

The Benefits and Challenges of Small Group Discussion in Supporting Students'

English Speaking Skills

A Skripsi

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Statement of Authenticity

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Certify that the *Skripsi* entitled "The Benefits and Challenges of Small Group Discussion in Supporting Students' English Speaking Skills" is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of the *Skripsi*. Others' opinion or findings included in this *Skripsi* are quoted in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, July 24, 2024



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Abstract

Small group discussions have been implemented in teaching and learning activities in the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classrooms. The implementation usually brings the benefits and challenges which students are not aware of. This research aimed to find out the benefits and challenges in small group discussion activities to support the students' speaking skills. This research used a qualitative approach with descriptive qualitative research design. This research was carried out at the English Language Education Department of a private university in Yogyakarta involving six students from the 2021 batch as the research participants. Interviews were conducted to collect the data. The findings related to the benefits was that small group discussions provided the students' training in speaking, enabled the students to gain more vocabulary, supported the students to practice pronunciation, helped students to be fluent in speaking, motivated students to speak, and reduced speaking anxiety. The challenges experienced by students in small group discussions to support their speaking skills included lack of self-confidence, less of knowledge about the topic, and unsupportive group. Therefore, the students are expected to participate actively during the discussions. It is also hoped that teachers can consider the use of small group discussions as a learning method in their classrooms. Future researchers are expected to dig deeper into aspects related to small group discussion that have not been explored in this research.

Keywords: small group discussion, speaking skills, benefits of small group discussion, challenges in small group discussion, qualitative research, students perceptions.

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