

English as Foreign Language Students' Speaking Ability

Dewi Nor Oktaviani

Universitas Lambung Mangkurat
dewioktaviani2016@gmail.com

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Abstract

This study intended to discover the EFL pupils' skill in order to know their level of ability or even the problems then find the solutions for the problems. The importance of English matters because of today's global era demand and also for the fact English is known to be universal language that is utilized in most all fields. In line with the matter mentioned, the analyst decided to study on EFL pupils' of Advanced Speaking Class of ULM in year of academic of 2019/2020. The analyst utilized descriptive study with approach of quantitative study. After utilizing oral test as the instrument, the number of mean from the test done was 48.72 and 49.22 by two raters. The numbers is still on score range of 49 which according to ULM Classification Scoring is considered poor. It could be deduced that the Advanced Class's learners speaking ability is on poor level.

Keywords: Speaking, Ability, Intermediate

INTRODUCTION

English is utilized as universal language. Hence, English mastery is required. In a language, conveying thought orally was most effective, which lessens the risk of either misunderstanding nor any gap or mistake in comprehension. Therefore, speaking is prioritized to be taught in EFL or ESL education process. Thus, this study intended for discovering how well EFL pupils' speaking capability that the result later expected to give insight for both teachers and the EFL pupils in improving themselves for better skill acquisition. The chosen Subjects were the fourth semester under-graduate pupils of Advanced Speaking Course in 2020, as the study main concern was regarding ability, the analyst chose a topic related to their previous course, which was Intermediate Speaking.

STUDY METHODOLOGY

This study was a descriptive quantitative which was chosen due to utilization of computational analysis along with detail explanation with the population of 98 people from 5 Advanced Speaking Classes. Then utilized convenience-sampling which resulted in A3 as chosen subjects.

For collecting required, the analyst took the submission of video recording of targets of study performances, makes the data collected is on documentation type which was analyzed one by one to measure each individual's ability utilizing Brown's scoring rubric. The steps in collecting the data were done all virtually. The analyst joined an online class and later gave the EFL pupils instructions on how to submit their test in form of video. The instruction of each person needs to record a video of their speaking performance with at least 4 minutes long then submit it to the analyst's. The data then analyzed in few steps of calculating utilizing proper formulas and then the result was classified utilizing reliable source of scoring classification like ULM's Classification Table.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After gathering the required data, the analyst scored subjects' performance on the basis of Brown's (2003) Scoring Rubric

Table 1. Brown's Scoring Rubric

CATEGORIES	SCORE				
	1	2	3	4	5
GRAMMAR	Errors in grammar are frequent, but speaker can be understood.	Can usually handle elementary constructions quite accurately but does not have thorough or confident control of the grammar.	Control of grammar is good. Able to speak the language with sufficient structural accuracy to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversation on practical, social, and professional topics	Able to use the language accurately on all levels normally pertinent to professional needs. Errors in grammar are quite rare.	Equivalent to that of an educated native speaker.
VOCABULARY	Speaking vocabulary inadequate to express anything but the most elementary needs.	Has speaking vocabulary sufficient to express himself simply with some circumlocutions	Able to speak the language with sufficient vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on practical, social, and professional topics. Vocabulary is broad enough that he rarely has to grope for a word	Can understand and participate in any conversation within the range of his experience with a high degree of precision of vocabulary	Speech on all levels is fully accepted by educated native speakers in all its features including breadth of vocabulary and idioms, colloquialisms, and pertinent cultural references.
COMPREHENSION	Within the scope of his very limited language experience can understand simple questions and statements if delivered with slowed speech, repetition, or paraphrase	Can get the gist of most conversations of non-technical subjects	Comprehension is quite complete at a normal rate of speech	Can understand any conversation within the range of his experience	Equivalent to that of an educated native speaker
	No specific fluency description.	Can handle with confidence but not with facility most social	Can discuss particular interests of competence with reasonable ease.	Able to use the language fluently on all	Has complete fluency in the language such that his speech is

PRONUNCIATION	Errors in pronunciation are frequent but can be understood.	Accent in intelligible though often quite faulty.	Errors never interfere with understanding and rarely disturb the native speaker. Accent may be obviously foreign.	Errors in pronunciation are quite rare.	Equivalent to and fully accepted by educated native speakers.
TASK	Can ask and answer questions on topics very familiar to him.	Able to satisfy routine social demands and work requirements; needs help in handling any complication or difficulties.	Can participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on practical, social, and professional topics.	Would rarely be taken for a native speaker but can respond appropriately even in unfamiliar situations. Can handle informal interpreting from and into language.	Speaking proficiency equivalent to that of an educated native speaker.

The result furtherly categorized utilizing ULM score classification.

Table 2. ULM score classification

Score	The Ability Level
77-100	Excellent
66-76	Good
50-65	Fair
0-49	Poor

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Study Findings

The test was done twice to two different classes among five classes available. The result of one class which was Advanced Speaking class A4 is utilized as the tryout score and the other class which is Advanced Speaking class A3's test result is utilized as the main data for this study. The form of the test is oral where they were given three options of topic from their previous study before which was Intermediate Speaking class. Then, they made monologue from their chosen topic and the recording of their monologue utilized by the analyst as the data that later analyzed to get the result of this study's question.

EFL pupils' Speaking Ability of Advanced Speaking Class

The EFL pupils' speaking test results are analyzed in several categories. From the data collected, the analyst then calculated EFL pupils' obtained score to get the final score thus also get the mean score.

Table 3. EFL pupils' Oral Test Final Score for Advanced Speaking Class A4

Name	Grammar		Vocabulary		Comprehension		Fluency		Pronunciation		Task		Score		
	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	
A.N	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	20	21	
D.N	5	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	25	24	
D.L	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	20	21	
F.M	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	19	19	
I.S	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	19	18	
K.R	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	23	21	
L.K	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	22	23	
M. K	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	20	21	
N.D	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	18	18	
R.S	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	26	24	
R.M	4	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	20	21	
T.F	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	24	23	
T.R	5	4	4	4	4	5	3	3	3	3	4	4	23	23	
Y.L	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	20	22	
Y.N	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	14	15	
Score based on Brown's scoring rubric								Score based on ULM's classification scale							
1 st				2 nd				1 st				2 nd			
20				21				67				70			
25				24				83				80			
20				21				67				70			
19				19				63				63			
19				18				63				60			
23				21				77				70			
22				23				73				77			
20				21				67				70			
18				18				60				60			
26				24				87				80			
20				21				67				70			
24				23				80				77			
23				23				77				77			
20				22				67				73			
14				15				47				50			
Total Score								1045				1047			

The table above is the EFL pupils' test result which was done once from the tryout class from two raters. The presence of second rater is to avoid any bias that might occur and to get more open objective in scoring EFL pupils' performances. The formula utilized to get the final score is:

$$Final\ score = \frac{Student's\ obtained\ score}{Maximum\ score} \times 100$$

After obtained the final score data, the next step is to find the mean of the EFL pupils' score to find how well they did and their average ability in speaking English and classifying their score into level of skill. The formula utilized to find the mean the total score divided with total EFL pupils or is written as:

$$M = \frac{\sum X}{n}$$

N

$$M = \frac{1045}{15} = 69.7$$

$$M = \frac{1047}{15} = 69.8$$

The first rater's scoring result is 1045 and the final classification score is 69.7 while the second rater's result is 1047 which gives the final classification score of 69.8. Utilizing the obtained data, both raters' judgment showcased that the EFL pupils from the tryout class are on good category.

Table 4. The Achievement Interpretation

Score	The Ability Level
77-100	Excellent
66-76	Good
50-65	Fair
0-49	Poor

After conducting data from Advance Speaking class A4 as the tryout class, the analyst collected data from Advanced speaking Class A3 to get the main data. The scoring for class A3 is as shown on table below.

Table 5. EFL pupils' Oral Test Score for Advanced Speaking Class A3

Name	Grammar		Vocabulary		Comprehension		Fluency		Pronunciation		Task		Score	
	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd
A.H	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	11	12
A.R	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	14	14
A.D	2	2	2	2	4	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	17	15
A.Z	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	13	14
E.Z	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	13
E.G	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	3	10	10
E.N	2	3	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	18	19
F.H	1	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	13	13
H.K	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	10	10
N.N	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	12	12
N.M	2	2	3	2	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	18	17
R.O	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	15	15
R.M	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	18	18
S.S	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	21	21
S.B	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	2	3	4	4	20	21
T.H	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	13	14
Y.M	1	2	2	1	4	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	14	13
Y.S	2	2	3	2	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	3	14	15
Sum	33	42	40	37	55	50	44	41	42	39	49	57	-	-
Score based on Brown's scoring rubric							Score based on ULM's classification scale							
1 st				2 nd			1 st				2 nd			
11				12			37				40			

14	14	47	47
17	15	57	50
13	14	43	47
12	13	40	43
10	10	33	33
18	19	60	63
13	13	43	43
10	10	33	33
12	12	40	40
18	17	60	57
15	15	50	50
18	18	60	60
21	21	70	70
20	21	67	70
13	14	43	47
14	13	47	43
14	15	47	50
Total Score		877	886

$$Final\ score = \frac{Student's\ obtained\ score}{Maximum\ score} \times 100$$

The result after utilizing the formula then inputted in the formula below.

$$M = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$

$$M = \frac{877}{18} = 48.72$$

$$M = \frac{886}{18} = 49.2$$

It was shown that the average score for EFL pupils' ability from class A3 is 48.72 from the first rater's scoring while the second rater's shows the score as 49.2. on the basis of the mean discovered by utilizing the formula, the analyst then classified the score into its category manifestation which showcases the EFL pupils' level of English-speaking capability. Thus, both raters' result showcases that the EFL pupils' performances are on poor category.

Table 6. The Frequency & Percentage of How Many EFL pupils' in Each Category of Class A4

Score	Frequency		Percentage		Category
	1 st rater	2 nd rater	1 st rater	2 nd rater	
77-100	5	5	33.33%	33.33%	Excellent
66-76	6	6	40%	40%	Good
50-65	3	4	20%	26.67%	Fair
0-49	1	0	6.67%	0%	Poor
Total	15	15	100%	100%	Level

Table 7. The Frequency & Percentage of How Many EFL pupils' in Each Category of Class A3

Score	Frequency		Percentage		Category
	1 st rater	2 nd rater	1 st rater	2 nd rater	
77-100	0	0	0%	0%	Excellent
66-76	2	2	11.11%	11.11%	Good
50-65	5	6	27.78%	33.33%	Fair
0-49	11	10	61.11%	55.56%	Poor

Total	18	18	100%	100%	Level
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The tables above show the percentage data of EFL pupils' class A4 and A3 performance test results along with the frequency of their score repetition on each category according to ULM Classification Score based on first and second rater utilizing following formula:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

P = percentage

N= Number of respondents

F= Frequency of the answer

A3 Class EFL pupils' Scoring from First Rater Based on ULM Classification Score

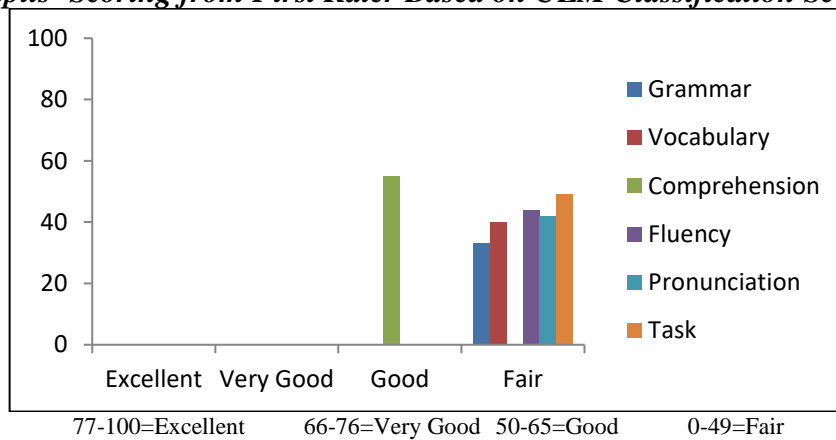


Figure 1. Chart of EFL pupils' of A3 Class from First Rater

It was showcased that the scoring the first rater got utilizing the ULM Classification Score. According to the chart, the total score of class A3 in each category are:

- 1) Grammar = 33
- 2) Vocabulary = 40
- 3) Comprehension = 55
- 4) Fluency = 44
- 5) Pronunciation = 42
- 6) Task = 49

A3 Class EFL pupils' Scoring from Second Rater Based on ULM Classification Score

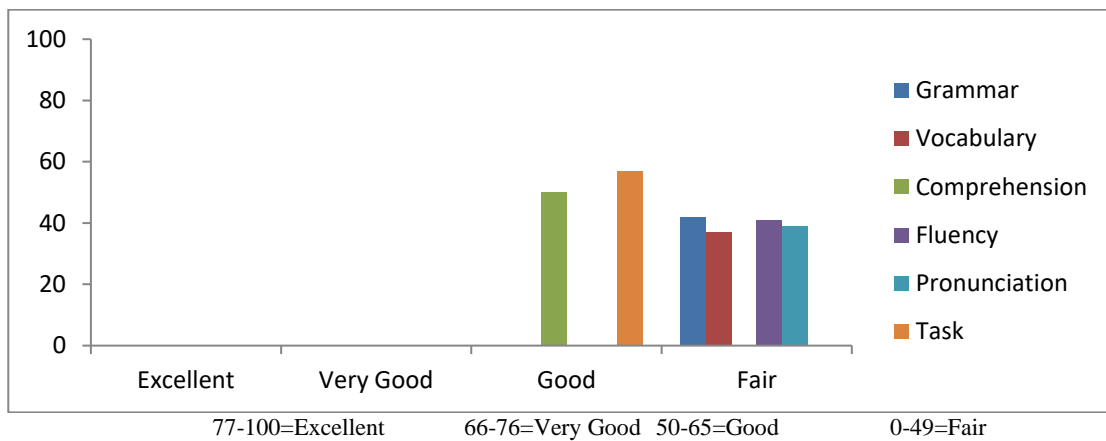


Figure 2. Chart of EFL pupils' of A3 Class from Second Rater

It was showcased that the scoring the second rater got utilizing the ULM Classification Score. According to the chart, the total score of class A3 in each category are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Grammar = 42 | 4) Fluency = 41 |
| 2) Vocabulary = 37 | 5) Pronunciation = 39 |
| 3) Comprehension = 50 | 6) Task = 57 |

Discussion

The EFL pupils' capability in English speaking is considered below average. It is proven with the average score the EFL pupils for their oral test is 48.72 from the first rater and 49.22 for the second rater which according to ULM Classification Score is categorized as poor. The utilized test came with topics the EFL pupils chose by their own then compose their own script to act it out while recorded in form of video which then utilized as the required data.

As previously stated in table 3, there are 5 EFL pupils (33.33%) reached excellent category with score range is 77-100. There are 6 EFL pupils (40%) in good category with score range of 66-76 and there are 3 EFL pupils in fair category (20%) with 50-65 of its score range. The rest of the subjects of 15 in total with 1 EFL pupil (6.67%) are in poor category. These numbers belong to the judgment of the first rater. As to the second rater's calculation, there are 5 EFL pupils (33.33%) reached excellent category with score range is 77-100. There are 6 EFL pupils (40%) in good category with score range of 66-76 and there are 4 EFL pupils in fair category (26.67%) with 50-65 of its score range and 0 EFL pupil in poor category.

The A3 class which utilized as the main data achieved different result compared to A4 class. There are 0 EFL pupils (0%) got excellent score from both raters. There are 2 EFL pupils (11.11%) got good in category of score also from both raters' scoring while for the score of fair, there are differences between first rater and second rater's result with number of 5 EFL pupils (27.78%) and 6 EFL pupils (33.33%) in order. In poor category, there are 11 EFL pupils (61.11%) from first rater's scoring and 10 EFL pupils (55.56%) by the second rater. With this data it is concluded that the subjects' ability is poor in general with the highest frequency and as the mean found with the number of 48.72 and 49.22 which are also categorized poor.

The highest score the EFL pupils got in each category is 4 which classified as very good. It was discovered that frequency of the score range of 0-49 or in category of poor is the most frequent to occur which has total of 11 and 10 EFL pupils from either first or second rater's judgment. However, it is

known that that not all of the fourth semester EFL pupils in academic year of 2019/2020 average score is bad. In comparison between class A3 and class A4's result, the number shows quite big different in their speaking ability. The average score from class A3 is on poor while class A4 is on good category. Both raters show low points of average score on class A3 EFL pupils with number of 48.72 and 49.22 while class A4 EFL pupils with number of 69.7 and 69.8 in order from both raters. To shows the data visually, the analyst presented the score in form of charts as seen on chart 4.3.1 and 4.3.2. The charts show is combination of scoring based on Brown's after calculation of each aspect with 1 as the lowest score and 5 as the highest for the score range and ULM classification score to show the level of ability the EFL pupils were in after the calculation utilizing utilized formula.

In each of the speaking component being assessed, class A3 as the main data has different number such as in Grammar. First rater found the data to be 7 EFL pupils in both poor and fair category, 4 EFL pupils in good and 0 EFL pupils in both very good and excellent. The second rater has number of 0 EFL pupils in poor and excellent, 14 EFL pupils in fair, 2 EFL pupils in both good and very good category. These results indicate no EFL pupils got excellent score in grammar with most of the EFL pupils highly got fair score only. In Vocabulary, first rater's data shows there are 0 EFL pupils in very good and excellent category. There are 2 EFL pupils in poor, 10 EFL pupils in fair and 6 EFL pupils in good category. Second rater's data also shows 0 EFL pupil in excellent with 1 EFL pupil in very good, 3 EFL pupils in good, 10 EFL pupils in fair and 4 EFL pupils in poor. In this aspect, both raters have same numbers of EFL pupils in excellent with 0 EFL pupils and in fair category with 10 EFL pupils. Comprehension aspect, the first rater's number shows 1 EFL pupil in poor, 2 EFL pupils in fair, 10 EFL pupils in good, 5 EFL pupils in very good and 0 EFL pupil in excellent category. The second rater's number says there are 0 EFL pupil in both poor and excellent, 5 EFL pupils in fair, 12 EFL pupils in good and 1 EFL pupil in very good category. The highest number in this aspect of EFL pupils are in good category with 10 and 12 EFL pupils according to first and second rater in order. Fluency aspect, the first rater has 1 EFL pupil in poor, 10 EFL pupils in fair, 5 EFL pupils in good and 2 EFL pupils in very good with 0 EFL pupil in excellent category. The second rater's data shows 2 EFL pupils in poor, 10 EFL pupils in fair, 5 EFL pupils in good, 1 EFL pupils in very good and also 0 EFL pupil in excellent. This shows both raters have the same number of 10 EFL pupils out of total 15 in fair category. Next, with pronunciation aspect there are 1 EFL pupils in poor, 5 EFL pupils in fair, 10 EFL pupils in good, 2 EFL pupils in very good and 0 EFL pupils in excellent according to first rater. According to second rater, there are 3 EFL pupils in poor, 10 EFL pupils in fair, 4 EFL pupils in good, 1 EFL pupil in very good and 0 EFL pupil in excellent. Based on the numbers on this aspect, both raters have 10 EFL pupils as the highest number but on different score. First rater's EFL pupils are in good category while second rater's are in fair category. Last aspect is task in which the first rater has 0 EFL pupils on both poor and excellent, 8 EFL pupils in fair, 3 EFL pupils in good, 7 EFL pupils in very good category. Second rater's data shows the same number of 0 EFL pupil in both poor and excellent, 2 EFL pupils in fair, 11 EFL pupils in good and 5 EFL pupils in very good category. Based on the data elaborated above, it can be concluded that none of the EFL pupils got excellent in all aspects speaking being scored and most of the EFL pupils are in fair category according to both raters. This means that the ability of the EFL pupils as respondents in this study is considered poor according to the calculation done by two raters and after utilizing two scoring scale by Brown's and ULM Classification Scoring.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The study chosen subjects were Advanced Speaking Class course with total of 18 people which resultus the mean score they achieved were 48.72 and 49.22. after the rating along with calculation was conducted by two raters. The scoring was utilizing Brown's rubric. The obtained mean score then classified by utilizing ULM's achievement interpretation scale. Both means is on scale of 49 and in ULM's scoring

scale 0-49 which considered as poor capability level. Hence, it was concluded that the under-graduate's speaking capability of Lambung Mangkurat University in Advanced Speaking Class course is on poor level.

Hence, it was suggested to discover new effective strategy for improving pupils' speaking capability. Moreover, the pupils should practice along with improving the motivation they possess.

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