

AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' PERCEPTION REGARDING TO THE USE OF ROLE PLAY TECHNIQUE IN LEARNING SPEAKING SKILLS**Michael Wijaya¹, Ika Handayani², Yusti Fargianti³.**^{1,2,3}Universitas Sultan Ageng TirtayasaEmail: michaellikun123@gmail.com¹, ika.handayani@untirta.ac.id², yusti@untirta.ac.id³**Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana persepsi murid mengenai penggunaan teknik role play dalam pembelajaran keterampilan berbicara serta apa kelebihan dan kelemahannya menurut persepsi murid di SMP Negeri 1 Kelapa Dua, Tangerang. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk memahami bagaimana persepsi murid mengenai penggunaan teknik bermain peran dalam pembelajaran keterampilan berbicara dan juga untuk mengetahui apa saja kelebihan dan kelemahan penggunaan teknik bermain peran dalam pembelajaran keterampilan berbicara menurut persepsi murid. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode studi kasus. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan observasi, angket, dan wawancara. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa hal ini membantu mereka dalam Kosakata Bahasa Inggris, Tata Bahasa Inggris, Pemahaman Bahasa Inggris, Pengucapan Bahasa Inggris, dan juga kefasihan Bahasa Inggris mereka. Selain itu, lebih menyenangkan dan membantu mereka untuk mengembangkan pengetahuan mereka, membuat mereka tertarik dan lebih antusias, lebih optimis, lebih termotivasi, mengajarkan mereka tentang kerja tim, melibatkan mereka secara langsung, dan lebih aktif. Namun hal itu tetap membuat mereka malu dan takut saat memainkan peran. Hal ini juga terbukti efisien sebagai teknik dalam pembelajaran keterampilan berbicara, namun kurang efektif dalam menumbuhkan rasa percaya diri mereka.

Kata kunci: Persepsi Murid; Kemampuan Berbicara; Teknik Role Play**Abstract**

This study aimed to find out how are the perception of students regarding to the use of role play technique in learning speaking skills and also what are strengths and weaknesses of it according to students' perception at SMP Negeri 1 Kelapa Dua, Tangerang. The objectives of the research were to comprehend about how are the perception of students regarding to the use of role play technique in learning speaking skills and also to find out about what are strengths and weaknesses of using role play technique in learning speaking skills according to students' perception. The research employed a case study method. The data were collected by observation, questionnaire, and interview. The results of the research showed that it helped them in English Vocabulary, English Grammar, English Comprehension, English Pronunciation, and also their English fluency. Moreover, it was more fun and helped them to cultivate their knowledge, made them interested and more enthusiastic, more optimistic, more motivated, taught them about teamwork, involved them directly, and more active. However, it still made them shy and afraid when playing roles. It is also proven to be efficient as a technique in learning speaking skills, but less effective in fostering their self-confidence

Keywords: ~~Keywords:~~ Students' Perception; Speaking Skills; Role Play Technique.

Introduction

As one of the subjects in learning English, speaking plays an important role. Basically, speaking is an interactive procedure of constructing meaning that includes producing, receiving, and processing information (Brown, 2004). In order for someone to understand what you have been talking about means you have to be able to speak in a right way, in English, the one key is self-confident. For example, when students speak in front of the class with lack of self-confident, there will be a lot of errors and mistakes because they are tending to read a textbook rather than speak through their minds or thoughts. Even though essentially all of students -not only in English lesson- learn what they understood on their minds rather than in a textbook, so mistakes and errors could be minimized. Speaking is the most crucial ability when learning a foreign or second language (Rao P, 2019). In addition, speaking skill is one of the basic skills in learning English which is important to be learned (Jannah et al., 2020). Therefore, it is important for English teachers to focus on the EFL learners' speaking skill as it is having some benefits in mastering speaking skills, such as achieve a good English learning process, the ability to speak in front of a lot of audiences and use your own ideas to communicate easily with others.

However, most likely students are still lack of self-confidence in expressing their thoughts using English. It happens because seems like they are not used to speak with using English. In addition, some students struggle to articulate and explain their ideas, arguments, and even questions. This happens because students find it particularly challenging to speak a language because good oral communication demands appropriate language use in social situations. As a result of that assertion, students require explicit training in speaking, which, like any other language ability, must be learned and practiced.

As a result, to overcome the problems, role play technique can be used as technique to teach speaking skills. Role play is a technique that asks students to take on roles that are appropriate for the circumstance at hand and allows them to visualize themselves in that setting, students can improvise conversation and create their own scenarios, just like they would in real life (Romadhoni, 2022). Role play technique in learning speaking skills would help students in learning speaking skills and also helps them in learning logical and critical thinking. Moreover, it will definitely teach them so many vocabularies while practicing the role. It also will help them to conquer their anxiety and fear when they have to speak by using English in front of many people and make them get used to that kind of situation, so it will boost their self-confidence indirectly. Furthermore, according to Ruslan (2020), Through role-playing, students can learn about emotions, perceptions, values, and problem-solving techniques, improve their group work skills and members' participation, and it can also occur in a real setting where students have the chance to achieve their goals in a secure and confident setting (Ruslan, 2020).

Therefore, it is important to know students' perception toward the use of role play technique in learning their speaking skills, so it could be shown that the technique is effective and worthy to be applied in learning speaking skill because the students enjoy using it.

Research Method

The study design explains the methods for data collection and analysis. Qualitative data focused on the attitudes, worldviews, feelings, and experiences of individuals as well as the key issue. A case study analyzes how each person or group perceives their situation (Cohen et al., 2017). The study was conducted in May 23rd, at SMP Negeri 1 Kelapa Dua, Kabupaten Tangerang, focusing only one class in class D as participant. For the data collection technique, observation, questionnaire, and interview are used. Non-participant conducted to know students' attitude towards learning by using role play technique. Likert-

scale questions to know students' thought on their speaking skills after learning by using role play technique and the strengths and weaknesses in using role play in learning speaking skills based on their testimony. Structured interviews to know students' feel on learning speaking skills by using role play technique. Data analysis includes data reduction, data display, and conclusion. To check the credibility of the data, triangulation is used.

Findings and Discussion

Findings

Observation

Observation conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, 8th – 9th August 2023, from 13.00 – 14.00 in two meetings. On the first day, students were enthusiastic to begin the learning process. The teacher asked students if they were ready to experience the learning process and students answered the teacher that they were ready with such enthusiasm. During the learning process, students also seemed to pay attention to the teacher's explanation and they were also responding to the activity enthusiastically. Students were also willing to be cooperative in the activity, even though they were struggling to ask and answer by using English and also there were still a few students who did not prepare the role play as the teacher ordered before the learning process. However, they were still eager in English during the activity and also very creative during the role play, even though they were not prepared enough.

On the second day, students were still consistent with their attitude toward the learning process. However, there was a slight difference, students were more willing to be cooperative in preparing their role play. However, the one thing that became the researcher's concern was that there were still a lot of students who were still shy in performing the role play. However, despite the trouble faced by the students, the researcher admired them because they were still willing to try to speak English during the activity and the quality of the conversation was simple, yet still understandable. Furthermore, despite the lack of preparation, they were able to improvise creatively with their own play because they worked as a team.

Questionnaire

The researcher distributed the questionnaires to the class 8-D on Thursday, 10th August 2023, from 13.00 – 14.00. The researcher used Likert-scale questions with 19 questions and 2 different sections that were divided according to the initial aim that the researcher was seeking.

Students' Think about Their Speaking Skills after Learning by Using Role Play Technique

The first section was about what students' thought about their speaking skills after learning by using role play technique according to the theory from Brown (2004) about speaking components. There are 5 questions that were asked in section and 35 – 34 answers were received, and the following could be seen on the table below:

Table 1. Questionnaire Results on Their Speaking Skills

| Indicators | Statements | Result | | | | |
|---|---|------------|-------|---------|----------|---------------|
| | | Very Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Very Disagree |
| English Vocabulary (Kosa kata Bahasa Inggris) | After following this lesson, I know more about vocabulary in English (35 Responses) | 5.7% | 74.3% | 17.1% | 2.9% | 0% |

| Indicators | Statements | Result | | | | |
|---|---|------------|-------|---------|----------|---------------|
| | | Very Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Very Disagree |
| English Grammar (Tata bahasa dalam Bahasa Inggris) | After following this lesson, I understand more about the correct and appropriate word order in English (35 Responses) | 8.6% | 54.3% | 31.4% | 5.7% | 0% |
| English Fluency (Kelancaran berbicara Bahasa Inggris) | After following this lesson, I can speak English fluently (35 Responses) | 0% | 34.3% | 40% | 25.7% | 0% |
| English Comprehension (Pemahaman Bahasa Inggris) | After following this lesson, I understand more about what other people say in English (34 Responses) | 32.4% | 32.4% | 23.5% | 11.8% | 0% |
| English Pronunciation (Pengucapan Bahasa Inggris) | After following this lesson, I understand more about how to pronounce a word or sentence in English (34 Responses) | 2.9% | 58.8% | 23.5% | 14.7% | 0% |

The Strengths and Weaknesses of Using Role Play in Learning Speaking Skills

As for the second section, it was about what students' think about strengths and weaknesses of using role play technique in learning speaking skills according to the theory from Djamarah & Zain (2006) and Sulastriningsih (2016). 14 questions were asked in this section and 33 answers received, the following could be seen on the table below:

| Indicators | Statements | Result | | | | |
|---|--|------------|-------|---------|----------|---------------|
| | | Very Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Very Disagree |
| Can impress with a strong and long-lasting in the memory of students, besides be a fun experience as well as give knowledge that embedded in brain memory | Learning by using role play technique gave me a fun experience in learning speaking skills (35 Responses) | 7 | 12 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| | Learning by using role play technique helped me to cultivated my knowledge related to speaking skills (35 Responses) | 3 | 19 | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| It is very interesting for students, so that it is possible to make classes | Learning by using role play technique makes me interested in learning speaking skills (34 Responses) | 4 | 9 | 20 | 1 | 0 |

| Indicators | Statements | Result | | | | |
|---|--|------------|-------|---------|----------|---------------|
| | | Very Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Very Disagree |
| become dynamic and enthusiastic | Learning by using role play technique made me more enthusiastic in learning speaking skills (32 Responses) | 3 | 12 | 15 | 2 | 0 |
| Generating motivation and a spirit of optimism in students as well as fostering a sense of togetherness | Learning by using role play technique made me more optimistic about their abilities and also made me more motivated in learning speaking skills (33 Responses) | 3 | 16 | 12 | 1 | 1 |
| | Learning by using role play technique taught me about teamwork in learning speaking skills (33 Responses) | 6 | 16 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Students' can be directly involved in acting out something that will be discussed in the learning process | Learning by using role play technique, it involved me directly in learning speaking skills (33 Responses) | 1 | 17 | 10 | 5 | 0 |
| | Learning by using role play technique made me more active in learning speaking skills (33 Responses) | 5 | 10 | 13 | 5 | 0 |
| Takes a relatively long time | Learning by using role play technique took a lot of their time in learning speaking skills (33 Responses) | 1 | 5 | 18 | 8 | 1 |
| Requires high creativity for students | Learning by using role play technique, it made me difficult for them to find creative ideas in learning speaking skills (33 Responses) | 0 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 2 |
| Not all subject matter can be presented | Learning by using role play technique, the material in learning speaking skills is clearly and completely conveyed (33 Responses) | 1 | 15 | 14 | 3 | 0 |

| Indicators | Statements | Result | | | | |
|--|---|------------|-------|---------|----------|---------------|
| | | Very Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Very Disagree |
| Most of students felt embarrassed to act out certain scenes | Learning by using role play technique made me shy and afraid when playing roles (33 Responses) | 2 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 1 |
| If the implementation of role-playing fails, it can give a bad impression as well as learning objectives that have not been achieved | Learning by using role play technique gave me a bad impression in learning speaking skills (33 Responses) | 2 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 3 |
| | Learning by using role play technique gave me a bad impression in learning speaking skills (33 Responses) | 0 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 5 |

Interview

The researcher conducted the interviews at class 8-D on Friday, 11th August 2023. There are 11 questions were asked to students on interviews with the aim that to know what students' feel on learning speaking skills by using role play technique. It was found that students mostly felt that role play technique helped them on their speaking skills and also made them felt confident to speak in front of people. It was also helped them to be more motivated and providing more fun activity during learning process. However, there were some students who were testified that role play technique took a lot of time to prepare and it was really difficult to prepare the conversation. But, they also said that they could handle it because they worked as a team.

Discussion

Students' Positives Perception

Based on the results of questionnaire and interview, it was found that after learning by using role play technique gave them positives impact on their speaking skills. From the questionnaire that are referring to the theory from Brown (2004) about speaking components, it was found that mostly students agreed that after learning by using role play technique, it helped them in knowing more about vocabulary in English, understand more about the correct and appropriate word order in English, understand more about what other people say in English, and also understand more about how to pronounce a word or sentence in English. As for interview results, it was found that learning speaking skills by using role play technique helped them to memorized more a lot of difficult vocabularies and also fixed her own grammar mistake, as noted from student 9:

"It trains me to memorize a lot of vocabularies and also fix my own grammar mistake"
(Student 3, Item Number 10)

It was also found that learning speaking skills by using role play technique helped them to practice their English comprehension, understanding what other people say in English, as noted from student 10:

"Helpful, it can practice my speaking skill and helps me to understand what other people say in English" (Student 6, Item Number 5)

It was also found that that learning speaking skills by using role play technique helped her to her to foster her pronunciation:

“Helpful on how to pronounce a word in English” (Student 5 Item Number 5)

However, a lot of students chose to be neutral about their English fluency. However, few of them testified during interview that it trained them to speak English fluently, as noted from student 2:

“It trains my speaking fluency and also increase my self-confidence” (Student 2 Item Number 10)

These are a few testimonies given by students during interview, it is proven the alignment between new key findings from the questionnaires and the interview findings. Moreover, there are also more similarities between findings from questionnaires and interview findings. For example, the findings that stated about learning speaking skills by using role play technique gave them fun experience and helped them to cultivated their knowledge based on the theory from Djamarah & Zain (2006) and Sulastriningsih (2016) about the strengths and weaknesses of using role play technique in learning speaking skills. In the interview findings, they were also testified the same way as the answer from questionnaires. As noted from student number 2:

“Slightly helpful, it is more fun and makes it easier to understand the material” (Student 9 Item Number 5)

Another example, the findings that stated about learning speaking skills by using role play technique made them interested and more enthusiastic. In the interview findings, students were mostly testified that they are interested with the role play teaching technique, as noted from student 9:

“Interested, I like the technique because it was more fun” (Student 2 Item Number 7)

Furthermore, other findings that are similar with the interview findings are the one that stated about learning speaking skills by using role play technique made them more optimistic about their abilities and made them more motivated, as noted from student 5:

“Yes, it motivates me, because it can practice my self-confidence and also more fun activities” (Student 5 Item Number 6)

And lastly, other findings that are similar with the interview findings are the one that stated about taught them about learning speaking skills by using role play technique involved them directly and made them more active, as noted from student 3:

“Yes, it can. It makes me more motivated because it is more fun and also makes me get involved directly on learning process” (Student 3 Item Number 6).

Students' Negatives Perception

As for the negative perceptions, it could be seen based on the findings from the questionnaires and interview that are referring to the theory from Djamarah & Zain (2006) and Sulastriningsih (2016) about the strengths and weaknesses of using role play technique in learning speaking skills. From the questionnaire, it was found that 30,3% students agreed that this learning made them shy and afraid when playing roles. It is more than students disagreed with 24,2% students. This means that they still felt shy and afraid when using role play technique in learning speaking skills. As for the interview, there were few students who testified that they were still very shy and hesitated to move forward and playing their role, as noted from students 7 and 9:

“I'm still hesitate to move forward and perform the play” (Student 7 Item Number 8)

“I’m still feel less confident to move forward to perform the play” (Student 9 Item Number 9)

Furthermore, the researcher found the similarities between these two students who testified that they were still very shy and hesitated to move forward and playing their role, both of them did not really like English subject. Therefore, the researcher has a theory that their lack of interest on English subject, made them less confidence in the learning process with using role play technique. However, despite the fact that lack of self-confidence is the main issue that they were facing, there were a few students who testified that by learning speaking skill with using role play technique helped them to practice their lack of self-confidence, as noted from students 2 and 6:

“It trains my speaking fluency and also increase my self-confidence” (Student 2)

“It helps me to practice English conversation and also boost my self-confidence” (Student 6)

Even though both of the students above testified that it helped them to practice their lack of self-confidence, both of them were liking the English subject, means that there is a correlation between their interest in English subject and their self-confidence in speaking English. The important thing to be the researcher’s concern is how to implement the role play technique and also the consistency. It is important to make students interested with the technique by involving them directly and actively during learning process and also made them to get used to speak English in front of many people by using this technique.

The Strengths and Weaknesses

As for the strengths and weaknesses, it could be seen from the questionnaires that are referring to the theory from Djamarah & Zain (2006) and Sulastriningsih (2016) about the strengths and weaknesses of using role play technique in learning speaking skills and also on their attitude during the learning process on observation. As for strengths, it was indeed providing fun experiences and knowledge embedded in brain memory because mostly students agreed that it gave them fun experience and helped them to cultivated their knowledge after learning speaking skills by using role play technique. it could be seen on how they were acting during the activity that they seemed to be having fun and also comprehending the material during learning process. It was also very interesting for students and also create a dynamic and enthusiastic class because mostly students agreed it was made them interested and more enthusiastic after learning speaking skills by using role play technique, it could be seen that students seemed to pay attention to the teacher’s explanation and they were also responding to the activity enthusiastically. Furthermore, it was also true that it generate motivation and optimism because mostly students agreed that it was made them more optimistic about their abilities and made them more motivated after learning speaking skills by using role play technique, students were willing to try to speak English during learning process, even though that they were struggling to do it, they also willingly participated on the activity and preparing their role play so that they can improve their speaking skills. And also foster a sense of togetherness because it taught them about teamwork, students were taught to about teamwork to prepare and perform the act on a group that could foster their sense of togetherness. Furthermore, it was also true that it directly involved them in acting out something that will be discussed in the learning process and made them more active because of students agreed that it involved them directly and made them more active after learning speaking skills by using role play technique, it could be seen that they were seemed to be involved directly and more active during the activity.

Furthermore, the researcher was also found that there was also the key finding that are contradicted with the theories that has been used in this research. For example, the theory

from Djamarah & Zain (2006) and Sulastriningsih (2016) about the strengths and weaknesses of using role play technique in learning speaking skills. The theory said that learning speaking by using role play technique takes relatively long time is contradicted with the finding from the questionnaire. Based on the questionnaires, it was found that 24,2% disagreed that it takes a long time in learning speaking skill. It was more than students who are agreed with 15,2% students that agreed. It could also be seen during learning process that most students had no trouble in preparing and performing the act.

Moreover, the theory said that it required students to have a high creativity in learning speaking skills, but the result from questionnaires said otherwise. Based on the questionnaire, 36,4% students disagree that it made them difficult to find creative ideas in learning speaking skills. It was more than students who are agreed with 24,2% students. It was also could be seen from they were acted while the researcher conducting an observation, despite the lack of preparation, they were still be able to improvised creatively with their own play because they worked as a team.

In addition, the theory that said not all subject matter could be presented by using role play technique in learning speaking skills. Based on questionnaire results, 45,5% students agreed that the material in learning speaking skills by using role play technique is clearly and completely conveyed, more than students who are disagreed with 9,1% students.

And lastly, the theory that said if the implementation of role-playing fails, it could give a bad impression as well as learning objectives that have not been achieved, it was contradicted with the results from questionnaire. From the questionnaire, 2 students very disagreed and 13 students disagreed that learning by using role play technique gives a bad impression in learning speaking. It was more than students who agreed with only 2 students very agreed and 4 students agreed. And also, 5 students very disagreed and 12 students disagreed that learning speaking skills by using role play technique, did not give me any effect on my speaking skills at all. It was also more than students who are agreed with only 6 students.

As for the weaknesses, it was found the main problem faced by students was because of their lack of self-confidence. The researcher found that there were still a lot of students who are still shy in performing the role play during learning process. They were still struggling to speak English without having to memorized the text. It seems that all of the testimony given by the English teacher during the pre – interview was true, the teacher said that the reason of using role play technique in order to teach students speaking skills is because many students are still lack of self-confident in expressing their thought using English.

This was in line with the theory that said “*Most of students felt embarrassed to act out certain scenes*” from Djamarah & Zain (2006) and Sulastriningsih (2016) about the strengths and weaknesses of using role play technique in learning speaking skills and also the findings from questionnaires. it was found that 30,3% students agreed that this learning made me shy and afraid when playing roles. It was more than students disagreed with 24,2% students. It means that they still felt shy and afraid when using role play technique in learning speaking skills

Conclusion

In conclusion contains a brief summary of the result of research, suggestion for researcher, readers, and for the next researchers.

Based on the results from the previous chapter, it can be concluded that the use of role play technique in teaching speaking skills has generally been met with a positive reception from the students in Class 8-D at SMP Negeri 1 Kelapa Dua. The majority of students reported that the role play technique helped improve their English vocabulary, understanding of word order, pronunciation, and overall fluency. Furthermore, they found

the learning process enjoyable, engaging, and motivating, which fostered a sense of teamwork and increased participation in class activities. Despite these positive outcomes, some students expressed feeling shy and lacking in self-confidence when performing role plays. This was primarily attributed to their lack of interest in the English subject, which, in turn, affected their confidence levels during the learning process. This indicates a potential correlation between students' interest in the subject matter and their self-confidence in speaking.

The strengths of the role play technique, as identified through questionnaires and interviews, include its ability to make learning more dynamic and fun, motivate students, foster teamwork, and keep them actively engaged. However, some weaknesses were noted, such as students feeling embarrassed or uncomfortable when acting out certain scenarios, as well as the time and effort required for preparation, especially when crafting dialogues for the role plays.

Overall, while there are some challenges, the role play technique has proven to be an effective and enjoyable method for enhancing students' speaking skills, increasing their motivation, and fostering greater confidence in using English in real-life situations.

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