



# **dharma pendidikan**

*Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pembelajaran*



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**Upaya Memanfaatkan Alat Peraga Agar Pembelajaran Matematika Menyenangkan**

aguzin patmaningrum

47 - 51

**Profil Kesalahan Mahasiswa Prodi Pendidikan Matematika STKIP PGRI Nganjuk Dalam Menyelesaikan Soal Teori Graf Ditinjau Dari Perbedaan Gender**

Erdyna Dwi Etika

60 - 66

**Penerapan Contextual Teaching And Learning (CTL) Dengan Metode Kooperatif Model Jigsaw Untuk Meningkatkan Aktivitas dan Kemampuan Kognitif Mahasiswa**

Yulia Dewi Puspitasari

10 - 20

**Analisis Kesalahan Mahasiswa Dalam Menyelesaikan Soal Analisa Vektor Di STKIP PGRI Nganjuk**

Addin Zuhrotul Aini

34 - 46

**Penerapan Metode Teagtour Pada Mata Pelajaran Bahasa Inggris Sebagai Upaya Peningkatan Hasil Belajar Siswa Kelas VIII.A Di SMP Negeri 3 Kertosono Semester Genap Tahun Pelajaran 2014/2015**

Misbachudin Misbachudin

67 - 77

**Implementing Exchange Formation Activity to Improve Students' Speaking Ability**

Calitra Rosiana

1 - 9

**Students' Characters Building In The 2013 English Curriculum And Its Practices In The Classroom: A Case Study**

Endang Warniati

21 - 33

**Penerapan Metode Guided Inquiry Disertai Mind Mapping Untuk Meningkatkan Motivasi Belajar Mahasiswa Pendidikan IPA STKIP PGRI Nganjuk**

Purwo Adi Nugroho

105 - 110

**Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan Dalam Novel Sepatu Dahlan Karya Khrisna Fabichara Serta Implementasinya Dalam Pembelajaran Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia Di MTS Amin Ngetos, Kabupaten Nganjuk**

Achmad Tantowi Aziz

111 - 122



## IMPLEMENTING EXCHANGE FORMATION ACTIVITY TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' SPEAKING ABILITY

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### Abstract

The goal of English teaching especially speaking skill in the classroom is to stimulate students to express their ideas in the target language. Since the most important thing in speaking skill is how to make the listener understand the speaker's message, Exchange Formation Activity can be used to improve students' speaking ability. This is because this method can be applied for teaching speaking effectively in several ways. In teaching speaking, lecturers who teach English should make sure that the instructions of the speaking material are related to the students' real life environment. Thus, the students can connect their speaking practice to experiences in their daily activities. This study focused on the lecturer's teaching process (English class management and teaching method) and employed CAR research design. The data for this study are acquired from evaluation and observation. There were several evaluations included; they were pre-test, treatment on cycle I and II, and post-test. The aim of the activities was to know whether the students improved their learning or their learning became less effective after treatment. The results showed that the average score for students' pre-test was 66.5. The result of the first treatment was 62, the second treatment was 85, and the post test was 88. The students' post test's mean score was 88. In conclusion after being treated using Exchange Formation Activity, the students' speaking ability was successfully improved which was shown by the final mean score 88 in the post test.

**Keywords : Exchange Formation Activity, Speaking Ability, Improve**

### Introduction

The researcher observes speaking ability of second semester students in CIVICS Department during before and after using Exchange Formation Activity, as well as the strategies that they employ to solve their problems in improving speaking ability. There are more than 75 % students of CIVICS department in STKIP PGRI Nganjuk who have problem in English Subject. Beside the lack of confidence in producing the target language (English), most of them also have limited vocabulary in English, worry about structure of speaking and have problems in English pronunciation.

Teaching speaking for those students is not easy, lecturers should not expect them to immediately brave to speak or speak fluently. This is because speaking skill needs time to grow. Students need time to prepare for weeks, sleep on it, dream about it and let ideas sink into their subconscious. They also need to ask questions, write down the thoughts, and keep adding new ideas. As they prepare every speech, they will ask themselves questions. The lecturer must be active to motivate their students to speak and should have a good technique to make it done (Savignon,

2002:3). It is because, the important thing in speaking is the speaker can deliver meaning of the sentences.

Students often think that the ability to speak a language is the product of language learning, but speaking is also a crucial part of the language learning process. Effective instructors teach speaking strategies to the students by using minimal responses, recognizing scripts, and using English in every conversation. According to Baw, (2002: 45) lecturer uses effective strategies to help their students to expand their ability in speaking with confidence.

The objectives of this research are to find out the students' speaking ability before using Exchange Formation Activity for university students in the second semester year 2015/2016, to know students' speaking ability after using Exchange Formation Activity and to reveal whether students' speaking ability can be improved by using Exchange Formation Activity. The data used to fulfill those research objectives

had been collected from observations, interviews, and questionnaire in the preliminary study before (Tang, J. 2002: 37, Kim and Petraki. 2009: 58-60)

The Exchange Formation activity is one of the effective methods for teaching speaking which gives the students more exercises to practice their oral skill. In Exchange Formation activity, lecturer gives chances for students to practice their English skill by walking around the class while asking questions for different students to get some information. It helps the students to build their confidence, learn more vocabulary, practice the grammatical structure, and express their idea. This method can be applied for teaching speaking, especially for teaching students who are taking English Specific Purposes (ESP) course in the second semester because they need to enhance their speaking skill. Speaking skill becomes important in ESP because the course requires students to communicate their idea (Chinh, 2009: 216-218). In this method, the lecturer had designed effective activities in several stages which support students' practice in improving their speaking skill and increasing their confidence.

## **Method**

### **The Research Design**

The design of this study is classroom action research (CAR) since this is effective to improve the quality of English lecturer's performance in giving instruction and to improve students' achievement in learning English (Latief, 2013:144). The researcher applied classroom action research (CAR) design because the researcher has found the problem in CIVICS Department especially in ESP

subject and tried to provide solution while improving students' speaking ability by using three cycles.

Beside that, the researcher used descriptive quantitative to find out the differences of students' speaking ability before and after using Exchange Formation Activity. Quantitative data is numerical representatives' data showed in categories, or in rank order, or measured in units of measurement. Therefore, this data were used to construct graphs, and table of raw score to display several classifications from the final data that had been collected.

Table1. The procedure in Classroom Action Research

	Activities
P	- Finding the research problem based on observation from the English teaching process
R	- Asking for permission to Head of STKIP PGRI Nganjuk, and doing consultation with another English lecturer
O	- Doing the first research without using Exchange Formation Activity for the students who take ESP in the second semester at STKIP PGRI Nganjuk.
C	- Doing second research (first treatment) by using Exchange Formation Activity.
E	- Doing third research (second treatment) by using Exchange Formation Activity.
D	- Doing fourth research (Post Test) by using Exchange Formation Activity
U	- Calculating the percentage from the data students' performance.
R	- Making the transcription of students' performance.
E	- Generalizing the data.
	- Drawing Conclusion.

The researcher collected the data from the use of Exchange Formation Activity to improve students' speaking ability for second semester students of STKIP PGRI Nganjuk who take ESP course. The research was conducted from March 2016 and just like other CASR studies, this research was started from identifying problems in the classroom to finally set up effective solution (Englander, K. 2002:9). Then, in the first week of May 2016, the researcher conducted treatment for the students. The research was done in three sessions with 2 x 45 minutes time allocation for each meeting.

### Research Population

The population of this research is only one class which included students from second semester who took ESP course at STKIP PGRI Nganjuk in academic year 2015-2016. The total students in the class are 18 students. All students were included as the subject of this study because one of the aims of this research is to enhance students' learning process to increase students' speaking ability in CIVICS Department of STKIP PGRI Nganjuk.

### **Research Variable**

Variable is the object and component of research which covers independent variable and dependent variable. Independent variable of this research is the use of Exchange Formation Activity. Then, dependent variable of this research is the students' speaking ability.

### **Data Collection**

#### **Data Collection Technique**

In collecting data, the researcher observed students' activity and conducted a test. The observation had done by the researcher to see how the students solve their speaking problems before using Exchange Formation Activity and this was done at the end of March up to April. The researcher observed students' speaking activity and then took notes based about the activities. Because this research used CAR, checklist observation was used to observe lecturer's activity in teaching speaking using Exchange Formation Activity method. The checklist is used to compare the fact and the theory used in teaching speaking based on Exchange Formation Activity method.

Next, the researcher conducted oral test to collect the data of students' speaking ability and to know the achievement of the students „speaking. The test was given after the lesson finished. During the test, the students were asked to describe certain topic from the lesson (Bank and Appointment). In the pre-test, the lecturer used three phases technique for telling time and date lesson. The students presented one

Dialog about showing opinion, asked and they were asked to read texts, to answer implicit question orally and to identify the expression used for telling time. The lecturer also assigned the students in pairs simple dialog and to demonstrate it in front of the class. In the post test, the lecturer applied Exchange Formation Activity for Bank and Appointment's material. Several themes were provided in cards and the students should create a dialog based on the theme and finally they should perform their dialog in front of the class.

#### **Data Collection Instrument**

In collecting data, the researcher used three instruments: card, observation sheet and document. By using these instruments, valid data were collected. First, the researcher used Pre- Test “English for Tourism” as the material with the title “Describing Things”, the test was in the form of oral test. In this section, the

researcher asked students to make a dialog in pairs based on the theme and then they should practice it in front of the class.

The treatment was the second instrument which was divided into two treatments. The first treatment by using Exchange Formation Activity was done by giving cards to the students that had several topics or questions (about Bank). Then, the researcher gave the students opportunity to make a dialog in pairs. And then they practiced the topic or questions by giving some questions to other friends and by trying to answer the questions. It could help students to improve their vocabulary, feel confident, pay attention of grammatical structure, and practice expressing their idea. Here, the researcher took a note of students' speaking activity by using observation checklist. It was later used in comparing the fact and theory related to the teaching of speaking in Exchange Formation Activity method. The second treatment was still gave cards that had different topics or questions to the students but the theme was different from treatment I (Appointment). Next, the researcher gave the students opportunity to make a dialog in small groups which had four students in each group. And then they practiced by giving some questions to other friends and answering the questions. The last instrument was post-test. Here, the topic was exactly the same as the second treatment, Appointment. The difference was that in the post-test, the students must exchange their cards to others, make a dialog and present it in front of the class. So, although they got another card about Appointment, but with different sub-topic. This made them more active, creative and interested in the ESP lessons especially in speaking activity.

### Data Collection Procedure

In this study, the researcher designed the research into three cycles. Every cycle had one preface of study and four steps, they are; planning, action, observation and reflection. The needed time for each meeting was 2 X 45 minutes.

Table 2. Data Collection Procedure

Cycle	Activities
Preliminary Study	It is done by the researcher to find the problem in the class, such as the students do not do the homework, were noisy, had low motivation, etc.



<p><b>The First Treatment</b></p>	<p>a. Planning Prepared the instruments such as materials, syllabus, lesson plan (RMP), worksheet, learning scenario, technique and the instrument to observe and evaluate the teaching and learning process.</p> <p>b. Acting The researcher applied group work in implementing Exchange Formation Activity, such as: the lecturer explained the purpose and rules of Exchange Formation Activity, divided the students in pairs, gave time for students to discuss the material and make dialog, asked students to present their dialog in front of the class, concluded the lesson together with students, and evaluated the lesson and closed the session.</p> <p>c. Observing To obtain the data, the researcher used observation and analyzed several documents. The researcher observed the activities of Exchange Formation Activity using observation checklist.</p> <p>d. Reflecting The data gained from the test and the result of observation were interpreted and analyzed The analysis was used to identify the weakness of cycle I.</p>
<p><b>Second Treatment</b></p>	<p>a. Planning Prepared the syllabus, lesson plan, learnt the results of reflection on the cycle I, redesigned cycle II based on notes on cycle I and recorded problems and obstacles during learning activities</p> <p>b. Action Action implemented in cycle II was the same as cycle I, but used different topics or sub concepts. Implementation of action plan was based on what has been designed or made. The lecturer gave different topic from the first cycle (Appointment), with activities as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Divided students in group that had four students</li> <li>- Asked students to make a dialog based on theme</li> <li>- Asked students to present their dialog in front of the class</li> <li>- Lecturer concluded the final discussion of all questions related to the material presented together with students</li> <li>- Evaluating and Closing</li> </ul> <p>c. Observation Observation was conducted from the start to the end of the learning process with same procedures as in cycle I.</p> <p>d. Reflection Reflection on the cycle II was essentially the same as cycle I, the differences was material or sub concepts that was studied.</p>
<p><b>Post Test</b></p>	<p>a. Planning Prepared the syllabus and lesson plan. Learned the results of reflection on the cycle I and II. In cycle III, the things that needed to be prepared in essentially the same as in planning in cycle I and II, differing only in material or sub concepts that was studied. Revised the improvement of learning results from reflection of previous cycles and recorded problems and obstacles during learning activities</p> <p>b. Action Action essentially the same as cycle I, but differs in materials or sub concepts, implementation of action plans based on what has been designed or made.</p> <p>c. Observation The activities of observation were conducted from starting previous cycles.</p> <p>d. Reflection Reflection on the cycle III was essentially the same as cycle I and II, the differences was a sub concept that was studied. Meanwhile, cycle III was the improvement of cycle I and cycle II. The improvement was based on the results of reflection in every previous cycle, some qualified aspects form previous cycles were adopted in cycle III. After had been decided that the implementation of treatment was successful, the cycle was stopped.</p>

### Data Analysis

To analyze the data, the researcher used average analysis. The researcher drew main score from assessment and count the mean using “Mean Formula”.

$$M = \frac{X}{N}$$

Where:

$M_x$  = Mean

$X$  = The total of research

$N$  = Number of Cases

Whereas to know the level of students’ thoroughness, the researcher used the formula:

$$\text{Percentage of students' thoroughness} = \frac{\sum \text{through student}}{\sum \text{students}} \times 100 \%$$

## RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### The Result of Pre-Test Analysis

Before the teaching and learning activities were undertaken, the researcher performed a pre-test on May 06, 2016. The test was in the form of oral test. In this section, the researcher asked students to make a dialog in pairs based on the theme “Describing Things” and then practiced it in front of the class. The assessment from this activity was to measure the students’ speaking skill. According to the data, the average achievement of students’ pre-test was 66.5 and the students’ thoroughness was 39%. The researcher concluded that the students had difficulties to comprehend English speaking lesson.

### The Result of Treatment

Table 3. Recapitulation of Students’ Speaking Result

	Details	Result
<b>treatment I</b>	Total Result	1748
	Mean of students’ score	62
<b>treatment II</b>	Total Result	2403
	Mean of students’ score	85
<b>the Post Test</b>	Total Result	2484
	Mean of students’ score	88

Based on the table above, the mean of students’ score was 62 and it could be concluded that it was unsatisfactory. In treatment I. The students had not fully enjoyed Exchange Formation Activity; because they were still confused which was caused by less explanation given by the lecturer about Exchange Formation Activity. So, the speaking skill taught was not optimum. The second data showed that the mean of students’ score was 85. This means that Exchange Formation Activity had been achieved by students. It could also be concluded that using Exchange Formation Activity was almost successful to improve students’ speaking. The last result of post-

tests showed the highest mean of students' score which was 87,312. It indicated that Exchange Formation Activity had been successfully improve students' speaking.

The result of the study showed that Exchange Formation Activity can improve students' speaking ability and was an alternative way of teaching English for ESP course in STKIP PGRI Nganjuk. There was a significant improvement on the speaking skill achievement before and after the students had been taught using Exchange Formation Activity.

The results had also indicated that the use of Exchange Formation Activity was more effective than conventional way in teaching speaking ability. It could be seen from the result of pre-test, treatment, and post-test score analysis. The mean in treatment I was 62, in treatment II it was 85, and the mean in post-test was 88. Since the mean difference of post-test was significant, it could be summarized that the Exchange Formation Activity technique could improve students' speaking ability especially for students who are taking the ESP subject in the second semester in STKIP PGRI Nganjuk in academic year 2015/2016.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **Conclusion**

Based on the the discussions above, it can be concluded that there is significance improvement of student's speaking ability by using Exchange Formation Activity. The students' mean is 87, 312 who are taking the English for Special Purposes (ESP) subject for CIVICS Department in the second semester in STKIP PGRI Nganjuk academic year 2015/2016.

### **Suggestion**

Based on the above conclusion, the researcher would like to give some suggestions that are hopefully useful for English lecturer, students, and the next researcher.

As English lecturer, she / he must be able to create his or her own technique to increase the students' interest in learning English. Lecturer should use Exchange Formation Activity as method to improve students' speaking ability in order to make the students more motivated in learning English since they are from other major of English. The lecturer should use English as a means of communication in class, so that the students get used to hearing and spelling the English words. This would help the students to master English speaking ability faster and easier. Since of the limited

time at university, English lecturer should give more practices as homework. This is very useful to enrich the student's mastery of English speaking ability.

The students have to improve their knowledge, especially in enriching their speaking ability from the other sources like English story books, English magazines, songs, videos, etc. The students have to practice their English in daily conversation because it can help them enrich their speaking ability.

Last, the researcher offers the suggestion that such activity should be conducted in other classes of other school to get the wider generalization of the result of the study. The researcher hopes there will be many researches that explore the use of Exchange Formation Activity in teaching learning process especially to improve students' speaking ability and hopes that Exchange Formation Activity can give a valuable contribution.

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