

A STUDY OF STUDENTS' PROBLEMS IN GROUP DISCUSSION AT NURSING ENGLISH CLASS OF UNIVERSITY SUMATERA BARAT

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Abstract: The research analyzed the students' problem in group discussion section at nursing English class. The descriptive method was applied to gain the data of the problems faced by the students. The study conducted in nursing English class of University Sumatera Barat. Total sampling technique used in getting the data of the study. There were 32 students in the class and all of them were taken as the respondents. The data of the research were collected through the questionnaire. The researcher took the data directly after the group discussion section finished. The students answered the questions based on the problems that they had in the group discussion section and then the data is classified based on the existence of the problems. From the questionnaire, there were four major problems encountered by the students in group discussion sections. There were (1). Unconfident to speak because afraid of making mistake, (2). Hesitation in delivering ideas and opinions, (3) Lack of vocabularies and word choices (4). Incapability to understand the topic or theme of the discussion.

Keywords: Problems, Group Discussion, Nursing English

A. Introduction

Nursing English is one of the compulsory subjects that should be taken by the nursing students during their study in the university. At University Sumatera Barat, this major delivered to them on the seventh semester. The class runs for about sixteen meetings includes mid and final exams. Teaching English for Nursing class or ESP, English for specific purpose, which the aim is to facilitate the students with the appropriate knowledge and skill in English on medical field. Robinson (1990) stated that ESP is a goal-oriented learning and developed by using need analysis. This concept seeks to specialize and bring learners closer to their academic and professional fields.

To elevate the students ability in English, the learning and teaching English classroom are designed in some activities, the activities combines the English language skills integratedly such as speaking, reading, listening and writing. One of the activities is group discussion, through this activity the students are prepared to express their opinion and practice their speaking ability. The main focus of group discussion is giving the students chances to express their thoughts based on the topic given and enhance their speaking through interaction during the discussion. Rosadi et al. (2020) states that group discussion is an activity that can improve students ability in speaking through interaction.

The implementation of group discussion in Nursing English class is focus on helping the students to master their speaking ability through the interaction. The students are divided into group consists of three or four students. Each group delivered one topic that given to them. Next, the group presented the topic in front of the class and followed by the discussion section. On the discussion section all students or members of the class are allowed to give comments or contributions to the presenter. By engaging in the discussion, the students indirectly practice their speaking abilities through participation in giving suggestion or questions.

Although, the group discussion is intended to foster the students interactions, the implementation of this activity in the classroom is still far away to achieve the outcome. Lack of students participation in speaking or during the group discussion are the main problems to overcome. The same phenomena also occur in Nursing English class of

University Sumatera Barat. Based on that, the researcher interested on analyzing the main problems encountered by the students during the group discussion.

B.The Research Method

The research applied the descriptive method to explain the phenomena or the problems appear in the group discussion section of the Nursing English students. Gay (2000) states that the application of the descriptive method is intended to analyze and explain the way things are and collect the data to investigate some phenomena. So, using this method, the researchers collected the data of the problems faced by the students in group discussion of nursing English students of University Sumatera Barat.

In getting the data of the students' problems at group discussion, the total sampling technique was used as the sampling method. All the students of the class were taken as the respondents of the data. Sekaran and Bougie (2013) writes that total sampling technique is a type of sampling that taken the entire population as the sample based on the same particular characteristics. In this study, the total amount of population consists of 32 students, and all of them were taken the same courses and classes so that they were regarded have had the same capabilities in English.

The data of this research were taken using a questionnaire. The students were given a questionnaire directly after the group discussion finished. The questionnaire given to them to find out the problems that they had during the group discussion. After that, the students answered were classified based on the formula developed by Arikunto (2002).

$$P = M/N \times 100\%$$

Where :

P = Percentage.

M = The student' problems

N = The populations

The classification and percentage of each problem was formulated and showed in the form of chart to simplify the occurrence of the problems that faced by the students in speaking during the entire group discussion.

C.Discussion

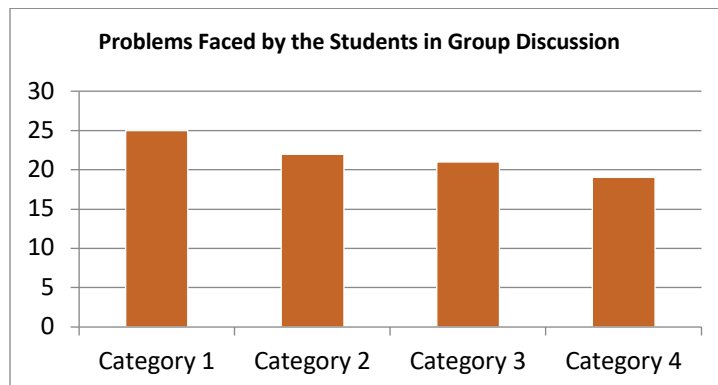
The problems appeared on the group discussion at nursing English class of University Sumatera Barat were classified from the highest to the lowest. There were four major problems faced by the students in group discussion of nursing English class. The problems namely; (1). Unconfident to speak because afraid of making mistake, (2). Hesitation in delivering ideas and opinions. (3) Lack of vocabularies and word choices (4). Incapability to understand the topic or theme of the discussion.

Unconfident to speaking because afraid of making mistake in delivering ideas or opinion became the first problem faced by the students, about 25 students or 78 % of the students admitted to experienced such problem. It was the reason of their silent during the interaction section of the group discussion. Actually, they had idea to express but they did not express it because afraid of mistake in speaking.

The next problem was hesitation in delivering ideas and opinion, 22 or 69% of the students admitted that they were not sure or hesitate in participating on the group discussion. They felt uncertain to express their ideas and finally just keep silent during the discussion. Actually, they understood the topic and had some ideas about the topic but their hesitation blocked them to express and participate during the discussion.

Vocabularies become the third problem encountered by the students, about 21 students or 66% of them cannot participate in the discussion because they could not find the right words due to the limitation of the vocabulary they have had. They remained as the listener of the discussion without taking part as an active speaker throughout the discussion section.

The last problem that the students' faced in group discussion was the incapability of the student to understand the topic or theme of the discussion. They were 19 students or 59% of them found that they could not understand the topic or theme being discussed. They had no idea to share because the topic not familiar to them and they would not ask any questions or gave comments based on the topic. They chose to sit down and just listened to the presenter or others without taking part as an active participant. All of the problem faced by the students were presented in the following Chart.



Explanation:

1. Category 1 : Unconfident to speak because afraid of making mistake
2. Category 2 : Hesitation in delivering ideas and opinions
3. Category 3 : Lack of vocabularies and word choices
4. Category 4 : Incapability to understand the topic or theme

D.Conclusion

The conclusion of the problem faced by the students in group discussion can be divided into two main problems namely language knowledge and psychology. The language knowledge include the lack of vocabulary or choice of words and incapability to understand the topic or theme of the discussion. Psychological aspect consist of unconfident to speak and hesitation in delivering ideas or opinion. To improve students engagement in group discussion, the best solution should be found to overcome that problems. One of the possible solution is encouraging them to speak freely in the classroom.

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