



The Benefits of Debate for English Students

In Speaking Skills at University

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Abstract: *The purpose of this research is to find out about the benefits of debate on English students in speaking skills at UKI Toraja. Researcher use qualitative methods in research. This data was taken from 10 (ten) English students who were collected using a purposive sampling technique. To obtain data, researchers used interviews and analyzed using Sugiyono's theory. The results of the research show that there are several benefits of debate for English students in speaking skills, being involved in debate activities will be very beneficial for students, including how to convey arguments well, increasing students' self-confidence, improving logical and analytical thinking skills, can help students to improve new knowledge and also improve the ability to organize in a structured manner. Based on the results of the research above, the researcher concluded that students received several benefits from debate after participating in debate activities at UKI Toraja.*

Keywords: *Benefits: English: debate; Speaking ability*

INTRODUCTION

Debates were structured conversations between two or more parties in which different viewpoints were communicated. The primary purpose of a debate was to debate opposing arguments and opinions in an organized manner, in the hope of helping the audience or parties not involved in the debate to understand the arguments presented by each side. According to Theory of Democratic Discourse Habermas (2023), Team debates allow various points of view to be expressed in democratic discourse. Different parties' arguments need to be heard and responded to using this principle.

According to Saptoyo (2022), debate is structured for each side to present their arguments, respond to questions or arguments from the other side, and conclude. Debates often had specific rules and structures, including moderators or judges to ensure the debate was fair. From the above words in the debate method, we could open up new spaces for the development of ideas, discussions, and this would lead to something that was very important when applying this method, namely the style of critical thinking that made debaters see more than a few aspects and solutions in each case and problem that needed to be dissected. The debate was an extremely important part of lectures because it gave students the opportunity to

speak publicly regularly. This helped them overcome nervousness and improved speaking skills, which were useful in class presentations, discussions, and communication in everyday life debates could also improve Opinion Skills Students could learn to construct strong arguments and think of reasons to support their views. Debating strengthened students' ability to analyze and deploy information, identify weaknesses in adversaries' arguments, and develop debating skills that could be used in academic and professional settings.

According to Frans H. Van Eemeren (2017) An understanding of argument theory is the ability to form and present strong arguments based on formal logic, argument theory, and rhetoric. On the other hand, Dainton (2022), suggest that in debates, communication theories such as speaking communication models and persuasion theories can help participants understand how their messages are received and conveyed. Audiences can be persuaded more effectively this way.

The debate process played an important role in developing skills, because debate helped students develop effective speaking skills (Linh, 2024). In addition to learning to speak, they also developed effective skills for writing, reasoning, and persuasion, as well as being able to better understand themselves in front of others. In addition, they grew in their ability to respond with clarity, logic, and persuasiveness, as well as becoming more trusting of themselves on the field. They had to understand their opponents' arguments and respond to them effectively, improving their listening skills. And also debate involved collecting and analyzing evidence to support arguments. It was important for employees to possess the necessary capabilities, such as the ability to collect and organize summaries of information and submit data in a meaningful way.

Through the entire debate process from this background, UKI Toraja students, those who were often actively involved during debate competitions, not only learned to present their arguments, but students who were actively involved during the activity became more confident in conveying their arguments to their opponents, a common phenomenon. they experienced when taking part in the debate, the debate felt like they lacked self-confidence. when speaking, they deviated from the discussion that had been determined and there were also responses that were not relevant according to their respective positions. Therefore, it was important to conduct research on the Benefits of Debate for English Students in Speaking Skills at UKI Toraja as material for evaluating the debate team at UKI Toraja. By knowing the benefits of debate, students could invite their friends to be actively involved in debate activities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Debate has become a powerful teaching tool for improving English speakers' abilities, especially in non-native circumstances (Iman, 2017; Ban et al., 2023). According to research, participating in organized debates increases confidence when speaking English, enhances articulation, and develops critical thinking. Debating offers UKI Toraja students a special opportunity to practice structuring their ideas, coming up with cogent arguments, and effectively refuting opposing viewpoints. In addition to improving fluency, this interactive format promotes flexibility and active listening, two qualities that are critical to proficient

speaking. Due to the dynamic nature of debate, students are forced to think quickly, which can greatly enhance their ability to speak spontaneously and their general language proficiency.

With a foundation in argumentation theory, the theory of debate includes a number of fundamental ideas that direct its organization and application (Colavizza et al., 2021; Brennan & Landemore, 2022). Fundamentally, debate is an organized form of argumentation in which participants have planned discussions about particular subjects. This procedure places a strong emphasis on evidence, logical reasoning, and the capacity to disprove opposing views. Using rhetorical devices like ethos (credibility), pathos (emotional appeal), and logos (logical reasoning) to strengthen their arguments, effective debaters must build compelling cases while dissecting those of their opponents. By promoting critical thinking, this framework enables participants to evaluate various viewpoints and reach well-informed conclusions (PAL et al., 2024).

Furthermore, by examining effective communication dynamics, including both verbal and non-verbal components, communication theory plays a critical role in debate. Persuasive argumentation requires clarity, articulation, and delivery, and debaters develop the ability to modify their communication methods to appeal to a range of audiences. By highlighting the value of social interaction in learning, sociocultural theory enhances the debate experience even more. Students improve their language skills in a nurturing setting while exchanging ideas and building a sense of community through collaborative engagement. By incorporating these theories, debate becomes a comprehensive educational tool that develops participants' critical thinking and interpersonal skills in addition to providing a forum for argumentation.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a in the interview, students who actively participate in debates at UKI Toraja. According to Sugiyono (2010), Interviews in this research were conducted to find out what benefits students received when participating in debates. Data gumming techniques can be used to identify problems that need to be addressed and to find out more about respondents. The researcher would be conducted interviews for students with questions prepared as interviews. To record the interviews, the researchers used a recorder from the Handphone.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The writer presented a description of the findings as a result of the analysis process collected through interviews with English debate students at UKI Toraja. The findings presented were based on the initial research question, namely: What were the benefits of debate on English students in their speaking skills at UKI Toraja. This data was collected from English students at FKIP UKI Toraja who were still active and who were UKI Toraja alumni. There were 10 students who were interviewed and several students had taken part in the KDMI UKI Toraja

Debate, and there were also those who represented UKI Toraja in the 2022 IAIN Palopo competition debate. They consisted of 4 men and 6 women. The interviews were conducted online via voice notes from WhatsApp in North Toraja, from Friday 26 to 29 January 2024. The results of the interview regarding the benefits of debate for English students at UKI Toraja showed that debate was very beneficial for English students. There were several benefits of debate for students in speaking skills which were described as follows:

Table 2. *Summary Table Theme and Quotes*

Themes	Qoutes
Presenting Arguments	<p>“...We are required to be able to convey our arguments correctly and standardly, accompanied by existing facts...” (S1.2)</p> <p>“...Enabling me to convey arguments clearly and convincingly and strengthen my speaking skills in a structured manner.” (S4.2)</p> <p>“...First is mental training because in debate we need to prepare well mentally to speak in front of our opponents and the second is preparation of arguments, the arguments we convey in debates must be weighty, logical and can be accepted by everyone...” (S9.2)</p>
Confidence	<p>What are the benefits of debating in increasing your self-confidence?” (I3.3)</p> <p>“...When I debate I am a different person, I am very confident and my self-confidence is based on thoughts and things, ha what I will convey includes the arguments that I will convey.”(S3.3)</p> <p>“...My self-confidence increases greatly. Previously, I was very insecure...” (S5.3)</p> <p>“...First is that it helps my public speaking because with debate I can give myself confidence to speak in public and the second is the breadth of giving opinions...” (S7.3)</p>
Logical and Analytical Thinking	<p>I3.9 :How can debate train you to think logically and analytically?</p> <p>“...So basically debates are based on logical thinking which can be understood by all participants and the audience present...”(S3.9)</p> <p>“...Debates train me to think logically and analytically. By participating in debates, I feel I have to be able to</p>

	<p>speak quickly and analyze various possibilities that can become strong arguments in defending our position in a debate...”(S5.9)</p> <p>“...Debate will make us formulate arguments that are strong and in accordance with logical analysis because when we debate and debate just like that without providing relevant evidence that can be trusted so that when we can defend our argument because of the facts...”(S10.10)</p>
Adding New Insights	<p>: “What are the benefits of debating in increasing your self-confidence?” (I6.3)</p> <p>“...Debater tries to be able to show the best opinion that comes from his theory and the debaters can also listen to the arguments and information presented by their opponents so that they can increase their knowledge to argue when there is another debate activity.” (S2.4)</p> <p>“... With debate I can give myself confidence to speak in public and the second is the breadth of giving opinions. With this debate I am satisfied in giving my opinion on an issue and the third is getting a lot of new knowledge because through debate I know a lot something I never thought about before.” (S7.3)</p> <p>“...Gives us confidence to speak in public then the ability to respond or think quickly then also gives us new understanding or knowledge.” (S6.3)</p> <p>“...Organize my thoughts and convey arguments more clearly by training our mentality because when we are calm to convey an argument, we can convey it well and also prepare a good argument.” (S9.5)</p>
Organizing Arguments In A Structured Manner	<p>I1.5 : “How can debate help you organize your thoughts and convey them clearly?”</p> <p>“...Defend our opinions from attacks by opponents of the debate, therefore we must be able to organize our arguments well.” (S1.5)</p> <p>“...We must be able to identify the main points to be conveyed and arrange them sequentially to build a consistent and strong argument.” (S4.5)</p>

“...By training our mentality because when we are calm to convey an argument, we can convey it well and also prepare a good argument.” (S9.5)

“...Basically, when the topic has been determined, the questions will be structured. In debates we must be able to provide arguments concisely and we provide examples and also arguments that are in accordance with the facts.” S10.5

Presenting Arguments

The first, the discussion focuses on how to improve speaking skills. The results of the interview show that debates help them to improve their speaking skills because when participating in a debate, speaking is a way to convey an idea, so when participating in a debate, you inevitably have to be ready to convey an argument for what is being discussed. Based on the results of interviews with students above, the way to improve students' speaking skills towards opposing debate teams is to prepare logical arguments before presenting arguments to opponents and to be able to compose good sentences as precisely and as briefly as possible and also to train a good mentality for speaking in front of opponents so that they can convey arguments correctly and standardly accompanied by existing facts. S1, S4 and S9 state that speaking ability can improve automatically if students are accustomed to being trained to stand in public so that this can make it easier to improve their speaking ability so that what they want to convey His arguments can be conveyed well because his mentality and self-confidence have been trained.

Speaking ability has a big influence in conveying students' arguments because it helps them organize and convey arguments that have been prepared before the debate begins. Based on the similarity of findings in previous research, according to Anthony Sebastian (2021), is claimed to improve speaking skills by using active debate methods. In active debate, students are invited to argue between two or more parties, either individually or in groups, in discussing and deciding problems and differences. On the other hand, the statement supported by Vygotsky (2022), states that "Through debate, students can develop high-level thinking skills and communicate effectively by presenting arguments, defending views, and responding to opponents' arguments.

From the results of the discussion above, it can be said that debate can help students to improve their speaking skills. Previous research shows that improving speaking skills can be done with active debate methods to develop the ability to argue in public.

Confidence

The second, the discussion focuses on the benefits of debate in increasing self-confidence. The interview results show that debate plays a very important role for students. In debating, every student must be able to convince himself to dare to appear because self-ability is one part of self-confidence. Self-confidence is very necessary in debating activities so that the debate can run smoothly so that the debater can also convey his arguments well so that they can be conveyed to the audience. From the similarity of findings in previous research according to Nurfaizah2 & Nasaruddin (2022), it is claimed that increasing self-confidence is obtained from life experience.

Self-confidence is an aspect of personality in the form of belief in one's own abilities so that they are not influenced by other people and can act according to their wishes, are optimistic, tolerant and responsible, adding that self-confidence is related to the ability to do something good. On the other hand, the statement supported by Maria Lopez (2015) states that participation in debates has a significant positive impact on participants' level of self-confidence. Through practicing public speaking, facing challenges, and defending arguments, debate participants learn to feel more confident in delivering their views in various contexts.

From the results of the discussion above, it can be said that debate is very beneficial for students, including increasing their self-confidence. Through debate, students can train to appear in public with confidence so that they can convey their arguments correctly. Previous research shows that the personality aspect is self-confidence so that it is not influenced by other people and can act according to one's wishes.

The third, discussions focused on debate help develop argumentation skills. The interview results show that debate helps students develop their argumentation skills. In debating, students must be able to argue when taking part in debate activities. Developing argumentation skills is of course related to how we convey arguments logically appropriately and correctly so that what they discuss in the debate can be conveyed to the audience in a targeted manner. Based on the similarity of findings in previous research, according to Ali Nurdin (2022), argumentation skills are important to train in the learning process so that students have logical reasoning, clear views, and rational explanations of the things being debated. On the other hand, the statement supported by Ridwan Abdullah (2022), states that argumentation is a form of rhetoric that seeks to influence the attitudes and opinions of other people, so that they are believed and ultimately act in accordance with what the writer or speaker wants.

From the results of the discussion above, it can be said that debate can help students develop their argumentation skills, argumentation skills are related to how they convey arguments logically, accurately and correctly. Previous research shows that argumentation skills are important to train so that students have logical reasoning and rational explanations.

The Fourth, the discussion focuses on how debate helps students organize their thoughts and convey them clearly. The interview results show that debate really helps students in organizing their thoughts and conveying them clearly. In debating, the ability to organize thoughts and convey them must be mastered by students before starting the debate. They create an important framework or summary of thinking to create arguments and ideas accompanied by clear evidence so that the argument they want to convey can be conveyed to the audience. Based on the similarities of previous research, according to Pasla (2023), organizing thoughts and conveying includes the ability to communicate clearly, precisely and convincingly. This includes choosing the right words, appropriate emphasis, and controlling intonation and volume in order to attract attention and influence the thoughts and emotions of the audience. On the other hand, the statement supported by Dale Carnegie (2023), states that organizing thoughts and conveying them is the idea of debating with other people can help someone sharpen their thinking skills and convey arguments more effectively.

From the results of the discussion above, it can be said that debate can help students organize their thoughts and convey them clearly. Students' ability to organize their thoughts and convey them can start by making an important framework or summary accompanied by strong evidence. Previous research shows that organizing thoughts and delivery includes the ability to communicate clearly, precisely, and convincingly to judges and audiences.

The fifth, the discussion focuses on how debate helps students apply the debate process in everyday life. The results of the interview show that debating is not only applied in the world of learning but can also be applied in everyday life. In debating, students apply how to understand and listen to ongoing conversations and use appropriate language and how to become students who can listen so that whatever is said by other people they can understand. From the similarities to previous research according to Robert Trapp&John Stewart (1976), it is claimed that debate skills can be applied in the context of dialogue and deliberation to solve complex problems in people's lives. They highlight that well-structured debate can facilitate the exchange of ideas, broaden understanding, and promote cooperation between individuals who hold different views. On the other hand, the statement supported by Diana Carlin (2021), states that debate training not only improves speaking and argumentation skills, but also improves critical thinking skills, problem solving, as well as empathy and respect for other people's views.

From the results of the discussion above, it can be said that debate helps students apply the debate process in everyday life, debate can be applied in everyday life, including how to understand and listen and how to use good and correct language with other people. Previous research shows that debate can be applied in the context of dialogue and deliberation to solve complex problems in society.

The sixth, the discussion focuses on how debate helps students overcome their fear of public speaking. The results of the interview show that in debating students must be able to fight their own fears and before taking part in a debate students always regularly practice speaking in front of a mirror and some practice with their classmates so that when the debate starts students are really ready to appear and convey their arguments well. In participating in debate activities, students are greatly helped by this activity because when they take part in debates, they always prepare everything that will be conveyed, including preparing the arguments that will be presented and preparing them mentally to appear in public. From the similarities to previous research, according to claimed that participation in debates can help students improve their public speaking skills and reduce their level of fear of speaking in front of crowds. This research shows that through debate, students can gain self-confidence, better communication skills, and the ability to think critically and persuasively.

From the results of the discussion above, it can be said that debate really helps students overcome their fear of speaking in public. Before debating, they take the time to practice speaking in front of a mirror and to their classmates and also prepare everything needed for a debate, including a summary of the important points. Previous research shows that debate helps students reduce their fear of speaking in front of crowds.

The seventh, the discussion focuses on how debate helps students improve their listening skills. The results of the interview show that in debating students must be able to listen and understand and pay attention to every argument presented by their debating opponents so that they can refute the opposing team's arguments. When participating in debates, students are greatly helped by their listening skills because when they are really active in paying attention and noting down every important point that the opposing team conveys, this will also make it easier for them to provide rebuttals to their opponents. From the similarities to previous research according to it is claimed that this research shows that debate can be an effective tool for improving students' listening skills because it requires the ability to understand the opponent's arguments and respond to them appropriately. Thus, through debate, students can develop better listening skills, which is an important

skill in various aspects of life, including in academic, professional, and social environments.

From the results of the discussion above, it can be said that debate helps students to improve their listening skills, students must be able to listen and understand and pay attention to every argument presented in order to refute the opponent's argument. Previous research shows that debate can be an effective tool for improving listening skills because it requires understanding the opponent's arguments.

Logical and Analytical Thinking

The eighth, the discussion focuses on how debate can train students to think logically and analytically. The interview results show that in debating students must be able to train themselves in logical and analytical thinking. In debating, students are required to be able to force their logic to think about what they will say after the opposing team's argument is finished. They are required to think logically and quickly because in debating students must prepare arguments accompanied by strong and relevant evidence in order to be more convincing to the audience. From the similarities to previous research, according to claimed to explore the relationship between debate and students' critical thinking abilities.

He found that through participation in debate, students significantly improved their abilities in logical, analytical, and critical thinking. Debaters must be able to construct cohesive arguments and deeply understand their opponents' positions, which requires strong analytical thinking skills. This research shows that debate not only provides a platform for students to practice speaking and listening, but also trains them in thinking critically and analytically. This is because debate encourages students to construct well-structured arguments, consider evidence and logic, and formulate appropriate responses to opponents' arguments.

From the results of the discussion above, it can be said that debate is very helpful in training students to think logically and analytically. In debating, students must force logic to think quickly and be able to convey their arguments logically. The research results show that students must be able to compose well-structured arguments.

Organizing Arguments in A Structured Manner

The ninth, the speaker focuses on how debate can help students formulate strong arguments. The interview results show that in debating students must be able to formulate strong arguments. In debating, it is very helpful to create a strong argument so that when presenting the argument students can provide evidence that can convince the audience and jury. From the similarities to previous research, according to it is claimed that debate is not only about speaking, but also about the

process of formulating strong and convincing arguments. Through debate, students are encouraged to think critically, conduct research, and consider various points of view before constructing their arguments. This helps them to become more skilled at understanding the complexity of issues and formulating convincing and supportive arguments.

From the results of the discussion above, it can be said that debates really help students in formulating strong arguments, in debates students are really helped in creating strong arguments so that when presenting arguments students can provide evidence that can convince the audience and jury. The research results show that the process of formulating strong and convincing arguments is through debate so that students can be invited to prepare everything before the debate begins.

Adding New Insights

The finally, the discussion focuses on how debate can help students understand different points of view. The interview results show that in debating students must be able to see and understand different points of view. In debating, as they know, in debating there are two teams, namely pros and cons, in this position, each of them conveys their argument according to their position, so students must be able to see how they convey their argument, whether it is simply conveyed without being accompanied by relevant evidence or not. they present their arguments according to their position and whether they are accompanied by relevant evidence. Based on the similarities to previous research according to Pamela (2012), it is claimed that debate can be an effective tool for promoting tolerance, empathy and understanding of different points of view. By interacting with arguments from multiple viewpoints, debate participants can develop the ability to view issues from different perspectives, which in turn can increase their understanding of the complexity of controversial issues.

From the results of the debate above, it can be said that debate really helps students understand different points of view, in debate students must be able to see how they convey their arguments whether they are appropriate and accompanied by evidence. Based on the benefits of debate that English students get from participating in debates at UKI Toraja, they are as follows; Debate is very useful for English students, including improving speaking skills in conveying arguments. Students can improve speaking skills by conveying an idea related to the topic of discussion so that the way of arguing in a debate can make it easier for them to listen and understand so they can convey their arguments clearly and structured. so that it can convince the audience and also the jury of what is being conveyed. Debate also really helps students in increasing their self-confidence, helps them organize their thoughts and convey them clearly, helps them improve critical

thinking skills, helps them how to argue well, use polite language, be a good listener, be able to control emotional intelligence and be able to helps students think logically and analytically and they can gain new knowledge through this debate activity.

CONCLUSION

Based on the benefits of debate that English students get from participating in debates at UKI Toraja, they are as follows; Debate is very useful for English students, including improving speaking skills in conveying arguments. Students can improve speaking skills by conveying an idea related to the topic of discussion so that the way of arguing in a debate can make it easier for them to listen and understand so they can convey their arguments clearly and structured. so that it can convince the audience and also the jury of what is being conveyed. Debate also really helps students in increasing their self-confidence, helps them organize their thoughts and convey them clearly, helps them improve critical thinking skills, helps them how to argue well, use polite language, be a good listener, be able to control emotional intelligence and be able to helps students think logically and analytically and they can gain new knowledge through this debate activity.

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