

EXPLORING STUDENTS' LEARNING STRATEGIES IN SPEAKING SKILLS: STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

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Abstract

Speaking skill are very important basic aspect of learning English. This skill is one of the keys to fluency in speaking, therefore mastering and finding the right strategy in this skill is something that needs attention. This study aims to find out how the strategies of singing, self- talk, and watching movies can help development student's speaking skill, especially 5th semester students of English study program. The three strategies were chosen because they are easily accessible to students. This study used a qualitative approach with observation and interview methods. The results showed that the three strategies had a positive contribution on speaking skill, especially in terms of pronunciation. In addition, these strategies also help students to be more accustomed to using English in daily life naturally, this singing, self-talk, and watching movies can be the good way and fun alternative strategies to develop students' speaking skill.

Key word: Improving Speaking Ability, Learning Strategies, Pronunciation

Abstrak

Kemampuan berbicara merupakan aspek dasar yang sangat penting dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris. Kemampuan ini adalah salah satu kunci kelancaran dalam berbicara, oleh karena itu penguasaan dan pencarian strategi yang tepat untuk mengembangkan kemampuan tersebut merupakan hal yang perlu diperhatikan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana strategi bernyanyi, self-talk, dan menonton film dapat membantu mengembangkan kemampuan berbicara mahasiswa, khususnya mahasiswa semester 5 program studi Bahasa Inggris. Ketiga strategi tersebut dipilih karena mudah diakses oleh mahasiswa. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode observasi dan wawancara. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ketiga strategi tersebut memberikan kontribusi yang positif terhadap kemampuan berbicara, terutama dalam hal pengucapan. Selain itu, strategi tersebut juga membantu mahasiswa untuk lebih terbiasa menggunakan Bahasa Inggris dalam kehidupan sehari-hari secara alami. Bernyanyi, self-talk, dan menonton film dapat menjadi strategi yang terbaik dan menyenangkan untuk meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara mahasiswa.

Kata kunci: Peningkatan Kemampuan Berbicara, Strategi Pembelajaran, Pengucapan.

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Introduction

Speaking skill are the most important aspect to learn in English compared to other skills (Rao, 2019). This is because speaking skill can be the tool to communicate with others people (Yahya, 2020). According to wahyuni et al (2023), this verbal communication is a social interaction between individuals that functions as a method for sharing ideas. in line with this Zega and Hulu (2022), by speaking we will be easier to transfer, convey, transmit and respond to the information we get from others. That means if someone cannot speak well then one will not be able to communicate what they want to say or what they feel (Plengkham. B., & Wasanasomsithi, 2023). Therefore, speaking skill is very important in learning English, so we must be able to find the right strategy to development speaking skill.

Speaking skill can development through various media, one of them is singing English songs. Songs can be used as a method of variation in language lessons, songs often help change their unfavorable beliefs about learning (Hasibuan et al., 2023). According to Toscano-Fuentes (2016), using English song in learning English has a high educational value, as the songs increase motivation in the development of the four language skills: including Speaking ability. Learning English through songs is also a good way to help students concentrate on learning (Nuraini & Rusmiyati, 2022). In addition, singing also can enhancement vocabulary because when singing we can hear and memorize vocabulary so that we are stimulated to express and pronounce it (Madyawati, 2016). According to Farmand & Pourgharib (2013), students who learn English through songs can development their pronunciation skills.

The second media besides singing, speaking skill can also be develop through self-talk exercises. According to Zetou, Nikolaos & Evaggelos (2014), Self-talk is strategy as an expression or statement addressed to ourselves, is multidimensional, has an explanation point that matches the content of the spoken statement so that this can develop speaking skill. Self- talk is a method that can be practiced in oral communication (James, P.R.A.P et,al (2019). The role of self-talk strategies can refer to positive things that enhancement motivation and allow us to focus more on something that is still a work in progress, especially in speaking skill (Kahrovic' et al, 2014).

In addition to singing and self-talk, speaking skill can also be left behind through watching movies. According to Ban et al (2023), watching movies is one of the strategies students use to develop their speaking skill. Because watching movies is a very good way to get exposure to real language (Kanellopoulou, 2019). Erlangga & Ayu (2022), stated that students had a positive attitude towards learning English trough movies, benefiting from better pronunciation, vocabulary, and conversation skill. In line with that Rasyid (2016), stated that the use of English movies to develop students' speaking skill showed significant development in grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. By watching movies also makes the atmosphere more fun.

Review of Literature

Speaking is one of the most important skills in learning English. Rao (2019), Plengkham & Wasanasomsithi (2023) say it is important because speaking skills are the key to good communication, because without being able to speak we will not be able to communicate well. On the other hand, Wahyuni et al (2023), Zega and Hulu (2022), also said that by communicating we can transfer and receive information from others, if the communication is poor then the information sent will also be conveyed poorly. Yahya (2020), say that speaking

skills can be used as a medium in communication. Singing strategies through English songs help students in pronunciation, enhancement vocabulary, and make learning more fun. by singing, students become more confident and active in speaking. Similar results were also found by Hasibuan et al. (2023), that songs can make students more courageous and fluent in speaking English. In addition, singing can also enhance student motivation in learning (Toscano-Fuentes, 2016). According to Nuraini & Rusmiyati (2022), singing also makes students more concentrated besides that it can also develop the correct pronunciation Likewise Li (2022), (Farmand & Pourgharib, 2016). In line with that, Dzanic & Pejic (2016), Lo & Li (2020), say that singing can also develop the correct grammar pronunciation and can increase vocabulary. It is also same with Rorintulus, O. A., & Wuntu (2023), that by singing can improve our English pronunciation.

In addition, self-talk can also develop speaking skills, this is in line with Zetou Nikolaos & Eveggelos (2014), who said that self-talk can develop speaking skills, in line with this Jaya (2018) said that self-talk is a good way to develop speaking skills. James, P. R.A.P et al (2019) said that self-talk is a method of oral communication in speaking, it can also motivate students (kahrovic, 2014). On the other hand, sometimes there are still students who are afraid to try this strategy, Humairoh (2022) mentioned that this method can reduce anxiety and fear in learning to speak. by talking to yourself like having a conversation with others it is very helpful to imagine intrapersonal communication.

In addition to singing and speaking alone speaking skills can also develop through watching movies (Ban et al, 2023), Kaneloupoulou (2019), watching movies is the best way to get real language. Nainggolan (2021), Shahid & Alolaywi (2023), by watching movies students will more easily get new vocabulary, know the correct grammar structure, correct pronunciation (Rasyid, 2016), Another study also said that the vocabulary and pronunciation in the movie helped students develop their speaking skills. (Erlangga & Ayu, 2022), in line with this Parmawati & Inayah (2019) watching movies makes us enrich our vocabulary and have a better understanding of grammar and pronunciation. In addition, watching movies will make the learning atmosphere more enjoyable (Khadidja & Manar, 2017). Subtitles in movies are also very helpful for students in knowing the writing and how to read it (Riswanto, 2022).

The research mentioned shows that speaking is one of the most important skills in English language learning. Some strategies, such as singing, self-talk, and watching movies, are proven to development students' speaking skill. Beside the research gap of this study is where previous studies focused on one strategy only such as only focusing on singing strategies, focusing on self-talk strategies, etc. But this study it does not only focus on one strategy but directly focuses on three strategies namely singing, speaking alone, and watching films. So that this can help students to find the right strategy more easily when they are still confused about choosing a strategy in developing their speaking skills, because in this study students will immediately get three inspiring strategies that they can apply.

Method

This research method uses narrative inquiry, the data source is the subject from which the data obtained, in this study the data obtained is based on results of interview with participants (Arikunto, 2013). The results of these interviews are obtained through direct and indirect interviews. This qualitative approach is based on a story about the participants' experiences when they are applying the strategies of singing, self-talk, and watching movies

in improving their speaking ability, and the results of the experience stories are written in the form of narrative for research purposes (Connelly & Clandinin, 2016).

This research was conducted at UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid, located in Kajen, Pekalongan, Central Java, Indonesia. The study focused on three English Department students, all of whom are female, by collecting and analyzing their personal experience stories in trying to improve their speaking skills. From there the researcher can identify what strategies can be used in improving speaking skills. The purpose of this study is that there are several strategies such as singing exercises, self-talk, and watching films to improve students' speaking skills easily. This research is expected to inspire other students to apply some of the reviewed strategies such as singing, talking to themselves, and watching films to make speaking more confident and developed.

Results

a. The Strategies of Speaking Skills

Based on the results of interviews from 3 participants of 5th semester students of TBIG study program, the results show that, developing speaking skills can be done through various things, Singing is one of the strategies used by students to develop their speaking skills. This strategy was chosen because it is considered fun and effective, especially in terms of pronunciation. This can be proven through the interview results below.

"I usually use singing strategies. When singing I often feel that I always get new knowledge in the correct pronunciation of words" (Nda class interview, November 1, 2025).

"I think by singing, it really helps me to correct my pronunciation so that this very effective to develop my speaking skills" (Wati class interview, November 3, 2025).

"From the first semester I really like singing, because with this I can hone my speaking skills slowly and enjoyable" (Gathi class interview, November 4, 2025).

Developing speaking skills can also be done by practicing speaking alone, this was also experienced by the 3 participants with the following data.

"By talking to myself, it makes me slowly become fluent in speaking because I have often been trained when talking to myself" (Nda class interview, November 1, 2025).

"Based on my experience when learning to speak, by often training myself to speak, such as speaking by myself, it does make me quite fluent when speaking" (Wati class interview, 3 November 3, 2025).

"I used to think that by talking to myself I afraid there would be no results, but when I tried my tongue's, I got used to saying English words and this also really helped me in developing my speaking skills" (Gathi class interview, November 4, 2025).

In addition to singing and self-talk, the participants also used watch movies strategies to develop their speaking skill, this can be seen from the statement below.

"I also sometimes watch movies to develop my speaking skill, this really makes me better in terms of pronunciation and enhance vocabulary" (Nda class interview, November 1 2025)

"I often watch movies to develop my speaking skill, because watching movies makes learning more enjoyable" (Wati class interview, November 3, 2025)

"After watching movies, I always get new vocabulary so I trust that this is the right strategy" (Gathi class interview, November 4, 2025)

b. Implementation the Strategies of Speaking Skill

With the three strategies discussed above, the participants also have ways of implementing these strategies, this can be proven from the results of the participant's interview below.

"Usually before singing, I listen to the English song I have chosen carefully to find out the correct pronouns, after that I just imitate it word by word until I can sing it fluently" (Nda class interview, November 1, 2025).

"For me, I usually play an English song and I sing while reading the text of the song, so that I can guess the words that I have to say correctly" (Wati class interview, November 3, 2025).

"I usually listen first while observing the text of the song, so that I know correctly between the text and the pronunciation, after that I sing it" (Gathi class interview, November 4, 2025).

Based on the three participants' voices, it turns out that they have different ways of implementing singing to develop their speaking ability. Then whether in implementing the speaking practice strategy, they also apply it in different ways, we can see this from the results of the interview below.

"Usually when I'm scrolling social media and find English text or conversation, I often spontaneously practice it by talking to myself as if I were talking to someone else, this way my tongue will indirectly get used to

English words" (Nda class interview, November 1, 2025).

"For me, usually when I have a lot of free time, I often talk to myself by stringing together words that I know, so that my tongue becomes good at speaking English" (Wati class interview, November 3, 2025).

"I like to read stories with dialog, and usually later I talk to myself by playing two characters, so it's like having a conversation" (Gathi class interview, November 4, 2025).

After we have discussed the implementation of the singing and self-talk strategies, the participants also have their own uniqueness in implementing the movies-watching strategy, this can be proven through the results of the interviews below.

"I usually use a headset when watching English movies so that I can hear more clearly and carefully what words are spoken and how they are pronounced, so that this can correct my pronunciation and add new vocab" (Nda class interview, November 1, 2025).

"When I watch a movie, I usually pause the sentence or word that I just heard, then I repeat it and listen carefully while matching the writing and pronounces it" (Wati class interview, November 3, 2025)

"I usually watch movies by listening to the pronunciation and playing attention on the subtitles to the writing and if there is one word that I missed, I usually repeat it again until I understand the correct pronunciation of the word" (Gathi class interview, November 4, 2025)

Discussion

a. The Strategies of Speaking Skills

Based on the interviews, the singing strategy proved to be one of the methods used by the students to develop their speaking skill. The participants said that through singing, they could learn pronunciation better. As said by Nda *"When singing, I often feel that I always get new knowledge in the correct pronunciation of words"*, this proves that by singing Nda can enhance her knowledge about the correct pronunciation, so this helps Nda in developing her speaking skill. Song playing an important role in developing speaking skill in the justification of grammar pronunciation, and vocabulary (Lo & Li in Al-efeshat & Bani abdel Rahman, 2020). Besides that, Wati also feels the same as Nda, where Wati says that singing can help her in knowing the correct pronunciation, this can be seen in the phrase *"I think by singing, it really helps me to correct my pronunciation"* The word *"correct my pronunciation"* proves that indeed singing is a strategy that can be used to correct my pronunciation. According to Dzanic & Pejic (2016), Singing accommodates English learners to practice listening skills, produced words, expressions, and practice pronunciation. In the phrase *"enjoyable"* in the sentence *"because with this I can hone my speaking skills slowly and enjoyably"* said by Gathi, this proves that by singing Gathi can develop her speaking skills very pleasantly. According to Rorintulus, O. A., & Wuntu, (2023) students can develop their English language proficiency in pronunciation of their speaking skills through singing. In line with that, Wahyuni, et al (2018), said that one of the media used for teaching speaking is by using English songs. Apart from singing, we can also develop our speaking skills through self-talk.

Meanwhile, based on the interviews, self-talk is considered to have a positive role and develop their speech. As in the phrase "*Often been trained*" shows that Nda is more likely to prefer to choose self-talk practice than other methods, besides the phrase "*Makes me become fluent*" how's that self-talk is a strategy that is quite effective in developing Nda's speaking fluency. In line with that, Wati also conveyed the same thing where in the phrase "*Often training myself*" indicates that there is an activity of speaking alone that is done regularly. And in the phrase "*Makes me quite fluent*" also shows that practicing speaking alone is a good way and can develop Wati's speaking skills. According to Jaya (2018), self-talk strategy is a good way of teaching speaking skill. Meanwhile Gathi initially had a different view from Nda and Wati, where Gathi said "*I used to think that by talking to myself I afraid there would be no results*", The phrase "*I Afraid*" shows fear of oneself, whereas according to Humairoh (2022), applying self-talk strategies has the benefit of reducing fear and anxiety in learning speaking skills. And the phrase "*No results*" here shows the pessimism experienced by Gathi, because she has not tried but Gathi already feels that it will not have any impact. But little by little Gathi tried to practice until she got used to it, the phrase "*really helped*" how that over time Gathi has begun to practice talking to herself regularly.

In addition, watching English movies is also seen as a strategy in developing speaking skill. Nda stated that she sometimes watches movies to develop her speaking skill. She specifically mentioned that this activity makes her better in terms of pronunciation and vocabulary addition. The phrase "*this really makes me better*" indicates a personal belief that this strategy has a positive role on speaking of their pronunciation progress. In addition, the use of the word "*increasing vocabulary*" confirms that she actively acquired new vocabulary from the movie-watching activity, which reinforces the understanding that movies are not only entertainment media, but also contextualized learning tools. According to Parmawati & Inayah (2019), when students watch English movie, they can explore and enrich vocabulary and students' can develop their pronunciation while watching English movies. The phrase "*often*" shows consistency and high frequency, indicating that this activity is part of her learning routine. Interestingly, Wati also added that watching movies makes the learning process more enjoyable. The phrase "*makes learning more enjoyable*" implies that comfort and pleasure in learning contribute greatly to motivation. One of the best ways for students to learn native expressions and get enjoyable with their accents is by watching movies (Khadidja & Manar, 2017). Meanwhile, Gathi stated that by watching English movies, she always gets new vocabulary. The phrase "*I always get new vocabulary*" shows the consistency of the results of this strategy. She concludes that watching movies is the "*right strategy*" in language learning, as she had already felt the results of her experience. By watching English movies students can gain vocabulary enhancement, as well as pronunciation development (Shahid & Alolaywi, 2023).

b. Implementation the Strategies of Speaking Skills

All three participants indicated that English songs were used as a strategy to develop speaking skill, especially in terms of pronunciation. Nda mentioned "*listen to the English song I have chosen carefully*" and "*imitate it word by word,*" which shows a strategy of focused imitation to practice pronunciation until fluent. while Wati said "*I sing while reading the text of the song,*" which shows that with singing she will know about the pronounce words correctly. Students often choose to listen to songs repeatedly, this indirectly exposing them to the sounds, and the good way to practice pronunciation is to practice it in daily life through personal interests, such as singing (Lolong, 2019).

Meanwhile, Gathi uses a similar method by saying "*listen first while observing the text,*" emphasizing the importance of matching the text with pronunciation before starting to sing.

These phrases indicate that imitation is the one of good strategies for practicing pronunciation and fluency naturally. According to Likewise, Li (2022), integrating music in English teaching can significantly develop students' pronunciation and pronunciation skill.

Besides that, talking to themselves is also one of the ways they use to practice their speaking skills. Nda said that when she is on social media and finds a text or conversation in English, she often spontaneously practices it. She says *"talking to myself as if I were talking to someone else,"* which shows that she is trying to mimic a real conversation situation. She also adds that this way *"my tongue will indirectly get used to English words,"* which means that this habit helps to train fluency in speaking naturally. According to Humairoh (2022), students who engaged in self-talk strategy showed fluency in speaking English.

Wati does something similar. She mentioned that when she has free time, she often talks to herself by arranging words that she already knows. According to her, this *makes "my tongue becomes good at speaking English."* This shows that through simple and regular practice, speaking skills can continue to develop even without an interlocutor.

Meanwhile, Gathi takes a more creative approach. She likes to read stories that have dialog, and then pretend to be two characters talking. She says, *"I talk to myself by playing two characters,"* which means she tries to create a two-way conversation. Self-talk strategies it can be helpful to envision intrapersonal communication occurring in an individual's mind in a model that contains a sender and a receiver (Choeruddin, 2023). This method not only helps with pronunciation, but also trains the flow of thought and response skills in English.

Aside from singing and talking to themselves, it is evident that watching movies is not only entertainment, but also a good way of learning-especially for developing pronunciation and enhance vocabulary. Nda, for example, said that she usually uses a headset when watching English movies so that she can hear more clearly. She mentions, *"so that I can hear more clearly and carefully,"* adding that this can help *"correct my pronunciation and add new vocab."* This shows that by watching movie, Nda can increase her vocabulary and correct her pronunciation in speaking. In line with that Khoshniyat and Dowlatabadi (2014), English movies can help students in enriching vocabulary, syntax, and other language skills to a large extent, so as to improve English language proficiency. Wati has a similar way of learning. She admits that she often pauses parts of the movie, *"pause the sentence or word"* this shows that she wants to confirm the correct pronunciation of the word. That way, she knows how the word should be pronounced, and make her pronunciation better. Movies contain language patterns, and also develop speaking skill, pronunciation, and provide students with a pleasant atmosphere (Nainggolan, 2021). Gathi does the same thing. She watches movies while payingattention on the subtitles to pronunciation and writing. And if there is a word that she doesn't understand, she will replay it *"until I understand the correct pronunciation."* This shows that he has a high awareness of the importance of proper pronunciation, and does not hesitate to repeat until she understands. Riswanto (2022), say that English subtitle can assist students in associating spoken words with their written form.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that there are three main strategies that have positive role in developing English speaking skills: singing, self-talk, and watching English movies. Each of these methods has significant benefits in supporting the development of students' speaking skills, both in terms of pronunciation, vocabulary acquisition, as well as increased confidence in speaking. Singing has proven to be a fun and good way to develop pronunciation and enrich

vocabulary. Sing in practice, students can listen to the correct pronunciation repeatedly through song lyrics, which allows them to imitate the pronunciation more precisely. This is very beneficial for practicing correct pronunciation and developing their intonation. Singing not only helps in remembering new vocabulary, but also makes learning lighter and more fun, so students are more motivated to keep practicing. Research also supports this finding, showing that songs not only help students develop pronunciation but also enrich their understanding of grammar. In addition, the process of singing gives students a sense of confidence

The talking method is also a very good way for students to practice speaking when they do not have a speaking partner or the opportunity to talk to others. Self-talk allows students to practice speaking freely, without fear of being judged by others. They can talk to themselves in English, be it repeating sentences they learned, imagining conversational situations, or even expressing their feelings using English, this self-talk helps students in developing pronunciation and familiarizing themselves with the correct sentence patterns. They can also correct themselves while speaking and correct mistakes without pressure. In addition, this self- talk serves as an important mental exercise, which builds students' confidence in speaking. For example, if students feel anxious or afraid to speak in front of others, self-talk can be a good way to reduce the fear. In this way, students can be more confident to speak in more formal situations or in front of others.

The last strategy is watching English movies. Many students find that watching English movies is not only entertaining, but also provides a more contextualized and real learning experience. By watching movies, students can hear how English is used in everyday situations that are more natural and relevant. This helps them understand how vocabulary and sentence structures are used in a wider context. For example, they can see how people speak in informal conversations or in various social situations, which will help them adjust their language use according to the right context. Research also shows that watching movies can enrich students' vocabulary. They often come across new words or expressions they don't encounter in textbooks, which are used more frequently in real life. This gives students the opportunity to enrich their vocabulary in a more natural way. In addition, watching movies also gives them a better understanding of the correct sentence structure and how the language is used in everyday conversation.

This can develop their speaking ability, as they are more familiar with the sentence patterns used by native speakers. One of the main advantages of watching movies is the presence of subtitles. Subtitles in movies are very helpful for students in understanding how to write and read words.

These three methods proved to be very good strategy in developing students' speaking skills. They not only help in technical aspects such as pronunciation and vocabulary acquisition, but also create a more enjoyable learning atmosphere and lower anxiety, so that students are more excited and motivated to keep practicing. By using this varied and fun approach, students can develop their speaking skills in a more natural and enjoyable way.

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