

Indonesian Students' Learning Style in English Speaking Skill

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to report the data analysis about the kinds of students' learning style which is used by the Indonesian students in their speaking English skill. The research was conducted through qualitative descriptive research method and supported by data questionnaire. This research can be given understanding about three kinds of learning style which is able to use as a unique technique in teaching English speaking skill and the research findings show that English speaking skill can be learned by all various learner regarding with their learning style. Learning style also can be used as a teacher's guideline to gain the objectives of study effectively, because the teacher can match their classroom strategy and method regard to students' learning style. Based on the questionnaire data the most suitable learning style in student speaking skill is auditory learner, because auditory learners absorb the information through hearing, while hearing is the most effective way to add vocabulary, pronounce the words and getting the information clearly and effectively.

Keywords: learning style, speaking skill, speaking.

1. Introduction

Education is a culture process to enhance human dignity. The results are considered high-quality in education when their performance in both higher education institutions and in the community. Education's function to develop skills and character and create civilization to useful in the life of the nation, aimed at developing students to become human participants potency. a faithful and devoted to Lord of the Almighty, noble, healthy, knowledgeable, skilled, creative, independent, and become citizens of a democratic and accountable.

The most important thing to be concerned in teaching that all students are very unique and each of them are have their own learning style, as a teacher we should keep in our mind that there is no better/ worse or wrong and right learning style, because some children will enjoy with one learning style or some children will mix their learning style in doing or absorb

some information. The best teacher is a teacher who knows the students' condition both their learning style and their habits, because in knowing those situations can produce learning and teaching process well. According to Richard (1995) method, material or the teachers are the essential aspect to make students are learning correctly and achieve the objectives of study. So the teacher and the teacher's method in teaching process is a key on successful teaching and learning language program. Teacher is required to select the best method to cover their all students in the class room because in classroom there are varieties learning styles that students have.

Syaifurahman and Ujiati (2013) stated that the most effective key to make teaching and learning effective and success is knowing students' learning style as an important approach in teaching English because English as foreign language in Indonesia, so it is still hard for some students to learn. There are 3

types learning style that we are going to research here; visual, auditory and kinesthetic (VAK).

Learning style is one of the educational instruments which can determine learning process successfully that is why Torre (2013) the teacher could be able to understanding students' learning style to evaluate the students' individual preference. While Dunn (1994) said learning style is the way in which each learner begins to concrete on, process and retains new and difficult information. To ensure learning objectives is running well and evaluate the students' learning style is needed for the teacher in teaching and learning process Torre (2013) .

Speaking is one of the language skills in English study as a process of communication, the process of changing thought or feeling becomes utterance or fully meaning utterance. Aitchison (1999) in his linguistic book told common vocabulary, simple structure, fragments, in explicit, concrete, more than one participant are the type of spoken, that is way we called spoken is process of changing tough because all of the type of spoken above are still process in speaker's mind. Speaking activities is a process that requires thought, because this activity student should know how to put complete sentences and interlocked in accordance with the rules for pronouncing. Speaking skill cannot be separated from English study because to gain the process of getting other skill in English supported by speaking also, such as listening, reading and writing.

Empowering of communication is the most important in learning and teaching process, because a successfully on learning is not only able to apply in written but also in communication or speaking. Some outcome of the speaking or communication process will appear the attitude change, opinion change, behavior change and social change. In this research the writer observed the student's learning style impact. The writer is interested to take this phenomenon because there

are complicated problem for the teacher in teaching foreign language and by knowing students' learning style the writer assume it can be useful for the teachers and all of education programs.

Based on background of the study above, the writer has some questions in improving English speaking skill based on learning style problems. They are: 1) what are learning styles? ; 2) Do the teachers should know their students' learning style?; 3) how does auditory learning style can improve English speaking skill?; 4) how does visual learning style can improve English speaking skill?, and 5) how does kinesthetic learning style can improve English speaking skill?

2. Theoretical review

2.1 Definition of speaking

Speaking is one of the language skill aspects in learning language. Speaking as a process of communication, the process of changing thought or feeling becomes utterance or fully meaning utterance. Speaking is an activity which is interact with other people, has the special meaning and repetition process supported by simple structural, clear and easier to understand. Speaking is one of a form of human behavior in utilizing physical factor, neurologist, semantics and linguistic extensively. Definition of speaking based on Suharyati and Suryanto (2003) that the esence of speaking is a moving process from one source to another. It means that speaking as result of getting information through people's mind then they will perceive in words and keep in their mind and at the end of the processing is produced the words in orally, called speaking. According to Keraf and Slamet (2009) they devided the speaking into 3 categories are; *persuative*; supporting, convincing and action. Need listener's reaction in getting inspiration or evoke emotion to get the opinion conformity, intellectual, and even acts of listeners. *instructive*; inform to gain the reaction from our listener correctly, and *recreative* ; pleasant, require the interaction from our listener such as

interest and happy.

According to Grice in Grice (2000) told there were 4 maxims in speaking; (Grice's conversational maxims) to make an utterance become clear and understood easily; 1) the maxim of quality (do not make unsupported statements); 2) the maxim of quantity (do not make more informative than is required); 3) the maxim of relation (relevant with topic); 4) the maxim of manner (there are 4 components; avoid obscurity, avoid ambiguity, avoid unnecessary prolixity and be orderly).

There are 5 concepts in speaking skill based on Brown, are; (1) speaking skill as the most important in communication, (2) speaking skill is a creative process, (3) speaking skill is a learning outcome, (4) speaking skill as a media to make a wide knowledge, (5) language skill can be developed by any kind of ways. The conclusion about speaking skill is a skill or knowledge in pronouncing the word into sound that has a special meaning, expression, declares thought, ideas, and feeling to other people and the basic objective of the language teaching is the production of the speaker's competence to communicate in the target language, so if the speaker or the learner still unable to speak means the process of learning speaking needed to specific evaluation, such as; classroom situation, learners' focus, teacher's method and strategy or internal and external from the learner and teacher.

2.2 *Definition of learning style.*

Learning is a process of changing human activity to be something better than before, learning is a process of changing thought, feelings and attitude. Learning also as human processing to understand all the things that God created. As a human or God's servant we might neglect whatever that God done for us. The processing of learning is the basic important for the learner, because the goal of learning will achieve maximum if the process of learning is maximum or if the process of learning is lower motivation automatically the goal's of learning unachieved.

Keefe (1987) emphasizes learning styles as cognitive, affective, and psychological traits that serve as relatively stable indicators of how learners perceive, interact with, and respond to the learning environment. Learning style is one of a current ideas in development psychology or education research. This idea developed in the research relate with how the people get, absorb and organize the information from their environment. Tanta (2010) stated that every single person has differentiation in getting and absorbing the information, but even though they have different modality this is not reflecting intelligence level or special ability concept.

People's ability in understanding and reserving materials are different level, there slow, fast or standard. Some time they have to gain other ways in understanding information or same material in learning. Part of students prefer to the teacher who always writes all the material in the white board, because with this way they can read and try to understand, but part of other are prefer to the teacher who teaches them through orally, the students just listening and they will try to understand and in the other cases some students prefer to the teacher who always teaches them in making small group and moving then discussing.

Learning style refers to students' way of getting information which is learner prefer to. Commonly some one's learning style come from personality variable; include cognitive structure, psychologist, social culture background, and education experience. Generally human learning style can be divided into 3 categories, they are:

1. *Visual*

Visual learner more focus on their ability in looking, means concrete things are should be able to show with the learner in understanding information process. Visual learners need high motivation to see and get the information visually before understanding something. Visual learner will absorb the lesson through picture descriptions because they have high sensitivity in memorizing

color and they have good understanding in art. Abdurrahman said (2005) that visual learners have some characteristics are: always neat performance, speak quickly, detail, appearance is important, good analytics thinking, easier to memorize what is shown than heard. Fast reader and diligent, prefer to make scratch without meaning when speaking and hearing, short answer is preferred, presenting is preferred and easier to memorize if supported by pictures.

2. *Auditory*

Auditory learners have ability in reserving the information through hearing, they need someone instruction to do something and able to imagine something better after listening the information

According to Abdurrahman (2005) the characteristics of auditory learners are: uncomforted with noisy situation, move the lips when read and spoke, pleasant to speak loudly and listen, able to repeat and imitate, prefer to the music than art, learn what they listened and discussed, feel hard to write and hardly to write and easily to tell story, and fluent speaker.

3. *Kinesthetic*

Kinesthetic learner is learning activity through moving process, work and touch. Learner in this type has a unique way to learn they always move, sense activity and touch.

Kinesthetic learner has special characteristics, such as: speak slowly, uncomforted with noisy situation; touching is a symbol to ask the attention, early grow by big muscle, memorizing something by moved and looked, use body language and unable to sit nicely in long time. Worley (2011:21) stated that kinesthetic learner need to be actively or moving situation, acts in their situation that have meaning for the learner in their processing of learning. This statement assumes that kinesthetic learner will be better in absorbing their information if they do or practice through their body or part of body.

2.3 *Frame work*

Learning is not only in the school or in education area, but also can be do in everywhere and whenever. The process, of learning can be from internal effect or external effect, internal effect is something from someone self such as; physiologies or psychologies. External effect it could be from his environments or friends, while learning style here include in internal effect. To improve English speaking skill through understanding students learning style is the best method because learning style is the most important aspect in analyzing the information both, listen, written and spoken, whereas the writer assumes both of learning styles are able to conduct in English speaking skill.

Characteristics of both learning style are:

NO	VISUAL LEARNER	AUDITORY LEARNER	KINESTHETICS LEARNER
1	Focus on speaker lips when speaking	Able to remember discuss material correctly	Prefer to touch something
2	Prefer to use body movement when speaking	talkative	Hard to quite, body movement is preferred
3	Dislike to listen and speak in the group discussion	Doing the written task is hard enough	Body coordinate is better than other learner style
4	Prefer to demonstrate than oral explanation	Memorizing the spoken material by his/her self is hard to remember	Using an object is preferred as instructional media

5	Able to sit comfort in noisy situation	Uncared with environment	social	Understanding abstract situation is hard
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3. Research methodology

This study takes the data in State Islamic senior high school, in Jakarta and the subject of the research are student of MAN 11 Jakarta grade X with the total number of the subjects are 60, this school to be chosen because they have an international classes, where the teachers and the students use English as their language communication in certain time, the school also has a complete library and language laboratory, so the writer thinks this research is very suitable with this school to take the data of students learning style in their English speaking skill.

To know the students' English speaking skill the writer gives some titles relate with recount text such as; my last holiday, joining the traditional dance competition, the effect of internet and my unbreakable moment. The students required to determine the title by their own self and they practice in delivering their speech in front of the class about 3-7 minutes. To avoid injustice rating, the assessment speech student done by two people; school English teacher and the writer and the last score of student's speech is the mean of both scoring from those assessors. This research also uses library research, reading used any reference books, articles, journals and website as many as possible dealing with the topic of discussion to support the data and analysis clearly. There are two kinds of variables, namely independent variable and dependent variable. Independent variable is the variable selected, manipulated and

measured by researcher. Fraenkel and Norman (2003) point out that independent as a variable the researcher chooses to study in order to assess their possible effects on one or more other variables and it is presumed to effect or somehow influence at least one other variable.

Therefore, the independent variables in this research are learning style. Learning style is the ability and the model of ways in learning to understand the knowledge. To know how far the student's learning style belong to, a questionnaire will be used as an instrument of the research and dependent variable of this research is student's English speaking skill. In assessing this questionnaire the researcher uses some aspects ideas and content conformity, sentence structure, expression, words choice, voice/sound.

4. Result and discussion

This research is to gain students learning style in their English speaking skill and what kinds of learning styles are the most popular in students speaking skill. English as a foreign language in Indonesia, automatically the teacher's should be able to consider the teaching method or technique in delivering learning material. According to Deporter and Hernacki (2000) learning style is a combination of learning modality and rain domination. Learning modality is the effective way in learning for the students because in learning modality consist of the easy way for students to understand their style in absorbing much information and applied their ability. Learning style as combination of learning

modality and brain domination always become a student's barometer in their learning objectives.

Each student has a different learning style in responding and getting learning material and learning style chosen based on student's mind set. Nasution (1997) said that Learning style: refers to a student's consistent way of responding to and using stimuli in the learning. Concern to the statement above that every students has different way in responding and using some stimulus from their environment , that is why in class room the teacher might be not achieve the objectives of study well after finishing the material because every students' have different consistent way in their learning, to cover all the students learning way in the class room the student required to use a good classroom management, method of teaching, strategy and others that correlate with teaching and learning process.

Based on the result of the research related to the questionnaire and speaking test given, English speaking skill with Auditory learning style is a dominant respondent in this research.

From 60 subjects of the research, students who has visual learning are 18 and auditory learners are 27 then kinesthetic learners are 15 students. So, the dominance learning style in this research is an auditory learner, in the other hands we can say that Auditory learners are the most effective learner who want to improve their English speaking skill, because to improve speaking automatically as a listener they should be able to listen carefully first and then we follow the speaker to speak, that the auditory learners did. It has different with visual learner or kinesthetic learner.

Chuah Chong-Cheng (1988) stated that learning style is not only students needed but also individual in need in academic setting. Most of students will prefer to learn and absorb the information based on their

particular learning way, Such as; studies carried out conclude that students retain 10% of what they read, 26% of what they hear, 30% of what they see, 50% of what they see and hear, 70% of what they say, and 90% of what they say as they do something. That is why in this research the auditory learners are the most learners who can speak English better than others because what the students heard is able to contribute better than what students have read.

The result of the research and supported by questionnaire analysis about learning style and English speaking skill, gained the conclusion that the population of research are suitable and able to distribute normally. Therefore the data has been completed the data analysis regulation. Based on those phenomenons the result of this research can be explained as follow;

1. There are 3 kinds of learning style that children have; visual, auditory and kinesthetics, and all three there highly related, so the teacher may not distinguish their students in teaching and learning process, teacher just need to find the suitable technique/strategy or teaching method for them, but sometimes the children will learn based on their learning style or they will prefer to mix their learning style.
2. Students learning style might become a teacher's reference to know students learning way and learners style in speaking, operationally student English speaking skill measured by oral test and through the test students are encouraged to speak English based on their ability and their attitude. Because the auditory learner are usually listen to the instruction finally the result of their speaking test are better than visual and kinesthetics learning style. From those explanation can be assumed

that students's English speaking skill can be a teacher's barometer to know students learning style.

3. Based on the previous description can be taken the conclusion that learning style can be able to improve students English speaking skill because learning style are one of the most important aspect in doing the information process both looking, listening, writing and speaking. Where both of them are able to support speaking skill. Correct learning style will help the student in absorbing and understanding material. In this research, auditory learning style has given dominant contribution toward student English speaking skill than visual or kinesthetic learning style, because almost 55 % students have Auditory learning style here.

Ni Putu Era Marsakawati did the same research with the entitled *The Effect of Task-Based Learning Technique and Learning Styles on the Speaking Achievement of Semester II English DIII Students of Ganesha University of Education*. She did the research to the 2nd semester students as her population in Ganesha University. The result of her research is showed that learning styles gives a positive affect to the speaking achievement and Learning style could affect students' speaking achievement because it provided sufficient opportunities for students to use the language. It provided more exposure on the target language and increased students' interest, motivation, and self confidence. Meanwhile, learning styles could affect students' speaking achievement due to the technique implemented by the teacher, the skill focused in the study, and students' culture.

The second relevant research done by Sugiharto with the title of his research is

The Effect of Cooperative Learning Model and Kolb Learning Styles on Learning Result of The Basics of Politics. This research used quantitative approach with quasi-experimental study, he took the Population on first semester students of Geographical Education Department at UNIMED, and the population spread on five classes with the total numbered of population is 174 people and amounted of 78 people as his sample. On of his research finding are there is an effect of interaction between cooperative model and learning styles on the students learning result and The learning result of type of accommodator students who were taught by learning model type of GI showed higher result than those who were taught by type of STAD. Showing the result of this research can be concluded that learning styles are the most important aspect to get better on learning outcomes, because Learning style is a picture (overview) of student characteristics associated with a consistent way used by the student in the process of absorbing,

5. Conclusion and suggestion

Some conclusions can be taken from the result of this research; *first*, Students' English speaking skill at state Islamic high school can be identified from their learning styles, when the students listen carefully to the teacher's explanation almost of their speaking skill is better than the students who prefer to see the picture or doing something in the classroom. It means that learning style is the most important aspect to increase student English speaking skill in this school. *Second*, understanding student learning style is very important to do the process teaching and learning smoothly. *Third*, after knowing the students' learning style the teacher can be easier to send the material

suitable with their teaching method or teaching strategy.

Based on the conclusion above the writer tries to give some suggestions ; *First*, the teacher should be able to know their students' learning style to achieve their goals in learning and teaching process. *Second*, the teacher should try use varieties teaching method or teaching technique to encourage all the students in teaching and learning process to improve student English speaking skill and finally at the end of teaching process the objectives are achieved. *Third*, to increase students English speaking skill depend on the teacher's implementation in supporting their students based on their learning style .

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