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The Benefits of Joining English Speaking Club as an Extracurricular Activity : A Case Study at MA Patra Mandiri Plaju

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ABSTRACT

This research investigated the benefits of joining English speaking club as an extracurricular activity. The study aimed to find out the benefits of joining English club on students' speaking ability. The study used a qualitative research approach, and data was collected using interview. The participants were five eleventh-grade students who had joined the English club, one boy and four girls. The study found that there were 4 benefits gained by joining the English club. They are, The English club was more enjoyable than regular classes, the students received moral and emotional support to became confident, they got the same turn to speak, and they got new vocabulary. In short, the English club was a place for students to improve their English speaking skills and also a place for those who were interested to join many English competitions.

Keywords: benefits, English club, speaking, join

1. Introduction

Speaking was a way to interact and communicate with others, a simple conversation consisted of two participants who consistently communicated and received messages based on the reaction of the topic being discussed. According to Richards and Renandya (2002), speaking was one of the key components of communication. It meant that speaking was a skill in daily interaction; speaking was used to share and exchange information with others. It meant that speaking ability was the skill of interacting with others by using the right words to convey ideas or information clearly to the listener.

In addition to learning speaking in class, another alternative that could help learn speaking was by joining an extracurricular English club because extracurricular activities were a learning process that took place outside of class activities or after school. According to Vermaas et al. (2009), extracurricular activities were activities that occurred beyond the scope of the school curriculum. Extracurricular activities were very important for students because they allowed students to learn about themselves and their interests. Wilson (2009) stated that students could gain many benefits from participating in extracurricular activities. Through extracurricular activities at school, students could learn about teamwork, develop communication skills, time management, and improve academic performance.

The English Club was a kind of extracurricular education held by schools to help students practice their English after formal classes, motivate them, and assist students in learning English. Brown (2006) stated that extracurricular activities at school, the English club is an activity that focuses students on learning English. According to Mouleka (2013), an English club serves as a tangible environment where the acquisition of English skills becomes more hands-on. In essence, it can be concluded that a speaking club functions as a space to support students in honing, enhancing, and fostering their motivation for practicing spoken English.

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The benefits of joining the English Club were to provide opportunities for students to improve their English language skills. Students participating in extracurricular activities like an English club aim to reap the advantages offered by such activities. By joining an English Club, they could gain many advantages. Carter and Nunan (2001) proposed that English clubs offer benefits such as motivating students to engage in authentic English within real-life situations, fostering self-confidence through basic socialization processes, enhancing students' communication skills, and establishing a friendly social atmosphere for students. Galanes and Adams (2013) mentioned some of the advantages of being a speaking club student:

1. The English club was more enjoyable than regular classes.
2. They got the passion to not be reticent.
3. The students received moral and emotional support to become confident.
4. Useful activities to improve english abilities.
5. They got the same turn to speak.
6. They got new vocabulary, skills, and facts when the interlocutor spoke.

In short, joining an English club as an extracurricular activity stands out as the most effective means to enhance students' motivation. This enables them to engage in enjoyable English practice with peers, fostering a heightened awareness of the significance of effective English communication.

Before conducting research, the researcher conducted a preliminary study by interviewing the students. The results of the interviews showed that joining an English club was one of the efforts to reduce their lack of confidence and limitations in learning English. Therefore, the author was interested in finding out more about the benefits of the English speaking club at MA Patra Mandiri Plaju. (Personal Communication, January 19th, 2023).

There were several results of previous research to find out the benefits of English clubs for students. First, Wardatun (2015), with the title "Exploring the advantages of English club on students' speaking skill." The participants of this study were students at UIN AR-Raniry Aceh, and the researcher found there were four benefits for students who joined the English Club: improving speaking skills, increasing confidence, increasing vocabulary, and motivation to learn. Second, Yulindasari et al. (2015), with the title "Students' perception of English club extracurricular in speaking practices at madrasah." This research used a quantitative method, and the results showed that students should join the extracurricular English club because it could improve students' speaking ability. Third, Armita (2015), with the title "Students' Perception toward English Club extracurricular activities in practicing speaking at SMA N 02 Kaur, Bengkulu." In this research, the investigator employed a questionnaire and a speaking test, revealing that the students exhibited a favorable attitude towards the speaking practice aspects of the English club's extracurricular activities. Fourth, Gunawan et al. (2015) conducted research with the title "Students' English club of Santu Petrus Senior High School in Pontianak." The findings indicated that students who participated in the English club achieved higher English scores compared to those who did not join the club. Lastly, based on Virawan et al. (2021), which was entitled "An analysis of the English club to support students' speaking performances." This research used a questionnaire and observation, and they found that English conversation club activities were the most effective factor in supporting students' speaking ability.

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Based on the previous related studies above, most of those studies used quantitative methods, and there were differences in the population in their research, such as some conducted research on junior high school, senior high school, and university students. Therefore, researchers wanted to find the gap by conducting research that focused on descriptive qualitative and focused on eleventh-grade students who joined the English club.

Based on the background of the study above, the objective of this study was to find out the benefits of the English Speaking club as an extracurricular activity for students at MA Patra Mandiri Plaju.

2. Research Methodology

The researcher used a qualitative research design based on the research questions. Qualitative research aimed to gain a complete understanding of things from the perspective of the human beings studied. The sampling technique that used by researcher in this study is purposive sampling technique. In this study, the sample were only five eleventh-grade students who joined the English Club.

In this study, the researcher used interview and documentation to collect the data. Interviews were used to obtain data on the benefits achieved in English clubs from the perspective of students participating in English clubs. The researchers conducted interviews with each participant in Bahasa, but the interview transcripts were subsequently translated into English. According Documentation is a record or work of someone about something that has passed. Sugiyono (2012) says that documents are recordings of previous events, photographs, or significant pieces of creativity created by a person. Journals, life histories, narratives, biographies, regulations, and policies exemplify written documents. Meanwhile, visual elements like photographs, live photography, drawings, and others visuals serve as documents. This is done, in order to select which documents are considered directly needed and which are not needed.

Thematic analysis was used to analyze the data. Braun and Clarke (2006) stated that Thematic analysis is a method used to recognize, examine, and present patterns (themes) present in a given set of data by collecting important information about data relevant to the research question from respondents and then analyzing and reporting it.

3. Findings

After collecting data conducted on five eleventh-grade students who joined the English Club. Through interviews, it was found that there were 4 benefits by joining the English club. After analyzing the data gained from interview session, researcher found that there are several benefits in extracurricular activities at English speaking club.

1. The English club was more enjoyable than regular classes.

The advantage of participating in an English speaking club lies in the more relaxed and enjoyable learning experience for students. Distinctions exist between formal education and English clubs, where learners are expected to focus on the subject matter presented in formal classes. Students in English clubs, on the other hand, are more driven to learn because they can feel more comfortable and enjoyable.

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2. The students received moral and emotional support to become confident.

English club is a place where students can improve their self-confidence. Because every student are expected to speak in front of other students or in front of the class. therefore, it could effectively train students' self-confidence.

3. They got the same turn to speak.

Activities in the English club were learning strategies designed to help and improve students' ability to learn English. To improve students' ability to speak English, one of the methods was practicing directly. Every student had the chance to speak in front of their peers. The aim was to build confidence and improve their speaking skills.

4. They got new vocabulary.

Possessing a good vocabulary is crucial for effective communication. By joining the English club, students get a lot of new vocabulary. Every student stated that their vocabulary had significantly grown after joining the English club. This is a significant advantage in terms of improving students speaking abilities.

4. Discussion

This analysis is presented relying on the research outcomes derived from the study's results, showcasing diverse opinions and perspectives among the five participants. The interview findings revealed six advantages associated with joining the English club. According to most students, participation in the English speaking club proved highly beneficial, with many expressing that it is the optimal environment for enhancing speaking skills and expanding vocabulary.

The first is that English club is more fun than regular class. All students thought that it was more fun to study in English club than in regular class. This class also allows students to practice English in more real-life situations. Engaging in spoken activities within the English club is more enjoyable and exhilarating, as students gain confidence and enthusiasm while practicing with their peers. The students also think that they feel happy when they join the English club.

Second, the students received moral and emotional support to become confident. According to the study findings, every member of the English club concurred that their ability to speak English in front of others improved after becoming part of the club. Aida (2015) stated, various students expressed their views on the significance of the English speaking club in boosting their self-confidence and speaking skills. The English club elevated engagement between students, as well as between students and teachers, fostering increased self-confidence and self-esteem in the learning process for students. This meant that it had been proven that the English speaking club was very helping for students who had fear, nervousness, and shame when speaking English.

Third, getting the same turn to speak. Based on the research results, each student gets the same turn to engage in English speaking practice. To help improve students' ability to speak English, one way is by direct practice. Every student has the chance to speak in front of their peers. The goal is to build confidence and improve their speaking ability.

Last, they got new vocabulary. The students believed that participating in the English club exposed them to numerous unfamiliar vocabulary words, enhancing their language

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proficiency. Acquiring vocabulary serves as a foundational element for developing sentence construction and other English language skills. Proficiency in a wide range of vocabulary makes it more effortless for individuals to read, write, listen, and speak in English.

The Discussion section should be a reasoned and justifiable commentary on the importance of your findings. This section states why the problem is important; what larger issues and what propositions are confirmed or disconfirmed by the extrapolation of these findings to such overarching issues.

6. Conclusion

Based on the results of the data analyzed using thematic analysis, the researcher found that there were several benefits of joining the English club for students' abilities. They were : the first benefits, the English club was more enjoyable than regular classes because when speaking English in the English club, everyone wanted to learn together and help each other. Secondly, students felt quite confident because they had practiced speaking a lot in the English club. Third, in the English club each student was assigned one by one to do hands-on practice at every meeting. Lastly, all English club students agreed that they had gained a lot of new vocabulary that they did not know before.

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