

ABSTRACT

Hasibuan, Maharani Amelia, Registration Number 2201121006, An Investigation of Obstacles Experienced by 8th Grade Junior High School Student in Speaking Performance at SMP Swasta Muhammadiyah 1 Medan, A Thesis, English Education Program, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Medan, 2024.

This study aimed to investigate the obstacles experienced by 8th grade junior high school students in speaking performance at SMP Swasta Muhammadiyah 1 Medan and the underlying reasons for those obstacles. This study used the theory of Ur (1996) where there are four types of problems in speaking. The research utilized qualitative methods, including observation and interviews to comprehend the obstacles encountered. The analysis followed the Miles and Huberman modes with three stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. This study found that (1) There are three main problems: inhibition, nothing to say, and mother tongue use. Inhibition, the primary obstacle, involved verbal disfluency, facial expressions, voice characteristics, and physical behavior. The "nothing to say" obstacle led to superficial content and misuse of time, while mother tongue use, such as code-switching, was a minor obstacle. (2) Several causes of those obstacles, including affective factors such as anxiety, worries, nervousness, shyness, forgetfulness, confusion, lack of confidence, and discomfort; linguistic factors, such as the fear of making mistakes in pronunciation, grammar, and word choice, unfamiliarity with speaking in English, difficulty in organizing words or sentences, and limited proficiency in English; meanwhile performance conditions involve issues such as time pressure, lack of preparation and external disturbances from peers.

Keywords: Junior High School, Obstacles, Speaking Performance