

## Language Teaching and Learning: Effective Strategies for Improving Language Competence

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### ABSTRACT

**Background.** The language learning process must be accompanied by language skills strategies, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. All these strategies are very important to improve language skills. With these strategies, the learning process will run well. Good language skills can help people interact and communicate with the people around them.

**Purpose.** Along with the development of the times and technology, Indonesian is also an inspiration to be introduced and developed throughout the world. The technique used in data collection is to use the discussion lecture method, as well as the team teaching technique.

**Method.** The purpose of this research is that a better language skills learning process can provide good results and achievements for students.

**Results.** The results showed that with effective steps, teachers can use them to teach students' language competence and not only use the lecture learning model.

**Conclusion.** Based on questionnaires that have been distributed to students, researchers obtained results that show that in learning Indonesian, especially language competence, the strategies used by researchers are effective.

### KEYWORDS

Competence, Language, Strategy

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### INTRODUCTION

Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning environment where students can actively develop their potential to have spiritual and religious strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, social attitudes and skills necessary for themselves, the country and society (Mamonto n.d.). Language not only serves as a tool for communication, but is also part of culture that connects the people who use it to each other (Hartati and Anwar 2023). Language helps people communicate and learn, share experiences, and improve intellectual abilities. To communicate well, a person must have four language skills: listening, speaking, and speaking.

One of the strategic means to raise the dignity and dignity of the nation is education. The main thing in raising



the dignity of the nation is higher education, because higher education plays an important role as an institution that manages and develops various scientific fields, and high quality higher education is a national asset for creating excellence and competitiveness. Considering the role of higher education in improving people's quality of life, higher education must remain (Yanti, Suhartono, and Kurniawan 2018).

Teaching and learning activities, also known as learning activities, are basically reciprocal relationships or interactions between teachers and students in an educational context. Therefore, the teacher's role is to guide, direct, motivate and facilitate students to actively participate in the learning process. Planning learning activities should not be limited to teachers to achieve learning goals, but also to maximize student potential. One way to maximize students' potential is to actively involve them in the learning process (Rambe 2018).

Language is a very important communication tool in everyday life. Every society in the world uses language to interact, communicate and convey ideas. Language is not only a tool to convey information, but also a place to understand the culture, values, and traditions of a society. In the current context of globalization, language also plays an important role in facilitating cultural exchange, trade and cooperation between nations. By using language, we can expand our social networks, learn from others, and enrich our understanding of the world. Because of the important role that language plays in people's lives, efforts to understand, appreciate and nurture linguistic diversity are essential. By strengthening language diversity, we can enrich our cultural heritage and build bridges between different communities around the world. (Mustadi et al. n.d.). Learning is a process that involves interaction between individuals and their environment. The learning process itself is a series of continuous, planned, integrated and balanced activities, which holistically characterize the learning process. In this context, the use of the affixes "pe" and "an" to the word "learning" reinforces the concept that learning involves increasing knowledge, the process of remembering, and the acceptance of facts or skills that can be mastered and used as needed. The learning process focuses not only on the acquisition of knowledge, but also on the development of skills, understanding and application of knowledge in relevant situations. By understanding this learning process thoroughly, individuals can optimize their potential to acquire new knowledge, develop skills, and improve adaptability to environmental changes. Therefore, a deep understanding of the learning process is essential in the context of education and personal development (Amri and Kurniawan n.d.-a).

A very important aspect of language learning is the use of effective strategies. Planned language arts does have a significant role in ensuring an effective learning process. It refers to the ability of the teacher to plan and implement various learning strategies that are appropriate to the needs and characteristics of the students. Language arts in this context also includes the use of appropriate techniques to achieve learning objectives. This involves good classroom management, the use of engaging materials, as well as adapting the learning approach to each student's learning style. In this sense, language arts can be considered an art of management, where learning objectives remain the main focus, while the methods and strategies chosen must support the achievement of these objectives. A deep understanding of students, including their needs, interests, and learning styles, is essential to effectively direct the learning process.

Individuals have different language skills, and as educators, it is important to recognize and appreciate these differences. By understanding the diversity in students' language skills and learning styles, teachers can design more inclusive and effective learning (Amri and Kurniawan n.d.-a). Feedback in communication is essential to ensure that the message has been well understood and that the interaction between communicator and communicant is smooth. Feedback can be an

immediate reaction in the form of an action or answer, indicating understanding or response to the message conveyed. The quality of the relationship between communicator and communicant is often reflected in their ability to understand and respond to each other. When positive feedback is well received, it can increase trust and strengthen the relationship between the two parties. Conversely, negative or unsatisfactory feedback can be an opportunity to improve communication and strengthen the relationship. Thus, ensuring that feedback is given clearly and constructively is crucial in maintaining a good relationship between the communicator and the communicant (Mustadi et al. n.d.).

Language plays a very important role in human life. As a communication tool, language allows humans to convey their thoughts, feelings and ideas to others. In addition, language is also a means to understand and learn about other people's knowledge, culture and experiences. Learning a language is not just about learning words and grammar, but also about understanding the social, cultural and historical context in which the language is used. By mastering a language, one can engage in more effective communication, broaden their horizons, and build better relationships with others. Language activities are indeed an integral part of everyday human life. From everyday conversations to academic presentations, language comes in various forms and contexts to help us interact with the world around us (Ernawati and Rasna 2020). Language skills can be grouped into two main categories: oral skills and written skills. Each of these categories consists of two skills. Oral skills include listening skills and speaking skills, while written skills include reading skills and writing skills. The four skills are interrelated and cannot be separated from each other in the communication process. For example, in a conversation, one needs to use listening skills to understand what the other person is saying, and then use speaking skills to respond in an appropriate way. Similarly, reading and writing skills also complement each other in the written communication process. In the language learning process, it is important to give balanced attention to all four language skills. This will help learners to develop their communication skills as a whole, both in oral and written situations (Ernawati and Rasna 2020).

Every individual has a unique learning style, and this means that a learning approach that is effective for one person may not suit another. Therefore, good learning management plays a key role in ensuring that each learner has an optimal learning experience. The art of learning management involves using appropriate strategies to achieve learning objectives. This includes selecting teaching methods that suit each individual's learning style, providing constructive feedback, and providing the necessary support to facilitate effective learning. Well-structured learning tactics are also very important. This includes planning each learning session with clear objectives, organizing learning materials systematically, and evaluating progress regularly. With an organized and structured approach, learners are more likely to achieve their learning targets. Simplicity is also key in learning management. Complicated or overly confusing learning strategies can hinder the learning process. Therefore, it is important to choose simple yet effective learning tactics that allow learners to focus on understanding the material without too many distractions or obstacles. By applying the art of proper learning management, learners will be more likely to reach their potential in acquiring language skills and learning the language effectively (Amri and Kurniawan n.d.-a). Language originally developed as a means of oral communication, and listening and speaking are the main aspects of language communication. Before written language developed, humans communicated through speech and hearing. Even today, in societies where reading and writing skills may not be widespread or nonexistent, oral communication remains the primary way to interact and exchange information.

Written language becomes important when we are talking about conveying information that is permanent, such as documents, books, or historical records. However, spoken language remains dominant in everyday interactions, both in informal and formal conversations. In addition, it is important to remember that every language has a variety of dialects and regional variations that can affect how it is heard and spoken. This shows that language is a living and ever-changing phenomenon, reflecting the diversity and dynamism of the society in which it is spoken. As such, understanding the importance of oral communication in language development is highly relevant, especially in the context of societies where written language may not be prevalent. Oral communication remains the main foundation in maintaining social relations, exchanging information, and strengthening cultural identity (Mustadi et al. n.d.).

The usefulness of speaking as a tool for interaction in society. Speaking is the primary way in which we convey our thoughts, feelings and ideas to others, as well as the way we understand others and build relationships with them. The function of language as a tool for gaining knowledge, understanding, adaptation and control of the environment is reflected in the ability to speak. Through speaking, we can learn from others, gain insight into the world around us, and understand various perspectives. Speaking also allows us to adapt to changing environments and situations, and influence and control social interactions. For example, speaking allows us to ask others questions to gain information, convey our ideas to others to gain support or approval, and reprimand unwanted behavior to maintain social order. In formal situations such as presentations or speeches, speaking skills are key to inspiring, motivating and influencing the audience. Thus, speaking ability is not only important in daily life, but it is also one of the main aspects of overall language ability. As the main tool for interacting in society, speaking plays a key role in the formation of social relationships, information exchange, and self-development m(Mustadi et al. n.d.).

Language skills are a crucial aspect of everyday life, as they are used in every communication activity and interaction. Good language skills enable one to participate effectively in a variety of situations, whether in social, academic or professional settings. Since every individual has a unique learning style, it is important for educators or learning facilitators to accommodate this variation by using a variety of learning tactics. The art of learning management plays a key role in ensuring that the learning process is effective. It involves good planning, implementation of appropriate learning strategies, and continuous monitoring and assessment of learning progress. Well-crafted learning tactics ensure that learning objectives can be achieved according to the set targets. By designing simple yet effective learning strategies, learners can focus more on understanding the material and developing their language skills. In addition, it is also important to create a supportive learning environment, which allows learners to feel comfortable and motivated to learn. With the right approach in learning management, learners will be more likely to achieve their potential in acquiring language skills and developing effective communication abilities (Amri and Kurniawan n.d.-a).

In learning this language, it is very necessary to prepare and know what is conveyed. Of course, this discussion really needs factors that support an activity. The main factors that can support the improvement of language competence are starting from oneself, the surrounding environment, and learning at school through the guidance and guidance of the teachers at school and vice versa, parents are never separated from their role for a child in seeking to improve the child's skills in language. You underlined the factors that are very important in improving one's language competence. Here is a further explanation of each of these factors:

**Self:** An individual's motivation, dedication and persistence in learning a language are key factors in achieving progress. The willingness to learn and develop oneself in language is crucial in achieving learning goals.

**Neighborhood:** The environment in which one lives and interacts also affects language skills. A supportive environment, such as peers who speak the language being learned, or access to learning resources, can help accelerate the learning process.

**Learning at School:** School is the main place where language learning occurs formally. Teachers play an important role in providing guidance, direction and guidance to students in developing language skills. A well-designed curriculum and effective teaching methods can also enhance language learning.

**The Role of Parents:** The role of parents is also very important in supporting children's language learning. They can create a supportive environment at home, encourage children to speak the language they are learning, and provide encouragement and moral support in the learning process.

With support from these factors, individuals will have a greater chance of improving their language competence. Collaboration between self, neighborhood, school, and the role of parents can create optimal conditions for effective and sustainable language learning.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. emphasis on the components of the teaching event including centered on teaching by a teacher with students / learners. The technique used in data collection is to use the questionnaire method, as well as team teaching techniques. In this case, the teacher acts as a facilitator and motivator in the language skills strategy, namely (Amri and Kurniawan n.d.-b). Researchers used research instruments including the following:

1. Conveying exclusive issues in this case students listen to
2. Free speaking includes discussion, drama, speech.
3. Assessment criteria: cohesion and coherence.
4. Involves linguistic as well as extralinguistic elements.

This research was conducted by discovering what happened to a language barrier related to a learner's personality. After that, the writer identifies relevant keywords and makes notes to gather the necessary information. The authors then combine their notes with their opinions to find a unified concept or idea (Febrianti and Hasanudin 2023a)

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

To assist teachers in learning activities, the strategies used must be effective in improving language competence. With effective steps, teachers can use them to teach students' language competence and not only use the lecture learning model. Based on the questionnaires that have been distributed to students, researchers obtained results that show that in learning Indonesian, especially language competence, the strategies used by researchers are effective.

Language learning consists of several interconnected component skills. Among these skills are reading, writing, speaking, and listening (Bawamenewi 2021a). There are 4 language competencies. To improve these 4 competencies, an effective strategy is needed as follows:

### 1. Strategies to Improve Listening Skills

Listening is the process by which language is interpreted into one's mind. There are seven approaches that can be used to improve reading skills:

- 1) Recite the speech;



- 2) Find keywords;
- 3) Paraphrasing;
- 4) Summarize;
- 5) Answering questions; and
- 6) The use of media that is in accordance with the characteristics of students and learning materials (Marlianti, Marli, and Halidjah n.d.).

## **2. Strategies to Improve Speaking Skills**

- 1) Speaking skills are the ability to communicate with others through spoken language. Approaches that can be used to improve speaking skills:
- 2) The contextual approach is a learning approach that believes that students can understand learning if they can understand what they are learning and connect what they know with what they know before.
- 3) One of the social learning models is the role playing model, which assigns students to act as characters in the material or events in a simple story.
- 4) The storytelling method is a storytelling activity carried out by someone through oral to others about what needs to be conveyed through the form of information, messages or a fairy tale in the form of a story that can be listened to with a sense of fun to listen to.
- 5) The communicative approach is a language study approach that teaches language skills to be supported by language knowledge. This approach is taught to obtain the necessary information in daily life so that students can understand the research more clearly.
- 6) Learning media is a tool to present material thoroughly so as to achieve learning objectives. Choosing the right media is very important because it serves to attract students' interest in the material being taught (Muthahar and Fatonah n.d.).

## **3. Strategies for Improving Reading Skills**

During reading, one can see the signs of writing written by the author (Bawamenewi 2021b). The main purpose of learning to read is to learn the ability to read and comprehend texts, with reading skills taking precedence. Approaches that can be used to improve reading skills:

- 1) Strategies with colored letter cards,
- 2) Interesting picture,
- 3) Pictures in books, and
- 4) Singing the material taught (Safiah 2016).

## **4. Strategies for Improving Writing Skills**

Writing is lowering or describing language symbols that a person can understand so that other people can read and understand them (Setiawati 2016). Strategies that can be used to improve writing skills:

- 1) Active reading,
- 2) Learn to write independently,
- 3) Using pictures as incentives, and
- 4) Using technology (Febrianti and Hasanudin 2023b).

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Learning strategies are essential to improve the language learning process and its skills. A planned strategy is very important so that the strategy does not deviate from the objectives to be achieved. This strategy is directly related to teachers and students, so it is very important to provide

stimulus and response. In order for learning to be successful, the components of the teaching program that are centered on the teacher, learners, and teaching materials must also be implemented properly. Learner-centered learning strategies provide opportunities for students to actively participate, with educators only helping and encouraging. To measure language skills learning outcomes, approaches to listening, speaking, reading and writing are supported by appropriate teaching methods. In addition, it is necessary to assess language skills through various tests so as to improve everyone's language skills.

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