

SURVEYING WORKSHEETS TO PROMOTE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN SPEAKING CLASS

Aisyah Ririn Perwikasih Utari

English Education Department

Universitas Muria Kudus

Kudus, Indonesia

aisyah.ririn@umk.ac.id

Abstract

Having students get involved actively in the classroom is a kind of teacher's expectation. The main purpose of teaching speaking, commonly known, is having them speak. Surveying worksheet is one of the ways to lead the students communicate interactively within the Survival English Class in English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus. The objectives of the study are: 1) considering the surveying worksheets based on the contextualized materials; 2) the effectiveness of the surveying worksheets in the classroom. Leading from the objectives, the appropriate research design is qualitative in which the data are analyzed descriptively. The research data are the surveying worksheets to promote student involvement in speaking class. The data sources are the students of Survival English class in English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus. The surveying worksheets created are based on the materials of knowing your friends, foods, shopping, and personal lifestyle. The components of the questions lead the students to ask and answer actively by documenting the answer on the worksheet. Through the observation, the students move to the every corner of the class, talk and laugh joyfully, there is almost no one silent when they do the survey and fulfill the worksheet. The research leads to the conclusion that surveying worksheets can be one of teachers' choices to have the students get involved in all activities planned.

Keywords: Surveying worksheet, student involvement, speaking class

Introduction

Teacher's success on managing teaching and learning activities in the class can be identified through post-activity. Being successful in designing a very good lesson plan sometimes brings different result from the things expected. The classroom process is always conditional related to the various personal backgrounds, especially students. However, a lesson plan is still necessarily used to achieve expected results. Concerning to classroom activities which are mostly student-centered, teaching four English skills needs serious attention from the teacher. Those four skills are the keys of being successful in checking someone's ability of using a particular language, especially English. Productive skills such as speaking and writing are mostly wanted to be mastered. Teachers should help their students to understand the important differences

between speaking and writing and instruct them the appropriate way of speaking English (Solcova, 2011: 25).

A speaking class demands both students' and teacher's involvement to make it successful. Teacher as the facilitator, in perfect certainty, gets involved as the leader in which the every part of the activity is planned. As stated by Kumaravadivelu (2006: 115) that the role of human cognition as a mediator between stimulus and response shows that teacher gives the input, then the process is the teaching and learning activity, the output is the students' response and result. Students' involvement follows after that. Many ways are invented to make a perfect technique to catch students' involvement in teaching and learning world. But again, every teacher can adapt the way with the students' learning styles that mostly found different even the

same grade in the same country. Both internal and external factors may influence the students' involvement in a speaking class. In Universitas Muria Kudus, Survival English is the first step of the intermediate level of speaking class for the second semester students. It is like a key for the students to start improving their ability in speaking English authentically using basic expressions. The students can be involved in interpreting utterances and responding in appropriate way in the class (Semakdji, 2015: 44). Most of the materials for this subject are about daily activities and the things that are needed when we travel to somewhere in which English is the only means of communication that we can use. That is why we call it as survival: how to survive using English.

Printed materials in the classroom are still necessarily done by English teacher. If we are in a sophisticated era that need all the things computerized, it is partly wrong. We still need the offline way to encourage our students. Communicative worksheets are the best solution. Holmes (2004: 9) states that having the students interviewing one-another and asking questions to create independent dialogue with minimum interruption and supervision by the teacher. In survival English class, particular surveying worksheet is the students' favourite. Getting active communication with classmates is a very interesting activity for students. They have to maximize the speaking practice in the class while they probably have no intention or topic to speak English outside the class. Set them free to express their own surveying worksheet. Drills and dialogues are good way to practice language structures with he entire class (Coolidge, 2007: 90).

Commonly, the first material in Survival English is introduction. Instead of asking the students to come forward and directly introduce their identity, let them draw a table consist of the things that they want to look

for from their new friends. Collecting various information can really make them creative in both asking and answering the questions. This research review hopefully can inspire the readers how to consider the materials and classroom activities in the form of surveying worksheet. The effectiveness of this technique can be seen from the students' response through hidden observation: questionnaires are not used.

Methodology

Qualitative design is chosen to describe the result of the research narratively based on the real condition. The subject of the research is the survival English class consisting of 30 students of English Education Department, Universitas Muria Kudus. Further information, they are in second semester in this university. In collecting the data, the materials of Survival English are compiled with the surveying worksheets which are modified based on the topic. Applying the worksheets into the activity, observing the class, and colecting the worksheets which are done by the students are the final steps of data collecting. After the data are collected, the next is analyzing the data which needs to re-read the observation result and describing the result in finding and discussion.

The procedure of the research is summarized as follows: 1) planning the technique of surveying worksheet, 2) arranging various forms of surveying worksheets based on the chosen materials, 3) applying the worksheet as the teaching technique in speaking class, 4) observing the students' activity, 5) describing the effectiveness of surveying worksheet based on the students' involvement in the observation, 6) conclusion drawing of the reasearch.

Finding and Discussion

All materials in Survival English class can adapt the technique of surveying worksheet. But only some materials were chosen for best result: introducing yourself, shopping,

(favourite) foods, and lifestyle. The worksheet was sometimes shown on Power Point Presentation and the students draw the table by themselves using handwriting and sometimes the teacher printed it for them. Surveying worksheet was drawn in a table which consisted numbers, questions, name of students, and students' signature. They had to go around to complete the task. The description of the activities are explained in the following paragraphs.

Introducing yourself was a very boring topic if the teacher only asked the students to come forward and mentioned their names, addresses, hobbies, families, life goals, and so forth. However, most of the classmates did not care about that and chose to take care about their own introduction script. There were no communication at all among students. A surveying worksheet of introducing yourself can be the best solution for this. Teacher printed a worksheet and distributed the copies to the students. The worksheet table consisted of some columns: number, personal data (name, address, hobbies, interesting characteristics, life goals/motto), and the last is signature. The teacher gave the examples how to ask the questions to get the information needed in the worksheet. One or two students were chosen to practice and show to classmates the way of collecting information using the worksheet. In this step, the students were drilled for how to make good questions for some expected answers. This can also drill the students to improve their questioning strategy starting from a very simple thing: asking for personal information. Politeness strategy were also shown in this step and they were lead how to ask something politely, even to their friends. Some examples were shown in front of the class and all students learned how to use and ask questions for the worksheet. After all students were asked to go around the class to find classmates as many as possible until the time considered was over. They were highly motivated if they did not only have a sit and

just talk in pairs. Standing up was the perfect choice to break the boredom. The time was over and they had to make a report using the data they had collected both written and spoken. They wrote a script of the report as an archive for them and spoke in front of the class without bringing the script. It reduced the students' dependence of script when they had to come forward. In reporting the survey, students were surprisingly creative when they showed the unique answers that they got from the questions like "one of my classmate admitted an interesting fact about him: I have 20 ex-girlfriends". Then the class turned into Laughing Out Loud situation. Funny moments made the students feel more comfortable and familiar with the class and they learned the things unconsciously, that is the main point of this technique.

For the next worksheet, shopping became the main materials. This activity was named as "how much is your friend's outfit today". The students were asked to ask their classmates about the part of clothing that they wore that day and asked not only the every single price but also the date of buying. It was so fun because we could find out whose outfit was the cheapest and the most expensive. In this activity, students were also asked to make a report based on the result of the survey. Some students were chosen randomly but they enjoyed coming forward voluntarily.

Talking about favourite food is a kind of common topic. Some people may be bored in talking this topic if they want to practice English. But if surveying worksheet is applied, that would be very fun and we had proven it. Teacher prepared some flashcards consisting of some questions about food habits: spicy, cooking/eating at home or restaurant, eating breakfast everyday, fast food, and so forth. The flashcard were distributed randomly to the students. They had to ask their friend using the questions on the flashcards and write down the answer on

the table which was also distributed in printed form. They collected the data as many as possible and made a summary of the result. Expressions that were used in the report should be based on the frequency of the data, for example, most of the students in this class rarely have breakfast everyday. The survey result led them to interesting findings or facts about their classmates. Again, they were attracted with the instruction of going around the class instead of sitting down on their chairs.

Lifestyle was the most favourite materials for the students in Survival English class. they got a chance of creating their own worksheet and made it fun. They had to register the individual topic and the teacher made a list to make sure that every student chose different single topic. Various creative topic was used: social media, make up, fashion, music, facilities in campus, and so forth. All students did this task very well because they were allowed to go outside the class and asked anyone they met as their surveyees. They also had the freedom to consider the survey components that were needed. In the end of the activity, they had to write a report and summarize the data that they collected from the survey. The stage of presenting the survey result was so fun because there were many funny things found by the students, for example, my boyfriend also uses my make-up kit.

From the observation sheet that was fulfilled based on the activities and reviews, it was found that surveying worksheets made positive influence and response from the students. Their creative improvisation and enthusiasm showed that they were attracted to this technique while struggling to improve

their speaking ability. Kinesthetic learning never fails to attract students' attention.

Conclusion

Almost all materials can be adopted to use the surveying worksheet technique. It demands the students' activeness to make the class crowded of English speaking sound. A crowded class is one of the indicators of students' involvement in which it becomes the best achievement in a speaking class: all students speak up. In Survival English class, all students enjoy going around to collect the data through a surveying worksheet. They speak with classmates that they never talk to when they are outside the class. It can improve the relationship and communication among students in the class.

References

- Coolidge, Jonathan. (2007). Grammar, Speaking and Listening Activities. Rubya: Humura Secondary School.
- Holmes, David. (2004). Speaking Activities for the Classroom. Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University.
- Kumaravadivelu, B. (2006). Understanding Language Teaching. London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.
- Semakdji, Fatima-Zohra. (2015). The Place of Spoken Grammar in the Teaching and Learning of Speaking. Algeria: University of Constantine.
- Solcova, Bc. Petra. (2011). Teaching Speaking Skills. Austria: Czech Republic Grant.
- Verner, Susan. How to Use Surveys to Teach English. <http://busyteacher.org/6178-go-ahead-ask-how-to-use-surveys-to-teach-english.html>. Retrieved in October 2017.