

# THE CORRELATION BETWEEN ENGLISH GRAMMAR COMPETENCE AND SPEAKING FLUENCY

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## Abstract

The objective in this case to examine how English grammar competence can influence speaking fluency. The authorcharity quantitative method, and correlation research design. The population was 170 of tenth grade students from 6 classes, at MAN Cimahi in academic year 2018/2019 and the sample was 34 students from design class. The instruments took grammar test and speaking interview. The student's grammar competence scores (X) and the student's speaking fluency (Y) were analysed and it is found that the distribution of data is not normal. The result of data analysis showed that correlation coefficient (r) equals to 0.259, larger than social significance value which is 0.05. the interpretation of the relationship is weak correlation. The Null hypothesis is accepted.

**Keywords:** *Grammar Competence, Speaking Fluency*

## INTRODUCTION

English is an important language for communication,with language we can share information. In globalization era, we have to major the English language. To master English, we have to strengthen: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The most needed nowadays is speaking English. Speaking English is used as a second language for communication in some country. Therefore speaking English is important for students to face the era of globalization. The government of Republic of Indonesia has placed English language in the curriculum not only at the secondary school, senior high school, but also at university or institute.

According to (Harmer, 2001) and (Gower, Philips, & Walter, 1995) in (Wardah, Regina, & Utami, n.d.2015:3), speaking has many different aspects that including in two major categories: accuracy and fluency.One good sign of speaking, certainly marked also with a good grammatical mastery. It is one part of the category of accuracy. English grammar is main role in English use.Grammar in speaking is very important, so because of that, we have to understand grammar.

Fluency is the ability to speaking spontaneously, without having to stop and pause a lot. It is can be done with habituation so that mutual understanding communication materials can be captured between speakers and listeners.

Some people are more concerned with fluency. Fluency on the other hand, the ability to speak fluently, confidently and at a level consistent with the language community standards. People like the ones who like to keep talking. They have a desire to keep trying a new language without

mistake. But if it keeps on making a lot of mistakes, it's not impossible to speak, the ideas that these students say are hard to catch. This is in connection with the theory of (Skehan & Foster, 1999) in (Derakhshan, Khalili, & Beheshti, 2016:180) which mention that speaking fluency pertains to the ability to produce the spoken language “without undue pausing or hesitation”.

### **Grammar**

In foreign language acquisition accurate understanding is the key of language structure. Every language in the world must have a rule. In English we call it grammar.

(Harmer, 1991) in (Malova, 2016:3) states that Grammar knowledge is essential for competent users of a language. It means that the language user must learn grammar because grammar skills will help students organize words and messages and make it meaningful. Moreover, (A, 1989) in (Arief et al., 2016:3) said that grammar is a model of those linguistic abilities of native speakers of language which enable them to speak fluently. In this case, grammatical competence of the native speaker can be reflected by type of institution which speaker has about their native speaker.

Based on explanations and definitions above, the researcher assumed that grammar is a science of rules that governs the order of sentences, phrases, and words to show some meaning. By knowing the grammar our abilities are improved in using an effective style to train expressions in speaking and writing.

### **Grammatical Competence**

According to the (Council, 2001) in (Artunduaga, 2013:14) competence is defined as understanding of, and capability to use, the grammatical resources of a language. It is the ability to understand and express meaning through generations and the recognition of well-formed sentences in accordance with these principles (as opposed to memorization and reproduction) them as fixed formulae).

Furthermore, (Chomsky, 1965) in (Maksimova, n.d.:115) defined grammatical competence as theoretical and practical knowledge of a partial number of grammatical rules, which allow generating an infinite number of correct sentences. In addition, (Lock, 1997) in (Agulló & Rama, 2012:180) mentioned that grammatical competence was acquired with the approach of the rule plus drilling methodology typical of audio lingual or traditional grammar methods.

As defined above, we concluded that the learners have to major grammatical competence progressively. Progressively is to the training of thinking skills to deal with problem solving

### **Speaking**

Speaking is a tool to share information and idea. It is the first the way to do interaction and communication. According to (Rickheit, Strohner, & Hans, 2008) in (Efrizal, 2012:127) speaking is a speech or utterance produced by the speaker with the purpose, for the listener to process the intent of the speaker's speech. Moreover, (Bailey & L, 1994) in (Nunan, 2003:48) stated that speaking is the productive aural/oral skill. It consists of producing systematic verbal utterances to convey meaning. So we can concluded to convey meaning, it can be determined by aural or oral skill.

From the definition above, the researcher can conclude that speaking is the productive aural or oral skill, which is producing utterance or speech from speaker to listener.

## Aspect of Speaking

According to (Brown, 2003:140) there are several traits in speaking such as pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, grammar, and comprehensible. Below, the description of some the relevant components of speaking by expert.

### 1. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is considered a sub-discourse skill. (Fraser, 2002) in (Gilakjani & Branch, 2011:2) explained that his fluent English knowledge includes a number of sub-qualifications in which pronunciation is paramount (other sub-skills of speaking include vocabulary, grammar, and pragmatics).

### 2. Fluency

Fluency is speak slowly at normal speed without hesitation, repetition and the use of harmonious compound statements speech. It deals with the way students to speak fluently. (Matthews, Alan, Spratt, & Dangerfield, 1991) in (Irawati, 2014:7).

### 3. Vocabulary

According to (Neuman & Dwyer, 2009) in (Alqahtani, 2015:24) vocabulary can be defined as "words we must know to communicate effectively; words in speaking (expressive vocabulary) and words in listening (receptive vocabulary)".

### 4. Grammar

Grammar is a set of rules that explores the forms and structures of sentences that can be used in a language (Gleason & Ratner, 2009) in (Uibu & Liiver, 2015:71).

### 5. Comprehension

(Irianti, 2011:9) stated Comprehension is defined as the ability to understand something by a reasonable comprehension of the subject or as the knowledge of what a situation is really like.

## Speaking fluency

(Fillmore, 1979) in (Yang, 2014:197) stated speaking fluency as : a) the ability to speak for a long time with several interval; b) can create coherent, justified and semantic sentences; c) have appropriate expressions in different contexts d) language use should be creative and imaginative. It means those statement are needed to measure the student's in their speaking fluency. Speaking is part of second language learning and teaching, so it is important for student to speak English fluently.

In addition, (Harmer, 2007) &(Crowther, Trofimovich, Issacs, & Saito, 2015) in (Albino, 2017:2) stated the term of speaking fluency is linked to the meaning of "communication". For example, in a conversation, a learner can make a grammatical error, such as Maria live in Cazenga [live vs. lives]), but the learner can still speak the sentence with some fluency. In this case, we can still speak the sentence, although with an error grammatical. But if we often do this one, then the information obtained in a conversation is not perfectly.

Then, (Richards, 2006:14) maintained that the speaking fluency is developed by many variables: the interaction in problem solving tasks, the negotiation of meaning in pair work and the use of communication strategies. It means that, with these variables can help learners in improving speaking fluency.

From the definition above, it can be conclude that speaking fluency is part of the second language and learning, so that by improving speaking fluency it will train grammar ability.

### **Criteria of Fluency**

(Ers, Stitutio, & Lee, 2008) mentioned there are two criteria in determining fluency. First, Hesitation. Hesitation phenomena such as fillers are most likely to occur at the beginning of an utterance or phrase, presumably as a consequence of the greater demand on planning processes at these junctures (Barr, D., 2001) in (Corley & Stewart, 2008:2) .

Second, Formulaic phrases. (Fonseca, 2018) mentioned that the expression of the formula is associated with the language. SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistic) International defines an idiom as an expression made up of multiple words that function as a meaningful or understandable unit. Idioms are difficult for second language learners because their meaning is not clear when looking at the individual words. Both formulaic phrases and idioms are related to figurative language, or language which does not mean exactly what it says.

### **The Relationship between Grammar Competence and Speaking Fluency**

As it has been already conveyed by expert about grammar and speaking fluency, both of them are so closely related, they are inseparable. Because, grammar is branch of accuracy. Accuracy and fluency is aspect of speaking. As we can see if people who understand about grammar they will speak more fluently than the others who do not understand about grammar. According to (Richards & Renandya, W., 2002) in (Abbaspour, 2016:146) grammatical competence helps speakers to use and understand English language structures accurately and immediately, which facilitates their fluency. In addition, they stated that accuracy is the basis of fluency, while fluency is a further improvement of a person's linguistic competence and a better revelation of his/her communicative competence. It means that we should to keep a balance between accuracy and fluency in an English classroom teaching.

### **METHOD**

This research use a descriptive quantitative research which applies correlation research design, it was chosen because the research will present a correlation between grammar and speaking fluency, and at the end build the conclusion based on the data gained. The researcher uses instrument such as : first, interview for speaking. The writer using oral test like interview, which consists of five questions and based on the topic. Second, multiple choice. Test for grammar to gather information from students, grammar test consisting of 20 multiple choices. The last are population and sample, the writers take students eleventh grade at MAN Cimahi, there are 6 classes with all of students are 170. In this research the writers took 34 subjects as sample from population. The writers collected the data from grammar test by numbers of student's correct answer then multiplied 10, then divided 2. From speaking the writers converted the small scores of O'Malley & Pierce to the scale of 100 as follows; 4=100, 3= 75, 2=50, 1=25. And analysis the data, the writers used Spearman Product Moment formula in SPSS Program.

**Table 1**  
**Speaking Rubric**  
**for Fluency Activity by (J & Lorraine, n.d.) in (Santos, 2005:3)**

Rating	Demonstrated competence
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a variety of vocabulary and expressions</li> <li>• Uses a variety of structures with only occasional grammatical errors</li> <li>• Speaks smoothly, with little hesitation that does not interfere with communication</li> <li>• Stays on task and communicates effectively; almost always responds appropriately and always tries to develop the interaction</li> <li>• Pronunciation and intonation are almost always very clear/accurate</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a variety of vocabulary and expressions, but makes some errors in word choice</li> <li>• Uses a variety of grammar structures, but makes some errors with communication</li> <li>• Speaks with some hesitation, but it does not usually interfere with communication</li> <li>• Stays on task most of the time and communicates effectively; generally responds appropriately and keeps trying to develop the interaction</li> <li>• Pronunciation and intonation are usually clear/accurate with a few problem areas</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses limited vocabulary and expressions</li> <li>• Uses a variety of structures with frequent errors, or uses basic structures with only occasional errors</li> <li>• Speaks with some hesitation, which often interferes with communication</li> <li>• Tries to communicate, but sometimes does not respond appropriately or clearly</li> <li>• Pronunciation and intonation errors sometimes make it difficult to understand the student</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses only basic vocabulary and expressions</li> <li>• Uses basic structures, makes frequent errors</li> <li>• Hesitates too often when speaking, which often interferes with communication</li> <li>• Purpose isn't clear; needs a lot of help communicating; usually does not respond appropriately or clearly</li> <li>• Frequent problems with pronunciation and intonation</li> </ul>

**Table 2**

**Interpretation Correlation by (Siregar, 2013:337)**

Correlation Value (r)	Interpretation
0,00 - 0,199	Very weak
0,20 - 0,399	Weak
0,40 - 0,599	Enough
0,60 - 0,799	Strong
0,80 - 0,100	Very strong

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

Test was taken in 13 March 2018 by the eleventh grade students of 34 in MAN Cimahi in academic year 2018/2019. For speaking fluency, the writer gives students time to answer within 3 minutes, it relates to the number of students as 34 people. Every rating has 25 score, the maximum score is 100; means that students can answer the question correctly and the minimum score is 25, means student can answer the questions with limited. For grammar test, the writer contributed the question to students, and they had 45 minutes to choose the best answer of 20 question. Each number has one point, to get a score; the correct answer will be divided by two, and then multiplied by 10.

**Table 3**  
**Students Score from Grammar and Speaking test**

No.	Students	Grammar Scores	Speaking Scores
1	Student 1	80	75
2	Student 2	45	25
3	Student 3	60	25
4	Student 4	65	50
5	Student 5	35	75
6	Student 6	75	75
7	Student 7	70	25
8	Student 8	65	50
9	Student 9	65	25
10	Student 10	80	75
11	Student 11	60	25
12	Student 12	60	50
13	Student 13	60	25
14	Student 14	75	75
15	Student 15	55	25
16	Student 16	65	25
17	Student 17	60	25
18	Student 18	80	25
19	Student 19	75	25
20	Student 20	60	50
21	Student 21	50	25
22	Student 22	55	50
23	Student 23	60	25
24	Student 24	65	25
25	Student 25	55	25
26	Student 26	65	50
27	Student 27	40	25
28	Student 28	60	50
29	Student 29	60	25
30	Student 30	60	25
31	Student 31	45	25
32	Student 32	75	25
33	Student 33	55	25
34	Student 34	65	25

From the table students' scores above the writers will find the descriptive statistics.

**Table 4**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Grammar	34	35	80	61.76	10.932
Speaking	34	25	75	37.50	18.718
Valid N (listwise)	34				

The writer found that the student’s grammar competence was good. It is because the mean score of the students was 61.76. The student’s speaking fluency was poor. It is because the mean score of students was 37.5

**Table 5**

		grammar	speaking
N		34	34
Normal Parameters <sup>a,b</sup>	Mean	61.76	37.50
	Std. Deviation	10.932	18.718
	Most Extreme Differences		
	Absolute	.171	.395
	Positive	.148	.395
	Negative	-.171	-.252
Test Statistic		.171	.395
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.013 <sup>c</sup>	.000 <sup>c</sup>

- a. Test distribution is Normal.
- b. Calculated from data.
- c. Lilliefors Significance Correction.

It can be concluded that the data from speaking is not normal due to less than 0.05, and data from grammar is not normal due to less than 0.05. The conclusions of the data are not normally distributed. The writer find out the correlation between those two variables used the Spearman’s product moment to compute the data, because the data was not normal.

**Table 6**

**Analysis result of Spearman rho Correlation**

		grammar	speaking
Spearman's rho	grammar	1.000	.277
	speaking	.277	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.113

	N	34	34
speaking	Correlation Coefficient	.277	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.113	.
	N	34	34

From the table above, the correlation between English grammar competence and speaking fluency of the eleventh grade students of MAN Cimahi in the academic year 2018/2019 is 0.277, which indicated there was weak correlation between two variables. To compute the correlation, the writer prepared the computation of two variables by Spearman’s Product Moment. There are two variables; English grammar competence is the first variable and speaking fluency is the second variable.

**Discussion**

From this research, the writer found that the student’s grammar competence was good. It is because the mean score of the students was 61.76. The student’s speaking fluency was poor. It is because the mean score of students was 37.5. The data from speaking is not normal due to less than 0.05, and data from grammar is not normal due to less than 0.05. The conclusions of the data are not normally distributed. And for correlation value there is no correlation between grammar and speaking fluency, with significant value is 0.113, it is larger than 0.05 (social significance value) and it means that “there is no correlation between English grammar competence and speaking fluency”. It means that the level of relationship of the correlation coefficient of the two variables is weak.

**CONCLUSION**

The aim for this research is to find out there is any correlation between grammar competence and speaking fluency. The result of data analysis shows that as follows; The student’s grammar competence was good. It is because the mean score of the students was 61.76. And the student’s speaking fluency was poor. It is because the mean score of students was 37.5. For, the significance (2-tailed) is 0.113, it is larger than 0.05 (social significance value) and it means that “there is no correlation between English grammar competence and speaking fluency”. The value of correlation coefficient obtained is 0.277, while the criteria of the correlation 0.20 to 0.399 are considered weak based on Siregar. It means that the level of relationship of the correlation coefficient of the two variables is weak.

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