FISHBOWL STRATEGY: AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO IMPROVE STUDENTS’ SPEAKING ABILITY

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Abstract: Speaking is one of essential language skills in communication. Language teachers are expected to bring an effective method in classroom to improve students’ speaking skills. Based on the preliminary study in language classroom SMA Xaverius Ambon, teachers had limited knowledge of creative method in teaching speaking which can be integrated to curriculum. Thus, the use of Fishbowl strategy can provide opportunity in the form of Fish and the Bowl for each student to practice speaking in the classroom while considering about current curriculum. In the Fishbowl, each students’ can take a turn to deliver the ideas, and everyone has the equal chance to speak. This research focused on the implementation of Fishbowl strategy to improve speaking ability of 30 students from first grade of SMA Xaverius Ambon. The research methodology was a classroom action research. At the end of implementing fishbowl, the researcher gave the questionnaire to know students’ perception toward the use of Fishbowl strategy. Based on the research findings, there were 26.6% successful students at the pre-test. After conducting fishbowl, 100% of students in the classroom had improvement in their speaking skill because each of them had more chance to speak up something related to the topic given.

Introduction
In learning speaking, the students often find some problems. Ur (1996) in his teachings found some problems that can be found also in today speaking activity, namely inhibition, nothing to say, low or uneven participation, and mother-tongue use. First is Inhibition in speaking activities; unlike reading, writing and listening, speaking requires some degree of real time exposure to an audience. Learners sometimes feel inhibited when they want to say things in a foreign language in the classroom: they are worried about making mistakes, fearful of criticism or losing face, or simply shy of the attention that their speech attracts. Second is nothing to say; even if students are not inhibited, they sometimes complain that they cannot think of anything to say; they have no motive to express themselves beyond the guilty feeling that they should be speaking. Next is low or uneven participation; one student can talk at a time only if he or she is to be heard; in a large group this means that every student will have not much time to talk. This problem is caused by the tendency of some learners to dominate, while other students speak very little or not at all. The fourth is Mother-tongue use. When the learners share the same mother tongue, they may tend to use it: because it is easier. Besides, it feels unnatural to speak to one another in a foreign language, and because they feel less ‘exposed’ if they are speaking their mother tongue. If they are in small groups it can be quite difficult to get some classes to keep to the target language.

From the preliminary study that was done at SMA Xaverius Ambon on class XI IPA through observation, the writer found some problems dealing with their speaking activity in the classroom. During the speaking class, the strategy used in teaching and learning process was the same, and the problem that came in every meeting was almost the same. When the teacher asked students, most of them could not answer the questions, because when they wanted to answer the questions, some students had answered the questions before them. Those made students felt bored and they sometimes kept silent while just some of them who always spoke up during the class. The teacher did not try to use another new fresh strategy so the students could be more active and had the time to speak English in the classroom. From all the data above, it can be said that mostly in every meeting, not all the students could speak up in the classroom because they did not have any chance to speak up in the classroom.

Definition of Speaking
Speaking is a productive skill among the four skills. Speaking includes some aspects of language, such as pronunciation, grammar, accuracy, comprehensibility, and fluency. In learning language, one of the other points is communication that must be actively learned to perform in different roles and situation. According to Richards and Renandya (2002) in their book “Methodology in Language Teaching,” the purpose of the engagement in a discussion may be to seek or express opinions, to convince someone about something, or to clarify information. Besides, speaking can be used to give instructions, describe things, to complain about people’s behavior, to make polite requests, or to entertain people with jokes or anecdotes. Jones (2007) said that in speaking we tend to be getting something done, exploring ideas, working out some aspects of the world, or simply being together.

To get a better speaking practice, it is better to do the practice with a partner, in order to know about the response of our partner’s feeling regarding to our speaking. Harmer (2001) stated that most speaking involves interaction with one or more participants, in which an effective speaking involves a good deal of listening, and
an understanding of how the other participants are feeling. So, it can be said that speaking involves the speaker and the listener. Harmer (1991) also as cited in Widiati & Cahyono (2006) added that when two people communicate, each of them normally has something that they need to know from the other. In other words, speaking can be more effective or significant when we try to interact with someone else. For this idea, Richards and Renandya (2002) stated that speaking a language is especially difficult for foreign language learners because effective oral communication requires the ability to use the language appropriately in social interactions.

Fishbowl Strategy
The Understanding of Fishbowl Strategy
The “fishbowl” is a teaching strategy that helps students practice being contributors and listeners in a discussion. Students ask questions, present opinions, and share information when they sit in the “fishbowl” circle, while students on the outside of the circle listen carefully to the ideas presented and pay attention to the process. Then the roles reverse. This strategy is especially useful when the teacher wants to make sure all students participate in the discussion, when the teacher wants to help students reflect on what a “good discussion” looks like, and when the teacher needs a structure for discussing controversial or difficult topics. In fishbowl, the teacher has the role to control, such as when a student speaks more than one minute, the teacher will limit the time or stop that student and invite the next student to speak.

Fishbowl strategy can create productive environments for initiating important, yet potentially charged, conversations, and we can imagine a number of topics that would work well within the fishbowl format (Garrison and Munday, 2012).

Procedure of Fishbowl Strategy
In implementing the strategy, Brozo (2007) used some steps as follow:

1. Identify a focus for class discussion. Typically, the more controversial and charged the issue, the greater level of engagement on the part of students.
2. Ask students to turn to a neighbor and talk about their ideas and opinions related to the issue. Tell students to take notes on their discussion.
3. Demonstrate the format and expectations of fishbowl discussion.
4. Get the discussion started by telling the discussants sitting in a cluster to talk among themselves about the ideas and opinions they raised when conversing with a partner.
5. Tell the other students to listen carefully to their classmates while they engage in a small group discussion and take notes or jot down questions to share afterward.
6. Allow the discussants to talk for 5 minutes or so, getting involved only if the discussion dies or to ensure everyone is contributing and taking turns.
7. When the small group finishes or is stopped, ask the other students to make comments on the discussion they observed and/or ask questions of the discussants. This is an ideal time to model appropriate comments and questions.
8. Gather small group of volunteer discussants, and continue to the fishbowl process until all students have had the opportunity to be inside the fishbowl and they are clear about their roles and expectations.

Research Methodology
In this research, the writer used CAR (Classroom Action Research). According to Kemmis and McTaggart (1998), action research is a kind of self-reflective enquiry which is undertaken by participants in any situations which is aimed to improve rationality and educational practices after those practices are carried out. Self-reflective consists of; plan, act & observe, reflect, revise plan, act & observe, reflect. The research was held at SMA Xaverius Ambon which was located in Pattimura Street. The research took place on class XI IPA where they consisted of 30 students. In implementing the strategy, the writer taught the class using Fishbowl strategy during five meetings in one cycle including the test. In the first cycle the result had not meet the indicator of success yet, so the research continued to the second cycle. At the second cycle, the result had met the indicator of success, so the research stopped at the second cycle.

Result
The data was using test as the instruments to measure the progress of students in the classroom. This Classroom Action Research was done in two cycles. Each cycle consisted of five meetings including the test. During the implementation of Fishbowl strategy, the writer provided the students with some topics related with speaking skills.

First Cycle
The first cycle was conducted for five meetings. In this first cycle, the teacher provided the topics for students’ prior to go into the classroom so that students could find out any references about the topic. In every
meeting, the writer provided different topics in order to keep the situation running well, and the students would never feel bored. Students were very curious to speak about the topic, and they were very active. There were four different topics; Smoking Should Be Banned, Drugs Should Be Illegal, and Females Are Better Students than Male, and Sex Education should be Taught at High Schools. At the end of the cycle, the writer conducted speaking test in order to assess their speaking ability and to see the progress of their speaking. At this test, the writer used descriptive text and the students had to describe the picture. The students worked in group, but they presented the result individually. To assess students’ speaking ability, the writer collaborated with the teacher in the classroom. The writer and classroom teacher assessed students’ speaking ability, and then the results from both assessors were calculated to get the final result. From the result, it means that the writer was failed to implement the Fishbowl strategy to improve students’ speaking ability. From that reason, the writer planned the second cycle, where the writer made an evaluation before going to the second cycle. Based on the fact above, the writer concluded that the treatment at this cycle was not successful. The result of the students was not achieving the indicator of success.

**Second Cycle**

The writer conducted this cycle for three meetings. At this cycle, the writer and the teacher collaborated to design the material and held the class in order to get better improvement from students. The topics used at this cycle were National Examination should be held in our country, and Love. For these topics, students were very enthusiastic in the classroom. After the writer and the teacher evaluated the second cycle by giving the test at the end of this cycle, the result showed that students got good improvement in their fluency, comprehension, and also vocabulary and the language control. As the result, they had already achieved the indicator of success where 90 % of them must get the score among 82 – 100 and proved that Fishbowl strategy was successful and useful for the students in improving their speaking ability.

**Conclusion**

Language is learnt to communicate. Speaking is a dialogue process, which must be practiced to communicate orally. Speaking also is the process of building and sharing the meaning through the uses of verbal and non-verbal symbol in various context (Channey, 1998). Through speaking, the exchange of information can be carried out. However, it still became the problem for students at class XI IPA of SMA Xaverius Ambon, so the writer applied Fishbowl strategy in order to improve students’ speaking ability. The implementation of Fishbowl strategy in teaching speaking was working successfully because Fishbowl strategy gave all students the same opportunity to speak; where not only some students who could speak in the classroom. That is why, every student could practice their speaking ability.

**References**


