
Appendix 20: The Students' Score on Fluency.....	57
Appendix 21: Raw Score of Students' Speaking Ability in	
Category of Fluency.....	58
Appendix 22: Percentage of Students' Speaking Ability in	

Category of Fluency.....	59
Appendix 23: Students' Ability in Speaking.....	60

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses about background of the problem, identification of problem, limitation of problem, formulation of the problem, research questions, purpose of the study, significance of the study and definition of the key terms.

### **1.1. Background of the Problem**

In this era, English becomes an important language in the world. It is used as the mean of communication among nations in the world and many mass media, printed or electronic, and some scientific books are written in English. The existence of English makes it the most recommended language to be learnt in every country.

In learning process, there are two skills that will be learnt by the English learners; receptive skills and productive skills. The receptive skills are listening and reading. These skills are also known as passive skills. The learners do not need to produce language, they just have to receive and understand it. The productive skills are speaking and writing. These skills are also known as active skills because the learners need to produce the language. In studying English, students should master these four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Besides, they also should master grammar, good pronunciation, and vocabulary.

Speaking is skill that someone should master beside other skills. Speaking is important because by mastering the speaking skill, someone can communicate

with others. They can interact with others and can deliver some information that they have.

Because of the importance of speaking, speaking skill is learnt by learner at Bung Hatta University, especially at English Department, the first year students have special program called Intensive Course in which the focus is speaking in order that, the students can improve their speaking. Most of the time in learning session is used to practice speaking. In fact, there are some students, based on informal interview on August 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 who still have trouble to speak English. This because the students still had lack of vocabulary and they had difficulties in making correct sentences when they speak, eventhough they have already been trained intensively for one semester called intensive course.

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in conducting the research on analysis of the first year students' speaking ability at English Department of BungHatta University.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

To have good speaking skill, it can be supported by knowledge of language components. They are vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar.

In assessing speaking ability, there are many components that can be a reference. Brown (2010:212) divides categories of assessing speaking into five categories. They are grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and pronunciation. These components can refer to measure student's speaking ability.

The first component is grammar which is related to what tenses used by students. The second is vocabulary which is related to the words that students choose in speaking. The third is content which is related to how the students

express their understanding about the topic in speaking. The last is fluency which is related to the student's ability to speak English.

Brown (2010: 184-185) divides basic types of speaking into five stages. They are imitative, intensive, responsive, interactive, and extensive. In this research, the researcher uses extensive speaking. Extensive (monologue) oral production task include speeches, oral expression, and story telling. One type of oral production task that is used in this research is oral expression.

### **1.3 The limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification above, the researcher limited the research, and just focused to describe the students' Speaking Ability at English Department of Bung Hatta University by considering the five components of speaking : grammar, vocabulary, content, fluency, and pronunciation.

### **1.4 Formulation of the problem**

The researcher formulated problem as : "How is the first year students' speaking ability at English Department of Bung Hatta University?".

### **1.5 Research Questions**

Relating to the formulation of the problem above, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. How is the ability of the first year students to express idea/content in speaking ?
2. How is the ability of the first year students fluency in speaking ?
3. How is the ability of the first year students pronunciation in speaking?

4. How is the ability of the first year students in using grammar in speaking ?
5. How is the ability of the first year students in using appropriate vocabulary in speaking ?

### **1.6 Purposes of the Research**

The main purpose of the research is to analyze the students' speaking ability at the first year of English Department at Bung Hatta University Padang.

The specific purposes are :

1. To describe the first year students' speaking ability in expressing content in speaking
2. To describe the first year students' fluency in speaking.
3. To describe the first year students' ability in pronouncing words in speaking.
4. To describe the first year students' grammar ability in speaking.
5. To describe the first year students' ability in using appropriate vocabulary in speaking.

### **1.7 Significance of the Research**

The result of this research are expected to give contributions and benefit for the lecturers, the students, and further researcher. For the lecturers, they can get information about the first grade students' speaking ability, so the lecturers can improve their speaking ability. For the students who have low ability can improve their speaking ability. For further researcher, it can be as a reference in conducting a similar study for next time.



## **1.8 Definition of the Key Terms**

The terms related to this study are :

1. Analysis is the study of something by examining its parts and breaking a complex topic or substance into smaller parts to gain a better understanding of it, it is to investigate the student's ability in speaking.
2. Ability is the students' competence in speaking.
3. Speaking is an active productive skill and makes use of oral production.
4. Grammar is the rules for forming words to construct sentence in speaking
5. Pronunciation is the way of word spoken.
6. Vocabulary is an appropriate diction which is used in communication.
7. Content is the description or explanation related to the topic
8. Fluency is the ability to speak easily and smoothly: especially to speak a foreign language easily and effectively