

Improving Speaking Skill for Pursuing Better Education: Getting Used to Speaking English for Students Through Online Learning Courses

Dewi Ratnawati¹ & Sri Wahyuningsih²

^{1,2}English Department, Institut Agama Islam Negeri Kudus, Indonesia

Corresponding author's email: dewiratnawati168@gmail.com, wahyuningsih@iainkudus.ac.id

Abstract

Speaking skill is one of the most important elements in social interaction especially in preparing better education. This can be done through online courses. This article explores the importance of improving academic speaking skill in pursuing better education through online English courses to support sustainability after graduating from high school. The study used a qualitative case study method. The data were collected from several interviews with four college students who had studied an online English course. The findings revealed that many online English courses facilitate students in improving English speaking skills especially in entering higher education. In addition, the English course provides flexibility and efficiency for the students during joining English course. The implication is discussed in this study.

Keywords: *English Speaking Skill; Online Courses; Education Preparation*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a someone communication system that expresses through talk or written that is easy to understand. Language is one of the most important elements in someone life. Humans are social creatures who interact with each other in their daily lives. Because, people cannot live alone without interaction or assistance from others. Someone communicate one of them also from the understanding of spoken language it self (Bastianelli et al., 2020). A person will easy communicate by mastering good and correct language skills, which is why humans really need to learn languages from an early age. Because, this ability in language skills is very useful when children step into adulthood in the school entry period. Language skills themselves are a person's ability and speed in using language. With the mastery of language skills, one will be more confident than before, with language skills one is easier to explain a presentation and it can also be easier to listen to a conversation from someone (Vacide Erdoğan, 2019). Language skills include mastering English, English as a language is widely used by foreigners as a main language as well a

second language from various countries around the world including Indonesia learning this English.

An English language skill is one of them by mastering speech. Indonesia is a country that is not the majority of foreign language use. But, Indonesia implements that each institution is strongly recommended to provide English language learning every few weeks to be taught to students from each respective institution (Oktavia & Lestari, 2022). Mastery of English can be started from the early age of elementary school students. How not if from an early age language learning is not taught. According to research (NELSON, 1990), Of course, from their own children, they will definitely have difficulty in interacting with others when at school. So, debriefing from an early age in learning languages, especially English, is very important for the younger generation now. Nowadays there is also a flare-up of technology that uses English ranging from gadget, computer, laptop and others. Therefore, parents must equip their children from an early age to learn English. Can start from talking about vocabulary that is easiest for their children to imitate, slowly but surely process. From there, (Hwang et al., 2020) a child will be accustomed to reading something in English the mention is English literacy. An example from other countries is that their children have been applied to speak English even though they do not see the grammar. Even so, from Spain, I still learned English well.

Speaking is a person's need, there is also someone who cannot make his voice out because there is something clogged in his limbs in the throat. As a result, he will interact with hand signals that he can so that someone around him understands what he is talking about. In every education school has its own challenges, teachers must meet the targets given by the government to provide English learning to their students while their own students are required to understand English learning quickly (Wilson et al., 2016). Some countries have mixed foreign languages into their main language until the end. It has been proven that in tourism that is visited by foreigners in various countries, we accidentally learn the foreign language from foreigners who visit Indonesia (Mathur & Mahapatra, 2022). A skill that is not trained will be in vain, the ability that is possessed without trying new things will be in vain, preferably something good needs to be developed and refined in order to benefit from the things we process. By searching for material on YouTube there are so many videos that we can exemplify, making us practice our skills, especially in English. Starting from the search for hearing, speaking and vocabulary (Syafiq et al., 2021).

The course is an activity that is carried out for a short time and is carried out outside school hours offline and online. In the past, there were courses, but there were no online courses because there were no internet or different gadgets from today, which have developed rapidly in technology (Nur Amalia Solikhah (Bina Sarana Informatika University), 2023). So, it is easier for us to find information about online courses quickly without searching in newspapers or magazines that are delivered in front of the house once a week. Online courses can be done anywhere and anytime according to the wishes of the course participants themselves for private courses. However, if you enter a course that is classified as having rules in it. So, from the participants adjust to the set course conditions hours from the place of the course. Online courses were increasingly used at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic which required all countries in the world to use via-during learning

(Almekhlafy, 2020). Various teachers around the world are thinking hard about how to keep teaching even at a distance. Parents play an important role here for them to accompany their children when learning at home and in courses.

Education is a learning process designed to provide knowledge, skills, and values from one generation to the next. It involves teaching and learning in a variety of environments, including schools, universities, homes, and communities. Education aims to prepare individuals to face the challenges of life, develop their full potential, and contribute to the progress of society. In addition, education also includes the development of social, emotional, and character aspects of individuals. Education can provide broad benefits, every individual and the community that learns it. Primary and secondary education is recommended for every color of country around the world, even better. When continuing a higher level of study, namely pursuing a college or university degree is a person's choice based on needs, career preferences, and abilities (UOTP MARKETING/ University of the Potomac, 2022).

The purpose of this study is to find out how students prepare for a better future after completing learning at senior high school. Where, according research (Arta, 2019) students improve their English speaking skills by taking courses online in pursuit of better Education, namely universities.

METHOD

Context and Participants

This research uses qualitative research methods as a process of significant new understanding of a result. This study identifies an approach that refers to the descriptive method, which describes the situation of someone carrying out online English course learning (Aspers & Corte, 2019). Popular online course programs. When there is a contagious disease that is covid-19 (Hamid et al., 2020). The learning process requires internal and external motivation to support success in carrying out their learning activities at home (Nadya & Pustika, 2021). Online learning at that time was only carried out when there was an urgent matter, the pandemic made a good situation an urgent situation (Ferri et al., 2020).

Learning online courses is not very time-consuming, more flexible, students can take advantage of this where nowadays everything is online without exception not only online courses but also from all information can be taken online. Online course learning can support one's education, (Sari & Wahyudin, 2019) one of them is by taking online English courses that can increase one's academic speaking skills.

Obtained information from 4 students who had attended online English courses to continue a better education (2 male students and 2 female students) were recruited as participants in this study. This author uses interview research and documentation, there is confirmation between participation and researcher, that they are willing to be interviewed without any compulsion in the interview request.

Data Sources and Analysis

We develop topics based on the questions the researcher addresses. A form of analysis that focuses, discards and organizes an interview data in such a way as to

be the final conclusion. In data reduction, focus on the relevant and reduce the irrelevant. Patterns found to answer questions from researchers. Participants' responses, a number of issues related to online English-speaking skills as a learning context in preparing for education, referred to motivations or goals and the influence of family support.

After that, displaying interview data to find themes by aligning all data based on the analysis, two themes emerged: (1) English speaking skills online as a learning context in preparing for education and (2) the effect of family support on the implementation of English online learning courses for education preparation.

We ensure the trust of participants to conduct the examination. Each participant was given a transcript of the interview conducted thoroughly to explain the interview data was appropriate. For data analysis, pattern coding and proposed meaning-making strategies.

Table. 1 Sample data analysis

Emergent Themes	Data	Sources
Online English-speaking skills to prepare for education	Improve English speaking skills in online course learning for student education preparation (the goal of the student). I think learning English courses online is very flexible, Not wasting time to go far to the place of offline courses (related reasons) Strive to learn English online to make it easier for us to get used to speaking academically in preparation for future education.	Semi-Structured interview
The influence of the family on the implementation of English online learning courses for pursuin education preparation	The influence of support from family is very important in carrying out this online course learning (support) positive things for students to gain extensive knowledge from learning media that can be accessed by students in deepening vocabulary understanding so that it can practiced with others (practical support) Getting used to academic speaking will help students be more	Semi-structured interview

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This research is designed to improve the implementation of students' academic speaking skills through online English learning courses for pursuing education preparation. Based on semi-structured interview data, two themes emerged, along with supporting data: (1) online English-speaking skills as a learning context in preparing for pursuing education and (2) the effect of family support on the implementation of English online learning courses for pursuing education preparation.

Online English-Speaking Skills to Education Preparation

The first theme that emerged from the interview data was online English-speaking skills as a learning context in preparing for education. Sub-themes of findings emerged from the analysis of interview data describing the implementation of English-speaking skills through online courses, such as: (1) improving speaking skills (2) speaking practice (3) the influence of encouragement in learning.

Student perception in online course learning

A person's perception in learning during is slightly lower compared to face-to-face. However, it does not rule out the possibility that learning during more can open opportunities for them to explore more knowledge related to Technology (Bali & Liu, 2018).

Tutor #1

"I got a new method of learning English, such as using Instagram through live streaming one of the online course learning (Student #1 In-depth Interview, 22 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #2

"It's exciting to take online classes and incidentally get mentors who are experienced and experts in their fields, the way of delivering material is very easy to understand and the class is active but relaxed. Lots of practice and interaction to be more enthusiastic about learning online (Student #2 In-depth Interview, 24 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #3

"I decided to take an online English course. Because, received in the English study program at the University of the Islamic Institute of the Holy State. Although there was a dislike for English, I ended up taking an online course for the first time because of this and in semester one, take two classes with different materials (Student #3 In-depth Interview, 25 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #4

"It's fun to take an online English course, many relationships, new people, being able to learn with people who like English even though they meet online, can hone my skills"

and get a kind mentor. Always interact When there is a class and how to improve new vocabulary (Student #4 In-depth Interview, 29 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Drawing on the interview data, it was found that students love online course learning. Since, it is more flexible in the time used, it is important to note that two emerging themes can be taken from the interview. Students can improve their English learning skills online.

Secondly, participants received positive encouragement from their families and surroundings in realizing their expectations for education preparation. Improve academic English speaking in preparation for participants' education. Student perception that English is a necessary skill in further learning. This explains that English is very important to face the future (Getie, 2020).

Comparison of Choosing Between Online and Offline

In a learning, everything is the same, it's just that what distinguishes it is the medium of delivery. Whatever the learning media will remain the same if it is not added with innovation and creativity from a person himself.

Tutor #1

"Online course learning is more flexible (student #1 In-depth Interview, 22 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #2

"For me, offline is usually more exciting. Because, at that time he had undergone design training and there were other dependents. So, if you take offline it also takes a long time, rarely there is also offline learning that is only a week. So, I decided to take online learning only while there is also an opportunity in the offline path (Student #2 In-depth Interview, 24 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #3

"I prefer online courses compared to offline courses because it is more flexible too, the distance between home and the course is quite far therefore I prefer online courses, not wasting much time too (Student #3 In-depth Interview, 25 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Speaker #4

"I have participated in English learning online and offline courses. I attended offline learning courses for nine months; the place is not far from my home. After graduating from high school, I took an online course to fill in the time gaps when I wanted to enter university. Honing what skills, I have learned when the English course is offline. Online English course learning is more flexible, there is no need to come to the course directly and make friends outside the region, even outside the country even though it can be online (Student #4 In-depth Interview, 29 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Students prefer to take online courses, to allow students to easily learn lessons at the same time and can shorten the time without the need to leave the house to follow the course learning hard. Can be done and anytime according to what we choose when registering in the course. However, many also prefer offline courses

compared to online, according to him, it is easier to understand what is delivered by the course teacher.

Motivation or Purpose

The motivation for changing their attitude towards learning English is that students prefer more interesting teaching than monotonous classroom learning. This learning is needed to support the realization of a better education (Manalu, 2014). The existence of motivation and goals from oneself results in the cessation of one's learning. So, the goal to start something is necessary for self-spirit.

Tutor #1

"I improved or honed my English skills even without any effort (student #1 In-depth Interview, 22 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #2

"The basic and main motivation is to want to learn English and other motivations, to complete the muraqaba preparation data. Because the TOEFL certificate is missing. So, the initiative to take an online English course. Maybe on the other hand we can have a career requiring English by having English skills we can try it (Student #2 In-depth Interview, 24 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #3

"My goal or motivation for participating in online courses is to increase my language skills. Because, do not have enough knowledge of the material to be studied in English class lectures. Although the course material is different from campus material. At least there is an addition to my knowledge of English (Student #3 In depth Interview, 25 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #4

My goal or motivation for taking an English online course is to fill the gap during semester breaks. Then hone my English skills, and in order to maintain my knowledge of English (Student #4 In-depth Interview, 29 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Motivations or goals differ from one and another. One of them has a goal in participating in learning English online courses, the first, to hone speaking skills that have previously followed course offline. Secondly, there are those who want to take TOEFL so they have to take courses first and many more.

The Influence of the Family on the Implementation of English Online Learning Courses for Education Preparation

The Impact of Support for Online Courses

Doing something has encouragement from one self and from the family. There is nothing that can be done if there is no encouragement from anyone, even from oneself, there must be.

Tutor #1

"There is no encouragement from anyone, all from one's own intention to expand knowledge in English (student #1 In-depth Interview, 22 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #2

"Everything is self-initiative, self-evaluation to do something we want. Increase knowledge and learn what we don't have now, improve skills we don't have, and master what we don't get. If it supports for the future, just education on it. For support from family is almost non-existent, there is no compulsion in doing things, run according to their own ability and the family directs more to the business world (Student #2 In-depth Interview, 24 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #3

"The desire of myself to take this online course is so that the learning I do during the semester holidays will be more effective because there is special assistance from mentors and more valid material. There is from family support, taking online courses is a positive thing. From the family also did not impose their will on me (Student #3 In-depth Interview, 25 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #4

"My own desire to take an online course, as well as my family supported my decision (Student #4 In-depth Interview, 29 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

The encouragement of someone who has an influence on others and themselves, the spirit of learning is needed to remain in everyone's heart. There is encouragement from parents who always want the best good for their children. The best support system is yourself, not someone else.

Benefits

Students by taking online courses, have the advantage of developing academic speaking skills in English.

Tutor #1

"Extensive knowledge, always remembering or always trying to remember at least one or two vocabulary words, encourages me to speak English even if it's just a word or two (student #1 In-depth Interview, 22 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #2

"The benefits of online courses, better known the structure of sentences in English, ranging from: verbs, nouns and plurals as well as those where the addition of e or es. For everyday it is more practical when enabling the design application of the machine using English (Student #2 In-depth Interview, 24 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #3

"The special benefit of this learning is in facilitating my speaking even though it is not as smooth as other friends. and can interact with people we don't know by using

English. Training pronunciation is better given direction that is more experienced in speaking and from there we can improve (Student #3 In-depth Interview, 25 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #4

"The benefit is, meeting new friends outside the area, my English is better. Because, in the online English course I learned speaking conversation with my course friends (Student #4 In-depth Interview, 29 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Benefits in learning English, can facilitate English speech, can improve it, meet many friends outside the region who are more fluent in understanding speaking exchange ideas about English. benefits are not only obtained by people who learn but also people who teach English.

Follow-up

After the online course learning is done, the application is done of what we get from the online course.

Tutor #1

"Recommend to friends who have the intention to add knowledge outside of lectures, or practice with friends (student #1 In-depth Interview, 22 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #2

"Further developing and practicing the material that has been obtained, every meeting must be a conversation in English with his mentor. Learning with a short time is like pretending learning for me, learning time is very less. There was a plan for pare (English village) but was constrained by the education of fear of untidy. Still want to develop English skills more deeply (Student #2 In-depth Interview, 24 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #3

"I want to go to an offline course. But, constrained by the time of college, the planning is also because you can come to the course place during the semester vacation or not next semester. If there is insufficient time, it is also possible to take online courses again during semester breaks (Student #3 In-depth Interview, 25 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #4

"What I will do in the future is continue the online course again. There are several levels in the course. So, I will continue learning online courses (Student #4 In-depth Interview, 29 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Actions taken by someone after having a lot of knowledge and knowledge, will give or apply knowledge to others by recommending the place of the course or by studying together. There are also those who apply their knowledge directly with the

operation of graphic design. Whatever everyone does in applying their important knowledge is beneficial to Others.

Result of the implementation of online courses

The result of the implementation can be applied to yourself and other.

Tutor #1

"Yes, if you really mean to consistently learn online every day (Student #1 In-depth Interview, 22 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #2

"The results I get, have not been able to deliver until a career if calculated by only 5% percent. Moreover, the education I am now in the field of design is very different from the training I attended (online courses), before entering education I had participated in English training to apply for education as office legality staff. In office legality education, this is not only about communication but also about legality or constitutional law. So, this is required to be able to speak English. Besides, we are tasked with having the authority to be responsible for the law in the office (Student #2 In-depth Interview, 24 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #3

"It can't be said yet to be in line with what I expected. Because, I went to the wrong course class. Other friends are already fluent in speaking, learning with people with more experience, we get a lot of knowledge from them (Student #3 In-depth Interview, 25 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Tutor #4

"Of course, I get the results of the English course which is enough to improve my English-speaking skills for my education preparation (Student #4 In-depth Interview, 29 November 2023, Researcher translation)."

Students get results after taking English lessons online, in order to prepare for a better education. Universities need young people who have good skills after graduating from senior high school. Therefore, students who complete online learning can continue their education better.

CONCLUSION

We know that the limitations of the study in terms of focus group discussion or observation. This study collected some interview data with four students who had attended an online English course. This is done to improve English speaking skills in support of success in continuing better education. The results of the data obtained regarding students who have taken English courses can help improve the ability to communicate effectively. Learning English courses, one of which makes it easier for students to pursue a better education at university.

REFERENCE

- Almekhlafy, S. S. A. (2020). Online learning of English language courses via blackboard at Saudi universities in the era of COVID-19: perception and use. *PSU Research Review*, 5(1), 16–32. <https://doi.org/10.1108/PRR-08-2020-0026>
- Arta, B. (2019). Multiple Studies: The Influence of Collaborative Learning Approach on Indonesian Secondary High School Students' English-Speaking Skills. *English Language Teaching Educational Journal*, 1(3), 149. <https://doi.org/10.12928/eltej.v1i3.143>
- Aspers, P., & Corte, U. (2019). What is Qualitative in Qualitative Research. *Qualitative Sociology*, 42(2), 139–160. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11133-019-9413-7>
- Bali, S., & Liu, M. C. (2018). Students' perceptions toward online learning and face-to-face learning courses. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 1108(1). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/1108/1/012094>
- Bastianelli, E., Vanzo, A., Swietojanski, P., & Rieser, V. (2020). SLURP: A spoken language understanding resource package. *EMNLP 2020 - 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, Proceedings of the Conference*, 7252–7262. <https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2020.emnlp-main.588>
- Ferri, F., Grifoni, P., & Guzzo, T. (2020). Online learning and emergency remote teaching: Opportunities and challenges in emergency situations. *Societies*, 10(4), 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc10040086>
- Getie, A. S. (2020). Factors affecting the attitudes of students towards learning English as a foreign language. *Cogent Education*, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/2331186X.2020.1738184>
- Hamid, R., SENTRYO, I., & Hasan, S. (2020). Online learning and its problems in the Covid-19 emergency period. *Jurnal Prima Edukasia*, 8(1), 86–95. <https://doi.org/10.21831/jpe.v8i1.32165>
- Hwang, J. K., Mancilla-Martinez, J., McClain, J. B., Oh, M. H., & Flores, I. (2020). Spanish-speaking English learners' English language and literacy skills: The predictive role of conceptually scored vocabulary. *Applied Psycholinguistics*, 41(1), 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0142716419000365>
- Manalu, S. A. (2014). The Relationship among Motivation, Attitudes, and Learning Achievement of English as a Foreign Language at Del Institute of Technology. *Proceedings of ISELT FBS Universitas Negeri Padang*, 2(0), 379. <http://ejournal.unp.ac.id/index.php/selt/article/view/6730>
- Mathur, M., & Mahapatra, S. (2022). Impact of ePortfolio Assessment as an Instructional Strategy on Students' Academic Speaking Skills: An Experimental Study. *Call-Ej*, 23(3), 1–23.
- Nadya, Z., & Pustika, R. (2021). the Importance of Family Motivation for Student To Study Online During the Covid-19. *Journal of English Language Teaching and Learning*, 2(2), 86–89. <https://doi.org/10.33365/jeltl.v2i2.1214>
- NELSON, K. (1990). Language Development in Context. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 583(1), 93–108. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-6632.1990.tb12187.x>

- Nur Amalia Solikhah (Bina Sarana Informatika University). (2023). No Title. *Journal Corner of Education, Linguistics, and Literature*, 3 No. 1, 91. <https://repository.bsi.ac.id/repo/files/369560/download/Jurnal-Genap-22:23.pdf>
- Oktavia, D., & Lestari, R. (2022). Students' Perception on Learning Speaking English by Using English Domino Games: The Case of a Private University. *Indonesian Research Journal in Education [IRJE]*, 6(1), 28–42. <https://doi.org/10.22437/irje.v6i1.15327>
- Sari, F. M., & Wahyudin, A. Y. (2019). Undergraduate Students' Perceptions Toward Blended Learning through Instagram in English for Business Class. *International Journal of Language Education*. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1244402>
- Syafiq, A. N., Rahmawati, A., Anwari, A., & Oktaviana, T. (2021). Increasing Speaking Skill through YouTube Video as English Learning Material during Online Learning in Pandemic Covid-19. *Elsya : Journal of English Language Studies*, 3(1), 50–55. <https://doi.org/10.31849/elsya.v3i1.6206>
- UOTP MARKETING/ University of the Potomac. (2022). *No Title 15 Benefits of Education that Can Impact Your future*. Academic Advice. <https://potomac.edu/benefits-of-education/>
- Vacide Erdoğan. (2019). Integrating 4C Skills of 21st Century into 4 Language Skills in EFL Classes. *International Journal of Education and Research*, 7(11), 113–127. www.ijern.com
- Wilson, J., Fang, C., Rollins, J., & Valadez, D. (2016). An urgent challenge: Enhancing academic speaking opportunities for English learners. *Multicultural Education*, 23(2), 52–54.