

Improving Student's Speaking Ability through Western Song at Junior High School

Nanda¹, Don Narius²

Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris

Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Padang

Email: nanda.muscle@yahoo.co.id

Western song adalah lagu dalam bahasa Inggris yang ditulis dalam bentuk lirik dan tujuannya menghibur penonton. Ada beberapa media yang bisa digunakan dalam mengajar *speaking* salah satunya adalah melalui *Western song*. *Western song* merupakan sejenis media berupa lirik yang dapat membantu siswa dalam berbicara dengan membawakan sebuah lagu, dan lagu tersebut mempunyai kesan bagi siswa. Penggunaan media *Western song* dalam mengajar *speaking* dapat menarik perhatian siswa karena media yang digunakan berhubungan langsung dengan siswa sehingga akan memancing siswa untuk berbicara. Dengan membawa media *Western song* sendiri siswa akan terbantu untuk mengembangkan imajinasi mereka terhadap cerita yang akan mereka nyanyikan. Mereka juga bisa menjelaskan arti dan makna dari *western song* tersebut, sehingga mereka mempunyai kesempatan berbicara di kelas. Media ini juga akan memberi kesenangan saat mereka mengekspresikan lagu mereka sendiri. Media *Western song* digunakan dalam tiga fase, yaitu *Pre-teaching*, *Whilst-teaching*, dan *Post-teaching activities*.

Kata Kunci : *Speaking, Western song, Instruction, Sing, Classroom*

A. PENDAHULUAN

Being able to communicate in English is a crucial skill to be mastered these days due to English is the language of the world. People who master English, not only in spoken but also in written form, have more chances in winning job opportunity, have more chances to career promotion, and feel more confident in English speaking community. Besides, having English proficiency is a basic need in educational system in Indonesia. English is a tool to support higher education level. Due to the need for English, the students should have English proficiency.

Communicating in English is indicated to be able to speak English fluently. It is reasonable because people know someone's ability in English based on his/her performance (Shuying, 1999). Their oral performance in English indicates whether they have good ability in English or not. Moreover, Nunan (1999) states that the ability to function in another language is generally characterized in terms of being able to speak that language. In other words, speaking ability is an

¹ Student of English Language Teaching Study Program graduated on September 2012

² Advisor, Lecturer of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang

instrument to measure whether someone has or does not have English proficiency as the foreign language.

In learning English the students are expected to master four language skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They are integrated each other. Based on the 2006 Curriculum, well known as KTSP (The educational unit level curriculum) one of the aims of learning English is to develop communication abilities in oral and written form.

The four basic skills in learning English that should be mastered by the students. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Among those skills, speaking is seen as the central skill and it is the most demanding of the four skills, Bainley and Savage (in Anne, 2001). Speaking is also considered as the most difficult and challenging skill to be mastered (Brown, 1994). Therefore, the students should be able to speak fluently and understand oral communication.

In this case, the students must study hard to master it and the teacher should create a good atmosphere in class. However, it is contrary to the real situation in class. Speaking activities do not work in class because many factors disturb students from speaking English with their friends. They are afraid of making mistakes, of being laughed at by his or her friends and of having lack of confidence in their ability.

Considering problem, relating to speaking activities in class and helping students to improve their speaking skill is part of the teacher's job. He or she is expected to have right in teaching techniques to provide students with appropriate teaching materials and to create a positive classroom environment. Therefore, the students will have opportunity to use English among themselves. The teaching learning process should not only happen between teacher and students but also between students and students.

Speaking is an activity used by someone to communicate with other. It takes place every where and has become part of our daily activities. When someone speaks, he or she interacts and uses the language to express his or her ideas, feeling and thought. He or she also shares information to other through communication.

In the classroom, the teacher must create the situation that can encourage real communication, many activities can be designed to make majors' element lively. Western song is one of the techniques that can be applied in teaching speaking because western song, in my opinion and my background, is one of potential activity that gives students feeling of freedom to express themselves.

Based on the condition above, the writer focuses on the western song. The reason for using western song is the teachers give more opportunities to students to make turns in speaking during the times allocated. The writer assumes that sing a song are combination between language practice and fun.

As human being, people communicate to fulfill their needs to transfer some information. They need to interact and speak to each other. By speaking people can give information through voice and sounds of language. According to Burns and Joice (1997), speaking is an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing, receiving, and processing information. Its form and meaning

depend on the context in which it occurs including the participants themselves, their experiences, and purpose of speaking.

Speaking as an oral interaction can be done if there are two or more people in one communication area. It involves speaker(s) and listener(s) who interact each other, conveying message or transferring information. Harmer (2007) says that speaking usually involves two or more people using language for interaction and transactional purpose. In addition, Mc Donough and Shaw (1993) state that the purpose of the speaking is to express ideas, opinions, a desire to do something, negotiate or solve a particular problem and maintain the social relationship and friendship. In other words, speaking is not only an utterance but also a tool of communication that is aimed to maintain the social relationship.

Speaking is considered as the most difficult skill to be mastered among the other skills (listening, reading, and writing). It is an active and a complex skill. Shumin (1997) says that speaking a language is especially difficult for foreign language learners because effective oral communication requires the ability to use the language appropriately in social interaction. In order to be understood by other people, the learners need to have good listening comprehension, rich of vocabulary, good pronunciation, speak fluently and of course they need to use grammar correctly.

According to Widowson (1984) speaking is the active production skill and use oral production. It is capability of someone to communicate orally with others. The one who has skills in speaking can be identified from his/her ability in using the oral language fluently, clearly and attractively. It is also supported by Harmer (2007) who states that the ability to speak fluently supposes not only knowledge of language features, but also the ability to process information and language spot. It means that a learner is judged having good speaking ability if s/he can speak fluently, can be understood by other people, understand the conveyed information and master all the language components that include pronunciation, listening and grammar skills.

In the light of the speaking terms above, it can be concluded that speaking is someone's activity in expressing his/her ideas in the spoken language. It is natural means of communication to express human being through as well as from of social behavior, emotions, and feelings. Furthermore, speaking is an ability to interact or do dialogue with others, to understand what someone says and to create utterances that can be understood. It is not only talking but also the speaker needs special attention from others because he/she shares information to others. Thus, she/he must know how to use language in the social context. If she/he does not know the language used, the information will not be received.

Speaking is the first priority in learning English. That is why the aim of teaching speaking is to train the students to be able to communicate in English effectively. According to Kayi (2007), the goal of teaching speaking should improve students' communicative skills, because only in that way students can express themselves and learn how to follow the social and cultural rules appropriate in each communicative circumstances. Thus, students should practice English in their daily life in order to master all of the language components (grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation).

Song is a familiar thing and popular in our society not only in general society but also in education society. Most of the people like song because it can make the feeling happy and could tell their aspiration. Beside song can be used as a motivation to student to learn something, motivation is needed to support someone and influence them to do something to get their own goal or purpose. Griffee stated that “Song is part of music that you sing through words” (2001: 10). It closely related to speaking, because speaking is an action of having a communication with the others in using oral language. Oral language can be define simply just an activity which is combine the words together into something understandable.

B. DISCUSSION

a. Choosing the Song

The most important thing in teaching speaking through western song is choosing the song appropriate to the students. The teacher also choose the song that very popular among the students. It is very important for the teacher to know what student’s favorite western songs are. The song that favorite among the students will stimulate them to sing and it also will make learning process easier and interesting.

The careful selection lyric and song for the teaching speaking is very essential. Not all the songs are appropriate to the students. There are some suggestions in choosing some appropriate songs for students. Blankman (2000) suggests as follow :

1. Difficulties. The lyrics of the songs should be simple. Simple means lyrics that there is no any difficult words in that. So, students are easily remember the lyrics. Then, repetitive . It means the same lyrics are exist in song and always repeating. And easy to understand. It means the song tells something simple story in the song. The teacher should choose western songs which have the simple lyric and the sentence in these songs is often repeated and also vocabulary is easy to understand.
2. The proviciency level of the class. The teacher should choose the song which is relevance to the proficiency level of the class. Songs for SMP students may have patriotism, home, friendship, holiday, nature, romantic etc
3. The suitable lyric for the lesson. The repetitive lyric is suitable for teaching speaking so that the students will be exercised to pronounce the words several times.

b. Preparing the Media

The successful of the student’s learning depends on how the teacher prepares the media that will be used in the teaching. Here are the media that should be prepared by the teacher before the class begins. 1. Cassette / CD, it is thing that contains western songs that can be played in tape recorder or CD player. 2 Tape recorder or CD player, it is a tool to play the cassette or CD. 3 Song scripts and board marker. The scripts of the western songs that the teacher wants to play in the class at the time.

c. Teacher Role

In the learning process of speaking through western songs, the teacher has role as follows:

1. The facilitator and motivator.

Before the class begins, the teacher should motivate and facilitate his students. To motivate students, the teacher should explain the advantage of using western song in the speaking class. The teacher should make the students sure that by singing the western song, they can pronounce the words fluently and step by step they can speak like native speaker. Besides that the teacher also facilitates material for the students to participate in giving their opinion about the songs that they have heard. She can let the students ask anything that they don't understand about the western song. The teachers also make all the students participate actively in learning process.

2. The controller

In the learning process, the teacher must control the class. The teacher should watch his / her personal authority. The front of the class is for the teacher controlled or teacher directed activity like active management or longer session of feedback. In listening session, teacher asks student to listen to the song carefully. No student allows to get started. He can let them write the important thing related to material on their paper.

d. Classroom Procedure

1. Pre – Activity

Before the activity begins, the teacher explains to the students about the western song and how the activity is done. To encourage or motivate students the teacher shows the picture of the singer, for example the picture of Westlife Band. The teacher asks students' knowledge about that picture. The teacher asks them some questions which are related to the picture such as: *Do you know the band in this picture? Do you like this song? What is their new hit? can you sing it? What kind of songs is that?* The answers of the students will vary. Let the students give their opinion. Teacher hears all of the students's opinion and receive it. Then teacher asks the students to listen the explanation from him about the picture. This activity will let the students to the topic that will be studied.

The teacher makes the student in group of three to make a greater chance to speak. Then ask them to prepare their note book, dictionary, and everything that can be useful in learning process. The teacher tells that he will play the song through cassette. The songs can be repeated two times. Then asks the students to listen the song carefully and write down about anything that don't understand.

2. Whilst – activity

Teacher plays one of Westlife song which is the title is " I Have a Dream ". While the music is playing, students listen to the song carefully. After the song is already listened by the student, the teacher replays the

song once again and teacher pauses the song each line. Teacher asks student to repeat the sentence. If it is wrong, teacher asks other student to tell what is right. This activity will continue until the song is end. Teacher asks each groups to discuss what the song tells about and the meaning of the song. Teacher gives time about 15 minutes. After the end of discussing, teacher asks each groups to present the result of their presentation in front of the class and after that, teacher asks other groups to tell the opinion about the result of the presenter. Each groups will take turn in this discussion. After that the teacher gives chance to all groups to presents their opinion about the meaning of song. Teacher asks student to make a drill to pronounce words in the song scripts. The teacher ask the voluntary student to sing the western song in front of the class.

Example of song " I Have A Dream "

I have a dream , a song to sing
To help me cope with anything
If you see the wonder of a fairytale
You can take the future
Even if you fail
Reff :
I believe in angel, something good in everything I see
I believe in angel, when I know the time is right for me
I'll cross the stream
I have a dream

3. Post – Activity

After the learning activity, the teacher gives comment and suggestion about students speaking activity in the class that have been done. Asks the students to memorize the song at home and tell them that they will be asked to sing that songs on the next meeting. Don't forget to ask each group to copy the songs so they can drill it at home.

This is the other example of song

My Love by Westlife

Just a smile when the rain is gone
Could hardly believe it , yeah
There is an angel standing next to me
Reaching for my heart
Just a smile there is no way back
Could hardly believe it, yeah
There is an angel calling me
Reaching for my heart
I know that I'll be okay now
This time is real
Reff :
I lay my love on you
It's all I wanna do
Everytime I breathe, I feel brand new
You open up my heart

Show me all your love and walk right through
As I lay my love on you

I was lost in a lonely place
Could hardly believe it, yeah
Holding on to yesterday
Far far too long
Now I believe it's okay
Cause this time it's real
Reff :
I lay my love on you
It's all I wanna do
Everytime I breathe, i feel brand new
You open up my heart
Show me all your love and walk right through
As I lay my love on you

e. The Advantages of Teaching Speaking through Western Song

There are some advantages of teaching speaking through songs. First, it an enjoyable aids to create an enjoyable situation a pleasant atmosphere in the classroom. Through western song, the students will feel happy to study without afraid of making mistakes. Second, it encourages students motivation to pronounce the words fluently. It is because western song is the songs that is sing like speaking people and pronounce faster. So, if the students often sing the western songs, their tongue will be used to speak faster. Third, it builds up student's confident to speak without getting afraid of making some mistakes, learning speaking through western songs will make students feel free to speak without pressure from someone. The last, it helps students to learn the right pronunciation with native speaker. By listening the rap songs and sing it, the students will intimate the way the native speaker pronounce the words in that song.

C. SUGGESTIONS

Through this paper the writer would like to give some suggestion for the teachers related to teaching speaking for learners : (1) the teacher should make the lyric of song based on the material that have been learned and students' need ability. (2) the teacher should be able to attract students interest in song (3) the teacher as a host should position him/herself as facilitator for students during song. (4) the teacher should give a clear instruction and score to the students. (5) the teacher should not blame the students if they can not respon the song. Even though some of students just keep silent, the teacher have responsibility to build their confident to begin speak English.

Catatan ; artikel ini disusun berdasarkan makalah yang dibimbing oleh Drs. Don Narius, M.Si.

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