

## Students' Perception Toward English Meeting Club of Their Speaking Skill

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### A B S T R A C T

This research aims to assess the students' perceptions of English meeting club of their speaking in the language. Istiqlal Islamic Boarding School's English class chose three students to participate in the research. The researchers used a descriptive qualitative method and collected data using two steps: an observational and an interview. The result of this research is majority of students in this research had a positive perception of English meeting club. The students are believing that by joining the English club, they would be able to improve their speaking skills. Another thing the student thought would help them improve their communication skills, especially their pronunciation, was going to English club meetings. On top of that, it might stand in for students who have problems with public speaking fear and low confidence.

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### Introduction

Because the 4.0 industrial revolution makes information accessible from anywhere, global communication is more crucial than ever. (Hamdani, 2020). Among Indonesian speakers, English ranks high, and it is one of the most spoken languages in the world (Hamdani, B., et al., 2022). In Indonesia, English taught from kindergarten till university. It means that students from all level of education in Indonesia have to follow the English subject at school.

Learning English is more crucial than ever before in today's world. (Kholili, 2023). Learners of the English language should work on honing these four skills. Especially reading, written, speaking, and listening skills. This research focus on speaking ability. In speaking English, the students should learn the language to communicate with other people from other countries. (Fitriyani et al., 2023). There are many definitions of speaking. (Parupalli, 2019). said that the ability to communicate fluently orally is the most important skill for language learners.

Up to now, speaking has always been considered as one of the most crucial abilities by people. According to (Qizi & Gayratovna, 2021) speaking is a language that humans employ to communicate with one another. (Bouzar, 2019) states that when we talk, we are expressing ourselves verbally, including our thoughts and feelings. Along with reading, listening, and writing, it is ranked as one of the most challenging parts of learning a foreign language. Acquiring, fluency in the target language is essential for students. (Ferdianto & Kholili, 2022).

Speaking is a skill that takes a lot of work to be perfect, and students are considered to have mastered it when they would communicate effectively. Like according to (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2020) state that the ability to express one's thoughts, emotions, and ideas via the pronunciation of words is one definition of speech. While, according to (Pratiwi & Ayu, 2020); (Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020) Using one's voice to convey one's intentions (ideas, thoughts, and emotions) to another is one way to describe

speaking with preference. The ability of speaking can be measured the success of learning the language. (Islam, 2022).

In other opinion, speaking is not an easy topic for them because they constantly run into different barriers that keep them from communicating. According to (Wahyuniati et al., 2020) said that the students have several problems in speaking skill. Like: lack of vocabulary, shyness, lack of grammar, little practice, mispronounce, and etc.

Now day, contemporary techniques, students may hone their public speaking skills. The ability to join English meeting club whose members speak English is one of the results. English meeting clubs assist members in increasing their vocabulary and phrasal terms, fixing common pronunciation and speaking errors, honing their listening comprehension skills, and speaking in a context similar to daily life, and promote self-assurance when speaking English. According to Hornby, A. S., & Cowie, A. P. (1977) English Club gets together or take action as a group for a common objective. The benefit of English meeting club is providing a pleasant and informal setting which includes the objective in its learning and to practice a variety of styles of English, making friendships and learning about cultural diversity. (Hanim, 2018).

Furthermore, based on initial observations that the researchhers conducted in English course of Iatiqlal Islamic Boarding School Sumbercenteng Kotaanyar Probolinggo. The course activities are carried after the evening prayes start at 07;00 o'clock PM till 09;00 o'clock Pm, With the scheduled teach of English language material such us Speaking, Grammar, Writing, Reading, listening and pronunciation, which is held different tutors every material. The course program is not only carried out at night, but also every morning after holy Qur'an, and all the students have to join a vocabulary class and required to be memorized at night after others program and also must be practice when they speak with their friends, so that all the students are required to speak English everyday and everywhere In addition, there is programming known as an English meeting group that occurs once a week. Speaking, storytelling, poetry, drama, and other forms of performance are all part of the English meeting club activities. Weekly Meeting is the program where this activity is carried out once a week to improve their speaking skills of students in English Course of Istiqlal Islamic Boarding School.

Some previous researchers have discussed these issue;(Wahyuniati et al., 2020) ; (Quynh, 2021); (Mutaat, 2022); (Septi Mulia et al., 2020); (Sinaga & Pustika, 2021); (Rahmania & Mandasari, 2021); (Sari & Aminatun, 2021); (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2020); (Sherine et al., 2020); (A. Abu-Ayfah, 2019); (Wahyuni & Utami, 2021); (Yusmiati, 2021); (Syafiq et al., 2021); (Saed et al., 2021). All the previous that mention above were different with this research. No one the previous researchers studied student perception toward English meeting club but previous researchers mostly used social media to improve their speaking.

Based on the background, the researchers conducted to research on students' perception toward English meeting club of their speaking skill, and the researchers formulated the problem statement: what are the students perception toward English meeting club of their speaking? Based on that question, the objective of this research is to know the students perception toward English meeting club of their speaking skill.

The significance of this research rests in the fact that it equips students with the knowledge they need to take a more active role in their language acquisition and to see that English meeting clubs might be an excellent resource for improving their oratory skills.

**Research Method*****Design***

This inquiry made use of both descriptive and qualitative methodologies. An important goal of qualitative research is to get a better understanding of human behaviour by capturing its social and cultural settings in all their complexity (Latief, 2013). The way people act, believe, think, and perceive society is also examined in qualitative research (McMillan and Schumacher, 2001). To put it simply, qualitative research seeks to shed light on the subjective data generated by people's thoughts, feelings, and experiences (Hancock, 2006).

***Participant***

The participants of this research are advance class of English course at Istiqlal Islamic boarding school and there were three students. The researchers chooses that class because they are the senior students who have a lot of experience participating in this English meeting club.

***Data Collection***

Researchers made data collection by using two steps: observation and interview. A excellent place to start when trying to understand how something works is using an observational method. According to Sarwono (2006) asserts that observation entails meticulously documenting events, behaviors, and observable elements, as well as anything else that might serve as evidence to support research. In observation, the researchers obtain data by simply watching the participants. Using this method, the researchers documented the agendas for the students' English meeting club. The second step is a semi-structured interview, was administered in-person by researchers and students. In this research the researchers ask several questions related to research question. So that, with this interview, the data can be collected as much as possible. The researchers choose this method to know the students' perception toward English meeting club of the students at English Course at Istiqlal Islamic Boarding School.

***Data Analysis***

In this research, the researchers used the data analysis which take the theory from (Miles and Huberman 1994), include the processes of data reduction, data display, and conclusions drawing or verification the first step is data reduction it by choosing, prioritizing, clarifying, and abstracting and prior to entering the data into written field notes or transcriptions. Researchers drew findings for this study from data acquired by student interviews and observations done during the agendas of English meeting club. The next step is data analysis. An enlarged paragraph of text, graphic, chart, table, or matrix may all be considered a display, and they all provide a new angle on the data that is already there in the text. The last step is to draw a conclusion. Gathering relevant information from the investigated material and considering its relevance to the problems at hand is an important first step in drawing conclusions. After making sure the research question has been answered, the researcher presents the data, compares it to the data gathered from interviews and observations, and draws conclusions. The researchers came to a conclusion after surveying students at Istiqlal Islamic Boarding School about their perception toward English meeting club.

## Result and Discussion

As mentioned before, researchers used interviews as their only means of gathering data. The primary objective of this chapter is to illustrate the data that was analysed. This pertains to the student's perception of the articulacy levels of the English meeting group members. You may see the outcomes of all the interviews down below:

### Theme 1: English meeting club (Weekly Meeting)

Meli said: *“As English meeting club or weekly meetings we can interact or communicate a lot using the English we have learned previously; with that we can train our self-confidence in public and increase our speaking skill”*

Irfan says: *“in my opinion English meeting club is one of the activities when we learn English, because the weekly meeting there are many officers in participating in that activity, such as, host, speech, reading the qur'an and its meaning, and so on. So, it can improve our skill of English. Especially in speaking skill”*

Ikhwan stated: *“Weekly meetings are not just activities, but in weekly meetings we train how to speak in public properly and correctly and also it can improve my speaking”*

Based on the result above, majority all the students explain that English meeting club is a one of effects which can enchain the students' speaking skill and also train our self confidence in public

### Theme 2: benefit after joining English meeting (Weekly Meeting)

Meli says: *“The benefits I got after joining English meeting club (WM): Can practice public speaking, communicate well and correctly, learn pronunciation, train my self-confidence to dare to appear in front of many people.”*

Irfan stated: *“I got a lot of things from the weekly meeting because it trained mental and a good and correct way of speaking in the general public. Such as more confidence to speak in public and etc.”*

Ikhwan said: *“we get many experiences of following weekly meeting for the example, we brave to speak in front of public and we can upgrade our skill of English to be better and more confidence”*

From the results of the interview above, all students said that there were many benefits from participating in the English Meeting Club activities, including being more confident when speaking in public or when performing. Not only that, but they can also learn how to speak correctly by using correct pronunciation.

### Theme 3: English meeting club help when speak English

Meli stated: *“Of course, because every time I do English meeting club (Weekly Meeting). I will get a lot of knowledge that I didn't know before, because each student has their own part of the task in each English meeting club, therefore with this English meeting club, we can practice our ability to speak English, because we are used to it. By English weekly meeting, I can communicate with correct and correct pronunciation”*

Irfan said: *“Yes, because it will be very helpful, especially for shy people, because in the weekly meeting we are trained to dare to speak in front of many people. Therefore, our English is better because we have been trained in these activities”*

Ikhwan says: *“of course because in the weekly meeting there are several programs, namely: speeches, poetry, storytelling etc. And all of that can improve our public speaking”*

In answering the interviewers' question, most students said they were confident in the English meeting club's capacity to help them become more fluent speakers. This is because there were many other kinds of performances performed at the English meeting

club, such as talks, poetry, and stories. Consequently, this is a fantastic activity for helping students develop confidence in their English speaking abilities.

#### **Theme 4: Improvement in their speaking skill**

Meli said: *“Yes, I do, the improvement I got was an increase in speaking English fluently and pronunciation correctly, and also easily memorizing new vocabulary every day.”*

Irfan said: *“yes, I do. When it comes to the improvement in English, it must exist because from before those who are not used to these activities get used to it. So, our everyday English is better than before.”*

Ikhwan says: *“The improvement we can show is, that we can make good speeches in public, etc. And also, it can improve my skill.”*

Researcher concluded from above-mentioned interview that participation in the English meeting club significantly improved their verbal communication skills. like when you study new words, make sure you pronounce them well, and then use them in sentences. Because of this, they are able to communicate more easily as they go about their daily lives.

#### **Theme 5: Motivated to speak English**

Meli says: *“Of course, I am very motivated to continue speaking English, because at my cottage it is mandatory to speak English every day otherwise there will be punishment for those who break the rules.”*

Irfan said: *“Yes, especially English is part of the international language, so I am very motivated to always speak English.”*

Ikhwan stated: *“Of course, because in my opinion, after participating in the weekly meeting activities, I can get to know more about English, which in my opinion is more fun after participating in these activities.”*

Researcher interviews utilising the aforementioned question revealed that the majority of students believed the English meeting club significantly served the goal of enhancing speaking ability. The researchers drew their results from the students' accounts of how the English meeting group consistently pushed them to speak English. More people are also enthusiastic while talking about mundane topics.

#### **Theme 6: prefer regular class or English meeting club**

Meli stated: *“I prefer to English clubs (WM) give students a chance to practice English in a relaxed, informal environment, to meet new people and improve my speaking skill. Many English Clubs are moderated by English teachers. So, I am able to learn a lot of knowledge about speaking. Like, how the way to speak clearly in public.”*

Irfan says: *“I prefer English meeting club, because there are many different activities. For example: speaker, poem, telling story, and etc. and also, from English meeting club I can focus to one skill. Not only it, I can learn a lot from that agenda. Like, learn about the way how I speak correctly in public.”*

Ikhwan said: *“I prefer of english meeting club when I learn English especially in speaking skill. at weekly meetings because it feels more formal than speaking in front of the class. So, I can focus to increase speaking skill. And I can learn more about the way how to speak in front of people or public.”*

Focused on the interview offered to the learners via the question above. In order to enhance their English abilities, most students questioned preferred meeting with an English club rather than a typical classroom environment. Because their confidence, capacity for self-expression, and capacity to put thoughts into words all grow

substantially. Participation in the English meeting club helps students with both their fluency in English and their ability to speak in front of an audience.

#### **Theme 7: English meeting club support to speak English**

Meli said: *“Yes, I do, because I have said that if we are practicing our English speaking skills in public if there is a wrong pronunciation then we will be told how to pronounce our English correctly.”*

Irfan says: *“Yes, I really agree, because there I was trained how to speak good and correct English. And in English meeting club we not only practice our speaking but also, we have to be brave.”*

Ikhwan stated: *“Yes, because weekly meetings not only train mentally but also practice how to speak better in public with several agendas, namely speeches, poetry, etc.”*

Based on the question that was given to them earlier, the majority of students in the poll believe that joining an English meeting club will assist them in improving their public speaking skills. By taking part in this activity, they can get the chance to enhance their English speaking abilities.

#### **Theme 8: positive and negative aspects**

Meli stated: *“The English Club was a really fun experience. I learned a lot about other students and especially about English, and I had many opportunities to take part in competitions outside, and there are still many best experiences that cannot be forgotten while in the English club. While the negative aspect of English is that we will lose a lot if we don't learn English. We don't need to be fluent in speaking English. The important thing is that we already know the basics of English, because everyone's abilities are different.”*

Irfan said: *“There are many positive aspects in English meeting club, one of which is that we can speak good and correct English and we are also mentally trained, so we can be more confident in speaking English. And for the shortcomings, maybe it's almost non-existent because we are here trained to improve our English.”*

Ikhwan says: *“The positive aspects in attending English meetings club is that we are mentally braver when we have to speak in public. Apart from that, our English skills have also improved, and in my opinion there is no negative impression because this weekly meeting is an additional program which I think is very positive.”*

Many kids benefited from the English meeting group, according to researchers and students alike. The students were able to hone their public speaking abilities thanks to the English meeting club.

### **Discussion**

Refers to the perceptions of all students. The researchers obtained from observations and interviews. Researchers found that English meeting clubs are a place to learn English in an informal environment. The students agree that English meeting club can help them to train their speaking skill. This also was related said by Hanim, the benefit of English meeting club is providing a pleasant and informal setting which includes the objective in its learning and to practice a variety of styles of English, making friendships and learning about cultural diversity. And the students think that English meeting club that can increase students' interest in learning English. Joining an English meeting club can help them feel more confident in speaking English. Apart from that, joining an

English meeting club can develop vocabulary skills, while in other words, joining an English meeting club has fun and enjoyment in learning English.

Based on the interview results, the researcher drew conclusions from 3 students as participants and the majority of students agreed that the English meeting club supported their speaking skills and could increase students' interest in learning English. Activities in English meeting clubs often encourage students to be more inspired and enthusiastic to practice speaking English with their friends and exchange knowledge and information. Therefore, English Club is an important platform to develop students' speaking skills and joining an English meeting club gets a lot of fun and enjoyment in learning English.

### Conclusion

Based on the results of the study about the perception toward English meeting club of their speaking skill it can be concluded that, this research sought to investigate students' opinions on the English meeting club. Most students believe English meeting club are fantastic and have many positive qualities, according to the result. Most of them stated that English meeting club can help students become better public speakers. more confident, getting new knowledge, and sharing information with others. The English meeting club incorporates activities such as poetry, storytelling, MC, English translators, and speech into its curriculum to assist members enhance their language skills while also encouraging a healthy sense of competition. Plus, there's a specific spot in the classroom set aside for each class to do their work. That the students are ready to compete, practically and intellectually, is evident. Most students were excited to participate in English meeting club activities because they believed the club would help them become better English speakers.

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