

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1. Background of the Study

Being the international language, English is needed for communication, therefore, it is taught as one of the primary subjects at schools in Indonesia. The present writer believes that speaking is one of the important language skills besides listening, reading, and writing. Unfortunately, most people do not learn English communicatively. Although they have learnt English for quite a long time, they still cannot use it in real communication.

There are some reasons for someone studying English. He/she may be studying English as a hobby, training for a career or wishing to extend and improve their English for business purposes. Whatever the reason is, all people who learn English hope that in the end they will be able to speak fluently. To achieve that goal, it is believed that everyone who wants to speak English well needs a lot of practice and has to use English as often as possible.

For these reasons the present writer considers that conversation is a very important subject that students have to master in their study. But the problem is that most of the students, especially Indonesian students, are reluctant to get involved in

conversation for certain reasons. They are afraid to make mistakes, or they are lazy, or they feel bored.

The above situations happen in most conversation classes, especially in those of which the students are beginners. Therefore, the present writer chooses Basic 4 class at The American English Center because it is a beginner level in which the students' speaking ability is very limited and they come from various ages (15 – 35 years old) and backgrounds. The present writer believes that it is very challenging for the teacher to teach conversation to the students who have various ages and backgrounds, and also limitations in English because they usually do not have the confidence to speak and this influences their motivation. Due to these facts, the present writer proposes to show how a conversation teacher motivates students to get involved in conversation actively.

I.2. Identification of the Problem

1. To what extent do the students have motivation to speak English in Basic 4 class at The American English Center?
2. What are the factors that encourage the students to speak English in Basic 4 class at The American English Center?
3. How does a conversation teacher motivate the students to get involved in English conversation actively in Basic 4 class at The American English Center?

I.3. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

Objectives :

1. To find out the level of students' speaking motivation in Basic 4 class at The American English Center.
2. To find out the factors that encourage the students to speak English in Basic 4 class at The American English Center.
3. To know suitable methods to motivate students to get involved in English conversation actively in Basic 4 class at The American English Center.

Benefits :

1. Enhancing professionalism and excellence of conversation teachers, particularly in The American English Centre.
2. Gaining the knowledge about how to motivate students to get involved in conversation actively.

I.4. Concise History of the Company

The American English Centre (TAEC) was first established on 2 April 1991, under the protection of International Professional Foundation, notation number 7, 1991. At first, the purpose of TAEC was to help the Indonesian government's program in educating Indonesian people in general.

In this global era, when communication has an important role within the socialization, connected with the human resource that can communicate well, especially in foreign languages, TAEC is encouraged to participate in improving the language potency of the community. According to this aim, TAEC wants to provide educated, trained and professional teachers through informal education, especially in the English language.

When it was operated in June 1991, TAEC rented a house at Jalan Ciumbuleuit No. 58, Bandung, and employed four employees. At that time, there were only five classrooms, because of the lack of rooms and teachers.

One year later, in 1992, still at Jalan Ciumbuleuit No. 58, TAEC got the permission type “C” from the Education and Culture Department, which was an operational permission that had to be prolonged every year.

In 1993, the need of classrooms increased because people realized that English competency was getting more and more important. For that reason, The International Professional Foundation built a building at Jalan Suria Sumantri No. 106, Bandung, in good condition so that the teaching-learning process can run well. The teaching-learning process began at this building in May 1994 and continues these until now. In 1995, TAEC got an operational permission type “B” that can be prolonged every three years and in 2001, TAEC got an operational permission type “A” that can be prolonged every five years.

I.5. Service of The American English Center (TAEC)

The American English Center (TAEC) is a non-formal institution, which provides educational service of the English language. The students are not divided according to their ages; they are classified based on their proficiency in English. There are three levels available : Basic level (1,2,3 and 4), Intermediate level (1,2,3 and 4), and Advanced level (1 and 2). Each candidate has to take a placement test first, then he or she will be placed in the appropriate level according to his or her result. There are usually seven until fifteen students in a class. Some of the teachers are Indonesian, some others are native speakers. There is also a conversation class which is led by a native speaker.

Besides that, TAEC also provides a consultation service for people who want to study abroad, especially in the United States of America. TAEC has information about the country, living costs, the universities, and colleges in the USA.

I.6. Limitations of the Study

The subject that the present writer would like to focus on is conversation to find out the method used by the teacher to motivate the students. The teacher who will be the object of the observation is the conversation teacher in Basic 4 class at The American English Center (TAEC).

I.7. Layout of the Term Paper

This term paper starts with the Abstract, a concise summary of the entire paper in Indonesian. This Abstract is followed by the Preface, in which the present writer acknowledges the work and contribution of other parties. After that is the Table of Contents, followed by its five chapters :

Chapter I is the introduction to the analysis

Chapter II contains the library research

Chapter III deals with the performance of the research

Chapter IV contains the result and discussion of the research

Chapter V contains the conclusion, the present writer's comments and suggestions.

Finally, the present writer presents the Bibliography and the Appendices respectively.