

USING “STAND-UP COMEDY” IN TEACHING SPEAKING AT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Abstrak

Makalah ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kemampuan *speaking* siswa SMA melalui cara pengajaran kreatif dengan menggunakan *Stand-up Comedy*. Melalui *Stand-up Comedy* siswa dapat menampilkan cerita lucu atau komedi dengan bentuk narrative, recount dan spoof di depan umum. Di dalam Makalah ini dibahas tentang aktivitas siswa SMA melalui stand-up comedy untuk meningkatkan kelancaran (*fluency*), intonasi (*intonation*) dan pengucapan (*pronunciation*). Langkah-langkah pengajaran yang ada pada aktivitas ini pertama adalah *modeling* dimana guru akan menuntun siswa pengenalan informasi tentang stand-up comedy. Kedua, *select the topic* yaitu guru mendiskusikan topik yang akan dipelajari dalam stand-up comedy bersama siswa. Ketiga, dilanjutkan dengan *set the joke* dimana guru menuntun siswa untuk membuat konsep dan naskah dari *joke*, dan bagaimana mempraktekannya. Keempat, *practicing a performance* yaitu guru memberikan waktu kepada siswa untuk mempraktekkan stand-up comedy dengan siswa lainnya. Kemudian yang terakhir adalah *practicing a delivery* dimana guru meminta siswa untuk menampilkan stand-up comedy di depan kelas.

Key Words: Teaching Speaking, Stand-up Comedy, Stand-up Comedy for teaching speaking, Teaching Speaking in Senior High School

A. Introduction

As a foreign language, Indonesian considers that learning English is difficult since it is not used in daily life. Learning English is not an easy thing for students. It needs some strategies to make students understands and still have curiosity in learning English. English has four skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. One of the skills that make students fear and seems not want to learn English is speaking.

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Speaking is one of language skills that must be mastered by the students besides listening, reading, and writing. To make students able in speaking, they have to know grammar and vocabulary. Those make students who want to learn English often give up. So teacher should try to find something different to teach speaking and it should be appropriate with the ability of the students. As a teacher in English language, teacher should be able to play a role as facilitator for their students. It is really a challenge for teacher to make communicative and great class.

Speaking is oral activity in producing sounds that expressing some opinions, feelings, ideas, etc. From the Oxford Advanced Dictionary (2010), it defines that speaking is to express or communicate opinions, feelings, ideas, etc, by or as talking and it involves the activities in the part of the speaker as psychological (articulator) and physical (acoustic) stages. Furthermore, Florez in Bailey (2003) stated that speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning which occupy producing and receiving and processing information. Similarly, Chaney in Susanti (2007) wrote that speaking is the process of building and sharing meaning by using verbal and non-verbal symbols, in varied situation.

Today's world requires that the goal of teaching speaking should improve students' communicative skills. Considering the needs of mastering speaking as one of the ways for mastering English, Brown (2004) states that in teaching speaking, teacher need to improve the students' pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, grammar and comprehension.

Teaching speaking also considers the expectation that will ask from students. Nunan (2003) state that teaching speaking is to teach English language learners to:

1. Produce the English speech sounds and sounds patterns.
2. Use words and sentence stress, intonation patterns and the rhythm of the second language.
3. Select appropriate words and sentences according to the proper social setting, audience, situation and subject matter.
4. Organize their thoughts in a meaningful and logical sequence.
5. Use language as a means of expressing values and judgments.
6. Use the language quickly and confidently with few unnatural pauses, which is called fluency.

In teaching speaking teacher should know the process and guidance that want to learn. Kayi (2006) suggest the teacher to do the following things in teaching speaking:

1. Provide maximum opportunity to students to speak the target language by providing a rich environment that contains collaborative work, authentic materials and tasks, and shared knowledge.
2. Try to involve each student in every speaking activity, for this aim practice different ways of student participation.

3. Reduce teacher speaking time in class while increasing students speaking time.
4. Step back and observe students.
5. Indicate positive signs when commenting on a students' response.
6. Ask eliciting questions such as "what do you mean? How did you reach that conclusion?" in order to prompt students to speak more
7. Provide written feedback.
8. Do not correct students' pronunciation mistakes very often while they are speaking. Correction should not distract student from his or her speech.
9. Involve speaking activities not only in class but also out of class, contact parents and other people who can help.
10. Circulate around classroom to ensure that students are on the right track and see whether they need your help while they work in groups or pairs.
11. Provide the vocabulary beforehand that students need in speaking activities.
12. Diagnose problems faced by students who have difficulty in expressing themselves in the target language and provide more opportunities to practice the spoken language.

The way to improve students speaking, teachers should know how to make students speak and can produce the idea and information in to better oral production. Zhang (1997) states that language teaching activities in the classroom are aimed at achieving individual language use.

According to Brown (1990), teachers should have good techniques in teaching speaking. Moreover, Krashen (1981) says that the language learning is aimed at solving the communication problems and directly involved the learners in solving communication problems in target language. Then Chomsky (1959) recommends that teachers should allow their students to create their own sentences based on their own understanding of the rules of languages (grammar).

Hsin (1988) writes that in the oral class activity, the students are made to speak much more than listen. As a result, they are given opportunities to practice speaking. So, in teaching speaking, the teacher should have various activities to improve the class atmosphere and to motivate the students' willingness to speak and communicate with other people.

There are many activities that can make class situation fun and interesting. It can be done by giving picture, cards, and story. The other ways that can help students are doing discussion, conducting role play, games, and using jokes. The use of joke in the class can change a boring situation in to a pleasant one. It can increase interaction between students and teacher, make class more meaningful and enjoyable. The reason to use jokes is the effectiveness and a pleasant way to

make students speak in front of the class. It seems to combine practice with fun. Through jokes they can express their idea freely because it is related with their daily activity with their friend. One kind of joke that famous in Indonesia nowadays is stand-up comedy.

Nowadays humor and joke transformed in to monolog activity and performed which is make any listener and audience enjoy and pleasant that called as “Stand-up Comedy”. As oxford dictionary defined that stand up comedy is (of comedy or a comedian) performed or performing by standing in front of an audience and telling jokes. Wikipedia (2012) states stand-up comedy is a comedic style in which a comedian performs in front of a live audience, speaking directly to them.

Stand-up comedy has some structure to delivered joke. As Greg Dean (2012) states that traditionally joke contains two parts: setup and punch. The setup and punch are usually defined in this way:

1. The Setup is the first part of joke that sets up the laugh. Before you delivered your joke you have to lead the joke by the set up. It is can make people who listen your joke will have some curiosity and make them think about your joke. It is mean that setup is not may funny but it is consist a factual happening or opinion. Based on your setup people who are listen it will have some questions that appear from them self.
 2. The Punch is the second part that makes you laugh. The punch is the part of joke that delivered something funny. It is make people who are listen the joke will surprised. It is because punch is really unexpected with the people mind.
- Here the example:

Setup: “I spent my time in the library in break time,”

Punch: “I find comfortable place to sleep there.”

B. Discussion

Using stand-up comedy in teaching speaking is a one way that can improve speaking ability of senior high school students. It is suitable activity that can build motivation and make students confidence. In other word, stand-up comedy can make student brave in delivering the idea. In this activity teacher have an important role to guide the students in learning process. Teacher should combine the material and media to support the activity. So, in this chapter there are many steps that will discuss about using stand-up comedy to improve speaking ability of senior high school students.

1. Teaching Preparation

Before the teacher come into the learning process, the teacher should consider the preparation of material which is appropriate to the students. It is really necessary in teaching because it make the successful in teaching and learning process. The teacher should be able in determining and choosing the topic that will be given to the students. It should suitable with the level and the ability of the students.

After that, teacher also selects the topic and the media that can support the learning process. It is really necessary to support learning process. It is should be prepared by the teacher before he/ she come to the class.

a. Selecting The Topic

Topic is the important thing that should be prepared by teacher. Based on the topic students can develop their idea. In stand-up comedy the topic can be in the form of:

- Recount text

Recount text is the text about past events or a piece of text that retells past events. It is really a good text that will deliver when perform Stand Up comedy. The students can mix they past experience become the good joke. It also makes the students easier to understand the topic.

- Narrative text

Narrative is the text that talks about story. Narrative is also to amuse or to entertain the readers with a story. Due to the purpose of the narrative text, it can combine narrative text with standup comedy in speaking skill.

- Spoof

Spoof text is tells a story with unpredictable and funny ending. It is easy to use it in Stand Up comedy because spoof has twist that have story with an unpredictable ending. It is really appropriate with the criteria from Stand Up comedy.

b. Selecting the media

The selection of the media that will be used in the classroom depends much on the theme chosen. It can helps students when delivered speech in front of the class. The media can increase curiosity and also interest of the audience. There are many media that can be used in stand-up comedy class such as; multimedia, and picture.

- Multimedia
Multimedia can help students in delivering the speech in front of the class. The multimedia can be power point presentation and video. This power point presentation shows the picture and words that related to the topic. It can help students understand and know about what they performed. Besides, teacher can play the video of stand-up comedy. It can help students in understanding how to deliver it in front of the class. The teacher also plays the video that related with the topic such as: story or motion picture.
- Picture
Using picture in stand-up comedy is making easy for students understand with the topic that delivered. By using picture teacher can give the example of stand-up comedy. Picture also brings the background knowledge to the students to understand the topic.

2. Step to Using Stand-Up Comedy

In using stand-up comedy teacher should consider the steps in the learning process. It really determines about the success of the learning process. Teacher should consider when using the steps in the learning process because if the steps not suitable with the students' ability, the learning process will not run well. So, there are some steps in using stand-up comedy: they are modeling, select the topic, set the joke, practicing a performance, and practicing a delivery.

1. Modeling

Modeling is the first step in the using of stand-up comedy in learning process. Teacher can make the class attention focus on the model that will deliver. It will take time around 10 until 15 minutes. It will make students understand about the learning that will they learn.

In this process, teacher should guide the students by giving information about stand-up comedy. It can be delivered by showing the power point and video. Teacher will explain about definition and joke content in stand-up comedy such as: setup and punch. Besides the content, stand-up comedy also should focus on performance such as: gesture, body language, body movement, and etc. For example, the teacher plays the video of stand-up comedy performance, so the students will see how to perform stand-up comedy.

2. Select the topic

In this step the teacher will recommend the topic to the students because the topic should be appropriate with the curriculum. The topic then will be discussed together based on the daily activity or their environment problem. The example of the topic can be seemed like: national exam, independent days, tribute to peace and etc.

The teacher led the students to choose the best topic that makes them understand and do not face difficulties. Then, teacher asks the students to gather information about the topic around 10 until 15 minutes. The information can develop into the joke. The information should not difficult for students and can be related to their daily life.

For example: - *topic: national exam*

- *Question: what the interesting thing that can be discussed from the topic?*

- *List of the answer: limit score*

Cheat

Answer key

Student

Teacher

School

Rule system

3. Set the joke

Set the joke is the step to determine the joke which is delivering in the performance. In this step teacher lead the students to set the joke such as: make concept and script of joke and how to practicing the joke. First teacher ask students make the joke based on the information that discussed before. Teacher guide the students by giving a simple example that easy to understand by the students. For example:

Setup: Susan can answer the entire of the question with the fire in her face. No, she does not happy

Punch: she choose the wrong key answer

By giving the example in front of the class the students will understand how to deliver the stand-up comedy. In this part the teacher also explains about the topic to the students. It is will be easy if the teacher has been given the background knowledge to the students before. In this step, students will use recount text, narrative text and spoof text in the stand-up comedy activity.

4. Practicing a performance

After setting the joke, the teachers give time for the students to practice their stand-up comedy. The students can practice with their friends in the small group. Furthermore, teacher still have to control the students discussion by go

around the class. If the students face difficulties in practice, they can ask the teacher to help them.

There are several things that have to consider by the students in performing the stand-up comedy, such as; gesture, body language and movement. It is really important things when the students deliver their stand-up comedy, so they can control their self in front the class. However, in practicing the performance the students have to pay attention to these aspects.

5. Practicing a delivery

This is the main step of the stand-up comedy activity. The teacher will ask the students to perform in front of the class by choosing the students randomly. When the students perform their stand-up comedy teacher will have a rubric to assess. In the rubric there will be three columns, they are; pronunciation, intonation, and fluency. However, it will be better if the teacher informed about it before the students performed in front of the class.

C. Conclusions and Suggestions

1. Conclusion

From the discussion before, it can be summarized that teaching and develop students speaking skill is need to practice in good way of communication. The teacher should pay more attention to activities and material. The teacher is expected to be a good designer in facilitating the learning process in order to create an activity to the students in learning several text of speaking. Improving speaking ability of senior high school students through stand- up comedy is one effective activity to be done. Besides, it also supports the students to practice and interact with other students.

Stand- up comedy is a communicative activity in teaching speaking to senior high school students. In Stand- up comedy, the students asked to speak in front the classroom, so the students’ pronunciation and vocabulary has been improved, and also the students will have more confidence, and can reduce their anxiety, because of the teacher asks them to speak freely and full of humor in front of the class.

In addition, the teaching learning process is interesting because the lesson is served by using a funny performance. So, stand-up comedy is one of the interesting teaching and learning activity in senior high School. It can help the students to develop their English ability, especially in speaking. Besides, the activity of stand-up comedy allows students to develop their social interaction as they learn from their environment.

2. Suggestions

The success in teaching does not depend on the lesson program only, but more important is how the teacher presents the lesson and uses various techniques to manage the class more lively and enjoyable. Regarding to the teaching speaking by using stand-up comedy, the writer gives some suggestion for the teacher and students.

To the English teacher, writer give some suggestion as follow; first, the teacher should choose the materials that are appropriate and not too difficult for the students. Second, before expect perform to the students, the teacher should make sure that the students have fully understood and have the information they need. Third, the teacher should keep control the students' activities. The last, the teacher should present the language in an enjoyable, relaxed and understandable way.

To the students, writer gives some suggestions as follow; first, the students are hoped not to be shy in acting out their role. Second, the students are hoped to be active and creative in enriching their vocabularies. Third, the students are hoped to use English when they practice stand-up comedy activities although it is hard for them. Fourth, the students should take part much in perform stand-up comedy. The last, the students should ask to the teacher if there is something that they do not understand regarding to the stand-up comedy activities.

Note: this article is compiled based on the writer's paper with his advisor Dra. An Fauzia Rozani Syaifei, M.A.

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