

ABSTRACT

Zahroh, Lulu Mustafidatuz. 2009. *Communication Strategies among English Students Involved in Conversation. The Case of English Department's Students of UNNES in Speaking Class in the Academic Year of 2008/2009.* Final Project. English Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Semarang State University. First Advisor: Prof. Dr. Warsono, M. A. Second Advisor: Drs. Ahmad Sofwan, Ph. D

Key words: communication strategies, conversation, speaking class

Communicative competence was understood as the underlying systems of knowledge and skill required for communication. It is importance to stress that communicative competence refers to both knowledge and skill in using this knowledge when interacting in actual communication. In other words, we need to posses communicative competence in order to make communication runs well.

When English learners communicate in English, they often get stuck in the middle of conversation whenever they face some difficulties. When it happens, they try to find another way or strategy to convey messages. The strategies used by English learners include message abandonment, topic avoidance, appeal to the authority, language switch, and changing code. In this study, the objects chosen are English Department students of UNNES who are making conversation in speaking class. The method used is qualitative (study case) and emphasized on the descriptions of conversations. In order to collect the data, I record the conversation using tape recorder and blank cassettes and then the data is analyzed by classifying them into message abandonment, topic avoidance, and appeal to the authority, language switch, and changing code.

The results indicated that English Department students of UNNES use communication strategies in speaking class as their compensation of lacking competence in the form of message abandonment, appeal to the authority, language switch, and changing of code. I hope by learning more about communication strategies, English Department students can decide which strategy is effective to use in making English conversation.