

THE USE OF MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILL DURING PANDEMIC OF COVID-19 ERA

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to investigate what media that can be used in today's online era and speaking skill elements which can be trained through the use of technology. The researcher used descriptive qualitative research with a case study because the research explored the information deeply by collecting the data from many sources consisted of observations, interviews, and documentations. The subject of this study is nursing students of Poltekkes Kemenkes Semarang in Campus 8. The result of this research showed that students used some media such as speech recognition software in mobile phone to correct their pronunciation and to gain the new vocabulary, internet to gain the information that they need, podcast, and youtube to gain such as tips to speak in English, produce the correct pronunciation, and produce videos that contain presentation about health scope. So that those media and technology match to enhance the quality of learning speaking skills in online learning era such as they got new vocabulary to explain in health scope, students can do repetition more and to pronounce the correct pronunciation, then they more comprehend to understand the content of the material that they uploaded in their youtube channel and automatically they do practice in order the result of recording in accordance with expectations. Therefore, students not only learn the theory but also they have output such as they can upload their performance on their youtube channel as the learning speaking skill used media and technology.

Key words: English speaking skills, media and technology in online era

INTRODUCTION

There are four language skills in English, one of them is speaking. In this era the ability to speak English is needed in every sector such as in education, economic, scientific meeting, conference, and many more. Moreover, many companies prefer applicant who can master English. They need workers who are competent in English because currently in the globalization and online era, many institutions, companies and other sector need exchange information not only from our country but also from foreign countries. Thornbury (2002, p. 1) stated that speaking is an activity that has become a habit that is done every day. Almost everyone produces a lot of words every day, or even more. So that, speaking is a natural ability that people can learn and struggle to speak. By the time people have to learn foreign language. Based on the explanation above English speaking is a skill which deserves attention of a literary skill in both the first language and the second language, needs rehearsal opportunities, gets feedback and gets successful meaning from the conversation. In addition to the aims of learning, a language is usually enabling people to take part in exchanges of information: sharing with others, reading the instruction on a packet of food, understanding directions, writing a note to a colleague, and other activities (Scrivener, p. 32).

As global English expands, particularly in Indonesia, based on mini research from the researcher, there are many students of English courses visited by learners who want to improve their speaking skills. It can be concluded that the need of learning English especially in speaking skill is unavoidable. It means that learners should be able to make themselves understood, using their current proficiency in maximal. They should try to avoid confusion in the message due to faulty grammar, pronunciation, suitable vocabulary, and to observe the social and cultural rules that apply in every communication situation (Fauziati, p. 101). Contrary with the situation, in pandemic Covid-19, learners cannot visit to the English course. So that, the researcher is interested

in conducting research toward problem to learn English in pandemic era. The researcher tries to use media and technology to help optimize speaking learning through online.

Technology gives learners an opportunity to engage in self-directed actions, opportunities for self-paced interactions, privacy, and a safe environment in which errors get corrected and specific feedback is given. For example, feedback by a machine offers additional value by its ability to track mistakes and link the student immediately to exercises that focus on specific errors. Studies are emerging that shows the importance of qualitative feedback in software. When links or media are provided to find explanations, additional help, and references, the value of technology is further enhanced.

Moreover, Bahadorfar and Omdivar (2014) explains modern technologies available in education today are language laboratory, speech recognition software in mobile phone, internet, TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning), Pod casting, Quick Link Pen, Quicktionary, and Youtube.

Therefore, the researcher conducted this research to know what media that can be used in today's online era and speaking skill elements can be trained through the use of media and technology.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

In this research, the researcher puts some theories related to the analysis. There are theories of speaking skill, theory of media and technology.

Notion of Speaking Skill

Speaking skill is a prominent portion of the curriculum in language teaching and this produces it the main object of assessment as well. According to Harmer (2007, p. 124), there are three main reasons for getting students to speak in the classroom. Firstly, speaking activities offers rehearsal occasion - chances to practice real-life speaking in the safety of the classroom. Secondly, speaking tasks in which students try to apply any or all of the languages they know to give feedback for both teacher and students. The third everyone can see how well they are doing: both how successful they are, and also what language problems they are going through. Speaking is about how to deliver the oral text that has meaning and being understood by the speaker-hearer.

In addition, Nunan (1995, p. 2) states that speaking is interactive processing information. It means that without speaking, we cannot give the information to others. Fulcher (1997, p. 24) also states that speaking a language is particularly difficult for foreign language learning because the effective verbal communication involves the capability to use the language appropriately in social interaction involved not only verbal communication but also the paralinguistic element of speech, the learners. Therefore, the learner can sense that speaking is a difficult skill in language learning. Furthermore, Nunan (1995, p. 3) states that the process of producing oral text, there are several elements which build up the establishment of speech, such as vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, fluency, and accuracy.

The usages of each component above are varied depending on the context, environment, and background in which the person gets involved in a communication. Learning a foreign language will not have any meaning without learning to speak the language.

Speaking means someone's capability to deliver people's mind in daily life by using word orally. It is also an ability to express a systematized notion in accordance with the content fluently in real communication. While the elements of language such as pronunciation, stress, intonation, grammatical structure and vocabulary of the target language at a normal speed as those of native speakers are needed in the real communication (Hanunah, 2009, p. 15). Hence, from the explanation above, there are some elements stressed in speaking. If the learners start with an element, then the other elements will be learned as well. Those are the micro skills of speaking. It seems complex so that it needs the components above which recover the solving in speaking.

Designing Assessment Task in Speaking Skill

Brown (2004, p. 141-181) stated that there are five basic types of speaking. Those consist of imitative speaking, intensive speaking, responsive speaking, interactive speaking, and extensive speaking. The first type is imitative speaking. In a simple repetition task, test takers renew the

stimulus, whether it is a pair of words, a sentence, or perhaps a question (to test for intonation production). The second type is intensive speaking. The test-takers are prompted to produce short stretches of discourse through which they demonstrate linguistic ability at a specified level of language. The third type is responsive speaking. It involves brief interactions with an interlocutor, differing from intensive tasks in the increased creativity given to the test-taker and from interactive tasks by the somewhat limited length of utterances. The fourth type is interactive speaking. This category includes tasks that involve relatively long stretches of interactive discourse such as interviews, role plays, discussions, games, and tasks of equally long duration but less interactions, such as speech, telling story, translations, etc. The sixth type is extensive speaking. This type involves complex, relatively, lengthy stretches of discourse. They are frequently variations of monologue, usually with minimal verbal interaction.

Problems in Speaking Activities

According to Richards (1990, p. 67), states that the conversation class is something of an inquiry into language teaching. It means that the learners are still afraid to generate word in language teaching.

There are many characteristics that cause speaking English complicated. According to Brown (2001, p. 270) there are eight causes of speaking English difficulty; Each of them will be explained as follows:

- 1) Clustering
Fluent speech is a phrasal not word by word. Learners can arrange their output both cognitively and physically (in breath group) through such as clustering.
- 2) Redundancy
The speaker has an opportunity to make meaning clearer through the redundancy of language. Learners can capitalize on this feature of spoken language.
- 3) Reduced forms
Contractions, elisions, reduced vowel, etc., are form of special problems in teaching spoken English. Students who do not learn colloquial contractions can sometimes develop a stilted, bookish quality in speaking that in turn stigmatize them.
- 4) Performance variable
One of the advantages of spoken language is that the process of thinking as student speaks allowed manifesting a certain number of performance hesitations, pauses, backtracking, and corrections. Learners can actually be taught how to pause and hesitate.
- 5) Colloquial language
colloquial language, and they get practice in producing these forms.
- 6) Rate of delivery
Another salient characteristic of fluency is the rate of delivery. One of student's tasks in teaching spoken English is to help learners achieve an acceptable speed along with other attributes of fluency.
- 7) Stress, rhythm, and intonation
This is the most important characteristic of English pronunciation. The stress-timed rhythm of spoken English and its intonation patterns convey important messages.
- 8) Interaction
Learning to produce waves of language in a vacuum – without interlocutor – would rob speaking skill of its richest components the creativity of conversational negotiation.

The Elements of Speaking Skill

According to Harris (1974), there are five components of speaking: pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. The followings are the description of the indicators of pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. The first component is acceptable pronunciation. It means having a standard of English accent. The second component is grammatical system. It is indicated by making few (if any) noticeable errors of grammar or word order. The third is vocabulary mastery. The use of appropriate vocabularies related to the topic.

The fourth component is fluent speech. It is described by having fluent speech without hesitation. The last component is comprehension. It means understanding everything or the topic without any difficulties.

Language laboratory

Software is available to develop speaking skills. By entering the appropriate software through the computer, students will play it again and again with their own interests and try to improve their speaking skills, which are most important in this modernized world of IT. The use of headphones in the lab keeps students interested in the subject matter and encourages them to repeat it again and again rather than feeling bored.

Speech recognition software in mobile phone

Speech recognition software also helps improve students' speaking ability, it can convert spoken words into machine readable input. The device recognizes the accuracy of what has been read and then provides positive reinforcement such as "You sound great!" or give the user the opportunity to try again, this way the student can find out whether the student is reading well or not. As user skills improve, technology reads less material so students can read more. The software also evaluates and provides scores on grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and comes with the correct form, for example if a student mispronounces a word, the learning tool can find it immediately and help correct it. This device can be a very useful tool for distance learners as they do not have a teacher correcting their speech and it can help improve their speaking skills.

Internet

Internet is a term that is commonly known and widely used by people all over the world. Students now use the Internet in the classroom to learn English. Online teaching in the classroom seems interesting and makes students search for materials that are suitable for them. Students are instructed to do grammar exercises which are available online. Through the Internet students can collect data from various sources for any instruction to improve speaking skills, students can use Zoom Meeting, Google Meet, Messenger, Google talk (used to hold classes online) and other applications where students can connect with friends, other students, teachers and even native speakers, these ways of learning have been observed to improve oral proficiency in students and make up for the shortage of native speakers in the areas where students live and what's more, online conferencing also increases intercultural awareness, motivation and increases the level of interaction.

Through the internet, students can find a lot of learning materials, such as audio, video, radio and TV shows, games, voice recordings, quizzes, podcasts and so on, in this way students can be exposed to many targets.

TELL

TELL is the use of computer technology including hardware, software, and the internet to enhance language teaching and learning. This allows students to gain access to all available technologies for the improvement of English language learning. Students are allowed to use an online dictionary, chat, and view events in the world.

Podcasting

Podcasts can be uploaded or downloaded, these audios help learners familiarize themselves with the target language and teachers can use them as useful audio material that can be used in class for activities such as discussions, besides, on the web, there are even certain podcasts that are for ESL students and this can include pronunciations for the student's specific needs. Podcasts no doubt help learners speak.

Podcasting allows students to use their technology-based entertainment system for educational purposes. With it we can move away from traditional face-to-face training without losing the student-to-trainer relationship which is very effective in any learning process. Podcasts

allow students and teachers to share information with anyone, anytime. Absent students can download recorded lesson podcasts and can access missed lessons. They can also access expert lectures which may not be available due to geographic distance and other reasons.\

Quick Link Pen

The Quick Link Pen allows students to copy and save printed text, Internet links. This helps to transfer data to the computer and allows the reader to get the meaning of a word from the dictionary it contains. Accessing machines of this type seems to be a more convenient method. Recent developments in machine translation feature translation machines such as U-Dictionary.

Quicktionary

It is a pen-like device. This allows the reader to easily scan the word and get its definition and translation on its own LCD screen. Technologies such as Enounce and Sound-Editor allow learners to adjust the speaking rate of listening material to aid their understanding, and provide speech wave spectrums and visual representations of mouth and tongue movements to facilitate learning and improve pronunciation.

Youtube

YouTube is an American online video-sharing platform headquartered in San Bruno, California. YouTube allows users to upload, view, rate, share, add to playlists, report, comment on videos, and subscribe to other users. It offers a wide variety of user-generated and corporate media videos. Available content includes video clips, TV show clips, music videos, short and documentary films, audio recordings, movie trailers, live streams, and other content such as video blogging, short original videos, and educational videos.

According to Wikipedia, most of the content on YouTube is uploaded by individuals, but media corporations including CBS, the BBC, Vevo, and Hulu offer some of their material via YouTube as part of the YouTube partnership program. Unregistered users can watch, but not upload, videos on the site, while registered users are permitted to upload an unlimited number of videos and add comments to videos. Age-restricted videos are available only to registered users affirming themselves to be at least 18 years old.

METHOD

Type of Study and Design of the Study Research

The researcher used descriptive qualitative research with a case study because the research explored the information deeply by collecting the data from many sources consisted of observations, interviews, and documentations. Based on the objectives of the study, the researcher gave an explanation about kinds of media and use of technology that can use for the students. Therefore what are speaking skill elements can be trained in learning to use media and technology.

Descriptive qualitative research is a type of research that includes surveys and fact-finding questions of various types. The main purpose of descriptive research is to describe the situation as it is today. The main characteristic of this method is that the researcher does not have control over the variables (Kothari: 2004).

Place and Time of Study

This research was conducted in Nursing Department of Campus 8 Poltekkes Kemenkes Semarang. Poltekkes Kemenkes Semarang is located on Jalan Pertiwi, Mersi, Purwokerto, Banyumas Regency, Central Java 53112. Poltekkes Kemenkes Semarang has several faculties, one of them is nursing department. The researcher conducted this research at the fifth semester in academic year 2018/2019.

This research was conducted for 4 months, starts from , 26th of August until 30th of November 2020. This study was conducted on the fifth-semester students in Nursing Department of Campus 8 Poltekkes Kemenkes Semarang to get information and description towards the way to enhance speaking skill in online era use media and technology.

Research Subject

The subjects of this research are A,B, and C class students of nursing department of campus 8 Poltekkes Kemenkes Semarang

Data

The data in this study refer to the responses to the questions in the interview, field notes, screenshot, and descriptive data of Nursing Department of Poltekkes Kemenkes Semarang in Campus 8, especially in teaching online learning process activity.

The study used qualitative data, usually in the form of words rather than numbers. This study collected the data based on observation, interview, field note, screen shoot and documents.

Technique for Collecting Data

Observation

Observation is a complex process, composed of various biological and psychological processes. The two most important things are the process of observation and memory. The researcher did the observation 2 times in A,B, and C class of Nursing Department in Campus 8 Poltekkes Kemenkes Semarang.

Interview

Hadi (1993) cited in Miftaahurrahmah (2012) stated, "Interview can be viewed as a method of data collection by way of question and answer undertaken unilaterally by systematic and based on the purpose of the investigation". The purpose of interviewing people is to find out their mind, what they think or how they feel about something. The researcher interview people to find out from them those things we cannot directly observe. There are three methods of interview, those are: a) Free or unguided interview. In this method, the interviewer carries out the interviewee without any systematically plan of question as the guide line to handle it; b) Guided interview. Here the interviewer carries out the interview by using set of questions that are planned systematically as the guide lines for having the interview; c) Free guided interview Free or unguided interview. In this method, the interviewer uses a set of questions and each question is developed to gain details information. In this study, the researcher conducted the interview with free or unguided interview.

Documentation

Arikunto (1998, p. 135) stated, "In the execution of the documentation methods, researcher investigating the written items such as books, magazines, documents, regulations, meeting minutes, and diaries".

Data Validity

According to Sugiyono (2015, p. 373-374), triangulation is divided into three types; there are triangulation of data source, technique, and time. Those three triangulations are explained below.

Triangulation of Data Source

Source triangulation is functioned to examine the data credibility through some resources that have been checked.

Triangulation of Technique

Triangulation technique is used to check the credibility of the data by checking the data to the same source with different techniques. Then after using different testing techniques, the researcher must carry out further discussion of the data sources to ensure that they are correct or not.

Triangulation of Time

Time affects data credibility; This means that researchers must conduct interviews at the appropriate time, so that the data obtained is valid. If the data is tested by different techniques, yielding different results, then the interview must be repeated to obtain data certainty. Therefore, in this case, the researcher used triangulation of technique to gain the valid data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this research, there are two problem statements that contain some explanations which are compared with theory. There were: (a) what media can be used in today's online era, and (b) what speaking skill elements can be trained in learning to use media and technology.

Media used by nursing students in online era

The result of this research was supported by Bahadorfar, et al., (2014) who states that there are some media and technology that can be used for the students such as; Language Laboratory, Speech recognition software in mobile phone, Internet, TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning), Pod casting, Quick Link Pen, Quicktionary, Youtube and Radio. Based on the observation that conduct it was found that there were; Speech recognition software in mobile phone, Internet, and Youtube. The explanation will be presented below.

Speech recognition software in mobile phone

Nowadays, applications for learning English are numerous and can be accessed easily. People can access for free or paid. People are also free to access anytime and anywhere. On the other hand, the benefits of the applications available on this gadget, we can also choose what skills or material we are looking for, so that in this Covid 19 pandemic, students can study independently with an online coach by utilizing learning from home. Likewise with students in the nursing department on the campus 8 of the Ministry of Health's Poltekkes Semarang, based on interviews conducted by researchers with class a, b, and c students they said that they can find tips on how to learn certain material, such as learning tips to understand the Past perfect continuous tense etc, and can reply the explanation more and more until they understand well. They also added that learning through the application also knows how to write correctly and can add vocabulary. Because we know in English the written words on the text will be different from the pronunciation and we as foreign language learners must also get used to listening to words or sentences spoken by native speakers. Beside that learning from software application is also easier, less boring, varied, and more relaxed.

Internet

The internet as we know it today has a wide range and is easily accessible by mobile phones. As is done by nursing department students, especially in learning English, they say that the benefits of the internet are they can find more detailed information about the English language material that is being studied.

Youtube

YouTube media in nowadays era besides we can use it to search for information using keywords that we type, on the other hand, many people can easily create YouTube content and upload it to the general public and can be seen by the public. As has been done by nursing department students at the 8 health Poltekkes of the Ministry of Health Semarang. Some students said that through the youtube media, it was not only displaying sound but also displaying objects where these objects could explain and exemplify in detail in their content. Youtube, usually used to understand pronunciation. Students are also very interested in being able to speak English fluently so that students often look for material in the form of videos about nursing in English, then they will imitate how to speak from the native speaker while understanding the contents of the video. From Youtube they can get many references, from various sources in various countries, but we must be selective in using this media by choosing sources that have Indonesian translations, so that they are more understandable and clearer. Therefore in this case lecturers also give assignment to the students to make a video that contain about health scope, and the result is awesome.

researcher did to the students of nursing department after they learnt from those media and technologies. They said that as follow:

“Sedangkan untuk podcast dan Youtube, biasanya saya gunakan untuk memahami pronunciation. Saya juga sangat tertarik untuk bisa berbicara bahasa inggris dengan lancar sehingga saya sering sekali mencari materi dalam bentuk video tentang keperawatan yang berbahasa inggris, kemudian akan saya tirukan cara bicara dari speakernya sembari memahami isi videonya”.

“Manfaatnya jadi lebih tau pronunciation setiap kata, dan bisa juga melatih listening. tau cara penulisan yang benar dan menambah vocabulary”.

“ Manfaat yang didapatkan mengetahui arti dari kosa kata baru, bagaimana pronoun session yang baik dan benar”

Based on the result of interview above, the researcher can conclude that some elements that can enhance the students in learn English speaking skill are pronunciation, vocabulary and comprehension. In pronunciation element the students can use the media to check the correct pronunciation and automatically they practice orally until the pronunciation correct or at least almost sam with the native speaker or the sound from the tools.

Therefore, in vocabulary element the students can get new vocabulary about health scope and can remind some vocabulary that they got in the previous time. Next in comprehension element, the students gain a lot of references from the internet and media then they can explore and speak well and comprehend about the topic.

CONCLUSION

In this research, the researcher draws conclusion based on the results of the data analyzed from Nursing Department of Campus 8 Poltekkes Kemnkes Semarang as follow. Firstly, there are several media that can be used by students in today's online era such as speech recognition software in mobile phone internet, podcast, and youtube. Secondly, there are three elements of speaking skill that can be enhanced through the use of media and technology such as pronunciation, vocabulary and comprehension.

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