

ENGLISH CLUB IN UNIVERSITY: EXPLORING ITS ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at summarizing the advantages and disadvantages of English clubs, specifically in universities. We use the systematic literature review method for our research, to which we compiled various articles, journals, and the like as our sources. The data were analyzed via qualitative data analysis. The articles, journals, and other scientific literature or books we referred to are listed below in the References section. In our findings, we discovered that there are more benefits to joining English clubs in universities and it far outweighs the shortcomings. Our sources indicated that joining English clubs as university students contributed significantly to the participants' language fluency, among other benefits that will be described in this article hereafter.

Keywords: *English clubs, university students, benefits, shortcomings.*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memberi rangkuman atas kelebihan dan kekurangan dari English club, dengan fokus ke universitas. Kami menggunakan metode *systematic literature review* untuk penelitian kami, dan maka dari itu kami mengumpulkan berbagai macam artikel, jurnal, dan lain sebagainya sebagai sumber. Data yang kami dapatkan dianalisa secara kualitatif. Artikel, jurnal, buku dan lain sebagainya yang kami jadikan sumber tercantum pada Daftar Pustaka di bawah ini. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa, terdapat lebih banyak kelebihan daripada kekurangan saat bergabung dalam English club di universitas sebagai mahasiswa. Menurut sumber kami, English club membantu mahasiswa dalam meningkatkan kelancaran Bahasa Inggris, dan itu pun hanya salah satu dari banyak kelebihan yang akan dipaparkan dalam artikel ini.

Kata Kunci: English club, mahasiswa, kelebihan, kekurangan.

Introduction

Everyone is born with the knowledge of the language their mother used to speak to them in the womb. This is called the mother tongue. Everyone starts off only being able to speak one language, the language they acquired naturally, and grow with that, but it does not close the possibility to speak more than one language by learning. Language is essentially a means of communication among the members of society, a tool used by humans to communicate with one another. The foreign language is of course different from the mother tongue, be it grammatically, based on the vocabulary used, or even the cultural context in which said language exists. When someone does adapt to a social environment, then said person will use language that is adapted to the situation and conditions.

Indonesia is a country that boasts its diversity at every turn, to the point where our motto literally

translates to “unity in diversity”. While Bahasa Indonesia is our national language, it is still considered the *lingua franca* of the nation. With this in mind, where does the English language come into play? Indeed, while we recognize that Bahasa Indonesia is our national language, we also recognize that English is an international language, the language of trade and business. As such, Indonesia encourages its citizens to learn the language in order to prepare them for a world bigger than our country. This research is aimed to summarize one of the many aids to learning English, which is an English club. English clubs at universities, in particular, spark an interest in us as university students. Hereafter, we will lay down all the advantages and disadvantages of English clubs from the perspective of university students.

Research Method

For this article, we have compiled multiple articles pertaining to the subject matter that we are covering. As we are using the systematic literature review, we analyzed and summarized the source material for the points we wished to make in this article. We recognized that the sources we have at hand may have contradictory points, and as such, each point will be paraphrased. One of the mentor articles we will mainly be referring to is Azoua's *Language Clubs and Pedagogical Approach to Teach English: University of Parakou English Club Case*.

Findings

Here are the advantages and disadvantages of joining English clubs at universities.

The Advantages

English club activities often push participants into communicating in English, which may improve participants' confidence in speaking English. Aside from speaking, participants are also able to improve their listening, writing, and reading skills. In the University of Parakou alone, its English club encourages participants to participate in small group activities such as writing sentences on the board, without worrying about poor grammar and the like. The teacher will then go over the sentences and speak on what to improve and the participants can gain more knowledge from there. Positive responses to the participants' achievements will also boost their confidence and urge them to do better in the activities from then on.

Teachers in English clubs, more often than not, also note that attendance in these clubs boosts their confidence and morale for teaching. It motivates them to do better, and to also learn together with the participants.

The Disadvantages

However, English clubs don't exist without their own share of difficulties. Oftentimes, a lack of coherence in activities leads to a lack of organization in the club. Moreover, there will always be a lack of self-evaluation regarding attendance at English club sessions. However, these are factors that affect the club more than they do the participants. If we are to refer to the disadvantages for the students themselves, the absence of qualified instructors is one of them, such is the case in the University of Parakou's English club. Other factors such as the lack of accessibility to some materials and problems with training club leaders may also hinder the club's longevity.

All in all, the problems surrounding English clubs in university seem to not truly affect the

students' normal classes in universities, as the problems affect the club itself more than it does the students' university life. However, further improvements for English clubs in universities are always welcome and should be brought to the table.

Conclusion

English clubs are, in a sense, a form of experience for university students. It is presented as a way for students to express themselves whilst learning. There are some advantages and disadvantages to them, of course, but the benefits far outweigh the shortcomings. In the end, students are able to improve their English skills in many areas, not just in speaking, but also in reading, listening, and writing.

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