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The 3rd
National Conference on Language
and Language Teaching

"Teaching English in Indonesia:
Challenges and Successes"

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

English Education Department
University of PGRI Adi Buana Surabaya

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The 3rd National Conference on Language and Language Teaching (NCOLLT 3)
"Teaching English in Indonesia: Challenges and Successes"

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AUTONOMOUS LEARNING AS A LEARNING STRATEGY IN PRONUNCIATION LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Pronunciation is one of English competences which are often frightened by EFL students, especially Indonesian students when they are learning English. There are many different rules and concepts between English and Indonesian language which make Indonesian students feel difficult to learn pronunciation. Moreover, the learning model used in Indonesia has been changed from teacher-centered instruction to learner-centered instruction. This learning model requires the students to learn independently and be responsible for their own learning process. Thus, students can actively be involved in their own learning process. As the result of the shift from teacher-centered instruction to learner-centered instruction, autonomous learning can be applied as an alternative strategy to assist the students to learn pronunciation competence independently. Computer and internet access can assist the learner autonomy study without helping from teacher. Breakingnewsenglish.com is a website provides an activity which enable students to learn pronunciation competence independently. The purpose of this library study is to explore a possibility of using autonomous learning as a learning strategy in pronunciation learning to assist Indonesian students to improve their pronunciation competence. The writer concludes that learning pronunciation independently from Breakingnewsenglish.com may be able to assist the students to be learner autonomy and improve their pronunciation competence.

Key words: *Autonomous learning, pronunciation, learning.*

INTRODUCTION

Autonomous learning is a learning model which the students become the determinant and decision maker of their own learning process and success. Holec (1981) cited from Balcikanli (2010) argues that the term autonomous learning means that the ability of the students to be responsible for their own learning process and decision maker in choosing learning objectives, determining the content and their progress, choosing methods or strategies, examining the procedures of acquirement, and assessing something has been obtained. It means that an autonomous learner is responsible for their own learning process, he or she learns independently by accomplishing his or her own learning plans based on his or her own learning needs (Wang, 2010). However, autonomous learners cannot

accomplish their learning plans independently; they need something to be able to assist them. Computer instructions are required to learn autonomously. They can utilize networking access, such as a website provides some activities which can help them in learning.

Breakingnewsenglish.com is one of websites which provides some activities to improve the students' English skills and components, such as pronunciation. Students can learn pronunciation independently by utilizing it because it provides some audio file and the text scrip which can be downloaded by everyone. The speaker is a native, so that they are able to listen and learn pronunciation well from a native speaker. A good pronunciation means able to sound like a native speaker (Yoshida, 2016). In this library study, the writer focuses on describing the use of autonomous learning in learning pronunciation.

PRONUNCIATION

Pronunciation is one of English competences which should be learned by Indonesian students when they want to learn English. However, Learning pronunciation in English is generally frightened by most Indonesian students. They feel that learning pronunciation is the most difficult thing in learning English because their mother language has a different language system (Gustina, at al., 2015) such as the sound of / / in think the sound of /ð/ in this. These sounds are often uttered as /t/ for / / as some Indonesian words like *teman, tangki, terima kasih,* and etc. and utter /ð/ as /d/ like *diam, duduk, dendam*, etc. Moreover, Indonesian language has different concept with English. For example, the word "beautiful girl," in Indonesian language is "*gadis cantik,*" the different thing in this word is the word order. The other simpler example is the word "rice" in English means "*beras or nasi* but in Indonesian language *beras* and *nasi* have different meaning; when it is cooked, Indonesian people call it as "*nasi*" but if it is not cooked yet, they call it as "*beras.*" Because of these different concepts, teaching English pronunciation is not an easy thing. The teacher should give a model more or less like what a native speaker pronounces.

Besides, pronunciation is a necessary component in oral communication. This statement is supported by Morley (1991), he states that pronunciation is one of the crucial components in communicating. It can be said that pronunciation determines the successfulness of oral communication. Therefore, an understandable pronunciation is required to avoid misunderstanding between the speaker and the listener.

An English pronunciation teacher should be able to encourage and motivate the students to learn pronunciation because most of them are scared learning English pronunciation. They are not confident and ashamed making some mistakes in pronouncing a word or sentence. They also argue that learning English pronunciation is difficult because they should try to pronounce the words or sentences like what a native speaker sounds. It is not easy thing since sometimes their teacher does not have good pronunciation ability. Therefore, as a pronunciation teacher, he or she should try to find out a good strategy to cover up their weaknesses. Autonomous learning can be as an alternative strategy to assist the students learn pronunciation independently at their home.

AUTONOMOUS LEARNING

Autonomous learning promoted by the teachers basically aims to assist the students to be responsible for their own learning (Louis, 2006 cited in Hayta & Yaprak, 2013). As the result of the shift from teacher-centered instruction to learner-centered instruction, the students should be able to take a part on their learning process. They are responsible for their own successfulness learning. They cannot rely on their successfulness to their teacher only. Therefore, Louis (2006) cited in Hayta and Yaprak (2013) argues that teachers should encourage and motivate students to learn independently helping them how to be responsible and make decisions about their learning process.

Autonomous learning is defined by Holec (1981) cited in Hayta and Yaprak (2013) as the ability to be involved in one's own learning. It means that autonomous learners are responsible for their own learning. They can determine their own success learning and choose their own way to learn something. However, they need a help to facilitate their autonomous learning and breakingnewsenglish.com is one of websites which can facilitate the students to learn pronunciation independently.

BREAKINGNEWSENGLISH.COM

One of websites which can facilitate learner autonomy in learning pronunciation is breakingnewsenglish.com. It provides some materials for learning pronunciation. The students can find and download some texts and the audio file which is delivered by a native speaker. Thus they can have a good model to learn English pronunciation. This website provides some themes can be chosen, many texts with some levels, speeds of reading and many others.

The students can learn pronunciation independently using this website because they can determine their own way in learning. They can choose the theme, text, level, and speed of reading. They can play the audio file as many as possible until they feel enough and able to imitate like what they listen from the audio.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT AUTONOMOUS LEARNING IN LEARNING PRONUNCIATION

The writer arranges seven steps to apply autonomous learning as a learning strategy in learning pronunciation. They are as follow:

1. Students open breakingnewsenglish.com and choose one of the nine themes (business English, environment, education, health, issues, lifestyle, people/gossip/entertainment, technology, and world news)
2. Next, they can choose the title of the text they want from each provided themes
3. They can also choose the levels of the text; these levels determine the number of the words and the vocabulary level, thus the higher the level the more the number of words and vocabulary level is higher as well.
4. Students copy the text on Microsoft office word to make them easy looking at the text while they are playing the audio file. They can also download the audio file.
5. Students can choose the reading speeds (slowest, slower, medium, faster, and fastest)

6. Then, they may play and listen the audio file as many as they want until they are ready and able to imitate like what the native speaker pronounces in the audio file

7. When students feel enough and be able to read the text like what the native speaker pronounces in the audio file, they can record their voice reading the text. It aims to know whether they have been able to imitate or pronounce the words or sentences correctly like the native speaker or not.

CONCLUSION

In this library study, the writer has described and explained how to apply autonomous learning as a learning strategy in pronunciation learning. As the result of the shift from teacher-centered instruction to learner-centered instruction, the students should be able to take a part on their learning process. They have to be learner autonomy so that they can determine their own success learning. Breakingnewsenglish.com can assist the students to be learner autonomy in learning pronunciation. There are seven steps to use breakingnewsenglish.com as a tool for implementing autonomous learning in pronunciation learning. They are open the website and choose the theme, select the title of the text, and the level, copy the text on Microsoft office word, choose the reading speed, play the audio file as many as possible, and record the students' voice.

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