Junior High School Students’ Speaking Anxiety in English Class

Abstract

This study investigates the speaking anxiety experienced by grade 9 of Santa Maria Junior High School Sawangan in English Class. The study aims to answer the research question “What are the levels of speaking anxiety experienced by the students in English class?”. Seventy three students from three classes of grade nine were selected to be the participants in a survey using Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety Scale questionnaire developed by Horwits et al. (1986). The result of this study shows that anxiety in speaking English experienced by almost all of the students. Based on FLCAS questionnaire, negative self perception and low self esteem, fear of being less competent than other students, fear of taking risks, preparation, and peers opinion were found out to be some of the factors that appeared to students’ speaking anxiety. Some psycho-physiological symptoms of anxiety such as heart pounding, tremble, nervous and confused when speaking in English also appeared as some indicators of students who suffer from anxiety.

Keywords: speaking, anxiety, indicators of speaking anxiety, psycho-physiological symptoms.