

**EFFORTS IN IMPROVING STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILLS BY USING
ELECTRONIC MEDIA IN GRADE XI-A2 AT SMA N 1 IMOGIRI IN THE ACADEMIC
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By
Pritta Biasanti
05202241006

ABSTRACT

This study is an action research that is aimed at improving students' speaking performance by using the electronic media in the class XI-A2 of SMA N 1 Imogiri, Bantul, Yogyakarta. In reference to the preliminary observations and interviews, there were many problems related to the students' speaking skills. After identifying the feasible problems, the researcher focused on improving the students speaking skills. Therefore, the efforts made to solve those problems were implementing the use of electronic media. The actions consisted of the use of electronic media i.e. computer and LCD and the use of learning resources i.e. songs, videos, pictures, and sound recordings. Besides, the actions were also combined with the use of speaking activities i.e. discussions, games and role plays.

This study uses a qualitative and quantitative design. The researcher collaborated with the English teacher in implementing the actions. The data were mostly qualitative although there were some quantitative data. The qualitative data were obtained by observing the teaching and learning process during the implementation of the actions, interviewing students, and holding discussions with the English teachers, while the quantitative data were obtained from pre-test, progress-test and post-test. The data were in the form of field notes, and interview transcripts. The validity of the data was obtained by applying the democratic, dialogic, catalytic, process, and outcome validity.

The findings of the study show that the use of electronic media combined with the speaking activities was proved to be effective to improve the students' speaking skills; LCD and computer and learning resources i.e. pictures and videos were able to attract the students to focus and be interested in the speaking materials being taught, the students were not busy with their own activities as before the implementation of the action research; discussions and role-plays could make the students speak the English functions being taught (i.e. expression of love, sadness, and agreement and disagreement) and improve the students' confidence to speak in English in front of their classmates; the combination of sound recordings and games was able to motivate students to speak actively; songs were able to improve the students' vocabulary and pronunciation related to the language functions being taught. Besides, there is another result of this study, that providing copied materials about teaching speaking and soft copies of speaking media to the teacher gave him access to the varied speaking materials. It helped him to create interesting speaking class and inspired him to use the electronic media and interesting speaking activities in the speaking teaching and learning process.