

ABSTRACT

Arifiyanto. 2013. *Improving the Students' Speaking Ability through Conversational Strategy Using Crazytalk 6 for the Eighth Grade Students at MTs Muhammadiyah 9 Wotan*. The Sarjana's Thesis, English Education Departement, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muhammadiyah Gresik.
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Keywords: Conversational Strategy Using Crazytalk 6.

Based on the preliminary study, the researcher found some problems related to English instructional activities in MTs Muhammadiyah 9 Wotan. Those are the students' low speaking ability. The students' low motivation in learning English, the monotonous and inappropriate teaching techniques used by the teacher. Therefore, the researcher is greatly motivated to overcome the problem by implementing conversational strategy using Crazytalk 6 in teaching speaking. This research is intended to describe how conversational strategy using Crazytalk 6 can improve students' speaking ability at eighth grade students of MTs Muhammadiyah 9 Gresik.

The researcher employed classroom action research design, in which the researcher was assisted by a teacher partner (a colleague) in conducting the study. The research is conducted in a single class that consists of twenty two students, in which all of the students are taken as the subjects of the study. The procedure of the research consists of four main steps: planning, implementation, observation and reflection. To collect the data, the researcher uses some instruments i.e. observation checklists and questionnaire.

The finding of this research showed that the students' ability in speaking improved significantly from one meeting to the following meeting. This can be seen from the pre test and the post test, the test improved from average score 30.7 in pre test to 69.9 in post test. This can also be seen from the result of each meeting in the students' speaking performance improved from 51.56% of all students who could reach at least *good* level at the first meeting to 85.93% of all students in the last meeting.

Through the seven meetings research, it was proved that the students who learnt by using Conversational strategy using Crazytalk 6 became more active and more confidence in practicing speaking task. When the researcher implemented Conversational strategy using Crazytalk 6, the students felt very enthusiasm in joining the classroom activity, especially in speaking subject. As the result their speaking ability could increase. The students who had low confidence in speaking become more active in speaking. By implementing this strategy the students felt that studying English speaking was not boring anymore.

Based on the effectiveness of the implementation of conversational strategy using Crazytalk 6, it is suggested for English teachers whose have similar problems, characteristics, and situations with MTs Muhammadiyah 9 Wotan to use conversational strategy using Crazytalk 6 as an alternative technique to teach speaking skill.