

Students' Perceptions Toward Public Speaking Class to Develop Oral Communication Skill

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to find out the students' perception regarding the Public Speaking Class to improve their oral communication at English Education Department's students 2020-2022 in Universitas Perjuangan Tasikmalaya. The researcher applied the Descriptive Qualitative Method to conduct this study since it would be possible to collect the data of the students' perception by giving the questionnaires as the way to collect the data. The sample of this research consisted of 51 students. The sample was taken by using Purposive Sampling Technique. Based on findings, it finds that students gave mostly positive perceptions toward implications of Public Speaking Class to develop their oral communication skill.. Those positive responses came from their experience in learning Public Speaking class. From the public speaking class, they got a lot of knowledge about how to deliver a good speech, comprehend the types of speech, and even overcome nervousness in front of an audience. To sum up, they have the perception that public speaking class is a good start for their future careers.

Keywords: Student's Perceptions, Public Speaking Class, Oral Communication.

INTRODUCTION

There are four basic skills that have to be mastered by students in learning a foreign language namely speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Speaking is one of the essential skills that should be mastered. The speakers can express their opinion and feelings, ask and answer for something, change knowledge or information orally, and so on. Those are some functions of speaking. The ability in mastering speaking is a measurement to know how far a student has mastered the language they have learned. In this research, the researcher will focus on public speaking subjects in English Education Department Students, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Perjuangan Tasikmalaya.

The English Education Department in Universitas Perjuangan Tasikmalaya has applied a public speaking course which aims to encourage the students of English major to be the best speaker to conduct speech in front of the audience. Considering the fact that public speaking skill is really vital, this subject would be a good model for the students to compete in their future careers. Public speaking is taught in the Second Semester Students in the English Education Department in UNPER. Public speaking class is an interesting class since many students are trained in their speaking. In addition, students can explore their ideas even most of those who rarely speak publicly are usually taught how to perform and speak well in public with full help from the lecturer.

One of the previous studies that we took was from research entitled "Students' Perception toward the Effectiveness of Public Speaking Class to Support their Speaking Practice". The outcome of the research is that there is a positive perception from students regarding the existence of a public speaking class. There are many benefits that students feel that also have an impact on these students. The students who take public speaking classes become more courageous in expressing ideas, think critically, and even overcome nervousness when speaking in public. In addition, the researchers found that the students had confidence that having a Public Speaking class was a good start for their future careers.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested to conduct the research entitled: "Students Perception toward Public Speaking Class to Develop Oral Communication Skill".

METHOD

The researcher provides information regarding the research design, research variables, participants and research instrument in this chapter

Research Design

This study will employ a descriptive qualitative methodology. This signifies that the researcher accurately described all phenomena resulting from the research's subject, as well as the study's main goal, which was to learn what students thought of the effectiveness of public speaking classes in fostering their speaking development. Universitas Perjuangan Tasikmalaya was the site of this study. The researcher felt the need to examine the Public Speaking Class that affected students' performance in speaking practice, thus the researcher chose Universitas Perjuangan Tasikmalaya as the venue to collect the data.

Research Variables

The variable of the research was students' perception toward the effectiveness of public speaking class to support students speaking practice.

Participants

Students from the English Education Department who are taking public speaking as a topic during the 2020–2022 academic year will participate in this study. Using purposive sampling, the researcher gathers data. The population consists of fifth semester students who took a class called "Public Speaking" in the previous semester, which consisted of 51 students. In relation to the research problem, the subjects are asked to provide information or data.

Research Instrument

In this study, a questionnaire was used to collect data, which was then analyzed. The questionnaire's purpose was to elicit the students' cognitive, emotional, and conative scales, which are used to assess their perceptions of situations, behaviors, and beliefs. A Likert Scale assessment will be used by the researcher to gauge the response rate to the questionnaire. There are 11 items on the questionnaire. The kids would have 30 minutes to respond to the questions, giving them more than a minute for each. There are five possible responses: Agree (A), Strongly Agree (SA), Undecided (U), Disagree (DA), and Strongly Disagree (SDA). Each participant will receive a score for their responses; the range for positive responses is 5–1, while the range for negative ones is the range from 1-5.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Finding

After conducting the research, the researcher obtained the result data of the questionnaires. There are 11 questionnaires that's already distributed to the students. These questionnaires used multiple choices of agreement. There are strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree. The researchers classified those choices into the three categories, namely "Agree", "Neutral", and "Disagree". Strongly agree is combined with agree, neutral stands alone, and disagree is combined with strongly disagree.

There are following questionnaires' statements :

1. By Following Public Speaking Class, I perceive to be more confident to speak in front of class
2. Public Speaking Class can improve my potential and talents

3. Public Speaking Class is a better place to practise speaking.
4. Public Speaking Class improves my vocabulary
5. Public Speaking Class improves my Speaking Practice.
6. By Following Public Speaking Class, I can speak in front of an audience.
7. In Public Speaking Class, I can get a new experience, How I Speak using a predetermined time.
8. By following a public Speaking Class, I can solve the problem of speaking such us nervous.
9. Public Speaking helps me to listen more carefully to and critically evaluate other speeches.
10. By following Public Speaking Class, I can speech to be an MC
11. Public Speaking Class is a good chance for a student's future career.

There are following result of percentage based on students' perceptions who experienced Public Speaking class :

Number of items	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	33,3 %	54,9%	9,8%	2%	-
2	39,2 %	50,9 %	9,9%	-	-
3	27,4%	56,8%	13,7%	2,1%	-
4	19,6%	60,7%	15,6%	4,1%	-
5	31,3%	60,7%	6,1%	-	1,9%
6	19,6%	41,4%	31,3%	8%	-
7	33,3%	56,8%	9,9%	-	-
8	13,7%	45,2%	37,2%	3,9%	-
9	7,8%	54,9%	27,4%	9,9%	-
10	11,9%	56,8%	23,5%	3,9%	3,9%
11	39,2%	47,2%	11,7%	1,9%	-

There are following result of percentage based on students' perceptions who experienced Public Speaking class into the three categories :

Number of items	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1	88,2 %	9,8%	2%
2	90,1 %	9,9%	0%
3	84,2%	13,7%	2,1%
4	80,3%	15,6%	4,1%
5	92%	6,1%	1,9%
6	61%	31,3%	8%
7	90,1%	9,9%	0%
8	58,9%	37,2%	3,9%
9	62,7%	27,4%	9,9%
10	68,7%	23,5%	7,8%
11	86,4%	11,7%	1,9%

- Based on the first statement, “By Following Public Speaking Class, I perceive to be more confident to speak in front of class”, 88.2% of people agreed with the statement. This is the highest score from the first statement. This means that the respondent wholeheartedly believes that by following public speaking class, they felt really confident to speak in front of the class.

- The second statement is “Public Speaking Class can improve my potential and talents”. The higher score comes from positive responses, namely as much as 90.1% of the total who answered. It indicates that having a public speaking class can improve their talents, both in speaking and in terms of self-confidence.
- 84.2 percent of the total respondents agree with the statement "Public Speaking Class is a better place to practise speaking". The researcher assumed that public speaking was their medium at that time to improve their oral communication, so it's no wonder that more of them agreed with the statement.
- Next statement is “Public Speaking Class improves my vocabulary”. The researchers found 80.3% of people agreed with the statement, while another 15.6% can't decide whether they agree or not. The researchers assumed that those who agreed with the statements experienced many benefits from public speaking classes, especially in honing their vocabulary, while for those who were still undecided, maybe they thought that public speaking was not really a place to hone vocabulary, instead speaking practice.
- Next statement is “Public Speaking Class improves my Speaking Practice”. Almost everyone from the total respondents agreed with this statement. 92% of the total thought that the purpose of having a public speaking class in UNPER was to improve the oral communication of students who contracted the course.
- Next statement is “By Following Public Speaking Class, I can speak in front of an audience". Again, most people agree with this statement, which is around 61.1% of the total respondents. For those who agree with this statement, they probably think that the words "public" and "speaking" are closely related to speaking in front of an audience, so why don't they argue against these statements. However, 31.3% of the total respondents chose the neutral option, and another 8% against this statement. This could be due to the anxiety that some people feel may find it difficult to lead themselves to speak in front of an audience.
- Next statement is “In Public Speaking Class, I can get a new experience, How I Speak using a predetermined time. 90,1% of the total number of respondents agreed to this statement. No wonder it mostly agrees with this. Based on the experience that the researcher also had while taking a public speaking class, we are always given a time limit to do a speech, so that would be true.

- Next statement is “By following a public Speaking Class, I can solve the problem of speaking such as nervous”. 58.9% of the total respondents agreed with the statement. however
- Another 37.2% still can't decide. For the reason itself, the researcher assumed that some people who do public speaking are indeed difficult to overcome nervousness, but some others may have been able to overcome it.
- Next statement is “Public Speaking helps me to listen more carefully to and critically evaluate other speeches”. 62.7% of the total respondents agree with that statement. For some people who often deeply examine other people's speech, their critical thinking will be honed. However, some others sometimes still find it difficult whether they can criticise other people's speech or not, sometimes it also depends on the accent or topic being discussed by the other person. It's since 27.4% of the total respondents can't confirm whether they agree with that statement or not.
- Next statement is “By following a Public Speaking Class, I can speech to be an MC”.68.7% agree with that statement, because the biggest possibility they suggest is to go directly as a Master of Ceremony. They already have good skills in public speaking classes. However, 23.5% of the total respondents still cannot decide whether they agree with the statement or not. The biggest possibility is that not everyone can make speeches as an MC should, but for everyday speech, of course they can.
- The last statement is “Public Speaking Class is a good chance for a student's future career”. 86.4% of the total respondents believe that taking public speaking classes is a good chance for their future career. At least they know the basics to be more confident in public speaking, or any type of public speaking, etc through this class. However, 11.7% is a small portion of the respondents who think that their future career is not always through public speaking classes, it could be from being self-taught, etc

Discussion

As has been presented on findings, the results in questionnaires show that respondents had mostly positive perception toward Public Speaking Class to support their oral communication skill. It can be seen from the result of questionnaires. The statements contained in the questionnaire were mostly agreed upon by the respondents. If some of them still can't decide, at least they don't fall into the "disagree" category. This indicates that the existence of public speaking classes at the

University of Perjuangan, Tasikmalaya, has had a good impact on students who experienced it. Even though not everyone can produce good outcomes in public speaking, there is a process that they at least know and comprehend enough in public speaking class. In conclusion, the researcher claims that Public Speaking Classes are very useful for students' future careers., to scaffold their knowledge and also practise to develop their oral communication skill.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion, it can be concluded that the study gave their positive perception towards the implications of Public Speaking Class on the students from the English Department in Perjuangan University. The positive judgement from the respondents comes not only from the students' statement agreement and the aspects in the research questionnaire but also from the advantages which they got while implementing a public speaking class to improve their oral communication. They claimed that they have got many benefits in public speaking Class to improve their oral communication in practising speaking. Nevertheless, students still need their lecturer during the process. Lecturers were needed by the students in order to get some instruction, correction, motivation etc.

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