

# EFL Students' Experience in Speaking Practice through Muhadharah

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**Abstract.** This research was conducted to obtain the influence of muhadharah as an extracurricular activity on students' speaking ability. This study was qualitative research. The participants in the study consist of 15 eighth-grade students of junior high school (one of the private boarding schools in South Sulawesi). The researcher conducted interviews to obtain data from participants. The results of this study indicated that muhadharah is a good school extracurricular activity that can affect students' speaking ability. The result of interviews shows that muhadharah as extracurricular activity significantly affects the students' speaking ability in English. For example, in debriefing in speech procedures, increasing students' vocabulary, learning how to make facial expressions or body gestures, and mentally training students to speak in front of the public. The interview result also shows deficiencies in extracurricular activities such as muhadharah. When the action is inappropriate because it is carried out at night, it takes students' rest time and makes some students tired and sleepy. Some also said there are penalties if students are not joining muhadharah.

**Keywords:** Extracurricular activities; the influence of muhadharah; speaking ability

## INTRODUCTION

Language is the most fundamental factor given as a gift from the creator that allows every human being to live together and to position themselves as social beings. Language can be seen as a medium through which ideas and emotions are communicated. However, language serves as a medium for exchanging information and sharing feelings and thoughts with others. A language system is formed in several regularly patterned components and can be ruled out. Language is represented by sound symbols, each of which can express something else and produce meaning. In early childhood, language skills are naturally learned and acquired to adapt to their environment; as a means of socialization, language is a way of interacting with other people.

Language is a skill (language arts, language skills) that includes four aspects: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These four aspects of skills are closely related in various ways and simultaneously a basic thought process for humans. From this opinion, it can be concluded that language skills should not be separated because they are closely related and one of the fundamental aspects of the human thinking process.

Izzuddin (2018) explained several aspects of language skills, including speaking, listening, writing, and reading. These four aspects are interrelated with each other. Listening and speaking skills are aspects of spoken language

skills that are closely related. Listening skill is receptive, while speaking is productive. The other types of language skills are writing and reading. Both are written language skills. Writing skills are productive, while reading is receptive. From this opinion, we can express that these four aspects are essential in all our activities in daily life. For example, a manager must be skilled in speaking to manage the employees he leads, and then this skill must also be supported by listening, reading, and writing skills so that his leadership can run well.

Speaking is not just pronouncing sounds or words. Speaking conveys thoughts assembled and refined with the audience in mind (Ajizah, et al., 2021). To send a message, among other things, the sender must have skills in the encoding process. On the other hand, in receiving the message, the recipient must have skills in the decoding process. From this opinion, we can learn that language skills are very useful in communicating in people's lives. Speaking skills can undoubtedly be improved in specific ways, as an educator needs to know how to improve a student's speaking ability in the teaching and learning process to increase students' speaking effectiveness. Speaking skill is a person's ability to verbally convey ideas, thoughts, and feelings to others. The principle is that as long as we master what we will talk about, the condition is that it is easy to speak; otherwise, increase reading and listening activities.

Based on the explanation before, the researcher wants to know the influence of

muhadharah as one of the extracurricular activities on student speaking ability. It is discussing a problem by giving a speech or discussion which many people attend. In general, muhadharah does feel foreign to some people's ears. But we need to know that this is very familiar to the ears of students who study in Islamic boarding schools because it can be said that this activity is deeply rooted in several Islamic boarding schools, including Rahmatul Asri boarding school, which will be the object of the research. In this school, muhadharah is carried out every semester because it is considered capable of supporting students' speaking abilities and is very compatible with the concept of boarding schools, which are indeed trained to be able to make speeches even though they only focus on discussing religious themes.

This research is directed at Muhadharoh's activities to determine the students' speaking ability through *muhadharah* training. It is hoped that it can improve students' speaking skills and the spirit of learning and help each other in mastering English material which leads to active, creative, and fun learning activities so that students can improve their understanding of English lessons. Based on the above background related to speaking activities using speech texts, both in terms of the obstacle's students face, innovative training is needed to improve students' speaking skills. In addition, the implementation of extracurricular activities that are more varied is expected to overcome the difficulties faced by students. As for the alternative problem-solving that is chosen to improve students' speaking skills by implementing the *Muhadharoh* activity, this activity is determined because it is seen as being able to invite students to speak. Through this activity, students are motivated to be bolder in speaking in public because this activity provides more space for students to speak and trains their confidence level so that it can provide opportunities for students to practice speaking in public.

This study aims to see the influence of muhadharah as an extracurricular activity on students' speaking ability. The authors hope this study will inform the teacher that the muhadharah activity is one strategy that can be applied to improve students' speaking skills in English subjects.

## METHODS

This research applied qualitative research.

When conducting qualitative research, collecting as much authentic data as possible is essential so that the topic under study may be explained thoroughly. To investigate and gain insight into a central phenomenon is the goal of qualitative research, as defined by Creswell (2018). The researcher interviewed the research participant or participants by asking general and relatively comprehensive questions to gain insight into the critical phenomenon. The data is then compiled in the form of written text. The data is collected and examined. The analytical results are described in light of prior studies conducted by other researchers. The final results of qualitative research are stated as a written report. The subjects of this study were class XI students (15 students) of Rahmatul Asri boarding school. The participants were selected from one class as a sample and then interviewed to get more in-depth information. The researcher used three instruments in this study: observation sheets, interview guidelines, and documentation. Data were analyzed in three stages: reduction, display, and drawing conclusion/verification.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the observation, the researcher found that some of the students' activities were practicing their abilities, such as pronunciation, body language, and intonation, especially in improving their speaking ability. The students also do speech practice to sharpen their speaking ability. The researcher found that most participants still lacked English in the interview results. The participants deeply learned English when they entered this boarding house. The participants have problems with vocabulary; another participant also said that it is hard to understand because there are no friends to practice their English. It shows that the participants already have experience and knowledge about the muhadharah. So, it is perfect for the researcher to get more good data from the respondents. The next was about the participants understanding how to good in a speech before participating in Muhadharah. The data showed that before participating in muhadharah the participants did not know how to give a good speech. The researcher also found that before joining muhadharah, the participants had many speech problems, like being less confident in front of many people and not knowing how to speak well. After joining muhadharah, most participants got good benefits like becoming

more confident and learning to improve their speaking skills. Based on the previous related findings above, the researcher could state that most of them focused on the students speaking and speech ability using various methods and strategies. The last one has similar to this research that focused on the influence of muhadharah activities.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion, muhadharah as an extracurricular activity improved students' speaking ability. According to the information gathered, muhadharah has numerous advantages. According to the participants' answers in the interview sections, the researcher discovered that after participating in Muhadharah, the participants had more confidence in speaking. Another discovery made by the researchers was that after participating in muhadharah, the participants' vocabulary levels improved. Besides, implementing muhadharah in the Rahmatul Asri boarding school data still needs attention. Based on the interview results, participants find participating in the muhadharah activity challenging since it is held at night, and some have difficulty with it. Because they had to do at night, the participants did not have time to prepare for the next day. As a result, the researcher concluded that muhadharah activities could assist students in enhancing their speaking ability, particularly among ninth-grade Rahmatul Asri boarding school students.

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