

## THE ROLE OF ENGLISH CLUB FOR STUDENTS' ENGLISH SKILLS AT SMA RAUDLATUL ULUM GONDANGLEGI

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### Abstract

The aim of this research is to analyze the role of the English club in influencing students' English skills at SMA Raudlatul Ulum Gondanglegi. The method used in this research is a qualitative research method. The data were obtained by interviews to some students. Qualitative research is based on primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through interviews while secondary data was obtained through journals and books related to research. Interview was done by researcher to obtain information from students regarding the role of English club at school. Then, the researcher analyzed the data. The participants of this research were students taking part in an English club. The researcher involved five students to be informant. Based on the data collected by the researcher, it shows that the English club is considered to have a very important role in supporting students' English language skills. The students said that the English club had a unique way of teaching English in class. They mentioned that English club activities played an important role in the development of their English skills. They also said that they were happier and more comfortable learning English in an English club than studying in class as usual. Students who join the English club understand English better than students who do not join the English club.

*Keywords: English Club, Student English Skill, Senior High School.*

### INTRODUCTION

English is known as an international language. It is broadly used in the world. Hence, language is important to understand and to speak.<sup>1</sup> English Club is as one of the language learning strategies, it can improve students' speaking skills, especially confidence in speaking English. <sup>2</sup> it is caused when students join the English club, the tutor trains students face-to-face, and every day participants attend the English club Indirectly this activity can train students to be able to use English in everyday life so that these students can know how to speak English easily because they join the English club. Joining English club is very helpful for students in developing their English language skill because the

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<sup>1</sup> Ngadimun, Ratna Purwanti, Ahmad Suriansyah , Maimunah,(2019) *Empowerment of 'English Club' to influence Students Achievement in Speaking*. International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change. [www.ijcc.net](http://www.ijcc.net) Volume 5, Issue 5, Special Edition: ICET Malang City.p. 205

<sup>2</sup> Ibid 1,p.205

students have a wide opportunity to practice. In this English club, students are required to exchange ideas with peers, such as talking in front of the class, discussing particular topic and working in group. Besides, learning English speaking in club is certainly more fun than learning in formal class because it is more relaxed. Therefore, English club is very helpful for students' in developing their speaking skills.<sup>3</sup>

Yulianasari and Wendi mentioned in their dissertation that the English Club program is defined as an Additional Study Program that is devoted to students who want to focus more on English language skills. This English club is an additional activity in addition to regular English activities. So we can conclude that the English club is a few programmed activities in which there are tutors and students. The English club is led by an English teacher who usually makes various language activities very fun to encourage the enthusiasm of the students.<sup>4</sup> A number of reasons belong to the researcher in conducting research in this English club such as in this school there are many students who are interested and start joining this English club. It is proved that before the existence of this English club, the school never included its students to take part in such as competitions related to English because there were no students who mastered English, but after the implementation of this English club, the school was able to involve students to take part in school-level competitions, especially competitions in the field of speaking. Then, the next reason is SMA Raudlatul Ulum Gondanglegi one schools providing English club for their students. And this English club is a place for students who really want to master English and this English club is one of the school's characteristics and attractions for students. To upload the spirit of learning English, students of SMA Raudlatul Ulum Gondanglegi once held seminars and workshops where the speakers were lecturers at one of the well-known campuses in Canada. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting research in this English club.

English club is a place for students to develop their interests and talents in English. According to Herpratiwi and Purnomo, English club is an extracurricular activity that aims to develop students' abilities in the field of English.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, according to Wetherby, English clubs are a medium that bridges one person with another whose purpose is not only to improve their speaking skills but also to increase students' motivation and build their confidence to speak as much as possible.<sup>6</sup> To make it easier to learn a language, it actually takes many factors to make it easier to master the language. According to Ngalim Purwanto, there are two factors that affect the learning process, namely: Individual factors or factors<sup>4</sup> arising from within and Social factors or factors derived from the outside of the individual himself. Individual factors include growth/maturity, training, motivation, intelligence, and personal/innate factors. As for what is included in social factors are family factors, teachers with their way of teaching, social motivation environment and opportunities that exist<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Isna Wardatun, (2020) Exploring The Advantages of English Club on Students' Speaking Skill (A Case Study At ABC English Club of UIN AR-Raniry). P.3

<sup>4</sup> Zhuni Winayasari. (2020). "Analisis Persepsi Siswa pada Kursus Bahasa Inggris Terhadap Kemampuan Berbicara Siswa", Thesis. Makassar: University of Muhammadiyah.

<sup>5</sup> Titis Intan Sari. (2018). "Pelaksanaan Kegiatan Ekstrakurikuler English Club sebagai Upaya Peningkatan Kemampuan Berbicara Siswa Kelas V SD", Thesis. Surakarta: University of Muhammadiyah.

<sup>6</sup> Zulvy Melviza, Syamsul Bahri, Nira Erdiana, "Student's Perception Toward English Club Activities", Journal Research in English and Education, vol, 2 (June 2017), no. 2, p. 103.

<sup>7</sup> Eka Agistiawati, "The Influence of Student Perception of the Learning Environment and

English club means is a club devoted to people who are interested in the practice of English. They are in the club with the same goal which is to improve their English skills. The existence of English clubs is very helpful for foreign language learning. Because in the English club students have quite a lot of opportunities to use language as a real communication tool continuously. The language environment created by members is encouraged to practice the lessons learned about the English language.<sup>8</sup> The environment is not only used to interact between fellow social beings, the environment can also be used to support success in the language learning process. The following are some of the benefits of the English club as a learning resource such as English clubs provide the opportunity to speak directly in English, English clubs provide the opportunity to speak directly in English, English club can train students to confidently speak English, English clubs can motivate students to speak English well, English club is a place to get new vocabulary<sup>9</sup>

A number research related to this research have been conducted such as The next research was researched by Zhuni Winayasari (2020) with the title "An Analysis of Student' Perception on English Course Toward the Students' Speaking Ability". This study aims to determine the perception of students who take English courses regarding the ability to speak English, especially fluency in speaking. This study used qualitative descriptive research with two instruments used were observation and questionnaire. The results of this study showed a positive response from students who took this English course. This response they give according to their experience and knowledge while in the English course. The next is research on English club has been researched by Fitri Yanti (2021) with the title "An Analysis of English Club Activity on Helping Students' Speaking Ability at SMK Farmasi Ikasari Pekanbaru". This study aims to know, explore and describe the activities that are in the English Club in helping to improve students' speaking skills and to find out also whether the English club is a decent and suitable place to help students improve English skills, especially in speaking. The method used in this study is qualitative research and uses questionnaires and interviews as techniques to collect data. Based on the previous studies above, it is till needed to conduct a research related to English club for students' language skills.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research applied qualitative research and descriptive qualitative paradigm was used. The participants of this research was students of SMA Raudhatul Ulum joining English club. To collect data, the researcher applied two methods. They were interview and distributed questionnaires. One strategy commonly used by researcher in collecting data in qualitative studies is interview method. In a simple sense, interviews can be interpreted as a method of interaction between researcher and resource persons through verbal communication or in other words interviews can be explained as direct meetings between researcher and sources. This method was used to interview the students to obtain data on the

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Vocabulary Mastery on the English Speaking Ability of Balaraja Private High School Students",  
Journal of Education, Psychology and Counseling, Vol. 2 (2020), no 1, p. 515.

<sup>8</sup> Kharisma Naidi Warnanda Sabgini. (2017). "Studi English Club di International Language Forum (Ilf) Sebagai Kegiatan Ekstrakurikuler dalam Pembelajaran Bahasa Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang", Thesis. Malang: University of Muhammadiyah.

<sup>9</sup> Hoyrul Rohman. (2023), "Analysis of Student's Perception Toward the Role of English Area at Islamic Boarding School of Raudlatul Ulum 2 putukrejo Gondanglegi Malang", Thesis. Malang: IAI Al-Qolam.

role of the English club of SMA Raudlatul Ulum Gondanglegi. The interview was conducted to five students. While the questionnaires were distributed to twenty students then analyzed quantitatively. And to analyze the data, the researcher used three phases; data Reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or data verification. Reduction means the process of simplifying the data obtained in the study. Data reduction focuses on simplifying the data to be obtained by researcher. This stage starts from the beginning of making research questions to collecting research data. After the data is reduced, then move on to the next stage, namely, in qualitative descriptive research, the presentation of data can use the form of short descriptions, charts, relationships between categories. The purpose of displaying data is to make it easier to understand what is happening and plan the next stage of research according to what is understood. The initial conclusions produced are still tentative, and will change if there is no strong evidence to support at a later stage of data collection. However, if the conclusions made at an early stage are supported by valid and consistent evidence.

## FINDINGS

This finding of this research revealed that by joining English Club, the students can develop their English skills. Because by joining English Club students felt joyful, happy, excited, and more understand the English lesson. In the English club, student activities include listening, speaking, reading and writing. Through this English club activity, students can practice to prepare themselves to take part in various competitions. For example, storytelling, English subjects, and English speech. With the English club, it is hoped that students, especially students who are still beginners, can be proficient in English. This English club is a form of provision from the teacher to students for their future, with the aim that children are able to interact in English with these skills.

Table 1.1 Interview Results with Students

- R** How do you feel when studying English at the English Club?  
**P** *"I really enjoy studying at the English Club because I can understand English seriously without anyone bothering me."* (P1) *"I feel happy because I get new vocabulary that I don't know and understand."* (P2) *"It's very exciting, because of the way teaching the teacher is very fun."*(P3) *"I am very happy because it can support me to be even more active in learning English."*(P4) *"It is very exciting, because many friends struggle together to be able to speak English."*(P5 )

This is evidenced by the many positive responses from these students both in terms of the class atmosphere and the learning methods applied by the teacher.

Table 1.2 Interview Results with Students

- R** How is your understanding of English after being in the English club?  
**P** *"I actually don't understand English, but after joining the English club I can speak English even if only a little."* (P1) *"Thank God, I can speak English in everyday life."*(P2) *"I am so can read English properly and correctly, even though before I didn't know it at all."*(P3) *"My understanding in English is getting better and I also memorize quite a lot of vocabulary."*(P4) *"My English skills are better than before."* (P5)

From the results of the interview it can be concluded that the English club has a very important role in acquiring students' understanding of English. This is caused by environmental factors formed through the English club. So it's no wonder when students join the English club their abilities improve. The English club really helps students with potential in English so that the school has activities that can be used for school branding. Then the existence of this English club can make the school able to compete with other schools that

already have good achievements in the field of English. So it's no wonder when students join the English club their abilities improve.

Table 1.3 Interview Results with Students

**R** In your opinion, what are the obstacles and shortcomings of the English club?

**P** *"The only drawback lies in the teacher." That's all, there are no other teachers."(P1) "Sometimes the teacher arrives late, so they are still waiting."(P2) "Inadequate facilities."(P3) "Sometimes the teacher is scary." (P4)*

According to the data above, it was found that the shortage of English clubs was in the number of teachers. In the English club there is only one teacher who is prepared by the school so that when a teacher is sick there is no one to replace him. Then sometimes the teacher comes late to class so that it makes the students wait and makes them bored. In the end, their enthusiasm begins to fade little by little due to the lack of English teachers. Then they also revealed that the facilities provided were inadequate. The facilities provided are not able to support the English club activities.

Table 1.4 Interview Results with Students

**R** What are the strengths of the English club in your opinion?

**P** *"The learning process is quite fun and every lesson is not boring." (P1) "I like it because English Club activities are not only carried out indoors but also outdoors, so you don't get bored." (P2) "We can read, write, understand English." (P3) "In the English club I can study even harder and I have lots of friends to study with." (P4) "The way of teaching is as fun as playing." (P5)*

According to the results of the interview, it can be concluded that the English club has many advantages. This advantage is the main attraction for students to join the English club. Among these advantages, the learning process at the English club is very fun and not boring. The teacher's delivery method is very easy for students to accept. This is one of the characteristics of the English club which is very liked by students in general.

Table 1.5 Interview Results with Students

**R** What do you like about the English club?

**P** *"I prefer learning English, because in my opinion it is very important for the future." (P1) "Being able to learn English with friends who have the same goals and also train mentally." (P2) "Enjoyment in the way of learning and understand it."(P3) "What I like is being able to speak English with my roommates, and the learning procedure is very effective."(P4) "Being able to study with friends."(P5)*

According to the results of the interview, they said that what they liked about the English club was a very close friendship and had the same goal of being able to speak English. This close friendship will train them mentally because the learning process is effective and very enjoyable. Therefore, the excitement in the English club can motivate students to be enthusiastic about learning English at the English club. From these results, we can conclude that the approach factor between friends and teachers greatly influences a student's learning motivation in accelerating students' understanding of English. There are many interesting activities at the English club so that it can attract students to learn English. Therefore, the English club makes the learning process as comfortable as possible.

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to analyze the Role of English club in Influencing Student English Skills at SMA Raudlatul Ulum Gondanglegi. Researcher used two instruments in obtaining research data, namely using interviews and using questionnaires to be given to students. As presented in the previous findings, the results of interviews and questionnaires show that respondents gave a positive perception of the English club as a special place for speaking practice. This can be seen from the results of previous interviews and questionnaires. Below are detailed answers to the research questions. Based on the results of the interviews conducted by the researcher, the researcher found that the students really enjoyed learning English at the English club. This is evidenced by the statements of 5 student informants who responded that they really enjoyed studying at the English club because they could seriously understand English without being disturbed or without any influence from other students who were not interested in learning English. Then they also said when they were in the English club they got new vocabulary that they didn't understand before. Furthermore, they also said that when they were in the English club they started to get excited and even more active in learning English with their friends. This already indicates that the English club greatly influences students' ability to speak English. Likewise with the results of the questionnaires obtained by the researcher, they chose to "agree" with the existence of an English club. This is in line with the findings of Titis Intan Sari (2018), namely that there is a positive and significant role for the existence of an English club. Their English fluency is better than those who do not join the English club.

Based on the explanation above, most students feel very happy about the implementation of the English club in learning English at school. The students stated that the English club was very beneficial for them, such as encouraging their willingness to practice speaking English, to improve their ability to speak and use English vocabulary well, as well as the activities in it. The English club encourages students to be more motivated and enthusiastic about practicing English with fellow students, and besides that students can share knowledge with each other during English club activities. The difference between students who take part in the English club program and those who do not take part in this program is that students who take part in the English club have good speaking skills in grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. The students are very happy to take part in the English club program, namely students make the English club a necessity in learning English, especially in speaking skills and students who do not take part in this program can be interested in joining this English club program. Then, the researcher found that activities in the English club helped students speak English in everyday life. This is evidenced by the results of interviews with students that after attending the English club they can read and speak English properly and correctly, even though they did not know anything about it before. Then the English club also received a positive response, this is evidenced by the many positive responses from students who joined the English club. This finding is in line with research conducted by Zhuni Winayasari (2020), the results of the study show that English club activities can improve students' speaking skills and they are more active in the English learning process. This was also supported by the results of the questionnaire which showed that most students chose "agreed" that activities at the English club made them more fluent in using English.

There is a lot that students can get when they are in an English club, such as in an English club, students can be more confident to speak in front of the class. The English club is a medium that bridges one person with another whose goal is not only to improve their speaking skills but also to increase students' motivation and build their confidence to speak in public using English. Then the English club can also improve students' speaking skills and students provide positive things related to the implementation of speaking in English in the English club. This is what makes the English club play an important role in facilitating

students to practice speaking. The English club is an alternative forum for developing speaking skills for students at school. In addition, the English club becomes a facilitator for students to develop their ability to master English skills, especially speaking skills in English. The English club can influence students' personalities and really helps students to be more confident in speaking English. Researcher argue that the English club can increase students' enthusiasm in learning to learn English. Therefore, students can benefit while practicing English through the English club.

Furthermore, the researcher found other findings that the English club is a comfortable place to learn English. This is evidenced by the results of interviews with students who said that in the English club the learning system was very exciting both in terms of the way the teacher taught and because many of his friends struggled to master English. This is in line with the results of research conducted by Fitri Yanti (2021) whose research results say that the English club has a very important role in improving students' English skills. Because their English club is free to express ideas, and they can speak directly without any shame or fear. In other words, the English club not only gives them various kinds of motivation, experience but also a comfortable atmosphere for them to practice English more deeply. In guiding students to speak English in class, the teacher must have interesting teaching skills and techniques. The teaching techniques applied during the learning process should make students more interested in learning English. Apart from being more interested in learning English, creative teaching techniques will help students avoid boredom. In general, teaching techniques can be interpreted as any kinds of exercises, activities, or tasks used during the learning process that can facilitate the realization of learning objectives. That is, teachers must be able to create appropriate learning strategies. Creative teachers work to broaden students' abilities as readers, writers, speakers and listeners and help them to express themselves effectively, to create and critically evaluate their own work.

### **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Based on the data obtained by the researcher through interviews with students and questionnaires provided, it can be concluded that the English club is a comfortable and happy place for students to study and deepen English. Most of the students experienced many big changes regarding their understanding of English. Where previously they could not speak English, they began to get used to speaking English in everyday life. They also get a lot of new vocabulary that is taught in the English club. Not only that, since they joined the English club, they started to get more active and excited about learning English. This is because students can learn English comfortably because the learning system is very exciting both in terms of the way the teacher teaches and the way they interact with fellow students in the class. In addition, the English club has a very important role in the student learning process in practicing English every day, because it is a place where it is easier to understand English. They are very happy with the activities in the English club. They will get more concentration in learning both in terms of speaking, writing, reading and the vocabulary they memorize. On the other hand, they also said that the atmosphere in the English area tends to be very pleasant and comfortable touse for learning English because the learning system is designed to be as fun as playing. This is what makes many students more interested and excited to join the English club.

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