IMPORTANCE OF PEER TEACHING METHOD FOR IMPROVING SPEAKING SKILL

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Annotation: The purpose of this article is to review some theories and studies highlighting the best practice to enhance speaking skills through peer-teaching method. As it is known, speaking is one of crucial skills that must be owned in learning language. In fact, many students have several problems in speaking new language. Their major problem is caused by the minimum exposure practicing the language since they do not find foreign language environment to increase their speaking skills except in the classroom. For this reason, an alternative teaching method that provides them with a wider chance to practice speaking is crucial and it can be done through peer-teaching method. Peer-teaching method is a method for delivering subject material with the classmates' help.

Key words: peer teaching, method, language, teaching, learning, problem.

Speaking is one of crucial skills that must be owned in learning language. Through speaking, students can share their knowledge and information to others. Diep points out "speaking skill itself can be stated as the skill to use the language accurately to express meanings in order to transfer or to get knowledge and information from other people in the situation". Thus, every student is expected to be able practice their speaking ability well, in fact they are still low in their speaking skills because of minimum practice. This reason causes students rarely practice their speaking skill. Moreover, they do not find the effective way to upgrade their speaking ability. It shows that teachers and students do not find foreign language environment to overcome their speaking skills yet.

Peer-teaching method is a method for delivering subject material with the peers' help. Students as presenters and other students as receivers of material do this learning. Students who teach are students who have received special training from the teacher. Peer teaching method is not a new concept in language teaching, but it is incomplete if peer teaching is not discussed in this discussion.

By implementing peer teaching method, teachers and students will get several benefits. Ali et. al., point out that "peer learning creates the opportunity for the students to learn each other by utilizing their own skills". It makes possible that students will practice more than traditional teaching in the classroom. For this reason, peer-teaching method is one method that can be applied for students to upgrade their speaking skills. Peer mediation actively involves students in the learning process through a student who helps other students by giving them an effective way to complete difficult tasks. Through this way, students will be able to overcome their speaking problems more easily

Other benefits of peer teaching method are listed in the following:

1) Peer teaching allows teacher and students to understand the material easily.

2) Teacher and other students will gain a broader and deeper understanding of the material own they practice this method.

3) Besides learning to ask useful questions, teachers also develop social listening skills sought in the professional word.

4) Peer teaching gives teacher the ability to accommodate classrooms, which consist of diverse students to improve academic achievement at all, levels of ability academic fields can developing.

5) Peer teaching offering students the opportunity to learn with other students can give students far more practice than using their own traditional teaching and learning methods of learning and learning how to teach generally.

6) The intervention allows students to receive one-to-one assistance

7) Peer teaching is also valuable for the tutor, i.e. "learning is enhanced through teaching"

How to Apply Peer-Teaching Method

After talking about the understanding and benefits of peer teaching methods, the next discussion is about the techniques for implementing the peer teaching method will be discussed in this subtopic. First, choose some materials that are accordance with the abilities of students in the class. Students need it so that they can understand the material well. Then, make several groups of students according to how many subtopic which given by teacher. The purpose why are groups must be formed is because to help the teacher be better in teaching them and lessen anxious, the peer work in-group. Each group consists of students who have less ability, students who have standard abilities, and students who have higher abilities. In this condition, teacher must be understand about their students' abilities and divide the group fairly. After that, each group of students are given times to learn material from the teacher. For students who have higher ability, they can help their peers to understand the material. Because this activity, this method is called peer teaching. They explain their understanding to their peers so that all of students in group understand the material also. In this situation, within cooperative situations, Cooperative Learning offers some advantages such as deeper understanding of learned material, lower levels of anxiety, and stress, greater ability to view situation from others' perspectives, more positive, and supportive relationships with peers...". Then, they are given times to prepare and teacher give them exercises. Then students finish it to measure as far as students understand the material that has been studied. The last step is teacher concludes materials and clarification them to make a clear which the material that do not understand yet by students. Finally all of step have discussed in this subtopic. The success of this method is in the hands of students and teachers because both have an equal position. Teachers must have the creative ability to determine which method is suitable for their students.

The list of used literature
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