

# IMPLEMENTATION OF USING SMALL GROUP METHOD TO IMPROVE SPEAKING SKILL IN PLUS AN-NUR AL MUNIR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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**Abstract:** This article aims at knowing about implementation, result, advantages and disadvantages of small group method. The teaching and learning process is a core part of the school environment, both in the classroom and outside the classroom. In this case there needs to be a creative teacher, who is able to invite students to follow the learning well. The learning process can happen between teachers and students, and students with students. The research design in this study is a qualitative research. With this kind of qualitative research descriptive. The subject of this study is 36 students and the researcher used interview to some students in this research. In this study to obtain the required data is divided into several phases. First, the researcher approached the principal as the leader, and the English teacher. Secondly, researcher pre-observation the environment around school. Third, do observations, interviews, documents related to research and so on. In this case act of researcher as planners, implementers, data collection, analysts, data commentators, and research results reporters. The findings in my research are small group activities that are applied in this school to improve students' speaking skills by inviting students to better fight their shyness in interacting with English. Speaking English is not an easy thing, so students should practice again to improve their skills.

**Key Words:** Implementation, Improve, Small Group Method, Speaking Skill.

## INTRODUCTION

Education is a process which one gets a lesson from someone else who provides new knowledge, benefits and changes to oneself for the better. Education is a conscious effort committed systematically in creating a learning process so that students can develop their own potential. With education, humans can have intelligence, noble morality, personality, spiritual strength and beneficial skills for oneself and society.

There is no real limit to the way in which teachers can group students in a classroom, though certain factors, such as over-crowding, fixed furniture and entrenched student

attitudes, may make things problematic. In general, it is possible to say that small groups of around five students provoke greater involvement and participation than large group. As stated above, Kelly & Stafford (1993:3) argued that: Small group discussion is a cooperative learning method which gives more opportunities to students in gathering their ideas, experience, knowledge, and actualizing in speaking, in order to prepare effectively for a series of discussion sessions, teachers need a good appreciation of the level that students have reached, based on their previous experience and the value of the institution in which the work will occur.

Small Group is a learning method that is often applied in various schools. From effectiveness resulting to this small group is often used as a method of learning in schools. The implementation of small group methods can be effective to support the success of learning activities at the junior high school level. The implementation of small group method that done in this school because the school is located in a rural and also lack of classes that make the number of children in the class too much. Schools located in urban areas may be familiar with the use of this small group method. But when we look very far with the development of schools that occur in areas far from urban areas, teachers need to use various methods to condition learning activities to be more effective. With too many students in one class makes the teacher not maximized in delivering the materials that will be taught. For students it is also very difficult to receive when the teacher delivers the material because of the number of students who eventually students also have difficulty in receiving the material that the teacher is targeted for. And with the limitation of infrastructure facilities that make teachers must be really creative in using methods of learning to be accepted by students.

Once viewed from that side, Small group method can help the course of learning in the classroom. Why do we choose those methods to support the effective learning? Because of the factors that eventually use this small group method can help teachers as well as students when delivering and receiving materials that will be learned. Especially the material in this case is English. We know that English is a subject that can now be mastered by every student. Because the importance of English in the present time is needed for the development of technology that increasingly sophisticated, English is also the first language used to interact worldwide. Thus students are taught English early. But not many students are also pleased with the English language learning, they consider English language lessons are not tasty, boring, uninteresting and so on. This is where the task of a teacher should be able to make the student's investigation untrue. A teacher is required to be able to convey the English materials acceptable to the students. It is not possible to learn a language in a lecture method that is

usually still done in some schools. Learning the language especially English should lead to practice. Therefore, teachers are also required to teach English using various methods that make students not bored in class. If a student is already bored with ongoing learning, the students end up not paying attention to what the teacher is told.

Small group discussion is a cooperative learning method which gives more opportunities to students in gathering their ideas, experience, knowledge and actualizing in speaking. Hence, the teacher should have a good maturity to be able to support his/her students in order to carry out the teaching learning process well. It's related to Kelly & Stafford stated (1993:3) "in order to prepare effectively for a series of discussion sessions, teachers need a good appreciation of the level that students have reached, based on their previous experience and the value of the institution in which the work will occur".

Speaking is one of our dearest occupations. We spend hours in a day for conversation, telling, stories, teaching, quarreling, and of course speaking to ourselves. Speaking is important to individuals' living process and experience. Speaking is also most natural way to communicate. Without speaking, people must remain in almost total isolation from any kind of society. For most people, the ability to speak a language is the same in knowing a language since the speech is the most basic means of human communication. Speaking is not making a sound though birds, animals, babies make sound and though it may be communication of sorts, it is not speaking. But when we speak, the complexity happens more than just months are involved such as nose, pharynx, epiglottis, trachea, lungs and more.

According to Webster (1972:684) "speaking means the act, utterance, or discourse of one who speaks". White as a verb (speak) is to utter word tactic or articulate sounds with the ordinary voice, to take or exercise the faculty of speech, to make oral communication or mention as to speak to someone to various matter, to converse, as "they speak four hours on the phone". Speaking is typed as "an activity involving two or more people in which is the participants are both hearer speaker having teach to what they hear and make their contribution at high speed" (Johnson, et al. 1997:17).

The Small Group is a scientific conversation by several people who belong to a group to exchange opinions about a problem or together to find solutions, get answers to a problem. Small groups can also be interpreted as a way to solve a problem that requires some alternative answers that can approach the truth in the teaching and learning process that can stimulate students to think systematically, critically and behave in contributing his thoughts to solve a problem.

Learning with a small group is prioritizing a pattern of cooperation in small groups so that students no one feels that he is the smartest and mastering the material. With the small group method, it is hoped that students are accustomed to issue opinions and cooperate in developing social skills. As a learning method, learning a discussion group or small group contains the objectives that you want to develop. The purpose of discussion or small group among others: For students to talk to solve their own problems. To have students chat about any issues related to their daily lives, with their lives in school, with something happening in their surroundings and so on. To have students chat about the lesson in class with the intent of correcting each other understanding of the lessons they receive, in order for each member to gain a better understanding.

The teaching and learning process is a core part of the school environment, both in the classroom and outside the classroom. In this case there needs to be a creative teacher, who is able to invite students to follow the learning well. The learning process can happen between teachers and students, and students with students. The teacher will channel his or her knowledge and the students will do well. With the development of the Times, the learning process occurs, preferably varied with various methods available, for example in this research, Teachers apply small group methods to improve students ' speaking skills, i.e. English speaking skills.

The application of this small group method requires students to cooperate with each other, because with good cooperation the results are made to the maximum. For example, in this study already described small group method is formulated to improve English speaking skills of students. Then, with students willing to do good cooperation in the learning class, the expected outcome will be achieved that is good English speaking skills. “The research mainly focused on teachers’ and students’ perceptions, curriculum and materials development, as well as policy implementation. Albeit the results of these studies shared significant insights in teacher education programs, very sparse discussions were carried out with regard to how the Islamic character education should be enacted. Interestingly, virtual education nowadays also challenges the implementation of this notion” (Mustofa, et al. 2020:89). This skill is able to deliver students to be able to communicate properly using the English language. Small group methods used to train students need good work. If among groups there is not good cooperation. The expected outcome will also not be achieved.

Taigan (1995:28) argued that the statement can be described that speaker first plan what they want to say based on how to change the mental state of their plan into execution, altering the statements, words, phrases and sentences that make up the plan. But, it is not a

simple as we know and think, because speaking in this case is speaking English with a lot of rules, such as pronunciation, intonation, fluency, tone of voice, stress, structure, choice of words and effectiveness of communication.

Based on statement above, speaking is the process of using the desire of speech to pronounce vocal symbols in order for information, knowledge, idea and opinion to the other person. Moreover, speaking cannot be dissociated from the listening aspect, because speaking involves speaker and listener.

As a skill which enables us to produce utterances, when genuinely communicate, speaking is desire and purpose-driven, in order word we genuinely want to communicate something to achieve a particular end. This may be involve expressing ideas and opinion, expressing a wish or desire to do something, negotiating, or solving a particular problem or establishing and maintaining social relationships and friendships. “To achieve these speaking purposes, we need to activate various appropriate expression that will fulfill these particular purposes” (David, et al. 1988:151).

A human who has knowledge must be able to give knowledge to other, as well as a teacher. Speaking is an active process and one which is difficult to dissociate from listening in many ways. Nunan point out how successful oral communicators have developed what he terms ‘conversational listening skill’. “These two skills often enjoy a dependency in that speaking is only very rarely carried out in isolation, it is generally an interactive skill unless an uninterrupted oral presentation is being given” (Nunan.1989).

## **METHOD**

The research approach used in this study is a qualitative approach. With this kind of qualitative research descriptive. Descriptive research does not aim to examine the correctness of a theory, but develops existing theories by collecting available data. According to Ali, et al.(2011:25), as “Any investigation which doesn’t make use of statistical procedures is called ‘qualitative’ nowadays, as if this were a quality label in itself”.

A qualitative approach with a type of descriptive qualitative study was used as a research procedure that resulted in descriptive data of spoken and written words from the person and which researchers observed. The use of this research approach is tailored to the basic purpose of research, namely to describe Implementation of using small group method to improve speaking skill.

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This study is qualitative research a tool for providing multidimensional data required to gain an understanding of implementation using small group discussion to improve speaking skills. Notes information obtained from participants through interviews in this method, namely the participant are asked to answer structured and semi structured question. Generally, the participants give the researcher the answer to the question and none other.

From illustration above, in this study to obtain the required data is divided into several phases. First, the researcher approached the principal as the leader, and the English teacher. Secondly, researcher pre-observation the environment around school. Third, do observations, interviews, documents related to research and so on. In this case act of researcher as planners, implementers, data collection, analysts, data commentators, and research results reporters.

The subject in this study is the students of grade eight in Plus An-Nur Al Munir Junior High School, total participant of this study will be 36 students and the researcher used interview to some students in this research. Researcher conducted research at Plus An-Nur Al Munir Junior High School Malang which address on the highway Banjarpatoman number 57 Amadanom Dampit Malang. The reason for the research site selection was: School location is affordable by researchers, making it easier in the research process the school has adequate classrooms and the school adopted a small group method to improve students ' English speaking skills.

The data analysis used by researcher to discuss the issue of this research is a descriptive method of analysis. The Data obtained is collected, then processed into a single picture of the problem, analyzed and compared with the scientific theory discussed, then given conclusions.

“The activities start from examining the research problems, then proceed to identify the key terms and related topics, locating sources of information, reading the sources, summarizing the content, synthesizing the summaries, and drawing the conclusions” (Latif.2017:48).

There are 4 phases in this research. They are (1) Pre-research, which is the action of the researcher that is drafting research proposal, (2) Implementation of the research, which is an act of researchers conducting data mining in the field, (3) data management which is a researcher's action to make transcripts research results, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions, (4) Writing research results in the form of research reports.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS**

The data was teachers in conducting small group activities in the classroom learning activities are as supervisors, because in the small group requires students to be more independent. They should be able to solve their problems from the material that has been given by the teacher. Student activities in the small group began to divide the students into small groups (up to 5 students), after that provide questions or materials (prepared by the teacher) and instruct each group to discuss the answer to the question, make sure each member participates actively in the discussion and then instruct each group to be able to present its discussion in the Class forum and the last clarification, disclosure and follow-up.

From the series of activities that the student has done, the researcher performs several phases to get the data. The required Data start from observing the activities that have been done. Starting from the things that teacher do to students that is giving questions, coordinate every activity in the classroom such as supervising students in discussing and giving direction when students ask the questions.

The teacher is very important for his reflection in supervising the small group activities, because the teacher is a full supervisor in this activity. When students interact in the group, the teacher will see the shortcomings said by students. The teacher gives direction when there are things that need to be done or improved. The teacher is a person who is able to justify if there is an acquisition of language that is not appropriate in student interaction during a small group. Interaction is indeed related to the development of speaking skills. Therefore, this is in accordance with the theory developed by Michael Long (1996) said that uptake of corrective feedback compared to the more traditional native-nonnative interaction. Significantly, the best rate of success was obtained in the combination of learners with different proficiency levels i.e., the NNS High-NNS Low combination. In addition, error rates decreased from pre-test to post-test in all learners, especially NNS Low, which lends support to the notion that CF and Non promote second language development also in interaction between learners.

The application of small group methods to improve students ' speaking skills in plus An-Nur Al Munir junior high school must certainly be balanced with the activity and creativity of teachers in running the learning. When the teacher is able to make the student active, then the implementation of the small group method will run smoothly, when the discussion has been running smoothly, Teachers simply monitor ongoing learning. With this method, students are expected to practice speaking skills by interacting among their friends.

Reflection is aimed at if there is a deficiency then there will be improvements, if it is good then there will be an increase of what has been applied from this method. Approximately 30 students get better grades of speaking skills than in the application of other

methods such as lectures. Some students who have risen up are expected to still hone their speaking skills. As for students who are not too elevated or still getting the same value is not a problem, because the teacher will guide and teach them to be more earnest in order to get better results. Of the 36 students there were 30 students who were increasing, 2 of them whose value was down and 4 students whose value was fixed. This we know from seeing the value of skills held by English teachers.

From the data of interviews two informants above and also strengthened with the data documentation. It can be concluded that the application of small group methods to improve students' speaking skills is as follows: The Small group requires students to interact with others e.g. with friends or teachers. The Small Group makes students better understand the intent of the teacher's explanation, as they work together each group. Small Group is very helpful in the process of learning English especially in speaking. Small Group is an application of several interfacing students to find answers to problems given in an active learning.

For the application of small group method to improve students' speaking skills, the school makes a policy on teachers that can use any method that could help in their learning. The methods used by teachers are definitely considered before they are applied to students. Because the method to be completely compliant with the conditions in the class.

Small group method often students do not understand, but small group is already done at the time of learning. Small group methods provide good results for students because of the ability to speak often trained when conducting discussions, because this method is effective to apply in training students' speaking skills. Small group methods help teachers to more easily convey learning. The results are also good because the interaction between students makes the student practice their speech skills. They were able to bring out what they wanted to say if to their fellow friends, different if to the teacher, they were sometimes still ashamed. But they need practice and get used to interacting using English.

How to find the research results is to start with observation to see how the class atmosphere is when learning English. Apparently, the number of students is more than the maximum limit in each class. Then there is a problem why teachers apply small group methods to improve students' speaking skills. In fact, when talking about facilities, the school has been worthy of its infrastructure, as benches, chairs and other school equipment are already available, only the number of students is too much in one classroom.

The small group method begins with the teacher dividing into groups and then giving a material or problem that must be solved, the teacher tells them to discuss, then the teacher



asks students to present the results of their discussion. After the observation phase is carried out, to get more data, researchers conducted interviews with teachers, students and principals to ask about the implementation of the small group method and the results obtained from the implementation of the small group method and the advantages and disadvantages of this method. This interview is expected to add information from some of the problems needed for this research.

In this discussion, researchers will integrate the findings in the field and then match the theories. In this discussion, the researcher will present the analysis of the data obtained, both primary data and secondary data, then represented in detail. The focus of the discussion in this chapter is the first, to describe the application of small group methods to improve students' speaking skills. Second, describe the result of implementing the small group method. While the third, describe the advantages and disadvantages of small group methods. From the elaboration of the research result described above several studies compare the disadvantages of using small group method. Haman (2011) said that "academic achievement has a smaller effect on small group discussion participation in small groups."

Whereas according to the journal of ELT research academic journal of study in English teaching and learning in article improving students speaking ability through small group discussion by Imam Fauzi (2017). Main article content the findings of this study indicate that small group discussions can effectively improve students speaking skills, actively involve them in group work discussions, encourage them to become independent learners who can expose themselves to learning activities, make them feel more relaxed in learning, give them more opportunities to improve their speaking skills. A unique characteristic of small groups is that the success of the group is connected to the success of its participants. Thus group members develop feelings of mutual interdependence. Finally, small group typically have norms for behavior and roles for group members.

In learning using the small group method, the knowledge that exists in the group tends to be greater when compared to that of individual students. Therefore, with the small group method, it is very possible for teachers to provide questions that are relatively more difficult when compared to if given to students individually. Thus this learning allows students to think critically, systematically and contribute to each other's minds both in their group and classify.

Learning with a small group is prioritizing a pattern of cooperation in small groups so that students no one feels that he is the smartest and mastering the material. With the small

group, it is hoped that students are accustomed to issue opinions and cooperate in developing social skills.

The ability to talk students from applying small group methods gives good results in English language learning, because students are able to be active in conducting discussions. They are able to practice proficiency in speaking English through this discussion. They will be able to issue opinions and also give answers. Students not overall can interact with English, but if they want to practice they will understand little by little.

This small group activity is one of the methods to train the attitude of mutual respect for others ' opinions, because while the study activities students must be able to withstand selfish attitudes that ask to win themselves. But they should want to accept the decisions that are determined during defers, small groups in addition to training student interactions can also be called an effective way to improve the social attitudes of students.

Students who have discussions will have a democracy attitude, because they will take the decision carefully. They do not directly determine the decision. They gathered all the opinions first then the antagonist for the most appropriate decision. So there will be no one student who feels uncomfortable from the discussion activities. The specified answer will also be approved by the entire member. Because in the discussion should not immediately take the decision before being approved by all members of the group.

Small groups are applied to help improve students ' speaking skills, because small groups require students to interact with others suppose with friends or teachers. From this interaction, students practice to be able to speak English little by little. Through this number of small groups students are able to slightly try to dispose of his shyness in interacting using English

The implementation of this small group method provides the opportunity for the rookie to conduct students ' speaking exercises through a smaller scope to a greater reach. Communication that materialize into the students ' speaking skills, in accordance with the existing theory: "Small group discussion gives learners an opportunity to warm up and try their ideas out in smaller, less threatening forum than the class as a whole. In turn, this creates an increased likelihood that learners will participate in a plenary session discussion" (Ray.1984:4).

Learning done using small group method will train the attitude of being able to participate to improve the good results and communication intertwined among fellow groups either inside or outside the class will create a pleasant atmosphere, the expected atmosphere is the interaction to get feedback to improve the skills of English speaking students.

The small group method is considered to add knowledge because exchanging opinions between fellow Members, when issuing a student's opinion is definitely thinking first what they want to spend to argue, respond or give an answer. To gain experience and new knowledge gained from learning using the small group method. Small group method is effectively used because it is easy and quite efficient to apply.

The small group method besides takes a long time, also makes learning sometimes not completed in one meeting. Therefore, sometimes this method is also less efficient, but this method is more profit gained because although not completed in one meeting, learning can be done in the next meeting, because what is needed in this method is to practice students' speaking skills.

Dependency among group members often occurs in the use of this method, because students who do not understand, if not want to ask then he will continue to not understand. Likewise, for students who already understand if the discussion does not start actively, it will be detrimental to all members of the group, because if a small group does not happen, then the ability to speak students has not been trained. It should not happen, students need to help each other, participation when discussing using the small group method.

Small groups sometimes make domination between one group and the other. Because the group whose discussion went smoothly will feel the best group and consider the other group less successful. Therefore, more supervision from the teacher should be improved.

In addition to the advantages that support the implementation of the small group method, there are still weaknesses that prevent also. From the explanation above we can know together that the advantages and disadvantages arising from internal factors and also external factors. Internal factors are factors that arise from within the student. While the external factor is a factor that is arises from outside the students (factors caused by the student environment).

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The analysis shows that small group method is very effective if the teacher is able to be active in conducting learning. Maturity in the teacher mindset is indispensable for preparing the entire series of learning teachers should consider how the activities will be implemented. Activities that are implemented need to be chosen according to the needs during learning.

Small group methods require good appreciation from teachers in order to make the learning atmosphere comfortable and controlled. This method is one of the active methods in

which the student learning process is divided into small groups to solve a problem. Topics discussed are certainly a material that is appropriate for learning. This Small group is an interaction by several people in a group member to exchange opinions about a problem or to jointly find solutions, get answers to an issue. Then this method is one of the avenues to solve a problem of material provided by teachers who need some alternative answer.

Small groups help student to be easier to train their English skills, this ability needs to be familiarize because speaking English is not as easy as using Indonesia language. The wording and pronunciation feels more difficult and the difference between pronunciation and writing. Small Group Discussion is one of the active learning methods in which learning learners are divided into small groups in order to solve and discuss some topics of problems. Topics discussed in the form of material in accordance with the competency standards and basic competencies.

In learning using the small group method, the knowledge that exists in the group tends to be greater when compared to that of individual students. So the following advantages and disadvantages of the implementation of small group methods, namely: Advantages there are : Active in learning, mutual respect for opinions, have a democracy attitude, improve student communication skills, increase participation in or outside the classroom and developing knowledge. Than disadvantages are wasteful time, dependency between group members and domination/Mastery between groups with other groups.

The suggestions for educators and education, Plus An-Nur Al-Munir Junior High School, it is expected to always maintain and develop small group methods to improve students ' speaking skills by fixing existing deficiencies, such as lack of time and dependency among group members. For students, it is expected to improve the outcome of students ' speaking skills through small group methods that have been applied. For other researchers, it is expected to better develop this research when conducting research that is still related to the application of small group methods to improve students ' speaking skills.

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