



A STUDY ON THE ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS ABILITY

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to know the speaking ability of the members of the Special Police Unit in Bairro Pite–Dili and identify their level of ability in speaking skills. The method used in this research was a case study which was one topic speaking ‘Daily Duty’. The result of the data analysis, the writer would like to conclude that the ability of English speaking in the year 2023 is 6.9. It is based on the standard of measurement classified at an average level. This means that the members of the Special Police Unit in Bairro pite – Dili were able to speak English because a score of 6.9 is considered a passing grade at level of average. Therefore, the 20 crew members of the Special Police Unit in Bairro pite – Dili are suggested to improve their English speaking skills through some English courses with the elementary level and the commander of the police must provide them with some budget to facilitate them to take an English course. The crew members of the Special Police Unit in Bairro Pite must establish internal regulations to regulate all the member's practice of speaking with each other every working hour.

INTRODUCTION

English Language skills (*Listening, reading, speaking, and writing*) have an important role to require in public service especially, police officers must be able to

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communicate and interact with native and non-native English speakers.

The duty of policemen and women to interact with others by using English is obligatory because every Unit of Police institution has a cooperative working with other English speakers' countries (Australia and America) in terms of technical training. As the law of the Constitution of the Republic Democratic of Timor Leste, article 159 says "The English language is used as a working language". This means that English is used to work cooperatively between or among the bilateral, regional, and multilateral countries in the area of social politics, economy, education technology, and security defense (*human resource military training as well as operation military equipment*).

English is one of the international languages which is spoken widely in many countries around the world including Timor-Leste. As the most used language, English takes an important role as a working language. The importance of English, the Curriculum of Education of Timor-Leste includes English as a compulsory subject to be taught in schools from Junior High School until University.

Naturally, every language is an instrument to be used for expressing human thinking and opinion in oral and written language. Language is a gift given by God to human communication and it has existed since the world was created by God. Concerning this, Richard (2006) asserts that mastery of speaking skills in English is a priority for many second or foreign-language learners in the teaching process in the classroom activity.

Another reason speaking English skill needs many English vocabulary that has been taught to be able to read, write, speak, and listen. Then, vocabulary is a subject learned by students to understand knowing things, actions, and concepts. Without vocabulary, the students are unable to grasp the idea of language learning. The ability to speak English or have conversations with each other is expected by the foreign language learners should know how to express thoughts, opinions, feelings, and ideas.

As connecting the conversation above, Lyle (1993) & Bertram (2002) state that oral language is a very important link in the process of students' learning and thinking development. And oral language provides a foundation for the development of other language skills. As a foreign language can be used to talk about themselves and their experiences, they are learning to organize their thinking and to focus their ideas.

—— Speaking skills are an important aspect as well as the ability to communicate

effectively to convey the message in a passionate, thoughtful, and convincing manner so, the receptor understands the meaning of that information. McCatty and O'Dell (2001) simplify that English has a large vocabulary which adds greatly to our opportunities to express the meaning in different ways. Speaking skill is an important among the four skills that should be able to speak and it is a productive language skill. The productive skills should be through the mental process which is called a process of thinking. When people want to say something and transmit information they need communication. Stuart, R., (1999) argues the average native English speaker enters nursery school knowing at least 5,000 words while the average English language learner may know 5,000 words in his/her native language but only a few words in English. The reality is that native speakers continue to learn new words while English language learners face the double challenge of building that foundation and closing that language gap.

The factors above can cause the members of the Especial Police Unit to have difficulty when they speak English. Based on this, the researcher wants to know the members of the Especial Police Unit's capacities and speaking skills in their activities every day. The problems of the Especial Police Unit in English speaking skills must be identified speaking English ability is very useful for members to prepare for their future including peacekeeping around the world. According to that, the researcher is presenting his proposal for research with the title "The Ability of English Speaking Skill by the Members of Especial Police Unit in Bairopite – Dili In The Year 2023"

LITERATURE REVIEW

Speaking skills is a fundamental requirement that influences learner's achievement in studying English. Based on that, Hornby, (1989) argues that without vocabulary used in speaking, there is no communication, read, and writing can be conveyed. As following definition or concept of speaking based on Hornby's ideas is a total members or words, which make up a language, a range of words known, or used by a person in a trade, profession, and book containing a list of words used in a book, used with definition and translation. For that ideas, reinforced by Good (1959) define speaking as the words having meaning when heard or seen even though not produced by the individual himself to communicate with others.

Broughton (2003) believes that speaking skills are one of four important abilities in English skills, especially when the speakers are not from an English native country. The

ability is described as the capability to use language in real situations, the ability to report acts in precise words, or the ability to express or converse ideas fluently. English as a foreign language (EFL) students should improve their speaking ability since English has become the first international language that is used to communicate with people from all around the world. English speaking ability should be improved together with the other abilities in English to fulfill the communication requirement.

Harmer, J. (2002) suggests that speaking is an activity involving two or more participants as listeners and speakers in other interact with each other. Each participant has an attention or a set of goals that they want to achieve when they communicate. To sum up, speaking should involve at least two participants, one can be a speaker who delivers information, and the other can be a listener who receives the information.

Nation, I. S. (2000) argues that speaking is the ability to develop and share meaning by using verbal or non-verbal symbols. Speaking is a productive skill that people use to interact with others through orally. It is produced and processed in real-life situations which means the speakers convey his or her message to the listener directly. Therefore, speaking plays playing great role in daily life situations. And then speaking is used to communicate among people in society in other to keep the relationship going well.

Ur, Penny (2002) believed that someone can express their thought, feelings, and emotions and also influence other people through speaking that can receive feedback directly from the listener. In addition, Hornby, A. (2004) stated that speaking ability is the process of making speech by using voice to substitute words and express meaning Moreover, Nunan, D. (1992) states that speaking is a natural ability that people use to communicate or to express their idea in society as a social behavior form. Therefore, speaking is the ability of someone to express feeling, idea, or something on his or her mind to other people. Speaking is an important skill that cannot be separated from daily life activities because people speak in other to convey and express their ideas.

Speaking ability is the student's ability to express their ideas orally which is represented by the scores of speaking. Speaking is only an oral trail of abilities that comes from structure and vocabulary based on Risnadedi, (2001) stated that speaking ability is more complex and difficult than people assume, and speaking study like studying other cases in language, naturalizes many cases to language teachers.

Every skill has a component to fulfill its needs. Speaking also needs components because speaking is the most natural way to communicate. Without speaking, people must stay in almost total isolation from any kind of society. For most people, the ability to speak

a language is similar to understanding a language since speaking is the most basic way of human interaction. In addition, speaking is one of the language arts that are mostly used by people from all over the world. The art of speaking is very complex, it requires the simultaneous of several abilities which often develop at different rates. Rahayu (2013) mentions that there are generally five components of speaking skills, they are; comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and fluency.

METHOD

Ur, Penny (2002) defined research as “in the broadest sense of the word, the definition of research includes any gathering of data, information, and fact for the advancement of knowledge. Biber, D. (1998) continues describing another definition of research stating that “Research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase our understanding of a topic or issue'. It consists of three steps: pose a question, collect data to answer the question and present an answer to the question. Based on the theories mentioned above, the writer presented this chapter by research design, the subject of the study, the instrument of the study, and the technique of data collection and analysis.

In conducting the research, the researcher was doing his research from 31st July until 29th August 2023 at Members of Especial Police Unit in Bairo Pite –Dili. This research applied the qualitative method of scientific research. Then, the researcher selected one group of Especial Police Unit to speak English based on the topic that has been provided, and the researcher was facilitated by some friends of local police to take a video of their English speaking. The researcher was carrying out the research at Members of Especial Police Unit in Bairo Pite-Dili which was located in the center of Dili City and status of this institute is Government institution and the owner of this institute is the Ministry of Sigurança Interior of the Republic Democratic of Timor-Leste (RDTL).

The researcher got the research letter from the Dean of Faculty Education Science of Instituto Superior Cristal (ISC) Dili then submitting to the Commander of the Especial Police Unit in Bairo Pite –Dili to be authorized for the scientific research. The researcher selected one group of police to talk about their everyday activities and the telling the everyday activities were taken video to analyze based rubric of speaking; comprehension, vocabulary, pronunciation, fluency as well as grammar and structure. After the end of the research activity, the researcher got a declaration letter from the Commander of the Especial Police Unit and analyzed the data as the result of data

collection, tabulating, and analysis as in the table presented.

In this research, the researcher collects the data through a questionnaire or test based on the ideas of Creswell (2012) is “a form used in a survey, design that participant in a study complete and return to the researcher”. (p.382). aside from that, the researcher provides one topic speaking “*Daily Routines*”. They had to act out the role play first then, the member of the Especial Police Unit followed to speak and mark their score based on their ability through four aspects of the speaking skill rubric (*Pronunciation, fluency, Vocabulary, Structure, and Grammar*).

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The writer identifies the technique to measure the ability of English speaking by the Crew members of the Especial Police Unit in Bairopite-Dili, Timor Leste. As Sugiyono (2010: 49) also stated the mean is the average score obtained by the subject of the study.

Accordingly, the researcher analyzes the ability of speaking skills of the crew members of the Especial Police Unit in Bairopite-Dili, Timor Leste as the following formula;

The formula to get mean is as follow:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\Sigma x}{n}$$

Where:

\bar{X} : Mean

n : The total sample of study

Σx : Total score

Based on the result of the mean score above, it can be concluded according to *the Standard of Measurement* which is used in every school as the tool to measure the individual or group’s ability to speak English.

Score	Ability
8.5 – 9.5 above	Very Good
7.5 – 8.4	Good
6.0 – 7.4	Average
0 – 5.9	Poor

Table 1 The average score

The 20 crew members of the Especial Police Unit in Bairopite-Dili, Timor Leste have tested their ability to speak skills by the topic of “ Daily Duty”. Then, they were evaluated by the researcher through the following rubrics of five components of speaking skill *grammar and structure, vocabulary, pronunciation, and fluency*.

Nu	Initial's	Grammar	Vocabulary	Pronunciation	Fluently	score
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
1	OG	8	8	9	8	8.25
2	DDC	7	7	7	7	7
3	SDA	7	7	7	7	7
4	MDC	7	7	7	7	7
5	JM	7	7	7	7	7
6	AM	7	7	7	7	7
7	ADSA	7	7	7	7	7
8	ML	7	7	7	7	7
9	MS	7	7	7	7	7
10	JL	7	7	7	6	6.75
11	AB	7	7	7	6	6.75
12	HA	7	7	7	6	6.75
13	MA	7	7	7	6	6.75
14	MC	7	7	6	7	6.75
15	DMM	7	7	7	6	6.75
16	EB	7	7	7	6	6.75
17	BM	7	7	7	6	6.75
18	JM	7	6	7	7	6.75
19	JB	7	7	7	6	6.75
20	FPDC	7	7	7	6	6.75
	TOTAL	141	141	143	130	138.75
	Average	7.05	7.05	7.15	6.5	6.9

Table 4.1.1 The score of speaking skills by the 20 crew members of the Especial Police Unit in Bairopite-Dili, Timor Leste.

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$

$$\bar{X} = \frac{138.75}{20}$$

$$\bar{X} = 6.9$$

The table shows the level of English-speaking ability of the 20 crew members special of The police Unit got a total score was 138.75 which is divided by 20 respondents is 6.9. It is based on the standard measurement the score of 6.9 is classified as the average Level.

Therefore, it could be concluded the 20 crew members Special Police Unit in Bairopite Dili were able to speak English and their level of ability English speaking skill is **6.9** which is classified as average Level.

Nu	Level of Ability	Frequency	%	Classification
1	8.5 – 10			Very Good
2	7.5 – 8.4	1	5	Good
3	6.5 – 7.4	19	95	Average
4	5.5– 6.4			Low
5	0 - 54			Very Low
		20	100	

Table 4.1.2 The distribution of the 20 crew members Special Police Unit in Bairopite Dili's level of English speaking skills as the following table.

Based on the table of distribution to determine the 20 crew members Special Police Unit in Bairopite Dili as follows;

- ❖ 1 member or 5% who got the score 7.5 – 8.4 which is classified as a good level
- ❖ 19 staff or 95% got a score of 6.5-7.4 which is classified as FAIRLY GOOD.

Table 4.1.1 presents the score of 20 crew members of the Special Police Unit in Bairopite Dili with scores ability in English speaking skills who got a total score of 138.75 which is divided into a total of members which was 6.9 which is classified as AVERAGE.

Table 4.1.2 presents the distribution level of ability by the 20 crew members of Special Police Unit in Bairopite Dili as follows;

- ❖ 1 member or 5% who got the score 7.5 – 8.4 which is classified as a good level
- 19 staff or 95% got a score of 6.5-7.4 which is classified as FAIRLY GOOD.

CONCLUSIONS

As the study of the result of data analysis, the writer would like to conclude that the ability of English speaking skills by the 20 members of the Special Police Unit in Bairo pite – Dili in the year 2023 is 6.9. It is based on the standard of measurement classified at AVERAGE LEVEL. This meant that the members of the Special Police Unit in

Bairo pite – Dili were able to speak English because a score of 6.9 is considered a passing grade at the level of AERAGE. As the table of distribution based on the level of ability, from the 20 crew members Special the police Unit in Bairopite Dili has 1 member, or 5% who got a score of 7.5 – 8.4 which is classified as a GOOD level, and 19 staff or 95% who got a score of 6.5-7.4 which is classified at FAIRLY GOOD.

Based on the conclusion, the writer would like to suggest that the 20 crew members of the Special Police Unit in Bairo pite – Dili must be allowed to improve their English speaking skills through some English courses with the elementary level as their placement test. The commander of the police must provide them with some budget to take an English course because their level of ability in speaking skill is only 6.9 which is as level as elementary level. The crew members of the Special Police Unit in Bairo Pite must establish internal regulations to regulate all members' practice the speaking with each other every work hour. They should have more exercises in speaking skills once they arrive in the office with the English language.

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