



## **MOTIVATING STUDENTS OF VOCATIONAL SENIOR SCHOOL MUHAMMADIYAH 1 PALU FOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPING EFL SKILLS**

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### **ABSTRAK**

Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat ini bertujuan untuk memotivasi para siswa Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan Muhammadiyah 1 Palu untuk mempelajari dan mengembangkan keterampilan bahasa Inggris. Sasaran spesifiknya adalah untuk memampukan mereka untuk berkomunikasi dalam BIBA (Bahasa Inggris sebagai Bahasa Asing). Pengabdian itu dilaksanakan dengan menggunakan Metode Deskriptif sedangkan tujuan itu dicapai dengan menerapkan Metode Komunikatif. Mereka dengan mudah berinteraksi dengan masyarakat internasional, memahami budaya-budaya internasional, dan membaca referensi-referensi dalam bahasa asing itu jika mereka memiliki keterampilannya. Para siswa itu tidak mampu mengungkapkan kalimat-kalimat bahasa Inggris bahkan kata-kata namun setelah dimotivasi mereka mempunyai semangat untuk mempelajari dan mengembangkan bahasa global itu sehingga mereka bisa mengekspresikan kosakata dan kalimat-kalimatnya walaupun kata-kata terbatas dan kalimat-kalimat sederhana. Mereka dalam hal ini dapat diakui sebagai siswa internasional/global.

**Katakunci: Memotivasi; Mempelajari; Mengembangkan; BIBA; Keterampilan**

### **ABSTRACT**

This society service aimed at motivating students of Vocational Senior School Muhammadiyah 1 Palu to learn and develop English language skills. Its specific target was to enable them to communicate in EFL (English as a Foreign Language). The service was carried out by using Descriptive Method whereas the objective was reached by applying Communicative Method. They would easily interact with international people, comprehend international cultures, and read references in the foreign language if they have its skills. The students were not able to express English sentences even words but after being motivated they have spirits to learn and develop the global language so that they can express its vocabulary and sentences even though limited words and simple sentences. They in this matter can be acknowledged as international/global students.

**Keywords: Motivating; Learning; Developing; EFL; Skill**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Motivating is done to give someone spirit to do something like learning and developing EFL (English as a Foreign Language). English language in Indonesia

is learnt formally from secondary level up to tertiary one. It is a government policy to enable learners to communicate in English. "As an international language, English has a vital role in a variety of

purposes and activities. Based upon this reason, English has become mandatory subject at secondary schools to universities in Indonesia. The target of English teaching at schools and universities in Indonesia is to achieve English language communicative competence.” (Said & Weda, 2018). The vocabulary achievement of learners can also be explained with regards to the relationship between oral input and comprehension. (Ahmadian & Tajabadi, 2017). The learners are intended to be able to exchange information about anything needed internationally.

Students of Vocational Senior School Muhammadiyah 1 Palu Central Sulawesi are intended to develop their English skills divided into Productive Skills (Speaking and Writing) and Receptive Skills (Listening and Reading). Those skills can be integrated to be Integrated Language Skills. This society service aimed at motivating them to develop the language skills. Its specific target was the students have motivation to develop their EFL skills in order to be able to communicate (to express thoughts and feelings to others) in English language. Therefore, the students are necessarily motivated by professional human resources.

Learning is acquiring new knowledge consciously by using a language. Evaluation may be applied to assess the new knowledge put into mind to be realized on behaviour. Human mind, behaviour, and language are some materials of Psycholinguistics. “Psycholinguistics explores the relationship between the human mind and language.” (Field, 2006). Language learning and evaluation are common categories of applied linguistics (Suwanarak, 2018). Those can be combined to motivate learners to do activities for having a language skill.

Developing can be defined as a process of making something better than

before. It can be done by both teacher and student in process of teaching and learning the English language. Developing carried out by teacher is teaching whereas developing carried out by learner is learning. Both the teaching and learning are influenced each other since the teacher and student interact reciprocally.

EFL skills are necessarily had by Vocational Senior School students. They hopefully can interact with other nations having different national language, comprehend international cultures, and read references in the international language. If they have the English language skills, so it is easy for them to understand and express intentions in the international language. They can be excellent human resources in global era. Communicative method is appropriately applied to enable them to communicate in the global language.

Some problems faced by the students of Vocational Senior School Muhammadiyah 1 Palu have to be solved. Generally they have studied English language since they were in junior high school. They should be able to communicate in it to express their knowledge in the EFL, but in fact they mostly had not been able to do it yet since they had lack of vocabulary. “The low quality of English teaching in Indonesia is influenced by many factors, like lack of classroom and teaching facilities, students’ lack of motivation, and other influential factors.” (Dollah & Weda, 2018). They should be motivated well to learn and develop the EFL skills in order to be able to communicate in the global language. This problem can be solved by answering the following question: How can the students be motivated to learn and develop the EFL skills? Therefore, this society service activity was carried out entitled: Motivating Students of Vocational Senior School Muhammadiyah 1 Palu for

### Learning and Developing EFL Skills.

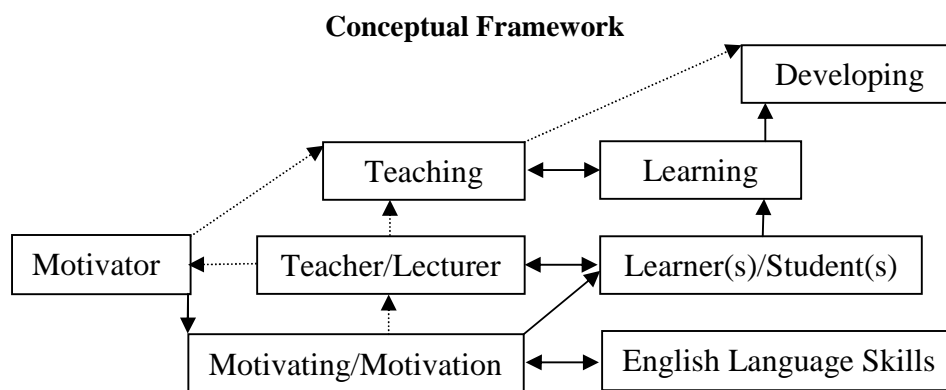
This society service activity has target to enable the students to communicate in English language. They hopefully have good English performance. Keizer (2015) expresses “performance: a Speaker’s actual use of language in a concrete situation.” Performance is a skill (psychomotoric ability) (Said & Rita, 2017). English should be used as much as possible in English lessons, as English proficiency is the main objective of English teaching and learning (Manalastas & Batang, 2018). The main target of this activity was English language skill for the Vocational Senior School students.

Students’ spirits for learning EFL have to be increased through motivation and they hopefully then improve knowledge/attitudes for developing language skills/behaviours. Harmer (2015) states that students’ attitudes are influenced by a number of people and places. Motivation is not the sole responsibility of the teacher (Harmer, 2015). A language skill is a way in which language is used (Thornbury, 2006). Human resources and natural ones influence learner’s motivation in developing their language skills. Language skill is a psychomotor ability in understanding and using a tool of communication in words and/or sentences to express thought and feeling. The students are motivated to have good

attitudes and behaviours to practice and develop their EFL skill in real life.

Besides EIL (English as an Internasional Language), status of English in Indonesia is a foreign language called EFL (English as a Foreign Language). It is needed by students and human resources. Said (2020) describes “Globally English is an international language. Besides currently it is a foreign language in Indonesia. It is learnt formally in primary, secondary, and tertiary levels and nonformally in some nonformal institutions. In fact, Indonesian learners either formal learners or nonformal ones need it even though they are not interested in it.” English may be an international language in the sense that it is used as a means of global communication between different nations (Abdul Aziz, 2017). Significance of the English language in this matter is necessarily known by educational communities.

Educational communities like teacher and lecturer currently have to know how to process information and use technology. “The current world involves the use of information and technology in almost any individual’s life. Lecturers have to learn and adapt themselves to a digital world where there are a wide range of sources and online tools and software technologies.” (Ganapathy, Mehar Singh, Kaur, & Kit, 2017). Those can be used in motivating students to learn and develop the EFL skills.



Developing is done through Teaching and Learning. The former is carried out by Teacher/Lecturer whereas the latter by Learner(s)/Student(s). They interact reciprocally and influence each other. Motivating is encoded by Motivator to enable them to have English Language Skill. They decode Motivation to learn EFL (English as a Foreign Language) effectively and efficiently.

### **METHOD**

This society service was carried out by using Descriptive Method. We as a team of lecturers from Tadulako University motivated students descriptively. We interact with them naturally. It was to enable the students to develop their English language skill. It was done at

Vocational Senior School Muhammadiyah 1 Palu which is currently an excellent private vocational school having building in Palu City Central Sulawesi. It was realized directly by motivating the students in a Hall of the school to develop their EFL skills. The objective was reached by using Communicative Method. Its principles are obtained through references which can be constantly supplemented.

The school principal has committed to facilitate us. He asked the students to come in the hall for listening to us who motivated them to develop their English skills. He gave his staff authority to prepare the hall for being used. The activities were realized twice (two days) in two semesters in 2018.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Day I: Monday, 30 July 2018





Day II: Tuesday, 28 August 2018



Session I on Monday, 30 July 2018 was preceded by meeting the School Principle to prepare all needed in the service activity. We as a team and his staff came to the school hall containing 100 students (as the Attendance List). As lecturers from Tadulako University we interacted with the students by using EFL (English as a Foreign Language) and Indonesian. The students were motivated to learn and develop EFL skills in order to be winners in global era and good future

human resources. At that moment, they were ashamed to express their English words/sentences even though they also understood the English ones expressed by the team. They kept silent; only sometimes they spoke Indonesian. They listened to the motivation explained by the lecturers carefully so that they had seemly spirits and were motivated to learn and develop the global language skills.

Result of the First Meeting make the students have motivation to learn and



develop EFL skills positively. They interacted with their friends and team assistants (students involved in the society service) to follow up the motivation and knowledge. Session II (Second Meeting) on Tuesday, 28 August 2018 was attended by 78 students (as the Attendance List). They had spirits more than before and have been able to greet the team/lecturers spontaneously by using English words and sentences, like mister, hello, yes, good morning, Sir. How are you? I am fine, thank you. They then were more selfconfident than the first day and dared to interact in the EFL.

### CONCLUSIONS

Students can be motivated to learn and develop EFL skills by informing them status and importance of the English language. They were naturally ashamed and unconfident to communicate in it since they had not been motivated well yet. They can use the EFL (English as a Foreign Language) after comprehending significance of the internasional language for their future. They have been motivated after being directed to have selfconfidence for learning and developing skills of the global language which must be had by them who keep spirits constantly to win global competition.

### SUGGESTIONS

The school principal should motivate teachers to motivate students regularly to learn English language effectively and efficiently. Motivating the students formally is hopefully done continuously for at least once a semester to enable them to develop their EFL skills.

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English teachers have to constantly carry English Meetings to involve the students for practicing the international language weekly or monthly. Next society service is to deal with increasing English vocabulary to develop the global language skills practically.

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