

THE ENGLISH NATIVE SPEAKERS' THOUGHTS IN YOUTUBE ABOUT HOW TO LEARN ENGLISH

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Abstract: *The aims of this study are to investigate English native speakers' thoughts in learning a language. In this study, a qualitative case study in the form of descriptive approach is applied. The results show that learning English must be started from very beginning like a baby learning a language, learning simple vocabularies or phrases, listening to the correct pronunciation and using them in the real conversation. When learning a language, follow your curiosity and learn it in fun and happy way.*

Keywords: *English Native Speaker, Thoughts, learning English*

Abstrak : Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pendapat penutur asli Bahasa Inggris dalam belajar Bahasa Inggris. Pendekatan yang dipakai dalam penelitian ini adalah kualitatif deskriptif. Dari hasil penelitian dapat disimpulkan bahwa belajar bahasa Inggris harus dimulai dari awal seperti bayi belajar bahasa, mulai dari belajar kosa-kata/ phrase yang sangat sederhana, mendengarkan pengucapan yang benar, dan memakai bahasa tersebut dalam percakapan sehari-hari. Ketika belajar

bahasa, ikutilah rasa ingin tahu anda dan pelajailah dengan cara yang menyenangkan.

Kata Kunci: Penutur Asli Bahasa Inggris, Pemikiran, Belajar Bahasa Inggris

A. Introduction

English is as a global language. Everyone learns English as their need to communicate around the world. Eveywhere you can see the English. Nowadays, people can interact easily because of the internet. They can share everything that they want to people around the world using English as a medium of communication.

There are many benefits of using internet. For instances, connecting to other people from one to other places in the world; getting information easily; saving time and energy. The internet is like a bridge to arrive at some media for communication such as youtube, facebook, instagram, whatsapp etc. However, in this study I focus on youtube platform.

Youtube is one of media used by many people around the world. Youtube is a free video sharing website that makes it easy to watch online videos¹. Everyone can upload

¹ Goodwill Community Foundation, "What is Youtube?". 2019. <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/youtube/>. diakses 20 November 2019.

and share their videos that they want in this platform and other people can watch the videos in this platform. Many English native speakers also make vlogs and share their activities in youtube. It is the advantage for many people who learn English. They can listen the authentic or the real English and imitate the sentences used by native speakers. It will help the students understand and are used to listen the authentic sentences from native speakers. Almurashi in his article said that youtube can be a good material for learning English and can help in understanding the English lesson.² Recently many English teachers use Youtube as the media in their teaching and learning process because they believe that it will help much. Mustikawati in her quasi-experimental research found that the video technique in teaching significantly improve students' speaking ability at Junior high school³. Diki also said that the use of youtube videos

²Wael Abdulrahman Almurashi, "The Effective Use of Youtube Videos for Teaching English Language in Classrooms as Supplementary Material at Taibah University in Alula". 2016. *www.eajournals.org.-pdf*, h. 32. diakses 26 Juli 2019.

³Arum Mustikawati, "The Effectiveness of Using Video in Teaching Speaking for the Eighth Grade Students of SMP N 1 Manisrenggo". 2013. *eprints.uny.ac.id -pdf*, h. 63. diakses 26 Juli 2019.

can improve the students' speaking skills.⁴ Therefore, I think that this platform can be essential in improving students ability in learning English.

In addition, many English speakers also teach English via this platform. They tell you how to pronounce the words correctly based on the context, give you common phrases that they usually use in their conversation, they have a real conversation between them, and so on. In this platform, they also tell how to learn a language especially English. It is interesting because they own English, they are English native speakers who know well about their language and they talk based on their experience in learning another language . Therefore, I am interested in investigating how the native speakers' thoughts in learning a language especially English on youtube platform.

B. Method

This study used a qualitative case study in the form of descriptive. The purpose of this study is to investigate what the native speakers say about learning a language (especially English). In this study, I analyse six random videos from

⁴Diki Riswandi, "Use of YouTube-Based Videos to Improve Students' Speaking Skill". 2016. <https://journal.uns.ac.id/icte/article/view/8150/0-pdf>, h. 298. diakses 26 Mei 2019.

English native speakers. These videos are made by English native speakers. Three English native speakers who cannot speak Indonesian and 3 native speakers who can speak Indonesian language are chosen.

C. Findings and Discussion

In this first section, I analyse 3 videos made by English native speakers who cannot speak Indonesian language. They tell us how to learn a language easily and effectively.

The first video is made by Christian⁵. It takes 12 minutes and 23 seconds. He initiates by saying “how is the learning progress in 2020”. He continues to say interesting research about “how to plan what you are going to learn”. He asks us “when you go to the class”, or “open an application or a book” and “how you decide what you will learn”. He said that “the instink will lead you where you want to learn” and it is proven by the research⁶. Then, he explained the research. In this reseacr, the researchers ask the children to play the toys. Some of the toys are high-cost with low reward and some of the toys are low-cost with high reward.

⁵ Christian, “What to study- The simple trick to English fluency”. 2020. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=nTdi-L5rMo>. diakses 5 Mei 2020.

⁶ Sophie Bridgers, *et al.*, “Young children consider the expected utility of others’ learning to decide what to teach”. 2019. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-019-0748-6>. diakses 6 Mei 2020.

He explained further that he asks us to imagine a toy with one button and when you press the button something amazing happens and it is low-cost with high reward. The instruction is very simple. You just need to press the button and you will get amazing things such as singing, colorful light, buzzing, and vibrating. He again tell us to imagine a toy with a lot of buttons, big buttons, small buttons and we have to press the buttons with the specific combination and when you get the combination correctly, you will only get singing or buzzing. It means that it is high-cost with low reward. We did a complicated thing, but we only get a small thing. Then the reasearchers show that childern will spend more time to play a low cost with high reward toy than to play a high cost with low reward toy. It indicates that the children have an instink where to spend their time best. He emphasizes that we have to invess our energy and time in learning English to play with the fun and useful things. He gives an example, conversation is useful thing because the conversation is the core of a language. It is low cost with high reward. He furher gives an example of high cost with the low reward thing in learning English. It is like memorizing 50 words with the subject that you are not interested in such as memorizing 50 words about tram. We have to spend a lot of effort, energy and time in memorizing

these words, but in the end we do not use them. You are the only one who knows what you want to learn. He said that we have to follow our instink and do not waste our time and energy on those thing you do not like to do. He said that behind all of the creativity is curiosity. Learning in the classroom by only sitting on the chair is like a dead inside. In the final speech, he said that learning should be fun and a good teacher will activate your curiosity and promote it and you have to be a curious about language and be honest about your need or do not need to learn, and play with the things that bring you to the real value. He also said “please stop doing what make you died inside”. I think that it is true that we have to make our class to be fun and we have to use our instink to answer our curiosity in learning a language. Therefore, the teachers must give opportunities to their students to find their need and interest and also have to make a good environment (make conversations in learning) for their students.

The second video is taken from Speak English with Vanessa channel⁷. In this video, she talks about how her baby starts to speak in English. She says that there are 3 ways how native speakers learn English. The first is asking

⁷ Vanessa, “Learn English like a native by Speak English with Vanessa”. 2018. https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7nQbU_Q7Abw. diakses 2 September 2019.

questions. She explained that we ask questions because we have curiosity and want to engage the world around us. For instances, “what do you see?”, “Do you see that?”, “What’s that?”, “What are you doing?”. she said that we use our curiosity to learn new language, we look around ourselves, our room, our house and then ask about it to fulfill our curiosity. The second is using baby talk. She explained that we speak like a baby such as making a longer voice when we say something. For instance, “how are youuuuu?”, “Nooo, Nooo, Nooo, do not touch that?” Etc. She continued that in learning a language, we as adult do not need to speak like baby but it can be inferred that we need to start to speak or have conversations by what we can understand. We do not have to jump into the difficult one such as understanding the conversations in the English movies, but starting from the lower level then gradually into the higher level. The third is interacting to baby by talking back to the baby when the baby is babbling. It is encouraging the baby to speak even though it does not mean anything. This is the step of baby in learning a language. She said that having a conversation with someone is much fun then you speak by yourself. Therefore, I think that as a learner we have to be curious of the language, then use our language that we know and interact with other people to use or practice English.

The third is the video by Stefanie the English Coach⁸. In this video, she talks about how to speak like a native speaker, in specific how to sound like a native speaker. She tells about her experience when she learned Spanish at 14. She starts saying that the first thing that you must do is focusing on the phrases in English that the native speakers use rather than on individual vocabulary. Sometimes it is different when you make some sentences by your own with the sentence said by native speakers when you come to the real situation. You realize that the phrases are different with what you learn in the grammar classes. Therefore, you can adopt the phrases used by native speakers because they will use those phrases over and over again. The second thing that you must do is using the correct intonation. We have to know when we use rising or falling intonation, how the intonation of questioning is. It is like a music and it has rhythm. Intonation of English is the same with it. Therefore, you can listen to the English speakers using their intonation when they share the ideas, questioning something, giving opinion etc, then you have to pay attention on the patterns and adopt them in your speaking. It means that your mouth, tongue, and throat have to follow how the native speakers do

⁸ Stefanie, "How to Speak English Like A Native Speaker". 2019. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7swPsyMmmW4>. diakses 14 Oktober 2019.

when they say phrases in English. The last thing that you must do is learning the pronunciation especially in English. For example, the vowel sounds in your native language maybe will be different with vowel sounds in English. Therefore, you have to learn those sounds in order to make sounds like a native English speaker. You can learn those sounds or pronunciation by shadowing the native speakers say in English. She added one bonus tip for speaking like a native speaker that is you have to focus on a specific kind of accents from a specific region. In order to achieve this, you have to tune out certain region such as United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, or other regions. Then you learn it in very detailed, therefore you will be like a native speaker. I think that this is very important as a learner of English. Sometimes English teachers do not consider what kind of English accent that they taught in the classroom. It is like the same accent, but actually English has many different accents. Therefore, the students have to give an extra effort for just one accent that they want to master especially for its pronunciation.

Then these three videos are from English native speakers, but they live in Indonesia and they can speak Indonesian language very well. They tell us about their experience learning Indonesian language or other languages.

The first video is from Guruku Mr. D⁹. He said that he started to learn Indonesian language in the plane from America to Indonesia. He learned the vocabulary that he found such as *aku*, *kamu*, *kita*, *ayam*, *nasi*, and all of the simple vocabulary. He continued that we can learn those simple vocabularies everywhere. Then he said that after we know those words, we directly have to use them in the sentences. For example, “*aku mau*”, then you just need to learn a few more verbs, it becomes “*aku mau makan*”, “*aku mau minum*”, “*aku mau tidur*”, “*aku mau pergi*”, etc. Honestly it is much easier for people who learn Indonesian language than English language, because the English is much complicated than Indonesian. For instance, “*aku mau tidur*” we cannot translate it into “I want *sleep*”, but it should be “I want to sleep”. But it is not the problem because the sources of those patterns are easy to find in many websites such as in his videos. Then he said that he used those sentences to all people around him. For example, you can say to everyone around you “*do you want to eat?*”. He added that you just need to focus on yourself. It does not matter if the situation does not fit with it. You do not have to wait the moment that fits with the words. What you need is

⁹ Denniz Perez, “Cara Belajar Bahasa Inggris dari nol”. 2019. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=JD9kjCEUPy4>. diakses 17 Oktober 2019.

learning those words. Then you learn the other verbs such as “*do you want to sleep?*”, “*do you want to go?*”, “*do you want to play?*”. If you do not know the other verbs, you can ask other people by saying “*do you want to nonton?*”, “*what do you say nonton in English?*”, then the people will answer “watch”, then you can say “*do you want to watch?*”. In this case, He explained that you can ask for the people who can speak Indonesian and English. He emphasized that another important thing is listening. For example, when you always say “*I have a **planning***” but when you listen to other people always say “*I have **a plan***”, then you realize that you say in the wrong manner, therefore you have to change that phrase. Then he asks us “*do you listen to understand?*” or “*do you listen to replay?*”, he answered that “listening is to understand and it is not listening to replay”. If you just listen to replay, you will miss the moment of learning. He said that the people in Indonesia are very welcome when foreign people speak Indonesian language that makes him get fluency in Indonesian language. However, Indonesian people are not always happy when they see other Indonesian people learning English. English is considered as a novelty. They will laugh in somebody face. He stressed that you do not have to be controlled by other people. You have your own way to achieve your success. You will gain what you

do, not the other people say. He said that he shared his learning experience in Indonesian language. In the final video, he gives advice that you have to find what works for you, find your way to study English and never give up. I agree that we have to use every English words that we learn, because when we use those words, later we can automatically use them in the conversation, and we as the learners have to find our own way in learning English. There are always ways when we want to do it.

The second video is taken from Sacha Stevenson channel¹⁰. She shared her experience in learning Bahasa Indonesia. She recommended to look for *Majalah Bobo* (the standard Bobo Magazine) in learning Bahasa Indonesia. The content of this magazine is like comic books. This magazine is made for children. She said that when you want to learn a language, you have to start in very beginning. You are going to learn words that the children learn for the first time. Therefore, using this magazine will be good for learning the basic words in a language. Then you need to read this comic, and look for the words that show up most often. For example, the words “*tikus*”, “*paman*”, “*karena*”, “*juga*”, “*curiga*”. After that she said that you have to use these

¹⁰ Sacha Stevenson, “How I learn Bahasa Indonesia”. 2018. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xketOgihb9E>. diakses 20 Oktober 2019.

words everyday. Therefore, you need to write them on a piece of paper about 10 to 20 words everyday. Then you translate them with Indonesian-English dictionary, and memorize them about 10 to 20 words everyday until three months. After you write them, you can fold one side of Indonesian words and the meaning in English so that you only look at the Indonesian words. Then try to remember them whether you know the meaning in English. If you are done on one side, then do it for the same thing with another side. That is the way that she memorized those words. This is the first thing that you must do in 90 days. After ninety days you will have about 900-1500 words, it is time for you to interact with the people in the real world and learn how to put together in the sentence. She said that this is the most difficult part. Therefore, she said that you have to have a rule for this part. The first rule, “you do not hang up with *bule* and middle class of Indonesian people” because they can speak English, therefore they will speak in English with you. In order to speak Indonesian language, you need to hang out with “*the warung owners*”, “*security guards*”, “*workers*”, “*housekeepers*”, “*drivers*”, and “*motorcycle taxi drivers*”. Because they do not speak English, they just speak in *Bahasa* so that you can learn *Bahasa* faster and they love to talk with you in *Bahasa*. When you go travelling, you need

to travel alone. When you are in the bus, you can speak *Bahasa* with everyone especially with the bus driver. You can speak with the bus driver all day/night. You can learn a lot from the conversation and it is cultural exchange. In this situation, you can also learn from your mistakes that you made from memorizing the words. she shared an experience that one day she was in the bus, and talked to the driver and the driver asks her “*kamu sudah punya pacar belum?*” she answered “*tidak, saya tidak mau pacar karena saya tidak mau banyak soal*”, he was confused with the word “*soal*” because Indonesian people say “*soal*” for the examining the students, in this case, she should say “*masalah*”. Then she made a mental note about that and never says that word anymore. Instead of using Bobo, you can also listen to Indonesian music for all days. You can hear and know how to say the words such as what she did. She bought a bunch of Iwan Fals cassettes and it had a lyric already printed in the cover. But now you can have Indonesian music in the mall or music store or online and you can download it for itunes etc, then translate the songs with your dictionary. You do not have to remember them all, and keep using them when you go out into the world and talk to the people. The final step that she said that you need to come to the gramedia or any bookstore, and buy the Bahasa Indonesia course

books for elementary school around grade five or six. Those books are made for children in the school and it is cheap. It will tell you about the Indonesian grammar such as using suffixes and affixes. For example, *sewa* becomes *menyewakan* by omitting the word *s-* then adding *meny-*. Then after a year, you will be next to fluent in *Bahasa*. However, you still have an English accent. After 7 years, she is still saying “*yeng*” instead of “*yang*”. Then she tried to fix it by speaking monolog, reading it and recording it. After that she listened to it, and decided whether it is like Indonesian words or not. Then after you fix it, repeat it for many times. And she asked Indonesian people, which words I need to work on. It is usually for vowel sounds she said and Indonesian people will help you to correct that and she keeps doing that and it will improve drastically her pronunciation. She added that she had an experience to take an Indonesian course, but the teacher spoke mostly English in class. Therefore, she thought that she could learn Indonesian faster if she taught by herself from workers and security guards, bus drivers and with Bobo magazine. In the final words, she said that it is effective and cheap learning method. I think that this method can also be used in learning English. She emphasized that we have to start from very beginning like an empty glass. Then we have to fill it little

by little and day by day. And also we have to use those words in the conversation and correct it if you make a mistake especially when the words do not fit with the context.

The last video is made by Londokampung channel entitled *Bahasa Inggris Rasa Indonesia*¹¹. Actually this video was made for testing people's pronunciation whether they pronounce the words correctly or wrong. However, the native speaker also mentioned about how to learn English. He said that actually English is difficult, especially for the Indonesian tongue. Because some of the English vowels and consonants are different with Indonesian vowels and consonants. In this video, he shared how Indonesian people say common English words.

Native speaker	Indonesian people (sample)
Breaking dawn (fajar)	Breaking down (Mogok, merusak atau menangis)
Headache (sakit kepala)	Head itch (gatal kepala)
Scissors (gunting)	Skisor (?)
Three (tiga)	Tree (pohon)
Said (berkata)	Site (tempat), sit (duduk), shit

¹¹ Dave Jephcott, "Bahasa Inggris Rasa Indonesia". 2019. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=VSNiQsuM8Mg>. diakses 26 Oktober 2019.

	(kotoran), say it (katakan)
Steak (daging panggang)	Stick (batang)
Elephant (gajah)	Eleven (sebelas), elepen (?)
Bag (tas)	Bak (?), bake (memanggang)
Sheet (Seprai/ lembar)	Shit (kotoran), sit (duduk)
Bank (bank)	Bang (dor)
Thanks (terima kasih)	Tanks (mobil tank)
Queue (antrian)	Quick (cepat), kuwi (?)
Jumped (melompat)	Jampet (?)
Vegetable (sayuran)	Fegetabel (?)
Because (karena)	Be cows (jadilah sapi)
Ask (bertanya)	Axe (merek deodoran/ kapak), ass (pantat)
Excuse me (permisi)	Accuse me (salahkan saya)
Third (ketiga)	Turd (kotoran)
Lettuce (selada)	Le touche (?), letus, letooths, letyuse
Hoodie (sweater dgn topi)	Howdy (halo), hodi
Fruit /fru:t / (buah)	Fruit
Beach /bi:tʃ / (pantai)	Bitch /bɪtʃ / (anjing betina)

The table above showed that many people do not say correctly because they learn through text not from how people say those words. In the end, he said that if you learn English or any other languages, you have to pay attention on how to pronounce the words correctly. He said that “Do not give up guys”, the important thing is that you have to be careful and listen how to pronounce the vocabulary correctly. In this short video, he emphasized that the important thing to learn a language is listening and how to pronounce the words correctly. I think that it is true, because we can learn a language through listening and practicing it in the conversation with the people who use English.

D. Conclusion

Based on the analysis above, it can be concluded that learning a language especially English must be started from very beginning, basic vocabularies that most frequent used by English native speakers, then use them in the conversation in the real situation. When learning vocabularies, you have to pay attention how to pronounce those vocabularies correctly from listening how the native speaker say those word patterns. You have to find your curiosity and be fun and happy when you learn a language.

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