Reconceptualizing *Sight Words* to Promote Students Public Speaking Skill

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Abstract

Pubic speaking is a fundamental skill in global era, since all sectors of businesses require the marketing to promote the business. This research is aimed to explain the sight words work for students public speaking skill. This qualitative approach with classroom action research design is used in this research, and the population is 3rd semester students of English department Universitas Muhammadiyah Tangerang with the total sample is 33 students. the data collection based on the 2 cycles of EFL classroom activity, and the instruments are observation, interview, and public speaking test. this result of this research shows; firstly, the sight words are effective to advocate students public speaking practice, due to the sight words are used as a media for teaching public speaking, and it enjoyable and organizable. Secondly, student's public speaking need mode drilling with a new strategy from the instruction, and this sigh words are recommended to use. Thirdly, although sight words mostly used to teach younger students for vocabulary knowledge, but when it used for university students for speaking skill is powerful because students become enthusiastic and active during the classroom activity individually, while the instructor only need to give a clue of the sight words.

Key words: *Sight words, public speaking, Learning Media, CAR*

INTRODUCTION

Generation 4.0, which is known as the millennial generation is required to be able to interact well interpersonally and intrapersonal. Interpersonal communication can make students more critical because they can exchange information on many things (Lubis et al., 2018). In addition, communication skills using foreign languages are one millennial generation's demand in the context of global competition by making English as a corpora language. Meanwhile, to fulfill that demand public speaking skill is needed, due to the public speaking as the ability and soft skill to speak effectively and chronologically (Mambu et al., 2019).

Furthermore, Public speaking is an important skill to have in the digital era. In today's world, communication is often mediated through digital platforms and technologies, and the ability to speak effectively in front of audiences is crucial for a variety of reasons. One reason that public speaking is important in the digital era is that it can help you communicate your ideas effectively and

persuasively (Herbein et al., 2018; Lucas & Stob, 2020). Whether you are giving a presentation to a group of colleagues, pitching a product or service to potential clients, or delivering a speech to a larger audience, the ability to speak clearly and confidently can help you convey your message effectively and inspire others to act (Arjulayana et al., 2021).

Another reason public speaking is important in the digital era to help students in building personal brand and reputation (Hancock et al., 2010). In the digital age, people are constantly connected and information can spread quickly. By demonstrating your ability to speak effectively in front of an audience, you can establish yourself as a thought leader and build your personal brand.

Public speaking can be a very important and necessary skill in many situations, as it allows individuals to communicate their ideas, thoughts, and opinions effectively to a group of people. This can be especially important in professional settings, where the ability to present information or ideas to a group of colleagues or clients can be crucial for success. However, it is important to note that the level of urgency or importance of public speaking can vary depending on the context and the specific situation. For example, giving a presentation to a small group of colleagues may not be as high stakes as giving a speech to a large audience or delivering a sales pitch to a potential client. Regardless of the specific context, it is important to take the time to prepare and practice for public speaking in order to deliver a clear and effective message. This can involve developing a clear outline, rehearsing the presentation, and considering the needs and expectations of the audience.

Finally, public speaking can also help you to develop your leadership skills. Whether you are leading a team or working on a project, the ability to communicate effectively and inspire others can be crucial for success (McNatt, 2019). By developing your public speaking skills, you can become a more effective leader and contribute more effectively to your organization or community.

Hence Public speaking can be a nerve-wracking experience for many people, but it is also an important skill to have in many different contexts (Zhang et al., 2020). Whether you are giving a presentation at work, giving a speech at a wedding, or simply leading a meeting, the ability to communicate effectively and persuasively in front of a group can be crucial (Lucas & Stob, 2020; O'Hair, 2010).

In addition, there are several reasons why public speaking is often considered important or urgent. Such as; 1) Professional development: Many careers require public speaking skills, and being able to speak confidently in front of a group can help you advance in your career or stand out as a candidate for a new job. 2) Personal growth: Public speaking can help you develop your self-confidence, build your leadership skills, and improve your ability to communicate with others. 3) Making a difference: If you have a message or cause that you are passionate about, public speaking can be an effective way to share your ideas and inspire others to take the action. 4) Meeting expectations: In many situations, public speaking may be expected of you, whether it is giving a presentation at work or speaking at a community event (Lucas & Stob, 2015; A. B. Wrench et al., 2009). Being able to effectively communicate in these situations can help you meet the expectations of your audience and fulfill your responsibilities.

However, public speaking as the demand's skill in this era is need to be taught actively and competitively. To teach the public speaking actively lecturer need to implement specific way, and in this study, the implementation of insight words is to be proposed. In line with these ways, It's important to have a clear understanding of key concepts and vocabulary in any field of study. This is particularly true for learning, as having a strong foundation of knowledge and language can help you better understand and retain new information.

Sight words, or key terms that provide insight or understanding into a concept, can be particularly helpful for this purpose and it may not be defined as the solely as by it words (Rawlins & Invernizzi, 2019). By identifying and focusing on these words, you can get a deeper understanding of the material you are learning and better retain it over time. It is also important to note that learning should be an ongoing process, and regularly reviewing and reinforcing your understanding of key concepts and vocabulary can help you continue to learn and grow (Rawlins & Invernizzi, 2019).

In particular, "sight words" are terms or phrases that are central to a particular subject or field of study, and understanding these words is often crucial to understanding the subject. For example, in psychology, sight words might include terms like "cognition," "perception," and "motivation," while in linguistics, they might include words like "speech," "punctuation," and "writing" (Griffin & Bock, 2000) .

It is important to take the time to learn and understand these insight words, as they can help you better understand the subject you are studying and make it easier to communicate with others about the material. In addition, having a strong understanding of these key terms can help you excel on exams and other assessments, and can also be valuable in a professional setting.

In addition, the "insight words method" is a technique that involves identifying key terms or concepts in a topic or text, and using them to practice speaking and improve communication skills (Rawlins & Invernizzi, 2019).

Some examples how the sight words method could be used to practice speaking: 1) Identify the key vocabulary or concepts related to the topic you want to speak about. These might be technical terms or words that are specific to the topic and that you want to be able to use accurately when speaking. 2) Practice using these words in sentences. You can do this by writing out sample sentences or by speaking them out loud. 3) Pay attention to the context in which the words are used and how they fit into the overall structure of the sentence. 4) Practice using the words in conversation. Find a partner or a group to practice speaking with, and try to use the key vocabulary as much as possible in your conversations. This will help you become more comfortable using the words and help you better understand how they fit into the flow of natural speech. 5) Review and reinforce your understanding of the words. Regularly reviewing and reinforcing your understanding of the key vocabulary will help you retain it and continue to improve your speaking skills (Griffin & Bock, 2000; Rawlins & Invernizzi, 2019).

In conclusion, by using the "sight words" method, you can focus on specific words and concepts and practice using them accurately and appropriately, which can help students public speaking skill impromptu and actively.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is proposed new conceptualize of sight word's implementation. In current situation sight words is used to support student's vocabulary mastery or phonetics, but in this study the researchers used sight words for university students public speaking skill.

Public Speaking as a skill to enhance personal branding

Public speaking is an important skill to have in the digital era. In today's world, communication is often mediated through digital platforms and technologies, and the ability to speak effectively in front of an audience is crucial for a variety of reasons (MacPhee & Whitecotton, 2011). One reason that public speaking is important in the digital era is that it can help you communicate your ideas effectively and persuasively. Whether you are giving a presentation to a group of colleagues, pitching a product or service to potential clients, or delivering a speech to a larger audience, the ability to speak clearly and confidently can help you convey your message effectively and inspire others to act. Another reason public speaking is important in the digital era is that it can help you build your personal brand and reputation (Hennessey, 2019). In the digital age, people are constantly connected and information can spread quickly. By demonstrating your ability to speak effectively in front of an audience, you can establish yourself as a thought leader and build your personal brand.

Finally, public speaking can also help you develop your leadership skills. Whether you are leading a team or working on a project, the ability to communicate effectively and inspire others can be crucial for success. By developing your public speaking skills, you can become a more effective leader and contribute more effectively to your organization or community.

Public speaking is an important skill for personal branding. It allows you to communicate your message in a clear and concise manner, and it can help you to build relationships with potential customers, employers, and other important contacts. Public speaking can also help you to establish yourself as an expert in your field, and it can help you to create a positive impression of yourself and your brand (Lucas & Stob, 2020). Additionally, public speaking can help you to build your confidence and to become a better communicator (J. S. Wrench et al., 1975).

Overall, public speaking is an important skill to have in the digital era because it can help you communicate effectively, build your personal brand and reputation, and develop your leadership skills.

Sight Words method

During the technology is growth rapidly, lecturer tried to find the most effective way to support students in mastering the technology without avoiding the creativity in using media as tool for teaching. In this occasion the sight words are used to support students public speaking skill. Sight words are important for speaking because they are the most used words in the English language (Ehri, 2014). They are the building blocks of language and help children learn to read and write. Knowing sight words helps children recognize words quickly and accurately, which helps them become more fluent readers and speakers. Knowing sight words also helps children understand what they are reading and helps them communicate more effectively.

The procedure of implementing this sight words is adopted from (Miles et al., 2018) teacher used flash card, student read the sight words and comprehend the term of the word, then student are required to identify the sight words from their cellphone or another media to get the meaning and things around the words they had, and the last step students are required to perform their public speaking skill in front of the class (Miles et al., 2018).

METHODS

This study is used qualitative approach with classroom action research design which is implemented to 3rd students of Universitas Muhammadiyah Tangerang with the total sample is 33 students majoring of English education study program. The research is started from March 2022 until July 2022 in implementing the sight words method for teaching student's public speaking skill. The goal is to help student's communicative competence and improve their public speaking skill. There were 2 cycles process in collecting the data after teaching and learning process as advocated by sight words method, and both cycles are aimed to see the progress of students' public speaking achievement.

RESULTS

To collect the data, this research is used 2 cycles, the first cycle students are required to practice their public speaking practice through sight words. In the 1st cycle, students are tested to practice their public speaking skill with the topic related to the flash card they got. each students need to practice their public speaking skill for 5 minutes duration. when speaking test' result was low, researcher continued with the 2nd cycle through the implementation of sight words to encourage students public speaking skill.

Students are being active to practice their public speaking skill Infront of the class, it can be seen based on the picture below:

Picture 1 student's public speaking performance using sight words

The first cycle is quite hard for students to practice their public speaking, due to their motivation and creativity to speak are difficult. This happened because students in 3rd semester still need to improve some public speaking indicator also, and those indicators are still hard for them to gain. Those indicators such as; eye contact, body movement, gesture, voice, and critical thinking (Lucas & Stob, 2020). Since students are really want to practice their public speaking the test is given and from the test, the result show that sight words for public speaking skill is still not effective, although some of them have a good improvement, but most of students still got low score. It shows that 42% students were getting the score 66-85, and 58% got the score 40-65. Concerning to the previous study that sight words as a good method to encourage student's communicative performance (Abe, 2009; Collins et al., 2007).

Based on the result in 1st cycle, the process of teaching and learning using sight word is continued comprehensively. Because researcher believe that sight word will be able to show a great improvement for student's public speaking skill, as the Tejedor-García et al., (2020) said that teacher's believe and commitment can help student speaking and motivation improve.

After implementing the 2nd cycles, teacher gave student's public speaking test. the result of this 2nd cycle was better than in the previous cycle, due to the students has understood the role of the sight words and they really motivated to practice public speaking based on the card they had. Most of students are able to use sight words as their guide line to practice their pubic speaking performance, hence, their public speaking is practiced with their critical thinking and reading literacy. They need to find lots of information related to the topic from their sight sords card, then they need to comprehend the information from the reading text, and finding their sight words terminology from internet resources (Allan et al., 2005), after that they have to present their understanding Infront of the class.

Students can comprehend the sight words properly, and motivate their self to practice public speaking performance based on the eye contact, clear voice, gesture, body movement, and critical thinking (MacPhee & Whitecotton, 2011). This enjoyable learning creates students expect the public speaking class routine, beside of encourage their creative thinking, this sight words also encourage students to learn effective and enjoyable (Ehri, 2014). The result of 2nd cycles show that 70% students are having a tremendous change of public speaking performance, meanwhile the 85% students improved their public speaking skill, this can be seen from their post test result who got 75 (B) was 60%, and 80-85 were 15%. It means that 85% were improved and another student 15% still get obstacle to improve their public speaking skill, due to their internal motivation to learn and utilize the internet access (Kaur et al., 2012) and difficulties in understanding the sight words card.

Furthermore this research indicates that students public speaking skill can be supported by sight word, and to implement the sight words lecturer's innovation and creativity are really needed, due to the technology is sometimes makes lecturer comfort with the traditional and technology utilization (Im et al., 2015).

Discussion

The current studies explore that sight words are able to use for teaching students foreign language and it was effective for student's active learning (Miles et al., 2018). Hence, the sight words as one of the suitable method to support student's public speaking skill because through sight words students are required to identify the sight words, understanding of the words they got, criticize the term of the words, practice their speaking properly with their critical thinking (Amadioha, 2009; Miles et al., 2018).

In line with that , sight words can be used to motivate student's learning independently, because they should identify, comprehend, creating and practice all their knowledge through their critical thinking also (Browder & Lalli, 1991).

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