STUDENTS’ OPINIONS ON FACTORS IMPEDING AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO SPEAK ENGLISH

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL SHEET 1 ................................................................. i
APPROVAL SHEET 2 ................................................................. ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ................................................................ iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS ............................................................... iv
ABSTRACT ................................................................................. vi

Chapter I INTRODUCTION
1.1 Background of the Study ..................................................... 1
1.2 Statement of the Problems ................................................ 3
1.3 Objective of the Study ......................................................... 3
1.4 Significance of the Study .................................................... 3
1.5 Scope and Limitation ......................................................... 4
1.6 Theoretical Framework ..................................................... 4
1.7 Definition of Key Terms ..................................................... 4
1.8 Organization of the Study .................................................. 5

Chapter II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE
2.1 Previous Studies ............................................................... 6
2.2 The Nature of Speaking ..................................................... 7
2.3 The Importance of Spoken Language .................................. 10
2.4 The Importance of Motivating Students to speak ............... 12
2.5 Factors in Learning Speaking ............................................ 13
  2.5.1 The Affective Domain .................................................. 15
  2.5.2 Factors Encouraging Students to Speak English in Class 15
     2.5.2.1 Material .......................................................... 16
     2.5.2.2 Teacher-Students Interaction in Class ..................... 17
     2.5.2.3 Techniques to Teach Speaking in Class ................... 18

Chapter III RESEARCH METHOD
3.1 Research Design ............................................................. 22
3.2 The Subjects of the Study ................................................ 23
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Data Presentation and Analysis</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Interpretation</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Suggestion</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBLIOGRAPHY</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX</td>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABSTRACT

Language is used as a means of communication, and spoken language is considered primary (Finnochiaro, 1974:60). Almost all speakers of language use the language to carry out their daily activities orally and to communicate all events and experiences they are involved, also their ideas and feelings to other speakers.

Spoken language or oral communication is considered more important than written language because children learn to speak first, and then to read and write in the school period. Moreover, it seems that oral communication is needed and valuable in today’s world.

English is used and learned by many people in the world. However, it often happens that in conversation classes, most of the students were not productive in speaking English. They have difficulties to speak English when the teacher asked them to converse their ideas.

Considering the background above, the writer conducted this study. This study is intended to find out the reasons that make the students afraid to express their ideas in English and the factors that support and encourage them to speak. The writer took the third semester students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya, who were taking Speaking B, as the subjects for her research.

The results of the study shows that most of the subjects were afraid of making grammatical mistakes when they were speaking. From the questionnaires, it was found out further that the materials, the techniques, and the teachers’ attitude in the classroom became the major factors besides their own motivation. So, group discussion will help students to practice speaking in target language with the topics that are familiar for the students.