

# Merits and Demerits of Interview Method for Improving Speaking Skill

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## ABSTRACT

This article discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the interview method. Despite some disadvantages of this method used in the development of speaking skills, its advantages help to reduce the impact of these disadvantages on the development of speaking skills.

**KEYWORDS:** *interview, language classroom, oral expression, method, interviewee, interviewer, interaction, interactive learning experience, communicative approach, verbal interaction, confusion, respondent, drawback*

## I. Introduction

English is an international language which has been received by countries all over the globe, as a medium of communication in business meeting or other activities among government over the world. Besides, English is used in science of knowledge, new invention in field of modern technology, internet, pharmaceuticals, medic, education etc. therefore it is known that English has a vital role in the world in all aspects of human lives. For instance, in Uzbekistan a major attention is looked at education, teaching English is compulsory that is taught from first grade of school. In learning language, there are four aspects the learners have to master: speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills. Speaking is one of the language skills that need to be acquired by the students in order to be able to communicate with others. Speaking is a process conveying, sharing ideas and feeling orally. The speaker can express his feeling and his idea to someone else, and others will understand what the speaker wants. Therefore, if students do not learn how to speak or do not have opportunity to speak in the language classroom, they may soon get demotivated and lose interest in learning. Speaking enables the students to persuade their mind, to inform something, and to ask questions based on their own point of view. In improving speaking skill, the students have to be able to fill their oral expression with a bright thought, and feeling talk or conversation in English

Speaking which is essential is not easy for students. There are some problems which are faced by students in speaking. The problems are inhibition, nothing to say, low or uneven participation, and mother-tongue use (Ur, 1996a, p. 121). Noormaliah (2018) describes some problems in their research about speaking that students are not able to think of anything to say, the effect of mother-tongue use that students rarely speak English in school because no one always speak English at home, students have difficulty to express their idea because students do not have motivation to share ideas, students have limited vocabulary and grammar (p. 145).

Hughes (2002) shares several methods can be used to evaluate students' ability to speak, such as interviews,

images, roleplaying, interpretation, practiced monologues, aloud speaking, and discussion (p. 119-121).

Interview is one of the methods that can be used to teach speaking. Every individual in our daily life meet with other and discuss something with him. This is the process of interview between interviewer and interviewee. An interview is a conversational interaction, each informant and interviewers are involved. The daily conversation between patient and doctor or student and teacher are the examples of interview. In interview the investigator and the respondents set together and they exist a face to face conversation between the two for a specific purpose. Interview is a process of meet with interviewee either by telephone or face to face conversation to discuss some purposeful thing. Interview is the main deciding factor in whether you will get the job or not. If you are well prepared, you can leave a great impression on the interviewer. The interview is a conversation in which you and an employer exchange information. Your objective is to get an offer of a job, and the employer's objective is to find out the following:

- What you have to offer (your skills, abilities, basic knowledge).
- Who you are (your personality, character, interests).
- Why you should be hired (you have what they are seeking).
- The interviewer will try to determine whether you will be an asset to the organization.

Communication within an interview is transactional and symbolic (both verbal and nonverbal), requires meaning, is both presentational and representational, and takes much for granted. An interview requires effective listening (engaged, relational, and critical) on the part of everyone involved in order to be successful. Interviews have a clear purpose, a goal to be achieved.

Interview is considered as a popular activity for work pair, but also appropriate for group work. Besides that, interview is useful at all levels of proficiency. At the lower levels, interview can be very structured, both in terms of the information that is sought and the grammatical difficulty and variety. At the higher levels, interview can probe more complex facts, opinion, ideas, and feelings. In order to improve speaking capabilities utilizing from interview as a method includes not only merits but also some demerits.

## II. Advantages of interview method

Interview itself forces the students to speak actively. People use interview to establish relationships through personal expression, to find out information, and to compare views with others. It provides a means for sharing experiences and solving problems.

In teaching process, educators most of the time use interview method as a pair work. Interview for pair work enables the students engaged in interactive communication for a short period of time with minimum logistical problems. It means that interview invites the students to speak actively because there is an interesting atmosphere among them. They can share their idea freely without any pressure from the teacher or any fear of making mistakes

The method of interview can also be used as one of the type of cooperative learning. Cooperative learning requires students to work together on a common task, sharing information and supporting one another (Barkley, Cross, and Major: 2005). They have opportunities to process externally and share responsibility for a task. If this method utilized in cooperative learning it will increase frequency and variety of second language practice through different types of interaction. Besides that it will create opportunities for students to act as resources for each other, thus assuming a more active role in their learning. For example, during the cooperative learning process, a teacher becomes only facilitator, student pairs take turns interviewing each other and then report that they learn.

In interview learning, there are a lot of interactions happened. Because it offers a highly interactive learning experience, the interview strategy supports the communicative approach in language teaching. Each student studies and rehearses material with a specific purpose of mind: to be able to teach or tell to the others in the group the main points and important details of his or her own piece of information and then evaluate and synthesize it in order to learn or complete a task. Thus speaking ability of the students can be improved. Besides interview method can also decrease students' nervousness. Furthermore, teaching speaking through interview can make student to be more confident in speaking.

A final characteristic of interviews is that the time spent talking by an interviewee and an interviewer is usually unbalanced. Typically, an interviewer will speak for 30% of the time, and an interviewee will speak for 70% of the time. Of course, the type of interview will dictate exactly how much time each party spends talking, but more often than not, an interviewee will talk more and an interviewer will talk less.

Through this characteristic, learners who act each position, interviewer and interviewee, might obtain equal chance to speak.

### III. Disadvantages of interview method

To start with, if the interview method conducted in learning process for the first time, students come across difficulties so as to getting involved the lesson procedure. Because they have not any information about how the interview should be conducted. So that for the first time a teacher need to supply with information such as the interview theme, what kind of questions may include, how to answer the given question and etc.

Particularly, interviews are verbal interactions and there have not been any techniques set up to record these interactions. Lack of record can lead to great confusions because one cannot remember things exactly for a long time. For example, if the interviewer gives a question which contains unfamiliar words to an interviewee, respondent get confused and lost his attention to the question. As a result he

may stay under depression with losing his word, don't know what to say or try to bluff in any way.

Moreover, an interview is regarded as a reliable method for collecting information, but it does not help always. Sometimes, due to the negligence of interviewee, for example he miss the key term in the question as a consequence he gives response wrongly. For instance if the interviewer gives a question, like "What do you do in a rainy day at home" cause of some panic, interviewee may miss the word "at home" or "rainy days" so then instead of exact answer he reply the question differently.

### IV. Conclusion

To recapitulate, interviews involve planning and preparation and also tend to have a clear sequence and it can be effective learning which can obtain information, motivate students to speak, make students confident to express their ideas in English, and give students more chances to communicate freely with others. Despite some drawbacks of interview method, in order to enhance speaking capability this is the good one to use. Moreover, to apply this technique, students have a reason that they have time not only to express their ideas but also to practice their speaking skills in an interview. Through this method, students are able to enhance their conversation by such expression asking and giving opinions, agreeing and disagreeing opinions. In spite of some demerits of using interview, such as get engaged in the lesson hardly, no recording and difficulties of remembering the key terms, the merits outweigh disadvantages for instance, unbalanced time span of speaking, gives equal chance for speaking to both speaker: interviewee and interviewer, besides that, interview push the learners to speak actively and work cooperatively on a common task. All in all, through decreasing the lack of self-esteem, interview helps students to be more confident in speaking.

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