A STUDY ON THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS’ SPEAKING ABILITY AT MA NEGERI MALANG I

Oleh: DEWI KARTIKA SARI (03360203)

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ABSTRACT
Speaking is the verbal use of language to communicate with others. Speaking in a second or foreign language has often been viewed as the most demanding of the four skills and seen as the central skill. This study aims at measuring the students’ speaking ability of the second year at MA Negeri Malang I. Realizing it, the writer is interested in investigating the second year students’ speaking ability which includes their ability in accent, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension in speaking.

This study used quantitative descriptive research that the data collected were in the form numbers or scores rather than words or pictures. The population of the study was all students of the second year at MA Negeri Malang I that consisted of 280 students. The sample of the study was 15% of population taken by using proportional random sampling that consisted of 42 students. The data were obtained through interview test to the students that were scored by 2 raters in order to avoid the subjectivity in scoring. To determine the students’ scores, FSI component scale was used. The scores from 2 raters were classified into FSI weighting table, combined, and then divided by 2 to yield the mean score. Component scale can evaluate the student’s scores in each component such as accent, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension, the sum of scores from five components, and then determined students’ score criteria.

The result of this study showed that the mean score of speaking test was 52.94. It means that, students’ speaking ability in MAN Malang I was fair. The students still need to improve their speaking ability. Based on the result of each component of speaking, the students got the lowest score in accent. The students’ ability in accent was poor; grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension were fair. It can be stated that accent/ pronunciation was considered as the most difficult one to master. In other words, most students in MAN Malang I of second year still had difficulties in speaking English.