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THE ROLE OF IMITATION TECHNIQUE IN THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING LANGUAGE LEARNERS' SPEAKING SKILL

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ABSTRACT

English as a foreign language is something interest to learn even though it is not easy to learn. In learning English many teachers were try some media, method, strategy, and technique. The aim of this research is to describe how the use of imitation technique is effective in learning English. In this research the researcher used imitation technique in learning English to improve students' pronunciation and listening skill.

KEYWORDS

English, Imitation, Learning, Imitation Technique.

INTRODUCTION

This study aims find out the improvement of non-native English students in pronunciation by using Listen and Imitate technique. This technique was selected to enhance the students' ability in pronouncing different sounds from their native language. Listening then imitating the sounds repeatedly will ease the students pronounced them perfectly. This research was quantitative which employed pre- experimental research with one group pretest-posttest design. The result of the pre test and post test was then compared to see the improvement of the Student's

pronunciation after the treatment using Listen and Imitate Technique. This study found out the use of listen and imitate technique was able to improve students' pronunciation skill significantly.

English as an International Language, and in some countries English as a second language or a foreign language. In Indonesia English as a foreign language, when we learn a foreign language it is not easy to learn because some causes like different from first language. In Indonesia language there is no tenses, and the way to pronounce which is one letter just stand for one

word or two. For instances, letter A just pronounce A, but in English it should pronounce [ei] . When people will learn English, they faced many difficulties, which is they learn by listen and they must get some media, techniques, and exercises. Although that problems not only faced by people who will learn English, but also faced by students in the English department. Pronunciation is very important because the students must know and be able to pronounce English. Based on the writer's experience in teaching English, most of the students make mistakes in pronouncing some English words. This would mean that you actually have to speak it, as just studying grammar or listening to English audio files isn't just going to be enough to attain such goal. If there's no one to speak to in attempt to practice, you could still do practices all by yourself, using the technique of imitating other people who speak correct or proper English. This technique does not requires a partner to practice with. Imitation, tho, doesn't necessarily require you repeating word for word everything the person you are imitating has said. Imitation could involve listening to conversations, watching films or any kind of speech, and then trying to redo the speech in your own unique words.

You could listen to the entire speech and then express it verbally in your own words.

This technique has several benefits :

- You listen to and also imitate correctly spoken English.
- You learn to construct even better sentences.
- You learn more idioms, their meanings and how to use them properly.
- You learn patterns of speaking as used by persons you meet daily.

Hearing other people speak makes you learn through a process called implicit learning. This process happens,

probably without you being conscious that it is happening. This is literally how kids growing, and infants get to learn their early basics of spoken language. Usually during this process, you might basically not be bothered about the sentence composition itself, rather you are just focused on communicating, understanding and expressing thoughts or ideas.

Learning English speaking skills through the imitation technique is the commonest and most effective way to improve your spoken English.

The problem presented in this paper was designed to address the question, "what are the relationships between imitation, recitation and improving oral English ability for those learning English as a second language?" A brief review of literature on the studies of improving learners' oral English was conducted from a variety of secondary sources. A second review of literature related to studies of imitation and recitation and their impact on improving oral English ability was conducted.

A brief review of literature on the studies of learning strategies to improve learners' oral English was conducted. A second review of literature relating to studies of imitation and recitation strategies to improve oral English was also conducted. The findings were summarized and recommendations made.

According to several reports on this subject, most studies have proved that imitation or recitation is beneficial to oral English learning. It is the main evidence that these two approaches play an important role in language learning. Meanwhile, the memorization strategies mentioned by previous researchers are similar to recitation because memorization is a part of recitation. Imitation is an advanced behavior whereby an individual observes

and replicates another's. It also was a fundamental method of instruction in ancient Roman and in Renaissance humanist curricula, the practical counterpart to rhetorical theory. In this paper, it used as an effective method in oral English teaching.

Recitation means a repetition of what has been said before. Recitation input is a comprehensible input, and the language materials are carefully selected, meaning they are pure, authentic and beautiful texts, which are comprehensible easily by ESL students. In fact, it is advantageous to the output production of language, because the multiplying ability (saying, writing) is produced on the basis of understanding input. A brief review of literature on the studies of learning strategies to improve learners' oral English was conducted. A second review of literature relating to studies of imitation and recitation strategies to improve learners' oral English was also conducted. The findings were summarized and recommendations made.

English as International language is multifunctional. It can be used either for communication and academic use. The use of English in international event such as seminar, presentation, workshop, conference and inter alia have shown how English takes a big part in International communication. It is shown that the awareness of the essential of English has been realized by most of people. Therefore, English is currently grown. This fact probably does not become any interest of the English learners, or perhaps the teachers in some schools. Most, but not all of teachers concur that the goal of the instruction is to enable the students to understand the language which is served in a form of a text like in banner, poster, pamphlet, or in form of record which is given through listening, if any, and at least can speak in English or to carry out a conversation in English. All of those must have been

elaborated in school syllabus. In fact, one of some factors of the failure of the English learning process is that the English teachers do not give a special treatment of pronunciation as one of important elements of English and other languages in common. Pronunciation, as an element of language is something that has to be noticed. It is very essential that when the sound is pronounced incorrectly or improperly the problem such a mishearing which in further can cause miscommunication will be such a serious problem. That the pronunciation of the students nowadays is very awful, a word can have different meaning from what it has to. The students do not only have trouble in speaking but also trouble in listening. It is found that the one who can pronounce a sound in a word correctly will have a good listening. It equals to the students' ability in listening. As we know how the dumb have trouble in their listening.

There are a lot of items English have, one of the items is pronunciation. Most students think that pronouncing some words correctly, especially when it is conforming to the native language utterance, is just an impossible thing to do. The belief probably arises because of the fear of trying it. Some strange phonetics which exist in English, but does not exist in native language of the English learner can seem very hard to them to utter. This belief cannot be accused based on the fact that there is such a difficulty in utilizing the proper of pronunciation. It is consented with the saying that the native language of English itself has this difficulty.

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