

EMPOWERING FRESHMEN THROUGH DEVELOPMENT COURSE IN DEVELOPING STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILLS AT POLTEKKES KEMENTERIAN KESEHATAN MAKASSAR

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Abstract

Community Service Engagement initiatives through collaboration to empower student in dealing with the current era of globalization at Medical Laboratory Technologist Department, Health Polytechnic of the Ministry of Health Makassar and English Education Studies Program at Alauddin State Islamic University of Makassar in the program called "Development Course". The program that aims to develop freshmen personal and professional skill. The community services focus on English Language Learning, in developing freshmen speaking skill to prepare them faced the global challenges. In this program, freshmen learn English to shape their speaking skill that would Improve their English language skills. The method carried out through community service Initiatives in teaching with Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) to Increase students' communicative skill. The participants of this program are freshmen with approximately 40 students. Several materials delivered by the presenter that encourage participant to actively engage in the learning process, the activities build in fun situation. Throughout the community service initiatives, students acquire new knowledge that empower them in facing global challenges as well as college life.

Keywords: Development course, speaking skill, community service initiatives



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INTRODUCTION

The world of education has to create learning environment based on the students need, either formally or informally class to develop their skill. It will make the students' well readiness to face the real-world after graduation. Furthermore, students require to have 4Cs skills in this current era i.e., critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration (Jalinus et al., 2023). Communication becomes one of the fundamental skills hat students need to develop, It is critical to require in any development process (Odoom, 2020).

In term of globalization, students require to communicate globally using English as foreign language. It has pivotal role in providing effective communication in medical for global scale (Schkinder, 2024). Higher education serves as place for students to improve their skill in their learning process to make them competent and competitive, particularly English skills.

English has significantly broadened in all human aspects i.e., particularly in health (Parupalli, 2019), as it contributes globally for student in college to learn. However, the

term of English as compulsory subject in higher education has limited time where the time for students to learn in classroom cannot develop their skill well. However English is important in higher education as It still needed by the students to master (Jalinus et al., 2023). Accordingly, students face difficulties to communicate with English and may not be adequately prepared for face real-life situation that require to master English skill. To address this issue, colleges should consider offering more practical or additional class to develop English skill outside the classroom (Budiman et al., 2023).

In developing students' skills, it is importance to provide more training (Ventista & Brown, 2023) to implement sustainable program as occurred in several universities. As for instance, the "Development Course" program at Health Polytechnic of the Ministry of Health Makassar by the Medical Laboratory Technologist Student Association. Development course known as one of the programs in Human Resource and Organizational Development department that provide students' several materials to develop their skills namely the basics of Research and English Language.

Furthermore, in this program the Medical Laboratory Student Association Collaborate with English Education Studies Program, Alauddin State Islamic University of Makassar. In which, it serves as place for English Education students the opportunity to directly engage in the program as presenter in dealing with community service Initiatives. Community service initiatives in terms of Community Service learning according (Kolenko et al. 1996; Melaville, Berg, & Blank, 2006 in (Afzal & Hussain, 2020) argues that community service develop quality to fulfill social responsibilities where student have the opportunity to directly engage in the community.

METHOD

Community service Initiatives are carried out at the Makassar Health Polytechnic, Makassar Laboratory Technologist Department, located at Jalan Wijaya Kusuma No. 56, Banta Bantaeng, Kec, Makassar, Makassar City, South Sulawesi. The target are freshmen in the 2023/2024 academic year, with approximately 40 students. The Initiatives scheduled every Saturday at 10:00 – 11:35 in two weeks. This agenda started in September to November. This activity is carried out using the Communicative Language Teaching learning method. The CLT method was chosen because it is considered effective for improving English communication skills (Schkinder, 2024). CLT emphasizes the use of language in a communicative context, so that students can learn and practice English in real situations. The materials taught in this activity are organized in a structured and systematic manner, taking into account the needs and ability levels of the students, where the list of materials taught is as follows:

Table 1. List of materials

Meeting	Material
1.	Self-introduction
2.	Greetings
3.	Hometown
4.	Describe People
5.	My Daily Activities
6.	Roleplay

Before starting the activity, the teaching team carried out preparations, including:

1. Conducting a needs analysis to determine the level of English proficiency of the students.
2. Developing a detailed and structured lesson plan.
3. Preparing learning materials that are interesting and relevant to students' needs.
4. Choosing appropriate and effective learning media.

Methods for carrying out the community service activities, starting from the time, place, then the tools used, and other things that support the implementation of the activities.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of English Development Courses for Medical Laboratory Technologist students of the Makassar Polytechnic was carried out in a structured manner for two months, from September 2 to November 11, 2023. This activity took place at the Makassar Polytechnic Medical Laboratory and was attended by all TLM students in semester 1 of the 2023/2024 academic year with approximately 40 students. The program was divided into two stages, starting with the preparation stage and the implementation stage. Preparation of the Development Courses program begins with forming a teaching team.

The teaching team was formed through an online meeting organized by HMJ English Education Department on August 25, 2023. This meeting aims to select English Education students who have met the qualifications to provide material for the Development Courses. Based on the results of the meeting, 16 students were selected as the teaching team, namely: Ismail Mubarak, Ariani Syahputri Mallarangeng, Annisa Pratiwi, Nursabrina syarif, Nurul Adawiah, Riska Febrianti, Wafiyah Asyifah Fa'adilah, Putri Al Munawwara, Andi Nurul Ainunnisa, Ainur Gunna, Nur Anisma, Hikma Patika Sari, Anggun Regina Putri, Nuzul Fahmi, Dzulqarnain Rahmat Lillaalamin SS, and Umi Qalzum.

After determining the teaching team, the next activity is to develop a lesson plan. The lesson plan is prepared in the form of a table that lists the details of each lesson topic and is adjusted to the teaching team that has been selected. The teaching team together with HMJ also prepared lesson materials for 6 meetings. The materials are arranged in accordance with the competencies to be achieved. All decisions that have been agreed upon by the teaching team and HMJ English Education are then coordinated with HMJ Medical Laboratory Technologist to determine the right teaching schedule for both parties.



Figure 1. Teaching and Learning Process

Furthermore, in implementation stage, the first activity carried out was the opening of the “Development Course” activity with the following agenda:

The opening activity was attended by the Head of the English Education Department, the teaching team, new students majoring in Medical Laboratory

Technologist and the student association of the English Education department. Furthermore, Teaching activities on the PKM Medical Laboratory Technologist (TLM) Campus were a memorable and enthusiastic experience for the teachers and new students. This activity was carried out for 6 meetings, with 1 meeting every 2 weeks, starting at 10 am and lasting until completion.

The first meeting on Saturday, September 2, 2023, opened with “Self-Introduction”, where new students had the opportunity to introduce themselves and get to know each other. The class atmosphere was warm and lively as the new students shared stories about themselves, their backgrounds, and their hopes for the TLM program. The next meeting, on Saturday, September 16, 2023, focused on “Greetings”. The new students learned various ways to greet and interact with others in English. The interactive and interesting class activities made the new students more motivated to learn and practice English.

On Saturday, September 30, 2023, the material “Hometown” was discussed in the third meeting. The new students shared stories about their hometowns, the culture and traditions they have, and the interesting things that can be found there. This exchange of information helped the freshmen to better understand and appreciate the cultural differences that exist among them. The fourth meeting, held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, focused on “Describe People”. The new students learned how to describe people, both physically and in terms of their characteristics. Class activities involving games and simulations helped the freshmen to practice their ability to describe people in a clear and effective way.



Figure 2. Learning Process

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, the material “My Daily Activities” was discussed in the fifth meeting. The freshmen shared stories about their daily activities, from waking up to going to bed at night. This exchange of information helped the freshmen to understand each other's routines and living habits. The last meeting, which was held on Saturday, November 11, 2023, was closed with the material “Role Play”. The new students were divided into groups and asked to act out various situations in daily life in English. This activity helped the new students to practice their ability to speak English fluently and confidently.

Throughout this teaching activity, the TLM freshmen showed great enthusiasm and passion for learning. They actively participated in various class activities, and were always enthusiastic to ask questions and discuss. This shows that they have strong motivation to learn English and are ready to face various challenges. This section presents the results of implementing community service activities, including the output of community service activities as well as photos of the activities.



Figure 2. Students and Teaching Team after Class

CONCLUSION

The community service initiatives run successfully in two months that empower freshmen to improve their English language skill, particularly their speaking skill. Through the learning activities implement by the teaching team has encourage them to beyond their capacities in English to improve more. The collaboration also has brought positive impacts to the English education students, they directly engage serve as presenter to teach English. They have the opportunity to directly engage in real-teaching situation which prepare them as future teacher.

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