



Student Perception Toward The Function of Grammar in Speaking

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Article history: Received Revised Accepted	Grammar plays a crucial role in enhancing speaking ability by providing a structural framework that ensures clear, logical, and organized communication. Mastery of grammar helps speakers construct grammatically correct sentences, thereby reducing ambiguity and improving overall fluency. This study aims to explore students' perspectives on the function of grammar in English-speaking proficiency, particularly among students in the English Language Education study program. A qualitative research method was employed, with data collected through structured interviews. The sample consisted of 20 students enrolled in the program. The findings indicate that the majority of students perceive grammar as essential in speaking, as it helps them avoid misunderstandings, build credibility as speakers, and boost their confidence. Overall, the study highlights the importance of grammar in effective communication, suggesting that a balanced approach to grammar instruction is necessary for developing both accuracy and fluency.
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INTRODUCTION

In an increasingly complex era of globalization, speaking skills are one of the important aspects that every individual must have, especially for students. The definition of speaking itself is one of the skills or abilities in English to express opinions, comment on, and reject other people's opinions if they do not match our opinions, as well as the ability to ask and answer these questions. However, one of the challenges or problems in speaking is the use of grammar by students who do not understand the rules of its use, this is one of the causes of students lacking confidence when speaking.

On the other hand, grammar is a procedure or rule regarding the arrangement of words as a builder of perfect sentences. In learning Indonesian, grammar is a procedure for forming sentences (subject-predicate-object-adverb), likewise grammar in English is used to perfect the arrangement of words into correct sentences. Grammar is a series of arrangements that are arranged completely, so that they can function to place sentences, words, or phrases in the correct order. Language is used on the basis of grammar, so that clauses and sentences are formed correctly so that the language is easily conveyed. This is in accordance with what was conveyed by (Mabaroh, Pusparini 2018) that grammar is a very important part to learn because it can avoid mistakes in communication. By using the right grammar, the sentences or paragraphs produced will be arranged clearly and systematically.

Most students have realized the importance of using grammar in speaking English. The main focus of learning grammar is mastering tenses which play an important role in oral and written communication. students realize the benefits of mastering grammar, such as making it easier to write scientific papers, preparing for English exams (TOEFL). However, there are also those who have a negative view of the difficulty and boredom in learning grammar, but they are ready to learn from various media. According to them, learning grammar in the future is the key to competing in the global world. In the era of globalization, mastery of English is recognized as an important need in various contexts (Murti, 2024). In addition, students believe that basic grammar in this case is important as their starting point if they want to be able to speak. They also believe that it would be very bad if they spoke English with the wrong grammar. Students also mentioned that pronunciation problems, self-confidence, and fear of being criticized by the audience were what hindered them in speaking English. (Wariyati, 2020).

Based on the explanation above, the researcher wanted to know the students' perceptions of the function of grammar in speaking, as well as the right handling to implement grammar learning in the classroom to make it more enjoyable and easier for students to understand.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach to explore students' perspectives on the function of grammar in speaking skills. This approach was chosen because it provides an opportunity to understand students' subjective views, experiences, and perceptions regarding the role of grammar in their oral communication. With this approach, researchers can dig deeper into how students view the importance of grammar in speaking. Participants in this study were 20 students from the English Language Education study program at Muhammadiyah University of Makassar. The main data in this study were collected through in-depth interviews using semi-structured interviews. Interview questions were designed to explore students' views on the importance of grammar in speaking, interviews were conducted face-to-face or through an online platform according to the convenience of the participants and these interviews were recorded with permission from the participants and then transcribed for further analysis. Data obtained from the interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis, where researchers identified the main themes that emerged from students' views on the function of grammar in speaking. These themes were grouped based on categories relevant to the objectives of the study, such as the influence of grammar on speaking fluency, self-confidence, and audience perceptions of credibility.

FINDINGS

This study revealed that views on the importance of grammar in speaking ability vary widely among language learners. Some argue that grammar is very important. However, there are also those who say that grammar is not very important especially in speaking, the study shows several perspectives as follows:

1. Avoid misunderstanding

Grammar is very important in oral communication because it can help ensure that the message is clear and easy to understand. Without the use of proper grammar, sentences can become confusing, which ultimately leads to misunderstandings. By following the correct grammar rules, we can structure sentences logically, so that the other person can better understand our intentions. Therefore, although fluency is also important, understanding and using grammar well helps people understand what we mean in conversation. comments from students 4;

It is important because grammar is a way of arranging words. If someone's grammar is not correct, they will not be understood.

Besides that there is also a view from student 3;

In my opinion, it is important because if the grammar is not good, then your speaking will not be good either. In addition, if the grammar is irregular, our pronunciation will also be affected or we can say it will not be in accordance with our explanation.

2. Build credibility

Grammar plays a crucial role in building credibility because it shows a person's ability to communicate professionally and in an organized manner. The use of proper grammar reflects attention to detail and a good understanding of the language, thus making the listener more confident in the message being conveyed. In formal contexts, such as business presentations or writing documents, correct grammar conveys the impression of competence and confidence, whereas grammatical errors can reduce credibility, even if the actual content of the message is of high quality. Including opinion expressed by student 9;

For me, using proper grammar is crucial to show our professionalism as a speaker. When we speak with proper grammar, the message we convey automatically becomes clearer and shows that we pay attention to details in communicating. (Especially in formal situations).

3. Increase confidence

grammar serves to facilitate the delivery of messages, because by using the right sentence structure, we can express ideas regularly and clearly. In addition, proper grammar allows us to connect sentences and ideas smoothly, making communication more effective and efficient.. In accordance with the views given by student 18;

when we can use appropriate grammar, we can be more confident in speaking

DISCUSSION

Students acknowledge that grammar plays a significant role in improving their speaking quality, especially to ensure that the message delivered can be understood clearly and accurately. By using proper grammar, they feel more confident when speaking in formal and informal situations, because they can avoid misunderstandings that may arise. This acknowledgement is based on the fact that grammar not only supports smooth communication, but also reflects their ability and credibility in the

eyes of the listener. This shows that grammar is an essential element in communication that cannot be ignored. Here are students' views on the use of grammar in speaking English.

The students consider that the use of proper grammar is very helpful in avoiding misunderstandings when speaking. The correct grammatical structure allows the message to be conveyed clearly and in accordance with the speaker's intent. This minimizes misinterpretation by the interlocutor. Murti, et. al. (2024) suggests that understanding grammar, particularly tenses, enables students to convey information accurately regarding the sequence of events or circumstances, so that communication becomes more effective and avoids misunderstandings.

Students consider that grammar mastery is very important to build credibility in speaking. In formal situations, such as academic presentations or job interviews, the use of proper grammar reflects good and professional communication skills. Students realize that speaking with correct grammar can increase their confidence and give a positive impression to the listener. This statement is supported by Belqisyyah, et. al. (2024) shows that students who master the use of formal language with correct grammatical structures are often considered more trustworthy and have a good reputation, especially in academic and professional settings. This ability gives the impression of competence and professionalism that can increase the audience's perception of their credibility.

Students realize that good grammar mastery can increase their confidence when speaking. By understanding grammar rules, they feel more confident in constructing clear and precise sentences, so they are not afraid of making mistakes that can disrupt the flow of conversation. Grammar mastery allows students to speak more fluently, demonstrate good communication skills, and reduce the anxiety that often arises when speaking in public. according to the results of research from Mardatillah, (2024) revealed that self-confidence has a significant influence on a person's speaking ability. Individuals who have high self-confidence tend to be more able to convey their ideas clearly, fluently, and convincingly. This shows that self-confidence can be a major supporting factor in improving speaking skills effectively, both in formal and informal situations.

CONCLUSION

In English, there are rules that must be understood well to speak effectively, students agree that grammar is the main element in speaking English. They believe that a strong understanding of grammar provides a solid foundation for constructing correct and easy-to-understand sentences. With the right grammar, they feel more confident and can communicate more

effectively. Some students perspectives on the function of grammar in speaking; the first Avoid misunderstanding, good grammar mastery ensures that the message delivered can be clearly understood by the listener. Correct sentence structure helps convey the intent accurately, thus reducing the risk of misinterpretation or confusion. In verbal communication, grammatical errors can lead to different meanings, which ultimately disrupt the flow of discussion or conversation. The second is build credibility, good grammar reflects a person's professionalism and language skills. When someone speaks with correct grammar, listeners will have more confidence in their competence and knowledge. In formal settings such as presentations, interviews, or academic discussions, proper grammar usage is an indicator of credibility that increases the trust of the audience. The third is increase confidence, Mastering grammar gives speakers confidence because they know that what they are saying is linguistically correct. When someone is confident in the grammar they are using, they are more comfortable speaking in front of others. This allows them to focus on getting their message across without worrying about making mistakes that could reduce their confidence.

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