



ENGLISH ROLE AS INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION ON UNIVERSITY LEVEL

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ABSTRACT

Recently, the biggest problem of the university, especially Wahid Hasyim University is lack of lecturer who can speak English. Here, English is an international language that should be mastered by the lecturer at the university level. Many foreign students learn at Wahid Hasyim University. Although foreign students have been given lessons about the Indonesian language for one year before, in reality, they are still difficult to understand subject in Indonesia language which is not their own and universal language. Therefore, the lecturer should afford explanation subject in English when foreign students have not understood in Indonesia language. It shows that English is increasingly needed at the university level, not just for writing international journals but is needed in everyday life i.e. speaking. Thus, in order to compete in this millennial era, teaching staff need to practice and improve their English with the basic knowledge of speaking and how to apply it in learning. Furthermore, the university should hold an English course for teaching staff, so the teaching staff can apply English in the classroom. Thus, the teaching staff can make the foreign students become more comfortable and understand in the classroom.

Keywords: *English Language, Education, University*

INTRODUCTION

The needs of the world community for the mastery of English increasingly showed a rapid increase. Even in some countries, English is used as a second language after the national language. In other parts of the country, this language is used as a national language considering the heterogeneity of tribes and peoples of the population, because English is considered as the only means of unifying the nation. In addition, English as an international language that can bridge all aspects, whether educational, economic, political, social, and cultural. The role of English is needed both in mastering

communication technology and to interact directly (Handayani, 2016: 103). So that English is a tool of communication in the era of globalization became the main key to success in achieving a career someone in the future. In other words, the ability to speak English can be an investment in itself to create a career ladder in the future. In the aspect of education, English is also the main language of academics, since the majority of academic publications are written in English (Negash, 2011). A lecturer should master English both oral and written.

Nowadays many universities in Indonesia have foreign students from

different departments. The foreign students come from different countries. In the current era of globalization, Indonesia is one of the ASEAN countries that became the choice destination of foreign students from various countries to study. Before going to campus, they are given one year to course the Indonesian language. So they have no difficulty in adapting classroom. However, different cultures must affect the aspects of learning in the classroom, such as students do not understand the explanation of lecturer in certain situations so if there is a case like this, the lecturer should give an explanation using the world issue in English. So the foreign student is able to understand what is explained by the lecturer.

Wahid Hasyim University has the most foreign students in Semarang. It is about 65 foreign students. 65 students are scattered in various majors at university, such as the Islamic religion faculty, economic faculty, engineering faculty, pharmacy faculty, and social and political faculty. The foreign students come from different countries, among others, from Thailand, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Austria. They have different languages and cultures. Here, the lecturer needs a world of insight to explain the class materials. Richards & Lockhart said that the teacher should talk on a learner's level of comprehension, that is, the learner should be able to understand what the teacher is saying (Richards & Lockhart, 1994:184). Therefore, a lecturer needs English to provide material comprehension for foreign students. It is because there are some languages that sometimes do not match their language. So it needs to be a language adjustment in explaining the word. English is needed to explain the word by sorting words that match or similar to the Indonesian.

In problem-solving above, the author has the concept; (1) how to create English

language culture in Wahid Hasyim University (2) what is supposed to be necessary and carried out Wahid Hasyim University in addressing problems of foreign students troubled by retention of material in the classroom.

DISCUSSION

Speaking of the role of English as an international language at the university level is very important to study. Therefore, the author will explain the public rationalization in related issues.

The Importance of English for a Lecturer at the University

Lecturers have a big and strategic role. This is due to the lecturers who are at the forefront in the implementation of education. In addition, the faculty directly confront the learners to transfer knowledge. Given the strategic role of teachers in education, especially in this global era, the need for qualified lecturers to become a necessity for the future of bright learners. The need for qualified lecturers is getting higher this time so it must be responded to positively by the managers of universities. This positive response should be demonstrated by continuously improving the quality of quality educational programs and lecturers. Improving the quality of lecturers at the university will obviously bring a positive impact on foreign students, whole students, and the university.

In this millennial era, a lecturer is required to be able to communicate in the universal language of English. English is a language that anyone can understand. So the mastery of English is very important for a lecturer. Therefore, Djiwandono (2008: 121) says that language skills are divided into two broad categories: receptive (comprehension) consisting of listening and reading and

productive (producing) consisting of speaking and writing. The use of English by a lecturer in college is very important. This is because English is the language of world communication in any aspect. In education, English is required for lecturers to read international articles or journals and an international event time. In addition, Indonesia has a lot of foreign students, they are spread across various campuses throughout Indonesia. These foreign students need an explanation that will enable them to understand what a lecturer explains in the classroom. This is where the role of English is required to communicate in every learning in the classroom.

Wahid Hasyim University has some lecturers who still can not master English, especially speaking. Brown & Yule (1983) explains that there are two types of speech function categories, namely transactional functions that focus on information delivery and interactional functions that focus on maintaining social relationships among people. This suggests that speech is an important communication skill not only for delivering information but also maintaining social relationships with others. Lecturers still use Indonesian language in explaining the course material presented. This makes the foreign students do not understand what is delivered. Some foreign students say they often do not understand the lecture material delivered by some lecturers because the lecturer uses Indonesian language without English interspersed. They add lecturers often speak fast in Indonesian, so some foreign students have difficulties in understanding the meaning of the word in Indonesian. Therefore, foreign students admitted that they do not really understand when the lecturers speak fast in Indonesian because they have not fully mastered the Indonesian language.

The quality of a lecturer should be shown by how a lecturer is in charge of a scientific field that suits his or her expertise. So that a lecturer can transfer the science clearly and precisely. Thus, learners will get the material in accordance with the majors they take. However, to make foreign students able to understand the lecture material, lecturers are required to explain in language and words that are easily understood by the students. So that lectures will run smoothly without any misunderstandings, either from lecturers or from foreign students. English became the primary key of a lecturer in transferring scholarship to foreign students, so they are able to receive course material easily.

Role of the University to Improve the English Skill for a Lecturer

Higher Education has a considerable contribution in improving the quality of human resources (HR) in a State (Nulhaqim et al, 2015: 154). The resource is the quality of the lecturer in it. Leadership of Higher Education, responsible for its management, because the lecturer has a very strategic role and the main contributor in improving the quality of education in college, is also obliged to manage the human resources (lecturer) needed to implement the quality management system which is done continuously in order to be effective and efficient in achieving the quality of education that has been established. Efforts undertaken among others need to have a systemic space that regulates how should the role of lecturers in the learning process activities undertaken, how lecturers in developing themselves into qualified lecturers, how lecturers conduct self-evaluation in a sustainable, need there is a quality assurance contract that must be done by lecturers to maintain their quality in learning, and so on.

In this case, the quality of lecturers to be conveyed is the quality of mastery of English. Because English has an influence and more dominant role in some parts of the world. In fact, various information about science and technology of the world is mostly delivered in English. Global communications rely heavily on the ability of English because English has become a means to access valuable information and resources.

Actually, the Wahid Hasyim University has done some ways to apply English on the everyday campus. Beginning in 2018, the official English and Arabic languages are enforced by the Wahid Hasyim University. English has 2 days to apply it. Some lecturers have applied English to make conversation and even discuss in a forums. Initially, the English language culture went well and was good enough. The language center of Wahid Hasyim University helps to keep this English culture can be reversed in the daily life of the academy community. But it is not easy to apply the English-language culture. That is because some of the inhibiting factors are both lecturers and staff who lack of English vocabulary. This makes obstacles for the fellow academic community to communicate. Thus, it causes the delay of work. In addition, although already applied English language culture, many lecturers do not apply in the learning system. The reason is complicated in the delivery of lecture materials. However, in the application of this English culture, university has not provided training or courses so that lecturers can speak in the classroom. For any reason, the design and system provided will not run smoothly, if the lecturer has not been given a related direction.

The university should provide special training for lecturers in improving the quality of English. Therefore, training can provide encouragement for lecturers to the spirit of learning English. In English training, there are four skills that are applied namely speaking, writing, listening, and reading. By having such language skills, it will be very easy to understand the materials taught in the language training process. This certainly needs to be supported by the methods applied by the language tutors are tailored to the condition of participants. The tutors do not dominate in the classroom but the lecturers are also required to be more active so that with such activeness can encourage a lecturer to better know and master the English Language in improving their learning outcomes. A person learning a foreign language must acquire a learning experience that enables him to engage many target language environments so that the lecturers need a considerable amount of time to touch and engage in the target language, thus lecturers will have plenty of opportunities to hear as well as speak the language.

CONCLUSION

In particular, it can be concluded that the role of English at the Wahid Hasyim University, among others:

1. English is a language that anyone can understand. So the mastery of English is very important for a lecturer. Therefore, a lecturer should be able to speak in spoken and written English.
2. The university should provide special training for lecturers in improving the quality of English. Therefore, training can provide encouragement for lecturers to the spirit of learning English.

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