ABSTRACT

Students' Difficulties in Speaking English and Their Strategies to Overcome
the Difficulties

(A Descriptive Qualitative Study of 12th Graders of Software Engineering Programme at
a Vocational School in Bandung)

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This study was conducted to identify speaking English difficulties encountered by the students and to seek strategies they used to overcome those difficulties. This study implemented a descriptive qualitative method that involved 30 students of 12th grade majoring software engineering (SE) at a vocational school in Bandung. The data were obtained through questionnaire, interview, and classroom observations. The results of this study showed that the students had issues in speaking English, namely lack of understanding grammatical patterns, lack of vocabularies, incorrect pronunciation, fear of other responses, nervousness, fear of making mistakes, lack of self-confidence, and shyness. The strategies used by them to overcome the difficulties were asking for help, trying to recombine the sentence in a new pattern, using gestures, taking risks, keeping silent, positive thinking, taking a deep breath, and smiling/laughing. It can be concluded that the students still have issue in speaking English. Some suggestions are recommended for the students, the English teachers, and the further researchers.

Keywords: speaking, difficulties, vocational students

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk mengidentifikasi kesulitan berbicara dalam bahasa Inggris yang dihadapi siswa dan mencari tahu strategi yang mereka gunakan untuk mengatasi kesulitan tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif yang melibatkan 30 siswa kelas 12 jurusan RPL (Rekayasa Perangkat Lunak) di sebuah SMK di Bandung. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan kuesioner, wawancara, dan observasi kelas. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa para siswa memiliki kesulitan berbicara dalam bahasa Inggris, yakni kurangnya pemahaman tata bahasa, kurangnya kosakata, pelafalan kata yang salah, takut akan respon orang lain, rasa gugup, takut akan melakukan kesalahan, kurangnya rasa kepercayaan diri, dan rasa malu. Strategi yang digunakan para siswa untuk mengatasi kesulitan tersebut adalah meminta bantuan orang lain, mencoba merangkai kalimat dengan cara berbeda, menggunakan gerak tubuh, mengambil resiko, tetap diam, berpikir positif, menarik napas dalam-dalam, dan tersenyum/tertawa. Dapat disimpulkan bahwa para siswa masih memiliki kesulitan berbicara dalam bahasa Inggris. Beberapa saran direkomendasikan untuk siswa-siswi, guru bahasa Inggris, dan para peneliti.

Kata kunci: *berbicara, kesulitan, siswa SMK*