The Implementation of English Programs for International Class (EPIC) to Improve Speaking Skills of Industrial Engineering Students in Telkom Institue of Technology

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Background

Undoubtedly, to be able to compete in international level, university graduates in Indonesia must be proficient in English. However, a perpetual issue occurs in the use of English in foreign language context is lack of exposure. In many cases, especially in large classes with heterogeneous students, producing spoken language can be difficult.

Objective

To develop and measure the implementation of the English Programs for International Class (EPIC) to improve speaking skills of Industrial Engineering students of Telkom Institute of Technology.

Method

A questionnaire and English Communicative Competence Test (ECCT) developed by the Language Center of Telkom Insititute of Technology were employed to do a developmental study. The data that were collected include preferred speaking activities and scores of speaking tests. The data were analysed descriptively.

Results

- There were twelve speaking activities in EPIC :
    - (1) Meet n Greet
    - (2) Descrizen
    - (3) Scrabble Original
    - (4) Describyber
    - (5) Booktivity
    - (6) Moviendustry
    - (7) Talkformation
    - (8) Rollywood
    - (9) Scrabble Trickster
    - (10) Prefuntation
    - (11) Disfussion
    - (12) Jobmission
- EPIC was implemented in regular schedules for three months.
- The average of ECCT score for the class of 2010 was 3.30 and the average of ECCT score for the class of 2011 was 3.51.
- Majority of students evaluated that EPIC has given them opportunity to speak more. They selected Scrabble Original and Rollywood as their most favorite EPIC activities.

Conclusion

With the success of the development and implementation of EPIC to improve speaking skills of Industrial Engineering students of Telkom Institute of Technology, there are great chances for other program studies to adopt this method as their extracurricular activities to help students improve their speaking skills.