# STUDENTS' SPEAKING COMPETENCE AT SMA N 5 YOGYAKARTA

by Reni Herawati<sup>1</sup>

Teaching English, especially speaklarge classes at SMA N 5 Yogyais not considered ideal. The big of students that teachers must in these speaking classes poses and task in terms of designing an that will serve to develop the stuspeaking skills. The atmosphere not conducive in the big classes of averagely 40 students has writer to make a research to find ective technique to be implemented wher speaking class. The writer pera research entitled "Learning ptu Speech through Peer Activity Enhance Speaking Competence SMA N 5 Yogyakarta" aiming at bing the effectiveness of the techof Learning Impromptu Speech Peer Activity at SMA N 5 Yogyadescribing how the technique of Impromptu Speech through Peer could enhance speaking capaamong the students of SMA N 5 akarta.

The type of research is an action re-The writer started to implement a que "Learning Impromptu Speech Peer Activity" in the first cycle. which gave a positive sign, she continued to do the implementation in cycle two and three. The analyzing data was based on qualitative and quantitative data. Both types of data were used to determine the effectiveness of the professional development experiences.

Some valuable findings have shown that there was a significant improvement in their speaking capabilities, which were measured by 5 aspects: pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, content, and fluency. They were getting better gradually in developing and organizing idea. All students got opportunity to be involved in active class participation; hence the English speaking class lived up. This learning technique could guide students to become better, autonomous, and confident learners. The students were encouraged to depend more on themselves instead of the teacher. To top all, "Learning Impromptu Speech through Peer Activity" is an effective technique to solve the problems of big classes at SMAN 5 Yogyakarta and to enhance the students' competence of speaking.

Key words: impromptu speech, speaking competence, to enhance, learning

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## Introduction

Most of English teachers of SMA N 5 Yogyakarta where the writer works have encountered many difficulties in learningteaching activity, especially when they focus on speaking skill, due to the big classes they should handle. Too many learners in one class make it hard for teachers to control the class. The atmosphere of the class becomes very uncomfortable, noisy and not serious. In this situation, it's very difficult to organize a learning-teaching activity especially if we want to focus on speaking skill. The noisy situation makes learners tend to speak Indonesian or local language rather than English. The limited time is not enough to give the chance to all learners to practice English orally. The Javanese culture that attaches on the daily life of influences the way of the learners in speaking. They tend to be shy and doubtful to practice English as a result the speaking marks of the students are still below the target. They cannot express their idea well in English.

To create a good atmosphere which enables all the learners to practice English teachers should find some good techniques of teaching. The good techniques will enable teachers to create a well-managed and active class. A well managed-class is a class where discipline problems are few; and an active class is a class where all students are actively engaged in learning tasks and activities. A well-managed and active class will contribute to a high motivation and expectation for success.

To solve the problem above the writer proposes a technique "Impromptu Speech at SMA N 5 Yogyakarta through peer activity. Peer activity enables teachers to in-

volve the learners in an active class. The learners can be highly motivated and they can improve their speaking capability.

Based on the background above, the writer thinks it is very important to make a study about a technique of Learning Impromptu Speech through Peer Activity to find the proof that the technique is very effective to enhance learners' speaking capability. As a result, the researcher will persuade all English teachers at SMA N 5 Yogyakarta and other schools to adopt this technique to improve learners' speaking skill.

The problem formulation is "Can the technique of learning impromptu speech enhance learners' public speaking capability in SMA N 5 Yogyakarta?"

The objective of this study is to know whether the technique of Learning Impromptu Speech through Peer Activity could enhance speaking capability among the students of SMA N 5 Yogyakarta.

The study can serve as an introduction to teaching technique of English speaking and will give positive contribution to provide some new insight for English teachers. It is also a beneficial means to make English teachers in SMA N 5 Yogyakarta more aware to empower the potential peer in teaching learning process. It is expected to give so lution to enhance the speaking competence among the learners. In a broader scope i promotes the quality of teaching technique used by all English the teachers to acceler ate the national English education develop ment. It is expected that the technique coul improve students' competence of organization ing idea, exploring a topic, developing crit cal thinking. This technique would also b able to enhance learners' self confidence

According to Nunan (2003:48), speakaural/oral skill. It consists systematic verbal utterances meaning. Many students equate able to speak a language as knowing ge and therefore view learning the as learning how to speak the lanor as Nunan (1991:52) wrote, "sucmeasured in terms of the ability to a conversation in the (target) lan-Therefore, if students do not learn speak or do not get any opportunity in the language classroom they may de-motivated and lose interest in On the other hand, if the right acare taught in the right way, speaking can be a lot of fun, raising general motivation and making the English classroom a fun and dynamic place 

this research the writer will focus on learning and teaching because is a fundamental to human com-If we think of all the different assations we have in one day and comat with how much written communiwe do in one day. In our daily lives of us speak more than we write, yet English teachers still spend the maof class time on reading and writing almost ignoring speaking and lisskills. If the goal of our language and teaching is truly to enable the to communicate in English, then skills should be taught and pracin the language classroom.

Many language learners regard speakbility as the measure of knowing a lan-These learners define fluency as the to converse with others, much more than the ability to read, write, or to comprehend oral language. They regard speaking as the most important skill they can acquire, and they assess their progress in terms of their accomplishments in spoken communication.

When we refer to a learner's speaking competence, our fundamental concern is with his/her ability to communicate informally on everyday subjects with sufficient fluency to make the listener understand. Therefore in the speaking test usually there are at least five prominent components to be analyzed:

- Pronunciation (Individual Sounds, Stress and Intonation, Pausing and Phrasing, Reductions)
- Grammar (Verbs, Noun Phrases, Sentence Structure, Individual Grammar Problems, Functional Phrases)
- c. Vocabulary (Word Choice, Idioms and Phrases, Appropriateness)
- d. Content (Substance and Details, Topic Elaboration, Organization)
- e. Fluency (Speed and Natural Flow, Elimination of Translation, Omission of Filler Words)

The word 'impromptu' according to AS.Hornby in "Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English" means without preparation. So, impromptu speaking is a short speech without any preparation or the speaker has very limited time to make preparation. Due to very short time of preparation, it is called impromptu speech or speech without preparation.

Peer activity is no doubtfully motivating for students to be active and responsible. It is very empowering and confidence building for learners. Peer activity enables teachers to involve all learners in active learning (http://wiki:laptop.org/go/peer\_teaching\_website: p.3).

There are a number of quite quick and simple ways to do this:

- Partnering strong and weak learners together.
- b. Getting stronger learners to organize the group activity.
- c. Getting stronger learners to peer correct weaker learners.

One thing teacher has to be careful with is that the teacher should keep the stronger learners not to be overly dominant and not to undermine the confidence of weaker learners. Look for the strengths in all of learners to give each one of them the opportunity to share what they know.

No doubt, good teachers have always known that learning is enhanced when students get involved—to discover, manipulate, or personalize information. To be sure, teacher-centered instruction, such as lecture, has the advantage of communicating information in a complete, orderly form. However, student-centered methods, such as discussion, are considered more effective in developing higher-order intellectual skills, such as synthesis and problem-solving (Bloom 1953, 167-69). Peer activity is a form of technique used in student-centered methods.

In the peer activity the learners judge the language skills of other learners. Moreover it has range potential advantages to the learners. They can be integrated into teaching and learning. It encourages greater learner autonomy. It increases learner motivation.

#### Method of Research

This research took place at SMA Neger 5 Yogyakarta, Jalan Nyi Pembayun 39, Katagede, Yogyakarta. It was located at Nyi Pembayun Street number 39, Kotagede. Yogyakarta. The total number of the classes is 21; 7 classes for grade X, 7 classes for grade XI, and 7 classes for grade XII. The teaching-learning process is conducted from 7:15 a.m to 13.45 p.m. The total hours for English are four hours per week. The lesson last for 45 minutes for each hour. There were 5 English teachers in SMA Neger 5 Yogyakarta graduating from different university.

The research and the data gathering were done in July – September 2009. Data analysis stage ended at the end of October 2009.

The subject of this study is the 12th graders of SMA Negeri 5 Yogyakarta the academic year 2009/2010 consisted of Science Program with 156 students which are divided in 4 classes and Social Program with 96 students which are divided into 3 classes. To make the research effective, the writer took one class as the sample of the research. It was XII IPA 3 which consisted of 40 students. This classroom action research devided into three cycles.

# 1. The First cycle

# a. Planning Stage

In the Planning Stage of her action research, researcher accomplised four tasks. She prepared the questions to be addressed selected the skill to be assessed, designed a scenario, selected and designed an assessment task. The steps could be presented as follows:

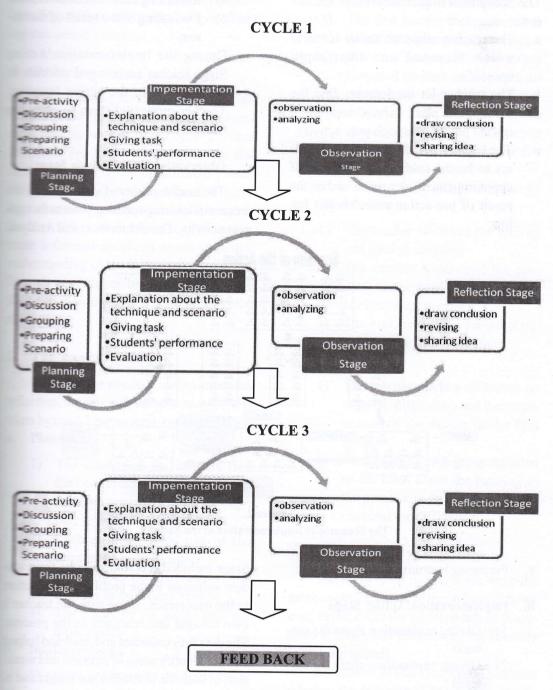


Figure 1. Scenario of Action Research in Three Cycles

The Scenario of Implementation of the Action:

- a. The teacher made an action scenario which focussed on "impromptu speech".
- b. The teacher let the learners find the comfortable place to have impromptu speech practice through peer activity.
- c. The teacher decided one of the learners to be the leader. The decision of appointing the leader was based on the result of pre-action research test below.

- 4) Recording the result
- 5) Evaluating of the result sion

During the Implementation of Stage teacher encouraged states be involved in the active least rule.

## c. Observation and Analysis Same

The teacher observed and evaluate process of learning-teaching process peer activity. The observation and and

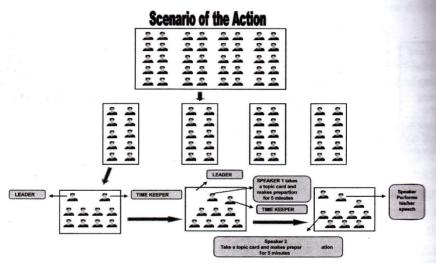


Figure 2.
The Scenario of Implementation of the Action

v. Preparing instrument of observation

# b. Implementation/Acting Stage

- 1) Giving explanation about the scenario
- 2) Giving explanation about the material
- Giving task to the learners to make a discussion about the topics of speech

Stage included recording results from stadent solutions to the problem and reaction to the experience, along with the teacher own thought and reactions to the process. The data they collected and analyzed helped teacher identify areas of strength and wearness in both the technique she taught and in her own students' understanding of problem solving. Making informed decisions

and her students'

## faction Stage

and the original assesslead based upon the data
lead discussed with the stulead would do differently, how
lead their process of learnlead on how she could make
lead on how she could make
lead on the technique she taught.
lead shere shere experiences with

## second cycle

the result of observation and the action in the second cycle was modifying several steps as follows:

#### Paring .

- The teacher let the learners find the comfortable place to have impromptu speech practice through peer activity.
- Each group decided one of the learners to be the leader.
- Each group decided one of the learners to be a time keeper.
- The leader of the group kept the topic cards.

# **Implementation**

- Each group made the impromptu speech practice.
- The first learner took one card of topic, and then he/she makes a

- preparation for 5 minutes.
- 3) The first learner makes speech in front of the group for 5 minutes.
- 4) The time keeper did his/her duty to record the time and report it after it's over.
- 5) After the first learners did the speech, the leader led the group to give oral adjudication about the first learner's performance.
- 6) The next turns did the same steps.

## c. Observation

- 1) The teacher observed the activity and gave motivation.
- The teacher supervised the process of the practice and let the learners kept the rule.
- 3) The teacher made a record about the process of the practice.

## d. Reflection

- 1) The teacher made a reflection on what the difficulties and the weaknesses of the action in the first cycle.
- 2) The leader of each group reported to the class about the running of the practice in its group the success and the difficulties.

# 3. The third cycle

The steps done in this cycle were the same as the first and the second cycle, however, in this cycle the teacher made an evaluation to know the progress of the learners in making speech.

Reflection in this step would evaluate whether the program is good, easy, practical, giving a lot of progress and encouraging. The problems and weaknesses have to be found to make the betterment of the technique.

The methodology used in this inquiry included the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data, analyzed on two level. The first level involved collecting and analysing teacher data as teacher participated in the research and classroom implementation. The second level involved teacher in collecting, analyzing and reporting her own students' data. Qualitative data on both levels included classroom observational data with anecdotal notes, analyzed and reported by the teachers, and student self-reports as they reflected on their experiences with the process. Quantitative data came from teacher surveys and content knowledge assessment and student performance on assessment tasks. Both types of data were use to determine the effectiveness of the professional development experiences. Research instruments were as follows:

- 1. Material supplement
- 2. Peer activity worksheet
- 3. Daily agenda
- 4. The list of learners' mark
- 5. Test Sheet
- 6. Topic Cards

The data would be analyzed according to the progress in each cycle. The researcher would go through the data she had collected. The activity and the progress of learners were analyzed thoroughly.

Reflection was taken after each cycle was done by jotting down what she was seeing, what problems are emerging, what she was learning. She was keeping notes on those new ideas which were unanticipated as valuable findings.

The success of the action of sured through the progress from cycle. The improvement of the speaking could be judged from speaking could be judged from speech. The success could be made there is significant progress from the success could be made there is significant progress from the success could be made there is significant progress from the success could be made to the success could be m

- a. Pronunciation (Individual Sound and Intonation, Pausing and Pau
- b. Grammar (Verbs, Noun Phrases) tence Structure, Individual Problems, Functional Phrases
- c. Vocabulary (Word Choice, Marses, Appropriateness)
- d. Content (Substance and Details Tellaboration, Organization)
- e. Fluency (Speed and Natural Elimination of Translation, Ornsteller Words).

To measure the success it is decided that the action is successful if at the end the action the average marks of students speaking at least equal with or more the passing grade of English Speaking Students and Competence of Grade XII of SMA 5 Yogyakarta that is 75 (seventy).

## Result and Discussion

The implementation of Learning Impromptu Speech through Peer Activity was done in class XII IPA 3. The technique significant contribution to enhance students speaking capability in class XII IPA 3, SMAN 5 Yogyakarta. The data analysis and finding gave the proofs that students could enhance their competence of speaking after implementing the technique. The students

a valuable learning experience was the result of the questionnaires the result, the data above could dearer result, the data above could maked on the following table:

English is interesting. From the anecdotal notes made by the teacher it was found that most of them were not sure and they didn't dare to say that they English was interesting because they still felt that their English was not good. They still found that English was very difficult. In this cycle they also

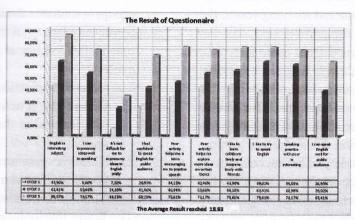


Figure 3
The Result of Questionnaire

The figure 1 and 2 present the data of andents' responds towards the impleof the technique "Learning Im-Speech through Peer Activity to mee Speaking Competence". The queswere given three times in three After students underwent the appliof Learning Impromptu Speech Peer Activity, they were given monnaires to find out the description on they response the technique. The quesconsisted of 10 items, which were arranged to get the students' responds. the table we can find that the results the first statement "English is an intersubject", we can conclude that a big of students felt like English but some were still not sure whether or not

didn't understand well the benefit of peer activity but most of them enjoyed learning with their fiends. Most of them felt that they couldn't speak well.

In the second cycle we can observe that there was a meaning progress in most of items. They weren't doubt to tell that English was interesting subject. They became more confident to speak English. They became understand the benefit of peer activity as stated in item 5, 6, and 7. They were encouraged to try to speak English with peer.

In the third cycle the researcher observed that there was a significant progress in the speaking competence of students. Item 2 "I can express my ideas well in speaking" shows 73.17 % of students of XII IPA 3 agreed. From item 5, 6, 7 and 9 the re-

searcher could take conclusion that peer activity was a good technique. They enjoyed working and learning with friends. Peer activity could motivate them to speak English.

However the researcher couldn't say that the technique proposed was an absolutely successful one since she still found the result of item 10 was not very satisfying. In spite of the unsatisfying result, the most important thing she found was that there was a progress from cycle 1, cycle 2 and cycle 3. Although it was not a bright result the researcher kept proposing this technique as a good technique. To make the better result there should be betterment on the implementation. The frequency of practice would be the key of the success; therefore in the future implementation teacher should plan the enough frequency of practice using the technique.

## 1. Cycle 1 (July 2009)

Before doing cycle I teacher did some preparation. The preparation or planning included the following:

- a. Preparing Media needed: card, color-ful pens, note books
- Explaining the goal and target of the program
- c. Make job division for each group: one leader, one time keeper and members.
- d. Record the program when it is being carried out
  - 1) Make an observation
  - 2) Do evaluation program

The scenario of the implementation of cycle 1:

a. The leader of each group opened the program and told the rule they should

obey. There were four leaders who were chosen by the teacher based on the result of the pre-test. They performed their task very well. Being the leaders made them highly motivated. They felt that they were appreciated. As a result they became really responsible with their task – to organize the group, to motivate the members and to report the running of the implementation to the teacher at the end of the cycle.

- b. The rules of the practice are as follows:
  - 1) Before the practice started, the group decided the topics of the speech
  - 2) The topics consisted of fifteen topics for each group
  - 3) The topics were written on cards
  - 4) When the topics were ready the leader started the practice by being the first speaker, and then followed by the next turn.
  - 5) Each speaker was given 5 minutes for preparation.
  - 6) Each speaker had 5 minutes to deliver his/her speech
  - 7) The time keeper performed his/her task to give command and to tell the spending time when it is over
  - 8) When the one was starting his/her speech, the second turn took the topic card and made preparation for 5 minutes.
  - 9) The students took turn one by one
- c. Then all students in a group had made practice. The favorite topics among the groups were as follows:
  - 1) Swimming is a good exercise.
  - 2) Cycling is a good exercise.

- Motorbike is practical vehicle.
- Reading is a good hobby.
- English is an important language.
- Batik costume for students.
- The advantages of internet.
- Internet for students.
- Handphone for students.
- Music for us.
- The teacher was making an observation when the practice was going on to get the facts to make reflection.
- Reflection

After the first implementation of the mechnique was done, the teacher as the researcher made a reflection. The meacher let the leader of each group report the running of the practice and tells the problem faced by the group. Then the teacher told the students about her observation that some students didn't apply the technique well. Some of them weren't serious and were still not self confident.

In the reflection both teacher and students make reflections. The leaders of the groups reported orally the running of the implementation. Based on these reports and observation the teacher made record and reflection.

The speaking assessments were taken the end of the implementation stage in cycle. From the result of the speakassessment the researcher discovered that the result of the first cycle was not good. There were only 6 students or 15% of class at the good marks. The good marks were maded based on the minimal completeness contents or passing grade of speaking completeness that was decided by school. English

Teacher Forum of SMAN 5 Yogyakarta had decided the figure 75 as the minimal completeness criteria or passing grade for speaking competence.

Most of the students still had unsatifactory results on pronunciation and grammar. Many of students seemed to be doubt and ashamed expressing idea in English, however, the leaders motivated them kindly. At the middle of the process, having few audience, the students were getting improved and well motivated. At the end of the period, all of the students got chances to make performance. The students who got the good mark in the first cycle were appointed to be the leaders in the next cycle.

Based on the result, the teacher found the weakness of students were mostly on pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. The teacher then gave feed-back to the students. Remedial and enrichment was made especially on pronunciation by giving exercise on listening. Various listening materials taken from internet were presented to give the students chances to understand the right pronunciation from the native speakers. In this cycle the teacher didn't make any stress on grammar. If the teacher stressed on grammar during speaking lesson, it was worried that the students would be more doubtful to express their idea in English since they were thingking of the grammatical rule. Grammar would be solved in other occassion when the focus was writing. Vocabulary enrichment should also be built.

# 2. Cycle 2 (August 2009)

Based on the result of the reflection of cycle 1, the researcher conducted the implementation of the technique in cycle 2. The

steps taken in the second cycle were similar with those in the first step. The teacher gave more explicit examples and concrete examples.

Based on the result of observation and reflection, the action in the second cycle was taken by modifying several steps as follows:

## a. Planning

- The teacher let the learners find the comfortable place to have Impromptu speech practice through peer activity.
- 2) Grouping
  Regarding the result of reflection in cycle 1, the second grouping was done. The teacher made the group by mixing the gender, the level of students' competence and the activity.
- 3) Each group decided one of the learners to be the leader.
- 4) Each group decided one of the learners to be a time keeper.
- 5) The leader of the group kept the topic cards.

# b. Implementation

- Each group was making the impromptu speech practice.
- The first learner took one card of topic, then he/she made a preparation for 5 minutes.
- 3) The first learner made speech in front of the group for 5 minutes.

- 4) The time keeper did his/her duty to record the time and report it after it's over.
- 5) After the first learners did the speech, the leader led the group to give oral adjudication about the first learner's performance.
- 6) The next turns did the same steps.

## c. Observation

- 1) The teacher observed the activity and gave motivation.
- 2) The teacher supervised the process of the practice and let the learners kept the rule. In this cycle the teacher found that almost all students knew the rule. They made practice more seriously and were more self confident.
- 3) The teacher made a record about the process of the practice. They were more discipline. They could manage the time better.

## d. Reflection

- The leader of each group report to the class about the running of the practice in its group – the success and the difficulties.
- 2) The teacher made an oral adjudication and told that she found the good progress of the action in the second cycle. Most of the students were more enthusiastic and self confident.

Here is the note of the report from each group:

Note of Implementation of Cycle 2

Greep	Note
1	The running of the implementation was better than that in the first cycle. Students understood more about the rule and the step s they had to do. They were not too shy and it seemed they were more motivated. They try to express their idea English but thy admitted that their vocabulary was very still poor. The leader this group was very good and could manage the activity well. Their performance was quite good. They still admitted that their pronunciation was still very poor.
2	The leader was an active and cooperative girl. Most of the members were girls, they were talkative but they kept the rule. They were motivated to discuss and make performance using English. They tried hard to develop the topics into sentences. They found that that the activity was interesting.
3	The leader reported that the activity in this cycle was easier since they all know the rule. Only two students were was under-time. They were more self confident. They tried hard to make good performance. The content of their speech was better. They made good opening, presented the content well and closed it interestingly.
	They felt more confident. They decided the topics quickly. They decided the easy, interesting and up -to-date topics. They kept the rule so there was still much time after all students did performance. The leader decided to make the second round.

this cycle there was a significant of the students' performance.

Looked more confident and motivated the result of pronunciation inform 13.07 to 14.32 (%); Grammased from 13.45 to 12.23 (%); The reased from 13.45 to 14.90; Increased from 15.75 to 17.65; Flunched 16.62. Among these five ascendent reached the best result or 1.8 reasing since the students were able their idea better than in cycle 1. The students (45%) who got =75 and number achieved passing grade or

There was an excellent progress made scycle. The students spoke more flu-

ent. The matter was meaningful and understandable. Of course, the progress was not an a bombastic achievement. However, the researcher could find that the technique was good and could motivate the students to be more self confident to speak English in front of audience. The result of pronunciation increased from 14.32 to 15.77; Grammar increased from 12.22 to 13.62; Vocabulary increased from 14.90 to 16.55; Content increased from 17.65 to 19.32; Fluency rose from 16.62 to 8.00. Among these five aspects, Content reached the highest increasing since the students were able to organize their idea better than in cycle 1. Looking at the score of the students, there were 40 students who achieved passing grade or =75.

The following table shows the average result of Cycle 1, 2 and 3.

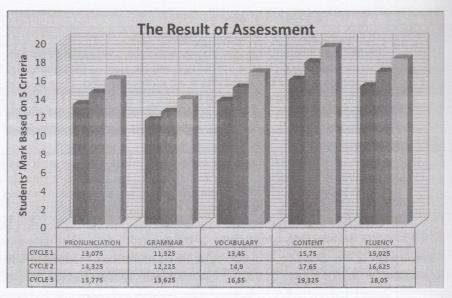


Figure 4.
Speaking Assessm1ent Result

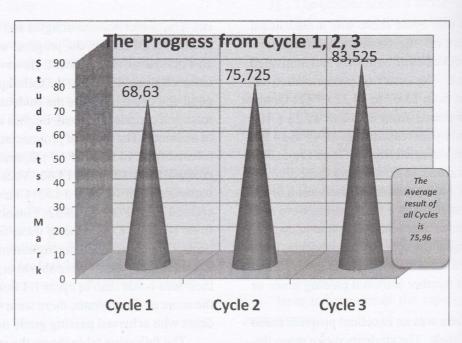


Figure 5.
The Average Progress of Speaking Assessment

group work to make a presenting skill. In was expected that this assignment the students would the competence on both speaking

The reflection in this step expressed the

program was good and easy to

me program gave a lot of progress.

but it also needed some revision the better ways to obtain the tar-

The students gained a good progress in confidence and expressing idea in the students or ally.

weakness of the program was that the students were not discipline didn't obey the rule the program would not be successful.

The program should be run effectively.

The number of teachers who handle should be more than one for each class, so the observation can be done well.

#### refusion

The implementation of learning impressive speech through peer activity in aN 5 Yogyakarta is proven as follows:

The technique of learning and teaching impromptu speech through peer activity is effective to enhance the public speaking competence among in SMA N 5 Yogyakarta. It gives positive contribution to enhance students' speaking competence. Students get significant

increase in speaking scores which indicates the increase in speaking competence. The limited time given demands students think quickly and creatively. The technique has proven to enable the students reach the passing grade as it was shown on the final result which met the criteria of success. The average final result of this implementation is 75.96 or 0.96 above the target.

2. The technique of learning impromptu speech could be done well through peer activity. It increases students self confident in speaking. Peer activity enables teachers to involve all learners in active learning. It encourages greater learner autonomy. It increases learner motivation. The learners could improve their competence of organizing idea, exploring a topic, and developing critical thinking.

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