VOA Special English: Increasing Students' Speaking Skill at Faculty of Computer Science

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Abstract.

English is a Foreign Language as a subject that has been studying since elementary level. However, there were found minimal skill competence of speaking in Engish. Thus, it needs improvement both from the media system used and the appropriate strategy for the English course as a general basic course in particular in the Faculty of Computer Science. Technology can be an alternative as the media in education prosess. One of these media is *Voice of America Special English Education Report*. Basicaly, there are several benefits of using this media such as listening; while they are listening VOA automatically they are studying how to pronounce something; another skill is reading and writing skill because this media supported by running text. Thus, automatically this media includes four language skill in English. The subject of this research is Computer science students second semester. The purpose of this research is to find out whether the use of VOA Special English Education report can improve students' speaking skill in English. The data was collected by applying the speaking test which used rubric scoring. The method of this research is classroom action research. There were two cycles of the test as comparative the improvement of students' speaking skill in using VOA Special English Education Report . The result of this research that there is significant improvment of using VOA Special English Education Report. The score of the first cycle is 56,8 and the second cyce is 64,8. It means that there is increasing of the score speaking test by using the media VOA Special Engilsh Education Report.

1. Introduction

In English Language Teaching (ELT) or English learning, there are 4 important skills that need to be mastered: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Two of these 4 skills are required in communication and interaction both formally and informally in Listening and Speaking. That is, the ability of Listening and Speaking is a person's ability to communicate and interact both formally in the official forum of an organization or institution or in a conversation or everyday conversations that use informal language. Usually this ability is also called active communication. While the other two skills of Reading and writing are called passive communication. These two Listening and speaking abilities are the capabilities that cannot be separated from one another. Because one can speak because he hears something. These four skills must be mastered by students who are studying English including students of Informatics Engineering Study Program Faculty of Computer Science Lancang Kuning University. Students of Informatics Engineering study program are prepared to become a bachelor that

should have good ability communication in foreign languages especially English.

This is because students of Informatics Engineering Study Program Faculty of Computer Science will be graduates of scholars who can pursue various fields of profession as administrator, Journalism, Reporter, International Relations and others. These professions of course require good communication skills and smoothly. Therefore, the English course is a compulsory subject studied in Informatics Engineering study program on this first year student.

However, there are still many found in the field that most students of Informatics Engineering Study Program are reluctant and shy to speak English. This is due to several factors. Some of them, English is not their field of expertise. However, before they take the course of course they have studied English for less than 9 years.

The second problem is there is still lack of vocabulary. It caused they rarely cultivate this field because English is a common basic course. In addition, many of them are afraid to make mistakes in speaking English, especially in grammatical structure. Therefore, it is very important for lecturers in this case the subjects of English and Informatics Engineering in providing appropriate strategies and media to provide motivation and solutions faced by students of Informatics Engineering study program in improving the English language skills, especially Listening and Speaking skills.

Technological advancement has now become an important part in the field of education, especially in English Language Teaching or English learning. There are various benefits of technology that can be applied as a medium in learning English. But of course not all types of media technology that is appropriate and appropriate in the learning of English itself. In this case, it is very appropriate for Informatics Engineering students to be able to take advantage of their daily-day field that is informatics techniques in helping them learn English.

One of these technological media is the English-language news program from America that is Voice of America Special English Education Report. This news program can be watched online via the internet using the You Tube app or offline after downloading and saving through the save from net application. In this news program, there are various advantages gained in learning English, because this news program is specially designed for students who are learning English through news programs.

The assumption that English language skills especially in listening and speaking skills can be improved through the news program media in the form of VOA Special English Education Report with three reasons. The first reason is in terms of Vocabulary or vocabulary. News program VOA Special English Education Report is news delivered directly by native speakers can be downloaded from the internet to be watched over and over again. This means that more and more students watched VOA News Special English Education Report video course will affect the vocabulary of their English vocabulary

The second reason is in terms of intonation and pronunciation or intonation and way of pronunciation. Automatically, someone who often hears the pronunciation of words with good and correct intonation and

articulation will affect the Listening and Speaking of a person. For example, the pronunciation of an incorrect word that has been heard by a student can be corrected by listening directly to the correct pronunciation by the newscaster or native speaker of the VOA Special English Education Report program.

The third reason is in terms of grammatical structure or grammatical structure. The VOA Special English Education Report is a news program designed specifically for students studying English. In other words, this news program is delivered in a formal language in accordance with good and correct English grammar structure. This will make it easier for students who are learning English.

The fourth reason is the student of informatics engineering is a student who wrestle the field of information. This will make it easier for them to access English-language news on the internet. So it will be easier for them to learn English especially Listening and Speaking Skill. Therefore, based on some of these reasons; using the VOA Special English Education Report as a medium used in English, is expected to improve the English Language skills especially listening and speaking skill of Informatics Engineering students in second semester.

2. **Formulation of the problem**
   Is using VOA Special English Education Report can increase students speaking skill?
3. **Research purposes**
   To find out whether the use of VOA Special English Education Report can improve students speaking skill
4. **Literature review**
4.1. *The concept of VOA Special Engish Education Report*

Technology sophistication has become an integral part of education. Technology currently serves as a facility or support in the field of education. One technology that facilitates the active learning process in foreign language learners (EFL) is the computer. (Lantz, 2010; Lea 2008; Wu & Gao, 2011).

In the last decade, one that influenced the development of learning process is digital technology. This has influenced the teaching approach of schools and colleges as well as affecting the way teachers teach and lecturers in class. (Facer, Sutherland & Furlong 2003)

Thus, one computer output that is currently very useful is the internet. By using internet network access, can be found various applications that can support the learning process especially EFL. VOA is one of instructional media or multimedia (audio visual) that is media that can be seen and heard. VOA is international news program contained in computer application that can be accessed via internet. The distance \ and time in communicating with opponent at this time is not become barrier when technology internet, VCD Player or mp3 player and smart phone is used as a supporter or supporter in the learning process. (Huffman, 2011)

VOA Special English Education Report is a software consisting of 10 topics broadcast by VOA. When an EFL learner downloads this app, learners will be able to hear and see scripts or text running text on the screen. This VOA Special English Education Report news program is easy to operate can be repeated how many times we want. This is an easy way to improve Listening skills by using the VOA Special English Education Report media.

4.2. *The concept of Speaking*

Man is awarded the creator of a pair of ears to hear. Something heard can be a sound or sound that comes from several letters into a word and sentence that contains meaning or meaning so that can be understood and interpreted to be responded or responded. In this case, the sound or sound in question is a vocabulary derived from a foreign language that is usually called pronunciation or the science of learning pronunciation or pronunciation.

Listening ability is a basic ability that must be possessed by someone in learning English as a foreign language or second language (Foreign Language / Second Language) because without listening ability EFL and ESL learners will not achieve effective learning process. In other words, Listening's ability has an important role in communicating. This is indicated by the percentage that the Listening ability in communicating reaches 40-50%, Speaking 25 - 30%, Reading 11-16%, and Writing 9%. (Bingol & Mart, 2014)

The ability of Listening is a process of one's ability to receive messages from others through feelings and organs of hearing, which play the role of delivering the message and understand it clearly. Steinberg (2007). Listening ability also aims to understand the conversation of native speakers in spontaneous or reflex conditions in both formal and informal situations. In other words, listening ability is a natural or basic phenomenon in which the listener tries to interpret meaning while absorbing messages and information from the other person (Bingol & Mart, 2014)

Listening cannot be separated from Speaking. It is impossible for someone to interact and communicate by just hearing. As a response from the understanding a person hears is by speech or speaking. Speaking is the most important part in learning foreign languages, especially English as Language Learning. In mother tongue or mother tongue one does not need to learn speaking because since the baby is born to be able to speak already learn the mother tongue. By often hearing and responding to the language every day, has become part of learning until the baby can pronounce words per word and sentence per sentence as taught by his parents.

But speaking learning here is a foreign language speech learning which language is not the mother tongue or mother tongue. (Bahadorfar & Omidvar, 2017). The ability to speak in English is a priority for English learners. This happens because there are several advantages a person can speak fluently in English. The first, fluently in speaking becomes standardization or the size of a person in mastering English. This means that someone who is called a good ability in speaking is someone who speaks clearly in pronunciation , has regularity in the sentence grammatical structure, and easy to understand the meaning of sentence. Secondly, Speaking is a very useful communication tool in communicating when abroad. (Bahadorfar & Omidvar, 2017)

Based on these two advantages, things that are the goal in learning speaking is to use word and emphasis sentence, intonation, and rhythm in the language; choosing the right vocabulary according to the sentence according to the social context, who the listener is, and the

situation and the conditions around; arrange and regulate the mind-set of students in interpreting the meaning in accordance with the logic; using language as the meaning and value of the expression of the language itself; using the language smoothly and quickly without any pauses commonly called the Fluency or smoothness (Bahadorfar & Omidvar, 2017)

As for the important things to note in the connection between Listening and Speaking is the first on Listening is "meaning-focused input" which means the process of a person's ability in interpreting and translating that centred on the meaning received. The second is on speaking "meaning - focused output" which means the process of one's ability in composing words centred on a message being delivered or spoken. The third is the language components such as intonation, pronunciation articulation, spelling, vocabulary and grammatical structures. (Nation & Newton, 2009)

In other words, Listening and speaking is part of routine communication that has become part of human life, almost every activity of human life is never separated from communication. Both in informal formal situations. However, even though ten thousand words are always spoken in daily conversations in English by native speakers, that does not mean it is easy for foreign language learners. Thornbury (2009, 1).

This is what underlies the need for media that can help EFL learners in improving their listening and speaking skills easily. Therefore, the assumption of the use of news media The Voice of America Special English Education Report can improve the ability of Listening and Speaking Students of

English literature second semester Computer science Lancang Kuning University

4.3. *The Use of VOA Special Engish Education Report in English learning*
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Report can improve the ability of Listening and Speaking Students of English literature second semester computer science of Lancang Kuning University Pekanbaru.

Figure 1. Step Media Usage VOA Special English Education Report
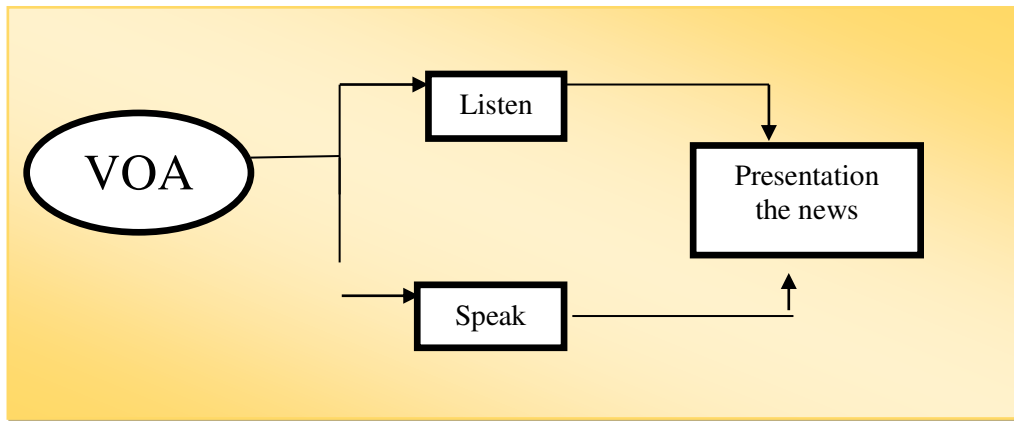
The foowing llists are the topics of VOA Special English that can be downloaded on the internet:

1. English Education Report:
   This VOA Special English is an educational report of 45 lessons on various discussions in education
2. The News:
   VOA Special English is a news progress report consisting of 48 lessons that can help EFL learners to practice the latest news developments.
3. Economic Report
   VOA Special English is a progress report of economic news consisting of 48 lessons. Very good at practicing vocabulary in English
4. Healty Report
   VOA Special English is a report or news that provides 45 lessons that are very useful in improving Listening skills, especially vocabulary in terms of health sciences
5. Agriculture Report

VOA Special English is a report or news that provides 48 lessons to improve Listening skills in the field of cultivation of plants
6. America Mosaic
   VOA Special English is a report or news that provides 45 lessons to improve Listening skills on the State of America
7. Science in the news
   VOA Special English is a report or news that provides 45 lessons to improve Listening skills in the field of Science and Technology
8. The making of the nation
   The VOA Special English is a news report for those interested in the history of the formation of the American State
9. People in america
   VOA Special English is a report or news that provides 45 lessons about famous people and interesting facts about America. This material is great for improving the EFL Learners Listening capabilities
10. This is America

> VOA Special English is comprised of 45 stories that help EFL learners practice listening in English about everything about America.

The Voice of America's VOA Special English Program has become a popular medium for learning English and applications that can be downloaded free of charge can make it easier for lecturers and students to learn English while improving Listening skills. (http://freeenglishcourse.info/voa-special-learning-english-free-download-software/

5. RESEARCH METHOD

5.1. *Types of research*

This type of research is a classroom action research (CAR). At this time, teachers both teachers and lecturers are required to be able to carry out scientific papers or KTI in the form of classroom action research in order to support the improvement of teaching and learning process quality as well as improvement in the field of career.

Classroom action research is a study carried out in a class in which the researcher is the teacher or lecturer who owns the studying eye or the course itself. This becomes the basis of a classroom action research, because only the teacher holding the course is the one who understands and understands the circumstances of the student.

In other words, classroom action research is a research done because of a problem that requires drugs or solutions to improve the quality or quality of the learning process itself. In addition, the advantages of this class action research is that researchers do not have to disturb

another object of research, because the object of the research is the student or his own students. Thus, research can take place when the teacher or teacher teaches the same class. (Yasin, 2011: 11)

This explanation is also supported by, Kusni (2011: 7) he explains "Classroom action research is a systematic study conducted by teachers as researchers in the scope of teaching and learning process that aims to obtain information to improve the quality of teaching with the help of a peer teacher or collaborator.

To find a solution, a teacher or lecturer must be able to find theories of learning, learning media, learning strategies, and learning materials appropriate to the situation and condition of the students. Because classroom action research is not research that focuses on the outcomes of the research, it is research that focuses more on the process.

The approach in the research is a qualitative descriptive research which the result presents in detail information. Descriptive research is a research that is used to find the detail information of the object of research in circumstance time. On the other hand, a qualitative descriptive research aims to explain or describe a state, event, whether or anything which related to variables that can explain either by numbers or words (Setyosari: 2010).

This qualitative research is conducted to know and describe clearly and detail about the use of strategy crosswords puzzle games in increasing the vocabulary mastery of first semester students faculty Computer science in English courses where the research

team is a lecturer of the same subjects that is the basic courses general English and assisted by a lecturer of Informatics Science course that will assist in designing crosswords puzzle games at once in collecting and processing the data later. Therefore, the research team can see how the process of using the crosswords puzzle games in the field without having to interfere with other classes of courses.

By plunging directly at the same level of teaching as well as teaching the same course, the research team can analyse the shortcomings that occur within the classroom in the process of using this strategy so that it can be a reference and fix everything that is still lacking for improvement in future research.

5.2.Setting research
5.2.1.   Time and location Research

This research was conducted in February 2018 - July 2018 in Informatics Engineering Study Program Faculty of Computer Science. The research team is a lecturer who teaches English and Informatics Engineering courses

5.2.2.   Population and Sample

The sample of this researcher is 1 class of Informatics Engineering Department around 25 people.

5.3.Method of collecting data

Data collection method of this research consists of quantitative data and qualitative data. Quantitative data is the data obtained to answer the first problem formulation question is the extent to which the news program media The Voice of America Special English education Report can improve the English language skills, especially

Listening and Speaking students semester 2 Information Engineering program. While the qualitative data is the data to answer the second problem formulation questions are factors - factors that affect the improvement of English proficiency especially Listening and speaking students semester II Informatics Engineering program.

5.3.1.   *Research sites*
In accordance with the title of this study this research was implemented in Informatics Engineering and Information Systems Faculty of Computer Science University Lancang Kuning
5.3.2.   *Object of research*
The object of this research is all students of Informatics Engineering and Information System. It consists of two classes of Information System Study Program and five classes of Informatics Engineering Study Program.
5.3.3.   *Technique of data collection and data analysis.*
Technique data collection in this study was using data collection techniques quantitative through test both verbally and qualitatively taken through questionnaire and interview. This data explained and described the purpose of the problem formulation, they are; to find whether the use of Crossword Puzzle strategy can increase the value of English courses in the first semester students faculty of Computer Science University Lancang Kuning; to find whether using the Crossword Puzzle learning strategy can increase Vocabulary student of first semester faculty of Computer Science University of Lancang Kuning; and to find whether by using learning strategy Crosswords Puzzle can increase student interest in first semester faculty Computer Science

University Lancang Kuning in learning English.

data obtained will be analyzed through rubric speaking by Hughes (2003)

Speaking Tests

To assess the data that was obtained through listening and speaking test, the

Table 1. Speaking Scoring Rubric

Indicators	Explanation
Accent	1. Pronunciation is frequently intelligible
	2. Frequent gross errors and very heavy accent make understanding difficult, require frequent repetition.
	3. "Foreign accent" requires concentrated listening and mispronunciations lead to occasional misunderstanding
	4. Marked "foreign accent" and occasional mispronunciation which do not interfere with understanding
	5. No conspicuous mispronunciation, but would not be taken for a native speaker
	6. Native pronunciation, with no trace of foreign accent
Grammar	1. Grammar almost entirely inaccurate except in stock phrases
	2. Constant errors showing control of very few major patterns and frequently preventing communication
	3. Frequent errors showing some major patterns uncontrolled and causing occasional irritation and misunderstanding
	4. Occasional errors showing imperfect control or some patterns but not weakness that causes misunderstanding
	5. Few errors with no patterns of failure
	6. No more two errors during the interview
Vocabulary	1. Vocabulary inadequate for even the simplest conversation
	2. Vocabulary limited to basic personal and survival areas
	3. Choice of words sometimes inaccurate limitations of vocabulary prevent discussion of some common professional and social topics
	4. Professionals' vocabulary adequate to discuss special interest
	5. Professionals' vocabulary broad and precise
	6. Vocabulary apparently as accurate and extensive as that of an educated native speaker
Fluency	1. Speech is so halting and fragmentary that conversation is virtually impossible
	2. Speech is very slow and uneven except for short routine sentences
	3. Speech is frequently hesitant and jerky, sentence may be left uncompleted
	4. Speech is occasionally hesitant, with some unevenness caused by rephrasing and grouping for word

	5. Speech is effortless and smooth, but perceptibly nonnative in speech and evenness
	6. Speech all professional and general topics as effortless and smooth as a native speaker
Comprehension	1. Understands too little for the simple's type of conversation
	2. Understands only slow, very simple speech on common social and tourist
	3. Understands careful somewhat simplified speech when engaged in a dialogue
	4. Understands quite well normal educated speech when engaged in a dialogue
	5. Understands everything in normal educated speech conversation except for every colloquial or low frequency items, or exceptionally rapid or slurred speech
	6. Understands everything in both formal and colloquial speech to be expected of an educated native speaker

Source: (Hughes 2003)

After that, the data obtained will be analyzed through the weight of the rubric scale or weighting table of the following rubric speaking skill:

Table 2. Weighting Table of Speaking Skill Rubric

Weighting table						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	6
Accent	0	1	2	2	3	4
Grammar	6	12	18	24	30	36
Vocabulary	4	18	12	16	20	14
Fluency	2	4	6	8	10	12
Comprehension	4	8	12	15	19	23

Source: (Hughes 2003)

After the data is translated into the weighting table of the rating scale of the speaking, the data is also translated ka rubric percentage of speaking score as follows:

Table 3. Weighting Table of Speaking Skill Rubric in percentage

Weighting table in percentage						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	6
Accent	0	25	50	50	75	100
Grammar	16,6	33,2	50	66,5	83	100
Vocabulary	16,6	33,2	50	66,7	83,2	100
Fluency	16,6	33,2	50	66,4	83	100
Comprehension	17,4	34,8	52	65	82,5	100

Source: (Hughes 2003)

6. RESULTS

The results of this study are as follows:

As the comparison of the score in the first cycles, the pre test has been taken before conducted this research so that this data can be compared as the indicator of the improvement students' speaking skill by using VOASpecial English Education Report. In the first cycle, the average of students' speaking test is 57,8 while in pre speaking test is 57,8. It means that the speaking test improved at least 12,1. After conducting the second cyle, the speaking test reached 57,8.it means that the imporvment of students speaking test increase 5,0

The following tabel show the different score on each cycle:

Table 4. Results and Outcomes achieved

	Pre test	Cycle 1	Cycle 2
Average	45,7	57,8	65,8

Figure 2
The graph of the score
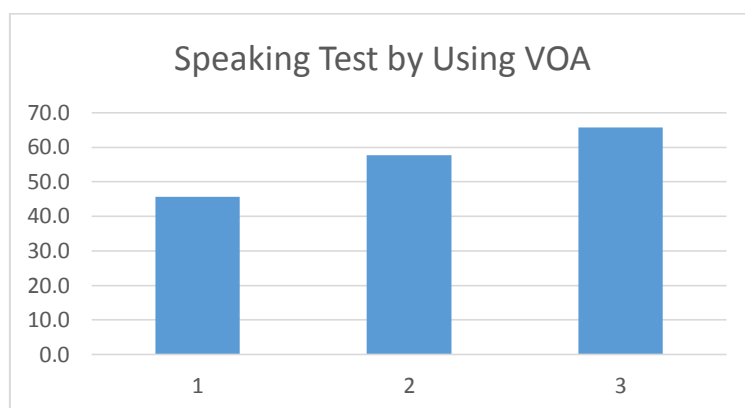
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