

## The Independent Learners' Effort and Their Oral Communication Achievement During Pandemic

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### ABSTRACT

During the pandemic Covid 19, the situation of teaching and learning English was different from yesterday. with limiting time in the process of study, make the teacher and also the students don't have much time to communicate directly. They have space for communication. caused the class setting to be online. it makes the students have to be creative in learning. Utilizing the media is needed. Therefore, the students use to be independent in learning The research purpose was to (1) explain the independent learners' effort to acquire English as Foreign Language and (2) find out independent learners' oral communication skill achievement from their efforts. This research method is qualitative descriptive. Triangulation is used to make sure the data has been valid. The collecting of data is observation based on the fact that happen before the pandemic and during the pandemic, informant interviews, and document analysis. The technique of validity data used triangulation. The technique of data analysis uses Miles and Huberman's interactive model. The result of this research shows that independent learners have been creative in the learning process. followed by the score to prove the research has been done in the field of the target.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Teaching and learning have been provided by some institutions or schools. Many of the students have to go to school for getting and understanding the material. Especially in English, when they go to school they can learn and understand the lesson so they can be able to use the English for communication fluently. In the fact, speaking is not easy, when they don't have confidence in practice. Lapele (2019) there are many aspects to be able in speaking, namely grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, intonation, fluency, body language, and gesture. Therefore, educators have to build the ability in each item to make the students confident in speaking and communicating with each other.

Besides, when they faced difficulties, they can directly ask the teacher and directly get the answer. Teachers become the role of teaching and learning for making the students clearly understand the materials. It is supported by Hollins (2019) said that we have learned in institutionalized settings in which the learning do in the classroom or another place in the school. then, the teacher has to explore the students' ability in learning English, especially in speaking or communicating with someone. The teacher has to use need analysis in deciding the way how to make them be able in speaking or communication. While additional learning is needed. We have been up to date with the technology today, therefore, it can be the support system for the learners. such as laptops, phones, computers, etc. are kinds of media technology that can use for learning not only by the teacher, it can also use by the learner. but, the role of parents is also needed in this section. It caused for making clear that the learners use the digital media for media support in learning.

Language learning has an important role in the study. they can utilize it not only in learning, but also it can make them have the communication skill. Especially in learning English. They can explore their knowledge and improve their communication skill through it. English as a foreign language makes the students aware that they have to be able to communicate using English since preparing to face the challenges in the world. The position of English as a foreign language in Indonesia. It makes the use of examination national for the goal of knowing the student's ability. The utilize communicative competence (the capacity to utilize English for verbal and composed communication) as the ultimate objective of learning English, devices or disobedient that can degree those capacities dependably and truly in an across the country setting (Durga and Rao 2018). Therefore, they will not stutter in English oral communication. Supported by the social media which they can use, without attending a teacher they can learn a language by themselves. While the learners also are independent in learning. Broad (2006) Independent learning points to educate our understudies to memorize for themselves and in turn engage them in their learning whatever the setting. Typically accomplished by the acknowledgment of obligation (see Williamson, 1995) by the understudy and can be seen by the inclusion of the understudy in their ponders. The definition hence highlights the positive support of the person in arranging to reach the individual's needs. It moreover permits for the separation between people based upon their claim sees and elucidations (S. Sutrisno and Prastiwi 2023).

Pandemic Covid'19 made the people is difficult to go to some places. They have limited time to go, and just stay at home at the time for keeping their body from the virus of covid 19. Coronavirus, which cannot be predicted when it will end, makes educators and students have to be more prepared in setting goals every day (F. Z. R. Sutrisno 2023). It aims to make teachers or students more enthusiastic in carrying out teaching and learning activities. Concurring to Sysoyev (Lapele, 2019), for numerous instructors, the choice of educational materials are based on their accessibility. Taking materials from accessible sources isn't ceaselessly recommended. Now and then it has confinement. Fauziah (Lapele, 2019) in her investigation centered on fabric in educating talking taken from Fun magazine found that the substance of that magazine was constrained within the lexicon and materials informational. Besides, the learners have to be creative in reaching their goals of English as a foreign language. It will make the challenges for the students to face this condition. it is reserved to (Hailand, Ken & Wong & L.c, 2013) innovation is needed in teaching and learning it will make the changes of the traditional method to the newest teaching and learning method and create the organization of learning.

Independent learner is the name of the students who have any questions or the students curious with much knowledge of the materials in informal or formal study. They feel the knowledge that they get from the school is less if they do not have the creativity to improve their knowledge by themselves without telling by their teacher. it is supported by Budge (Ainscow and Haile-Giorgis 1998)(Hailand, Ken & Wong & L.c, 2013) that the following factors of most behavioral models are the individuals' attitudes, beliefs, habits, and so on. Besides, the curriculum of learning English stated that the learners learning English have to be able in communicating using English. Therefore, the students used to learn by themselves to reach their ability in communicating and understanding to use English. Then, the researcher would like to explain how the independent learner effort in learning English, by following

the research question is: (1) What efforts do the independent learners do to acquire English as Foreign Language? (2) How is the independent learners' oral communication skill achievement from their efforts? Then, the objectives are to explain the independent learners' efforts to acquire English as Foreign Language and to find out independent learners' oral communication skill achievement from their efforts.

## 2. METHOD

This research method is qualitative descriptive. Triangulation is used to make sure the data has been valid. The collecting of data is observation based on the fact that happen before the pandemic and during the pandemic, informant interviews come from the teacher and also the students that choose to become a target of research document analysis come from the result of the study, therefore, the researcher knows the improvement of the study by the learner. The technique of validity data used triangulation. The technique of data analysis uses Miles and Huberman's interactive model which consists of observation, interview, and the last is score analysis (Matthew B. Miles 1994). For the informant interview it was done to ask the teacher how the student in the class when learning English, it used a semi-structured interview with the teacher. then, for the students, the researcher gives two kinds of interviews. Firstly the students ask to get a conversation with the researcher using English. and next, the researcher gives them a topic to describe directly without writing (Sugiyono 2011).

The participant consists of one student that used to be an independent learner. This is caused by the learner coming from the outside city, her status is living in the boarding Islamic school. Followed by learning in formal education, In the daily activities of boarding Islamic schools are always crowded. it made the learner has to be able to manage their time. Besides, the learners also get the winner in every moment of the speech competition.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Name	Pronunciation	Dialogue practice	Arrangement the story	Retelling the story	The score of the task	Mid-semester	Duty	Final exam
Dewi Arumnia Pinarang Gusti	90	88	91	93	93	83	100	95

**Table 1.** Researchers' Observations

The results were shown during the researcher do the observation. The result of the Observation is based on the condition before and during the Pandemic Covid. Before the pandemic covid happen in Indonesia. The teaching and learning process is done in the school. using the curriculum 2013 or usually, we call it K13. However, in the implementation in the teaching and learning process, the teacher still explains without giving brainstorming to the students to make the students be critical thinkers. That situation makes the students used to depend on the teacher. they would not try to be creative students. In the last of the year, in 2019, Covid'19 is coming. It makes the educators have to use new manner in the teaching and learning process. However, the school is located in the village. Therefore, the implementation of using WhatsApp to do interaction between the teacher and the students.

One of the students who are from another country and live in a boarding near the school feels not satisfied with the teaching and learning process during the pandemic making the students try too hard to be independent in learning (Suttrisno 2021). The development of the technology makes the students curious and tries to explore much knowledge through the smartphone. Day by day, the learner used to learn by themselves. Therefore, the learner used to be independent learners.

The status of English in Indonesia is a foreign language, making the students have to be able to communicate or speak using English. Therefore, some of the students learn English for general purposes and others learn English for specific purposes (Liu et al. 2011), then, one of the students is excited to be an independent learner. It started by always accessing youtube, and Facebook, and searching google to get knowledge of English. She trained to learn English independently. (Greenhowa & Lewinb, 2015) almost all young people the user of social media. Besides, her parents one of the students who live in the boarding, have been from overseas to get the job. They used to make their child listen and speak English. Without parents' awareness, their child has started to use English in daily activities. So the independent learner used to speak English fluently.

While is shown by the independent learners when the researcher doing the interview. The researcher has done two kinds of an interview with independent learners. The interview is provided by the researcher consisting of a semi-structured interview to get the in-depth information from the participant, next, the kind of interview is used to give some tests to the students in oral skills. To know their oral skill achievement, the researcher visits the participant to make a conversation using English, finally, they can answer carefully using English. With clear pronunciation, their speaking is clearly understood. Moreover, the researcher also provided the result of the study that got from the learning achievement in the school. the result of in formal study. showed that the learner has mastery of English lessons.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The independent learners come from ourselves, known by the efforts in the study. Will showed by the result in every assessment or practice of the lessons, especially in English. Therefore, as educators, we have to support them to be independent learners, and they will be used to being creative in the learning process in every condition.

In society, they prove that they can survive even if they are far away from their family. They used to learn by themselves and reach everything that they want especially in the education context. Besides, as independent learners when they found difficulties in understanding the learning is not make they have limited time to ask their teacher or their friend in their free time. A little suggestion to the next researcher, looking deeply into the independent learners in the post of covid 19, to know their effort in learning English without the limitation of space and time.

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