

Students' Speaking Ability Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School Kupang through Public Speaking Training

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ABSTRACT

In this modern era, every individual needs to continue develop themselves by increasing their abilities so that they can become quality individuals, be able to adapt and to compete with other people. One way to be done is by improving public speaking. This training aims to improve the public speaking skills of students at Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School Kupang. The trainer in this training uses a lecture method completed by slides presentation to provide materials related to the basics of public speaking. Besides, this activity is also conducted with skills training, initial tests, discussions and final tests on public speaking. The aim is that all training participants will not only understand all the theories they have learned, but can directly practice it. The results of the training showed that at the beginning of the training activities, the students at Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School Kupang on the average did not fully know the theory and practice related to the basics of public speaking. This can be seen when they are asked questions about the meaning of public speaking, history, scope, methods, benefits, objectives, functions, improving skills and the urgency in conveying messages in front of an audience. Generally they cannot answer these questions. Apart from that, the average of participants were not able to practice it. The evidence was when they carried out an initial simulation regarding how to do public speaking appropriately in front of an audience. After the discussion, it was indicated that in the second simulation or final test the participants did not only understand , but also has the ability to practice public speaking before an audience.

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INTRODUCTION

In today's fast-paced and highly competitive modern era, every individual needs to continue to develop themselves so that they can adapt to various changes, be able to compete in achieving goals and win the competition. What you can do is to sharpen your soft skills and hard skills, so you can compete and win the competition. A soft skill that needs to be developed in the modern era is public speaking.

According to Fitriana Utami Dewi (Taufik 2022), as communication beings who continuously interact with others, every individual really needs public speaking. Based on a study by Girsang (2018), etymologically, public speaking consists of "public" which means to whom we will speak; and "speaking" which is related to how to convey it. This means that public speaking is related to the ability to speak by making language known in front of many people.

Mulono Apriyanto (2021) states that public speaking is the ability to communicate in public professionally and systematically both in communication between two parties and in group communication. It is the process of speaking before public or audiences to convey information, entertain and influence the audience. According to Webster's Third New International Dictionary (Ganiem 2023), public speaking is: a) The act of process of making speeches in public, b) The art of science of effective oral communication with an audience. Asriandhini and Trisnawati (Ningsih 2024) define public speaking as the ability to convey messages or ideas clearly, convincingly and captivating the audience orally before a group of people. For Fridayanthi and Puspawati (Yulianti 2023), public speaking is related to communication skills made orally about a thing or topic in front of the audiences to influence, persuade, educate, change opinions, convey explanations and information to audiences on certain occasions. The same thing was also stated by De Grez (Cheng 2020) that public speaking is "a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to speak in public to inform, self-express, relate, or to persuade." Puspitasari (2023) opinionated public speaking as an art that brings together all knowledge and abilities, and courage to speak in public means being able to convey messages to audiences from various different backgrounds. Wenti Krisnawati (Apriyanto 2021) understands public speaking as a competency that combines 4 important aspects of education: skills, science, art and character. Meanwhile, Angraini (Darsih 2023) emphasized that public speaking skills are not only about how to convey meaning but also about clarity of language, structure of delivery, and the logic of what is conveyed. Thus, public speaking is related to the ability to speak in front of an audience with the aim of conveying the message effectively.

Nowadays, public speaking capabilities are not just an additional skill, but rather a basic skill that can open the door to success. According to (Kristanto 2020), the correct public speaking techniques and methods occur when the public speaker can regulate the rhythm and intonation and can invite the audience being part of the material being presented. According to Sedarmayanti (Sartika 2022), when creating public speaking, various urgent aspects become barometers of success for public speakers when conveying information are:

- Vowel or sound which is good for the public can hear clearly what is being said.
- Articulation. This is related to the clarity of pronunciation of letters, words and sentences. It is also associated with special emphasis on words important in a sentence or paragraph.
- Expression. This is related to the importance of maintaining balance between facial expressions with what was said so looks attractive and convincing to the audience.
- Body movement. This means that the method of presentation and delivery made by the public speaker must take into account the dimensions of the audience, so that the audience feels that the public speaker is building communication with them.
- Improvisation. This means that a public speaker needs to improve the sentences or words he wants to convey so that looking like a credible public speaker in front of the audience or not tied to the text.

- Vocabulary. To be a reliable public speaker requires a good vocabulary and the correct use of words when speaking.
- Soul. This is related to the public speaker's attitude towards the audience and how public speakers convey messages in front of the audience with full soul based on the theme being conveyed.

Actually, public speaking isn't just speaking in front of an audience. It refers to the appropriate way to communicate in public by using certain systems and rules. The dedication through this training aims to ensure that the students of Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School Kupang do not only understand all theories they have learned about public speaking, but can directly practice it. On that basis, the author carried out community service activities with the title Improving the Speaking Skills of Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School Students Kupang through Public Speaking Training.

METHOD

The implementation of community service was carried out at Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School Kupang on May 18 2024 at 08.00 - 13.00 WITA. A training method was created in three stages, namely preparation, implementation and evaluation.

- Preparation. At this stage, initial contact was made with the school to explore the possibility of holding public speaking training at Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School Kupang as well as the steps needed to be taken regarding the implementation of the activity, as well as determining an initial meeting to discuss the implementation of the activity in question. Next were field observations made such as initial surveys, direct meetings with school leaders and further exploration related to the phenomenon of public speaking at the school. This initial step aims to ease the community service implementation so that the team does not only have a general overview related to the content of public speaking material needed by students, but can also look for suitable library sources and supporting sources as a solution to public speaking problems. Apart from that, the community service team and the school are preparing room and several supporting facilities to implement public speaking training activities.
- Implementation. This activity was created with the participation of students of Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School, Kupang where they are involved directly in public speaking training. They are guided directly by the community service team through the following stages: material on the basics of public speaking - ability training - initial test - discussion - final test - evaluation and achievement of activities.
- Evaluation and Closing Phase. At this stage, the students of Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School Kupang are guided by the community service team to carry out training and monitoring in order to find out the potential for sustainability of the program being created.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

During the preparation period, the implementation team made the initial contact with the school regarding the implementation of public speaking activities at Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School, Kupang. Next, were field observations made such as initial surveys, direct meetings with Mr. Apolynarius Wawo Koa, S.Pd the Principal of the School and explore further the phenomenon of public speaking at the school. Thus, the community service team has a general idea related to content of public speaking material needed by students and can look for suitable library sources and supporting sources as

a solution to public speaking problems which often become the main obstacle for students when speaking in front of an audience. Besides, at this stage the community service team together with the school prepared a room and several supporting facilities for implementation of public speaking training activities. The room used is the Santo Arnoldus Janssen Kupang Secondary High School Hall. Several other supporting facilities were prepared to support the implementation of these activities; training participants' stationery, tables, chairs, infocus, camera and microphone.

Training activities were carried out at Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School, Kupang on May 18 2024 from 08.00 - 13.00 WITA. There are 6 steps in this training process: material presentation about the basics of public speaking, skills training, initial test, discussion, final test, evaluation and closing.

- 1) Material on the basics of public speaking. In this section, the community service team provides a detailed explanation to the students at Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School Kupang about the meaning, history, scope, methods, benefits, objectives, functions, ways to improve skills and urgency of public speaking for students.
- 2) Training. In this section, several urgent things are carried out by the community service team. First, teach students about technical abilities and basic skills that are reliable for public speaker. Second, train students about the attitudes and personalities of becoming quality public speakers. For example, vowel or voice which is good when talking; articulation or clarity of pronunciation and emphasis on important words in a sentence or paragraph; how to improvise so appear just as great public speakers which is not tied to text; how to convey a message in front of an audience with full soul. Third, train students on how to do it. Avoiding nervousness in material presentation in front of an audience and choosing language that suits the material. Fourth, teach students about the appropriate ways to be in front of an audience, standing and sitting positions, facial expressions, hand movements so that the audience feels that the public speaker is communicating with them. Fifth, teach students about the correct way to communicate, the preparations made in facing various forms of events at formal and non-formal levels. For example, the ability to compose introductory words and sentences, respect, material to be given and closing.
- 3) Initial test. In this section the community service team creates the first simulation or training for participants to perform. Next, an evaluation of technical capabilities is carried out; attitude and personality when delivering a speech, vocals or voice when speaking; articulation or clarity of pronunciation and emphasis on important words in a sentence or paragraph; how to improvise, engagement with text, how to convey messages and inspiration; level of confidence when presenting material, choice of language appropriate to the material; standing or sitting position, hand movements, facial expressions; ability to compose introductory words and sentences, honors, material to be given and closing. Training participants are given the freedom to choose one of the topics offered by the community service team, such as ways to become an outstanding student, ways to become a disciplined student who obeys school rules.
- 4) Discussion. In this section, the community service team and participants hold discussions and ask questions regarding the initial tests that have been carried out. The goal is to evaluate the level of ability of the participants when delivering a speech. Apart from that, the participants were also given an explanation regarding techniques when speaking in front of an audience.
- 5) Final test. In this section, the community service team makes a final simulation to find out the level of ability of the participants and compares it with the results of the initial simulation to find out how far the participants have progressed during the training public speaking.
- 6) Evaluation and closing. In this section, the community service team makes an overall evaluation about public speaking training material from the beginning to the end of the activity. It aims to find out the extent of the results obtained by the public speaking training participants.



FIGURE 1. Material Presentation



FIGURE 2. Ability training



FIGURE 3. Q&A session and guided practice



FIGURE 4. Group photo session after training

DISCUSSION

Public speaking is the art of speaking in public to convey thoughts and ideas accurately so that information can be conveyed well to the audience (DARSIH 2023). Right now, that isn't just an additional skill, but rather a basic skill that can open the door to everyone's success. In fact, at the beginning of training activities made by the community service team, there are still many students from Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School Kupang who do not know clearly the theory and practice related to the basics of public speaking. This is evident when they are asked questions by the community service team about the meaning of public speaking, history, scope, methods, benefits, objectives, functions, ways to improve skills and urgency in conveying messages in front of an audience. Generally they cannot answer these questions.

This ignorance was also apparent when an initial simulation was carried out regarding how to do public speaking appropriately in front of an audience. Each participant was requested one by one with the themes that have been prepared to come forward and make a speech in front of the other participants. They generally do not have the technical skills and correct attitude when delivering a speech. Their vocals or voice when speaking is less clear. Articulation or clarity of pronunciation is also not yet visible. In fact, according to Angraini (DARSIH 2023), public speaking skills are not only about how to convey meaning but also about clarity of language, delivery structure, and the logic of what is conveyed. Regarding this, Nurchandrani (2020) also emphasized that public speaking skills require good vocal training, namely regulating the voice so that it can be heard well, clearly, easily understood, using good breathing and effectively. The elements in vocal training are articulation or clarity, intonation or the pitch of the voice in sentences, volume of voice, speed of speaking (speed/tempo), setting pauses sentence, accentuation/stress, sentence breaks, and changes in tone of voice.

During the simulation, the participants had not yet emphasized important words in a sentence or paragraph when talking. They can't improvise yet. During speaking, attachment to the text is still very high. The way the message is conveyed and inspired is not yet clear. Their level of confidence when delivering material is still low. This was proven when the participants were generally nervous when giving speeches in front of the audience. The results also showed that the participants were not yet able to become good public speakers. On average, the participants were not able to make language choices that were appropriate to the material. Besides, standing and sitting positions, facial expressions, hand movements; the ability to compose introductory words and sentences, tributes, material to be given and closing does not meet yet the standards of a quality public speaker.

After discussion, it is evident that in the second simulation or final test the participants begin to understand and have the ability to deliver speeches in front of an audience. This is proven when they, on average, slowly begin to have technical skills and the correct attitude when delivering a speech. Their vocals or voice when speaking begins to become clear. In public speaking, voice is a very important element (Hangyu Zhou, Yuichiro Fujimoto, 2021). Articulation or clarity of pronunciation has also begun to appear. They have started to emphasize important words in a sentence or paragraph when speaking and can improvise. As emphasized by Dewi in (Hamzah 2022), public speaking is closely related to the way of speaking in front of a general audience which places great demands on speaking fluency, controlling emotions, choosing words and speaking tone. During speaking, attachment to the text gradually decreases. The way of conveying the message and the spirit is slowly starting to appear. Their level of confidence when delivering material began to increase. According to Pratiwi in (Mashudi 2021), one of the factors that influences success in public speaking is mastery of the material. Preparing the material well and studying it will make it easier to overcome unwanted things in conveying something in public. This was proven when the average participant began to feel confident when giving speeches in front of an audience. Based on the results of Nurchandrani's research in (Andriyani 2023), public speaking builds self-confidence. Self-confidence is an attitude or condition in which a person feels confident that the things

they do have positive meaning and feel capable of appreciating the existence of other people for the actions they make (TAWAMI 2022).

On the average, the participants were also able to make language choices that were appropriate to the material. Besides, standing and sitting positions, facial expressions, hand movements; the ability to compose introductory words and sentences, tributes, material to be given and closing are slowly starting to meet the standards of a quality public speaker. As stated by Sedarmayanti (Sartika 2022), a barometer of success for public speakers when conveying information includes: a) vocal or sound which is good for the public can hear clearly what is being said; b) articulation, namely clarity of pronunciation of letters, words and sentences as well as special emphasis on important words in a sentence or paragraph; c) expression, namely the importance of maintaining a balance between facial expressions and what is being conveyed so that it appears attractive and convincing to the audience; d) body movements where the manner of presentation and delivery made by the public speaker must take into account the dimensions of the audience, so that the audience feels that the public speaker is building communication with them; e) improvisation where a public speaker needs to improve the sentences or words he wants to convey so that he appears like a credible public speaker in front of the audience and is not attached to the text; f) vocabulary, where to be a reliable public speaker, you need a good vocabulary and use of the correct words when speaking; g) enthusiasm relates to the public speaker's attitude towards the audience and how he conveys the message in front of the audience with full soul based on the theme being conveyed.

This training activity was created with the aim of assessing the participants' achievements and abilities after going through a series of training activities starting from basic public speaking material, skills training, initial test, interactive discussion and final test. The participants were observed how ample is their understanding of the material presented and their ability to create simulations about public speaking. From the observations, it indicated that the participants' ability to speak in front of an audience is still quite difficult. However, if they continue to be trained, make continuous observations and evaluations, it is possible for them to be able to do it easily. This means that good public speaking skills can only be obtained through intensive practice (Salsabila 2024). Therefore, one of the important benefits of observing is providing constructive input and suggestions regarding the speaking style of each participant so that good and quality character and speaking style can be found according to public speaking standards.

All participants were very enthusiastic about taking part in public speaking training activities from the beginning to the end so that they gained sufficient knowledge and skills to become reliable and quality public speakers. At the final part of the training activity, Mr. Apolynarius Wawo Koa, S.Pd as the Principal officially closed the public speaking training for Santo Arnoldus Janssen Secondary High School students, Kupang.

CONCLUSION

Public speaking is related to the ability to speak in front of an audience with the aim of conveying the message effectively. It involves the skills to organize thoughts, choose the right words, use convincing body language, and adapt a speaking style to suit the intended audience. The success of public speakers in conveying information is measured by the extent to which the audience understands, retains and implements all the presented ideas. Therefore, studying, mastering theory and practicing good and correct public speaking is really needed by every individual, including students who are potential future leaders.

Regarding this phenomenon, the following are several recommendations:

- Public speaking training activities can also be held in other schools and the implementation time can be extended, considering the importance of guidance and repetition during training.

- Students must continue to practice and get used to speaking in front of an audience.
- Share schools so that they can form activity units to facilitate students in developing public speaking skills.

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