Using Communicative Games to Improve Students' Speaking Skill

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ABSTRACT

Speaking is very important for EFL students especially in Indonesia. Unfortunately, many students are still having problem with speaking skill. The students are not able to speak English in the classroom because they are lack of spoken English practice. It is likely caused by ineffective teaching. Asking students to memorize the dialog and practicing them in front of the class make them not able to communicate in English in real life situation. Communicative Games is one technique that provides special features to improve speaking skill, namely: a. communicative competence that requires students to take part actively to speak with each other and involved them in real communication; b. equal chance, in which not only students with higher speaking skill, but also students with lower speaking skill can contribute in it, because usually only few students are active in the class and almost half the students stay quite; c. reducing anxiety, the condition that students are more confident to speak English because they do not feel that they are in the teaching and learning process and make a mistakes without having feeling of failure.

Keywords: Communicative Games, speaking skill

1. INTRODUCTION

English as an international language has been taught to students from elementary school to university level because English is used in many communication media, such as public information, newspaper, television and academic book. English language has known as one of widely-used language for the people in order to be able to communicate with others all around the world. It is also considered that English is an importance language to be learned because it is an international language. The ability to communicate in English is very important in the global area because English takes up a very crucial position in almost any sector of use such as business, commerce, academic field, technology, International relations and diplomacy [1]. Therefore, it is safe to say that English is an important language component that should be mastered by the students.

By having good English, especially in speaking, it will make easier for the students to convey ideas, emotions, feelings meaningfully, and also produce acceptable sentences. According to Florez in [2], speaking the process of constructing through producing and receiving information. It means that the ability of speaking skill is essential for the students to learn because it will prepare them for real world use of the language. In line with what [3] said, speaking is the most important skills in learning foreign language. In summary, mastery of speaking is a priority for language learners.

Meanwhile, to master speaking skill is not easy as it seems. To be able to speak in English, students need more practice inside and outside the classroom. [4] said that students need to practice their speaking more. It means, teachers should pay great attention while teaching speaking. There is need an effort made by the teachers to make an active English speaking classroom. In teaching speaking, teachers should apply a suitable technique that can enhance students' interest, curiosity, and motivation to learn. It will help the students to be more confident to speak in the classroom So, the students will have an equal chance, not only a few students were active in the classroom and almost half the students stay quite, but also a whole students can participate to practice their speaking skill.

The writer finds that most of students still rarely speak in English. Based on this phenomena, the researcher tried to find out an effective solution to improve the students' speaking skills. The researcher chose Communicative Games to improve the students' speaking skills because Communicative Games may give opportunities for students to practice their speaking. [5] Games supply a nonthreatening environment for coping with new learning. Meanwhile, Communication Games are activities set up in the classroom to create opportunities and purposes for verbal communication practice [6]. When the students

are having fun, they are likely to accept risks, make mistakes without having feeling of failure, and try to solve their initial feelings and use it in their daily life. It can be conclude that Communicative Games is one of technique that can make the students active in the classroom.

Based on the statement above, the researcher conducted a research about using Communicative Games to improve students' speaking skill. The researchers propose another technique in teaching speaking, namely communicative games that is used in teaching speaking.

2. METHOD

This research belongs to library research. Library research is a literature search while utilizing library resources to obtain research data [7]. However library research is a research which uses library sources to collect and analyze the data which materials were like novels, newspapers, textbooks, papers, and articles.

[8] In library research, there are at least four main characteristics that the researcher needs to pay attention to, including: First, the researcher is dealing directly with text or numerical data, not with direct knowledge from the field. In this research, the researcher used the information or sources from the textbooks, papers, and articles to be analyzed.   Second, the library data is "ready to use" which means that the researcher does not have a direct interest in the field because the researcher is dealing directly with the data sources in the library. Third, that library data is generally a secondary source, in the sense that the researcher obtains material or data from second hand and not original data from the first data in the field. Fourth, that the library data condition is not limited by space and time. From the statement, the researcher can reach the data easily without any limited space and time. However this research describes about using Communicative Games to improve students' speaking skill.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Communicative Games is one of technique that can be used to make the students active to communicate in real life situation. Communicative Games presents special features to improve students' speaking skill.

Communicative Competence

Communicative Games presents communicative competence that requires students to take part actively to speak with each other and involved them in real communication. It is intended to develop communication skill especially in speaking and listening. Communication skill means that students can improve their ability to accurately send and decode oral,

written, and non-verbal language [9]. They encourage students to interact to communicate in class. The more students active to speak in the class, the better communicative competence they mastered.

Furthermore, games can increase students' communication and co-operation with each other [10]. It helps students become more socialized in teaching and learning process. It can be concluded that games are purposeful to construct cooperative activities involving communicative interaction which provides many opportunities for cooperative relationships. The cooperative relationship can be both among students, and between the teacher and students. In Communicative Games, there is an interaction among the student for example when the students asking and giving information each other and it makes them involves in verbal communication.

Equal Chance

Communicative Games give equal chance for the students. Communication games encourage and increase the learners' active involvement [11]. It means, not only students with higher speaking skill, but also students with lower speaking skill can contribute in it, because usually only few students are active in the class and almost half the students stay quite. Communicative Games is effective because each student has the opportunity to speak in English without feeling afraid or shy. Communicative Games helps the students to be able to practice their speaking because it usually runs in pairs or groups. So, each student has a chance to speak in order to give and get the information they need.

Some main reasons to speak English in the classroom are to provide opportunities and practice. When the students play Communicative Games, they can speak English more because they can practice speaking actively and each student have an equal opportunity to speak. It means that when the students respond each other during communicative games, it has helped them improve the quality of their speaking skill.

Reducing Anxiety

Communicative Games is important technique that reducing students' anxiety. When the students feel anxiety, it will make them had a low motivation especially in speaking activities. The students will be hard to say something in English because they are afraid of making mistakes. Furthermore, Communicative Games present them with communicative situations that are enjoyable and relatively stress free. Communicative language games provided more opportunities to speak English and improved students' self-confidence and involvement. Besides, they decreased the students' anxiety and motivated the students to join the speaking

class [12]. Meanwhile, by using Communicative Games, the students are interested in following the lesson. It proved by the result of student's interview which said that "*dengan cara yang tadi* (Communicative Games), *saya jadi lebih tertarik untuk berbicara dalam bahasa Inggris*" [13].

It can be conclude that Communicative Games can help the students to be more confident to speak English because they do not feel that they are in the teaching and learning process and make a mistake without having feeling of failure. Using communicative Games in the process of language teaching-learning could help all students to feel comfortable and more confident in acquiring a new language [14]. Meanwhile, when the students play Communicative Games, they feel enthusiastic and motivated enough to join whatever activities given to them [15]. It means that games can helps the students to reduce their stressful and anxiety in language learning.

4. CONCLUSION

Speaking is the most essential skill that needs to be mastered by the students. The students may have some difficulties related to the lack of practice in the classroom which makes their speaking skill level is low. One technique can be used to improve students' speaking skill is Communicative Games. Based on the finding and discussion above, it proved that Communication Games can improve students' speaking skill. Communicative Games leads the students to have a better communicative competence which help them to communicate in real life situation. Communicative Games also help passive students who usually stay quite in the classroom to be more active because it gives an equal chance for each student to speak. Lastly, Communicative Games can reduce anxiety which make the students highly motivated and more confident to speak in the classroom and make a mistake without having feeling of failure.

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