



STRATEGY TO IMPROVE ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS THROUGH ROLE PLAY METHOD

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ABSTRAK

The ability to speak English is crucial in this era of globalization. However, many students encounter obstacles such as a lack of confidence, limited vocabulary, and insufficient opportunities for practice. The role play method emerges as an effective solution, offering a more interactive and enjoyable learning experience. Through this approach, students can practice speaking in a variety of real-life situations, thereby enhancing their fluency, creativity, and understanding of expressions and communication contexts.

This study employs a literature review to analyze the effectiveness of role play in improving English speaking skills. The findings indicate that this method boosts students' confidence, fluency, and participation in the learning process. Nevertheless, challenges such as time constraints and student readiness must also be addressed. To ensure more effective learning, it is essential to implement appropriate strategies, such as developing relevant scenarios, allowing sufficient preparation time, and conducting regular evaluations.

1. INTRODUCTION

The ability to speak English is an essential skill in today's globalized world. English is not only utilized in academic settings but also plays a crucial role in the workplace, international communication, and various other aspects of life. However, many students struggle with speaking English due to a lack of confidence, limited vocabulary, and insufficient opportunities to practice in real-life situations.

One effective learning method that can enhance speaking skills is role play. This approach allows students to practice speaking in various real-world contexts in a more enjoyable and interactive manner. Through role play, students can not only learn to use English naturally but also foster creativity, improve fluency, and gain a better understanding of different expressions and communication situations.

This article will explore how role play can be effectively incorporated into English language learning and the benefits it offers in enhancing students' speaking skills.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The role play method has been proven effective in improving English speaking skills at various levels of education. Thornbury (2006) explains that role play is a learning technique that allows students to practice speaking in situations that resemble real life. This is supported by Harmer (2002), who states that this method helps students become more active in interacting in class, so they become more accustomed to using English in daily communication. According to Uno (2008), this method not only trains speaking skills, but also helps students understand various social roles that exist in communication.

Research by Lestari (2020) shows that role play can increase students' motivation to speak because they can practice in situations that are more real and relevant to everyday life. This is in line with the opinion of Ningsih (2015), who found that this method not only improves speaking skills, but also makes students more actively involved in learning.

In addition, Yulianeta et al. (2024) revealed that the application of role play in English learning can significantly improve students' learning outcomes. In a study conducted on junior high school students, it was found that after two learning cycles using this method, students' speaking skills improved, and their confidence in communicating in English also increased.

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Another study conducted by Nurul Makrifah et al. (2020) showed that the role play method designed using the ADDIE model was able to improve the speaking skills of Madrasah Ibtidaiyah students. This study found that after the implementation of this method, there was a significant improvement in vocabulary mastery, pronunciation, and fluency in speaking.

Meanwhile, Neni Karmila (2023), in her research on junior high school students, found that the use of role plays improved speaking skills by up to 20%. In addition, this method was also proven to increase students' confidence and involvement in the learning process.

Based on these various studies, it can be concluded that the role play method is an effective learning strategy in improving English speaking skills. This method not only makes students more confident, but also creates a more interesting and meaningful learning experience. By practicing in situations that resemble real life, students become more prepared to use English in daily communication.

2. METHODS

A. Research Desain

Sujarweni (2020) stated that research design is a plan regarding how to collect and process data so that the research objectives can be achieved. This study applies a qualitative design with a library research approach. Through library research, this study aims to examine and analyze various theories, previous research findings, and relevant scientific literature related to strategies for improving English speaking skills through the role play method. In this approach, the researcher does not conduct direct experiments but rather examines, compares, and synthesizes various literature sources in order to produce scientific conclusions and recommendations.

B. Research Method

Sugiyono (2015, p. 2) explains that "research method is a scientific way to obtain data with specific purposes and uses." In this study, the method used is library research. This method is conducted by collecting data from various written sources, such as scientific textbooks, nationally and internationally indexed journals, seminar proceeding articles, undergraduate theses, master's theses, and dissertations related to English speaking learning and the application of the role play method. The researcher explores various theoretical studies and empirical findings to formulate applicable strategies for improving English speaking skills.

C. Research Instrument

According to Sugiyono (2015, p. 156), "a research instrument is a measuring tool such as tests, questionnaires, guidelines, interviews, and observation guides used to collect data in a study." The instrument used in this study is a note-taking instrument, which includes a literature review guideline, covering source identity (title, author, year of publication, publisher), keywords used (e.g., speaking skills, role play method, English teaching), as well as the main findings from each source, including methods used, results, and recommendations. In addition, there is also synthesis between sources to identify similarities and differences in findings.

D. Data Collection Technique

According to Sugiyono (2018:224), "data collection technique is the most strategic step in research, because the main goal of research is to obtain accurate data. Without knowing the data collection technique, researchers will not be able to obtain data that meet standards." The data collection technique was carried out in several stages, namely:

- a) Literature searching through scientific databases such as Google Scholar, ResearchGate, and accredited national and international journals.
- b) Source selection based on relevance, recency (minimum of the last 10 years, except for main theoretical sources), and publisher credibility.
- c) Critical reading and note-taking of key findings, including learning strategies and analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the role play method based on previous studies.
- d) Data categorization based on sub-topics such as the concept of speaking skills, the role of the role play method, implementation strategies, advantages, weaknesses, and empirical results found.

E. Data Analysis Technique

Bogdan (in Sugiyono and Wuangian, 2017, p. 57) explains that data analysis is the process of organizing and arranging data obtained from data collection systematically, so it is easy to understand and the findings can be communicated to others. According to Bogdan (in Zakariah et al., 2020, p. 52), data analysis techniques include searching data, organizing it into categories, arranging it into units,

synthesizing, and selecting important information to draw conclusions that can be conveyed to others. In this study, the data analysis technique used is content analysis through the following stages:

1. Conduct data reduction by filtering information from relevant literature and eliminating irrelevant data.
2. Classify information based on themes, including the definition and importance of speaking skills, as well as the definition and characteristics of the role play method. The steps for implementing role play, as explained by Abidin (2017), consist of warming up, selecting participants, setting the context, appointing observers, role performance, analysis and assessment, role repetition, and reflection. The role play method has several advantages, such as increasing self-confidence, training expression and improvisation, and creating a fun learning atmosphere. However, it also has weaknesses, including the need for sufficient time, student readiness, and limitations on certain topics.
3. From the above explanation, conclusions can be drawn to formulate concrete strategies for the implementation of the role play method in English learning, especially for speaking skills. These strategies include designing interesting and relevant scenarios, providing sufficient preparation time for students, assigning groups along with observation and evaluation tasks, and conducting joint reflections to improve deficiencies in the next cycle.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Results

Based on the literature review conducted, the role play method has proven effective in improving English speaking skills at various levels of education. The studies that have been reviewed show that the implementation of this method can enhance students' confidence, speaking fluency, and motivation in communication.

Several previous studies revealed that role play creates a more realistic learning environment, making students more actively involved and more comfortable expressing their opinions. In addition, this method also helps students understand various social roles involved in communication. Research conducted by Lestari (2020) and Yulianeta et al. (2024) shows a significant improvement in students' speaking abilities after the application of the role play method. Meanwhile, Nurul Makrifah et al. (2020) emphasize that the use of the ADDIE model in designing role play activities has a positive impact on English learning at the Madrasah Ibtidaiyah level.

Discussion

The research results indicate that the role play method has significant advantages in teaching English speaking skills. Several factors that support the effectiveness of this method include:

1. Simulation of Real-Life Situations
Role play provides students with the opportunity to practice speaking in situations that resemble daily life, allowing them to become more accustomed to using English actively.
2. Increased Self-Confidence
In a supportive learning environment, students tend to feel more confident in speaking and participating in learning activities.
3. Active Student Engagement
Compared to conventional methods, role play tends to be more engaging, which contributes to increased active participation among students in the learning process.

However, this method also faces several challenges, such as the need for sufficient time, student readiness, and limitations in certain topics. Therefore, effective implementation strategies are required, including:

- Designing interesting and relevant scenarios.
- Providing adequate preparation time for students.
- Utilizing observation and evaluation to enhance the effectiveness of the method.
- Conducting joint reflections to improve future learning cycles.

From the various studies that have been analyzed, it can be concluded that the role play method is an effective instructional strategy for improving English speaking skills. With proper implementation, this method can provide students with a more engaging, interactive, and meaningful learning experience.

4. CONCLUSION

The role play method is a highly effective learning strategy for improving English speaking skills. By using this method, students can practice speaking in a variety of real-life situations, helping them

become more accustomed to using English actively. In addition, this method contributes to enhancing self-confidence, speaking fluency, and understanding of expressions and language structures used in daily communication. Role play creates a more interactive and enjoyable learning atmosphere, which in turn motivates students to participate more actively in the learning process. Moreover, this method also helps students understand various social roles in communication, which is highly beneficial for adapting to different environments.

However, despite offering many benefits, the implementation of role play also faces several challenges. One of the main obstacles is the need for sufficient time to effectively design and carry out scenarios. Furthermore, not all students have the same level of confidence when speaking, so a supportive approach is necessary to make them feel comfortable. To overcome these challenges, teachers can develop scenarios that are interesting and relevant to students' lives, provide adequate preparation time, and conduct evaluations and reflections after the activity. With the right strategies, role play can be a fun and effective way to improve English speaking skills..

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