

## ABSTRACT

Santi Astuti Vistasari. (2002). *Students' Opinions about Public Speaking and The Strategies to Improve Speech Ability in Speaking V classes in Sanata Dharma University*. Yogyakarta: the Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, the Department of Language and Arts Education, the English Study Program. Sanata Dharma University.

The fifth semester students in Sanata Dharma University still found difficulties to perform public speaking well in front of the audience. They still found some difficulties to perform public speaking especially if public speaking itself was done on a formal situation. In this thesis, the researcher felt necessary to solve the problems faced by the students.

This study was meant to find out students' weaknesses in performing public speaking in front of the audience, the students opinions on public speaking, the effective strategies to improve public speaking and also to give suggestions and solutions based on students opinions in order to improve public speaking.

The method employed in this study was survey research. The subjects were the fifth semester students of the English Language Education Study Program of Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta in the academic year of 2001/2002. The number of respondents was eighty and it was taken from classes a, b, c and d. The data were obtained by making use of questionnaire consisting of 17 items in the form of semi open-ended questions as the instrument. The questionnaire was distributed in the third and fourth weeks of October 2001 (22, 23, 29 October 2001) and the first week of November 2001 (7 and 8 November 2001).

The results of the study indicated that the fifth semester students still found difficulties when they were trying to express or present opinions in front of the audience. Public Speaking had great effects on students, that was for their skill development. Pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary were chosen as the problems that occurred when practicing public speaking. Making preparation was the strategy preferred by many of the students in order to improve the ability of speech in front of the audience. The other strategy was practicing regularly. These strategies were viewed as a means to improve the ability of speech and to avoid students' negative feelings when performing public speaking in front of the audience. Interactive model of communication was also chosen as the strategy preferred by many students in order to improve speech ability in front of the audience.

The results of the research also indicated that question session in the public speaking brought the crucial part to support the ability of the students in speaking because it needed knowledge and skills in speaking. Therefore, question session in public speaking had brought great and positive impacts on the students. The existence of question session was important to create interaction among students as speakers and listeners. Based on the fifth semester students' point of view, the question session can stimulate the activeness of the students in class.

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Mahasiswa semester lima di Universitas Sanata Dharma masih menemukan kesulitan-kesulitan untuk mempertunjukkan kemampuan berbicara di depan umum. Mereka masih menemukan beberapa kesulitan berbicara di depan umum apabila hal itu dilakukan pada situasi formal. Di dalam skripsi ini, peneliti merasa perlu untuk memecahkan permasalahan yang dihadapi oleh mahasiswa.

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan kelemahan-kelemahan mahasiswa untuk berbicara di depan umum, untuk mengetahui opini mahasiswa mengenai berbicara di depan umum, strategi-strategi yang efektif untuk meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara di depan umum, juga saran-saran dan solusi-solusi berdasar opini mahasiswa untuk meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara di depan umum.

Metode penelitian yang dipakai adalah survey. Subyek penelitian diambil dari mahasiswa semester lima program studi pendidikan bahasa inggris Universitas Sanata Dharma Yogyakarta pada tahun akademik 2001/2002. Pengambilan sample yaitu dari kelas a, b, c dan d dan jumlah seluruh responden adalah 80 orang. Instrumen yang dipakai dalam penelitian ini adalah kuesioner yang terdiri dari 17 pertanyaan dalam bentuk pertanyaan semi terbuka. Pengumpulan data dilakukan pada minggu ketiga dan keempat bulan Oktober 2001 (22, 23 dan 29 Oktober 2001) dan minggu pertama bulan November 2001 (7 dan 8 November 2001).

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa mahasiswa semester lima masih menemukan kesulitan-kesulitan saat mencoba mengekspresikan atau memberikan pendapat di depan umum. Berbicara di depan umum mempunyai pengaruh besar bagi mahasiswa, yaitu untuk pengembangan kemampuan berbahasa mereka. Permasalahan tentang pengucapan, tata bahasa dan kosakata di pilih sebagai permasalahan yang sering timbul saat berlatih berbicara di depan umum. Membuat persiapan adalah strategi yang paling diminati oleh mahasiswa dalam rangka meningkatkan kemampuan berpidato di depan umum. Strategi lain adalah berlatih secara rutin. Strategi-strategi ini dipandang mampu meningkatkan kemampuan berpidato dan untuk menghindari perasaan negatif mahasiswa saat berbicara di depan umum. Model komunikasi interaktif juga dipilih sebagai strategi untuk meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara di depan umum.

Hasil penelitian juga menunjukkan bahwa sesi pertanyaan membawa bagian penting untuk menunjang keahlian mahasiswa dalam berbicara di depan umum

karena hal itu memerlukan pengetahuan dan keterampilan. Oleh sebab itu, sesi pertanyaan telah membawa pengaruh yang positif dan besar bagi para mahasiswa. Keberadaan sesi pertanyaan sangat penting untuk menciptakan interaksi antara mahasiswa sebagai pembicara dan pendengar. Berdasarkan pandangan mahasiswa semester lima, keberadaan sesi pertanyaan dapat membangkitkan keaktifan mahasiswa di kelas.