

# THE IMPACT OF JOINING ENGLISH CLUB ON STUDENTS' SPEAKING PERFORMANCE AT UIN ALAUDDIN MAKASSAR

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## ABSTRACT

In this study, the research aimed to determine the impact of joining an English club on students' Speaking Ability. This study was carried out at UIN Alauddin Makassar, especially within the English Education Department on Faculty Tarbiyah and Teacher Training UIN Alauddin Makassar. The research sample consisted of 6 students from the English Education Department who were members of the English club at UIN Alauddin Makassar. A qualitative method was used for this research, with data gathered through observation checklists and interviews. The research found that joining an English club has impact on students' Speaking Ability. It enhances, pronunciation, vocabulary, comprehension grammar skills, confidence, and engagement, while also contributing to personal development and enjoyment of learning. In addition, there are aspects needing improvement, such as fluency and reducing shyness and nervousness. In conclusion joining English club has positive impact for the students at UIN Alauddin Makassar.

**Keywords:** *Impact, English Club, Speaking Performance*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Speaking is a fundamental skill for interpersonal interaction. As Asuncion & Encalada (2019) note, speaking is a key element of both interaction and language learning. Similarly, Studies, by Mahreez, & Ghani (2016) emphasize that speaking involves verbal communication used to connect with others. Additionally, speaking serves various purposes, such as expressing ideas and opinions, giving instructions, solving problems, improving speaking, and sustaining relationships or friendships. Through speaking, individuals can share information, convey ideas, and maintain social connections with others.

Mastering speaking is crucial for students. Lorena & Sadiku (2015) highlight that proficiency in speaking is essential for those seeking employment in multinational companies, and local companies, also consider speaking skills a key criterion for hiring. Darmuki (2017) supports that for many learners of a second or foreign language, English speaking skills are the top priority. Strong speaking abilities can help students navigate globalization more effectively. Consequently, developing speaking skills is vital for students to successfully engage in a globalized world.

Students encounter various challenges when speaking English in the classroom. Ananda (2017) notes that students rarely use English due to the need for heightened awareness and other communicative factors. For example, concern about making mistakes in pronunciation, fluency, or grammar can lead to hesitation. Hosni (2012) further identifies factors contributing to this

reluctance including anxiety, lack of motivation, shyness, and low self-confidence in their speaking abilities.

To address this issue, students should practice speaking English outside the classroom for example, by joining an English club. This approach has proven to be highly effective in enhancing students' English-speaking skills. According to Muna (2016), an English club involves a series of regular meetings where members practice English and collaborate on community problem-solving.

The previous study tend to analyze the Importance Of English Club: A Case At English Education Study Program Universitas Muhammadiyah Palembang. The study discovered that after joining the English club, students were better able to organize their thoughts for speaking, felt more comfortable speaking English, required less effort to comprehend the language, and were more willing to communicate in English. It concluded that the English club effectively enhances students' English abilities, particularly their speaking skills.

There are several English Clubs at Uin Alauddin Makassar, One of the them Is New Generation Club commonly known as (NGC). In the English Club students have the opportunity to build their self-confidence and improve their speaking skills. Since its establishment on October 3, 2003, NGC has 110 active members. Although established at UIN Alauddin Makassar, NGC does not only focus on UIN students, but many students from other universities participate such as UNM, UMI, IPI, and several other universities. Each activity program is guided by several tutors from English Education Department (PBI) students. The English club is held once a week. Each meeting held in the morning is fun learning, not only learning on campus but NGC has a workout program for various schools to teach English. Through the implementation of this program, it is hoped that it can become a forum for every student to facilitate communication well using English, and increase their Speaking ability.

Additionally, the researcher notes that the English club offers numerous benefits. By participating in this club the researcher has been able to enhance her Speaking skills and reduce anxiety through regular practice of speaking English in front of others at each meeting. Recognizing that the English club is an effective strategy for improving students' speaking abilities and addressing anxiety, the researcher is motivated to investigate further to demonstrate the impact of joining the English club on students' Speaking Ability.

Based on the above discussion, the researcher is motivated to explore this topic "*The Impact of Joining English Club on Students' Speaking Ability at UIN Alauddin Makassar*".

## **2. METHOD**

This research used a qualitative study. Holloway and Gavlin (2017) argue that qualitative research is a type of social science that investigates how individuals or groups construct meaning in their lives. It serves as a method to analyze, depict, and interpret social phenomena. According to Creswell (2009), qualitative approaches such as the constructivist worldviews, ethnographic designs, and observation study of behavior, namely participatory worldview, story design, and open-ended interviewing. In this instance, qualitative research was employed because it focused on natural settings without manipulating conditions. The researcher describes all observed phenomena based on field facts. Additionally, this research describes, identifies, and explains the operations of the English club.

In this study, the population is the students from the English Education Department as the respondents which consist of six students because most of them join some English club like New Generation Club (NGC). The sample represents a small unit of the population chosen to participate in this study. In this study, six students were selected as the participants based on some specific criteria: 1) The participants are active members who actively take part in the English club activities, (2) The participants from the English Education Department who joined English club.

### **3. RESULTS**

The purpose of this research is to investigate the impact of joining an English club on students' speaking ability. The findings were derived from the observation checklist and interviews with six respondents. The data from the observation checklist and interviews with respondents provide a clear and comprehensive understanding of the impact of the English Club (NGC) on students' speaking ability at UIN Alauddin Makassar. The analyses of the observation checklist and the interview have similar responses from the respondents indicating that joining the English club (NGC) has had a notably positive and effective impact on students' speaking performance at UIN Alauddin Makassar. Here are the key points that support this analysis such as Improved Language Skills: All respondents reported significant improvements in their English skills, particularly in vocabulary getting a score "good", grammar get score "pair", comprehension get score "good", and overall speaking ability. Increased Confidence and Willingness to Communicate, Enjoyable and Engaging Learning Environment: Students expressed that the club's enjoyable learning methods and the freedom to express themselves without fear of judgment significantly contributed to their positive experiences and satisfaction. Supportive Mentorship: The presence of experienced mentors and structured, engaging activities provided a supportive learning environment that fostered language development and personal growth. And also Aspect for Improvement: Despite the overall positive impact, some aspects need improvement such as Fluency, and body language: almost all of the students had poor fluency and only one of the respondents had fluency pronunciation. Also Overcoming Shyness and Nervousness: many students still felt shy and nervous when speaking in front of others. Addressing these issues can further enhance the effectiveness of the club.

### **4. DISCUSSION**

Based on the explanation provided, the research question has been addressed through the application of observations and interviews. The result of the data collected shows the English club (NGC) has positive impacts students' speaking ability. The English club provides a supportive, engaging, and beneficial environment that promotes significant language and personal development. While some aspects are required, such as fluency, body language, and reducing shyness and nervousness, the overall impact of joining the English club is positive and effective for the students at UIN Alauddin Makassar. This finding is similar to what previous researchers found. Based on research conducted by Wardatum (2020), The research identified several reasons why students join English clubs: to make new friends, to practice extensively, to build self-confidence, to gain insights on various topics, to improve vocabulary, and to learn English in a more relaxed setting. Additionally, students experience four main benefits from participating in an English club: improved speaking skills, increased self-confidence, enhanced vocabulary, and greater motivation to learn. In summary, English-speaking clubs provide a valuable environment for students to develop their speaking abilities. This study utilized a qualitative research approach, with data collected through interview.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

Based on the research results and discussion, the researcher determined that participating in the English club significantly improves students' speaking ability. Furthermore, joining the English club has a substantial impact on students' speaking ability. It enhances, pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, comprehension, confidence, and engagement, while also contributing to personal development and enjoyment of learning. There are aspects needing improvement, such as fluency, and reducing shyness and nervousness, the overall impact of the English club in enhancing speaking ability is evident. With targeted support and overcoming these aspects will further strengthen the club's impact could be even greater. This research demonstrated that students believe joining an English club has positive impact on their speaking ability.

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