

English education students' perception on news anchoring subject: A case study in Universitas Ahmad Dahlan

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Abstract

Some people think that studying in the English Education Department only opens the opportunity to be an English teacher. However, the scope of this study program is actually really wide. Students majoring in English Education have more work opportunities with the English proficiency that they have. Universitas Ahmad Dahlan is one of the universities providing English Education Department. The department always tries to create programs and training in order to prepare its students in the working environment. News Anchoring subject is one of the elective courses created by the department as an effort to give the students more chances to express themselves and to expose their soft skills in order to face the working environment. This subject trains students' fluency and confidence in using English. Some students feel excited about the existence of this subject but some others do not really care about it. This paper aims to analyze the students' perception on News Anchoring subject. Quantitative method by using questionnaires will be used to conduct this research. By conducting this research, the writers expect that students in the English Education Department will be more aware of the opportunities for their future.

Keywords: English education department, news anchoring, soft skill, work opportunity

How to cite: Jaya, P. H., Farahsani, Y., & Rini, I. P. (2022). English education students' perception on news anchoring subject: A case study in Universitas Ahmad Dahlan. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Education, 1*, 196-200.

INTRODUCTION

It is still a common belief for some people that one can only become an English teacher after finishing their study from the English Education Department (EED). In fact, with the pedagogical and English proficiency that one has, more job opportunities are opened for them. Entrepreneur, translator, interpreter, journalist, and content writer are some of the examples. Hamudin (2016) even stated that the opportunities for EED students are more varied such as Public Relation, Supervisor, Manager, Customer Service, Marketing, and so on. With wider chances that this department has, there is a phenomenon where more universities create an EED.

Nowadays, the English Education Department is not only owned by a certain university. Yogyakarta, for example, as the city of education, has more than 5 EEDs in various universities. Along with this competition, each university always tries to provide programs and training in order to produce the best graduates in the English Education field (Hamuddin, 2016).

The English Education Department of Universitas Ahmad Dahlan (UAD), built in 1984, is one of the oldest EEDs in both Yogyakarta and Indonesia. Being aware of the competition with other fellow universities, The EED of UAD has various programs to develop its students' potentials and skills. Peer Assisted Learning Program (PALP), TOEFL workshop, national and international conference, and interest-based elective courses are only a few examples of the department's efforts.

News Anchoring subject is one of the elective courses created by the department as an effort to give the students more chances to express themselves and to expose their soft skills in order to face the working environment. Students should understand that when it comes to

relaying news to viewers, the news anchor becomes the final filter. It is no surprise that a news anchor must be able to effectively transmit information to the audience. Aside from having a beautiful appealing face, becoming a news anchor requires skilled abilities and relevant information. To become a news anchor, someone must be up to date on current events and environmentally conscious. A news anchor's primary responsibility is to transmit information or messages to viewers (Aldino, 2016). Therefore, this subject trains students' fluency and confidence in using English, so that they are able to deliver the information better in front of the camera. Some students feel excited about the existence of this subject but some others do not really care about it. In fact, the existence of this subject in the middle of covid 19 pandemic creates more challenges for the students.

Some research about the relation between news anchoring and education has been conducted before. Yuliawati and Nuriyanti (2021) in their paper entitled "Improving Students' Vocabulary by Making Clipping as News Reader of First Science Class focused on whether or not the method is effective to develop students' vocabulary mastery. Another research from Yuanti (2014) entitled "Designing an ESP Speaking for Journalism Class-A Case Study" aims to find out whether some materials for journalism class, including news anchoring, is effective to improve the students' ability in speaking. None of the research discussed the students' perception about news anchoring, especially about elective courses. Students' perception is thoughts and beliefs of students about the technology utilized in class. When it is related to the specific subject, it can be described as students' attitudes and feelings about their understanding of the subject and their ability to learn it. It also involves how they perceive the subject and how they respond to the subject's learning process (Daud et al., 2019). Therefore, the aim of this research is to find out the perception of students in the English Education Department of Universitas Ahmad Dahlan on news anchoring subject. To reach the goal, the writers formulate two research questions, namely: (1) Are the students' satisfied with the news anchoring subject? (2) What are the benefits that the students feel after joining the news anchoring subject?

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used mixed method design with embedded concurrent as the method. This method applies both quantitative and qualitative data collections at the same time (Creswell, 2010, 321). In this research, quantitative data served as the primary, and the qualitative data was as the secondary. The primary data was taken by conducting a survey in the form of a questionnaire. The secondary data was collected by answering a set of open-ended questions. Respondents of the research were EED students of Universitas Ahmad Dahlan year 2018, 2019 and 2020 who were taking the News Anchoring course in the academic year 2021/2022. The sample of the research was taken randomly, 33 respondents out of 90 students.

First step of data collection technique was performing survey and interview techniques to collect data. The survey was sent to the respondents in the form of Google Form link. The respondents filled in the survey consisting of a set of questionnaires, then answered a set of open-ended questions. The second step was data analysis. Both quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed simultaneously to answer the research questions. The instruments of data collection were Google Form, notes, laptop, and the researchers themselves as human instruments.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section is reported in two subsections: (a) students' perceptions in attending News Anchoring subject, and (b) students' opinions in attending news anchoring subject.

Students' satisfaction in attending news anchoring subject

Table 1 shows student's perceptions in attending the news anchoring subject.

Table 1. Students' perception in attending news anchoring subject

No	Items	Totally Agree	Agree	I don't know	Disagree	Totally Disagree
1.	I am able to study News Anchoring material like other course materials.	13 (39.4%)	20 (60.6%)	0	0	0
2.	I study the News Anchoring material because I believe it will be useful in the future.	18 (54.5%)	15 (45.5%)	0	0	0
3.	Learning News Anchoring is more interesting than learning material in other courses.	7 (21.2%)	16 (48.5%)	4 (12.1%)	6 (18.2%)	0
4.	Learning News Anchoring is easier than learning material in other courses.	2 (6.1%)	17 (51.5%)	8 (24.2%)	6 (18.2%)	0
5.	Learning News Anchoring allowed me to explore the material deeper.	13 (39.4%)	20 (60.6%)	0	0	0
6.	Learning News Anchoring helps me improving verbal & non-verbal skills of communication.	14 (42.5%)	18 (54.5%)	1 (3%)	0	0

Table 1 shows that the students' responses were positive although there were few students who gave negative responses. Most of the students agreed or totally agreed with item number 1, 2, 5, and 6. Item number 3 and 4 are showing the disagreement of six students (18.2%); they think that this subject is interesting, but it was not more interesting than the other subjects. However, most of the students agreed that this subject is useful in the future, allowing them to explore more deeply, and being able to make them improve their verbal and non-verbal skills in communication. From the explanation above, we can conclude that students showed positive perception and they also enjoyed attending this subject.

Students' opinions in attending news anchoring subject

News Anchoring is one of the elective courses in the English Education Department of Universitas Ahmad Dahlan. Students who take that subject have a specific purpose. Therefore, the first question delivered to the students was what their purposes are in taking this subject. The following chart (See Figure 2) shows the result.

We found five different answers. Most of the students have a purpose to learn News Anchoring because they want to learn how to be news anchors (14.43%) and they want to learn more about public speaking (12.36%). The rest of the answers were saying that they are interested in the journalistic field (2.6%), they want to learn how to speak English well (4.12%), and they want to improve their confidence (1.3%). From this research result, we can see that students who are taking this subject are those who are interested in news anchoring activities.

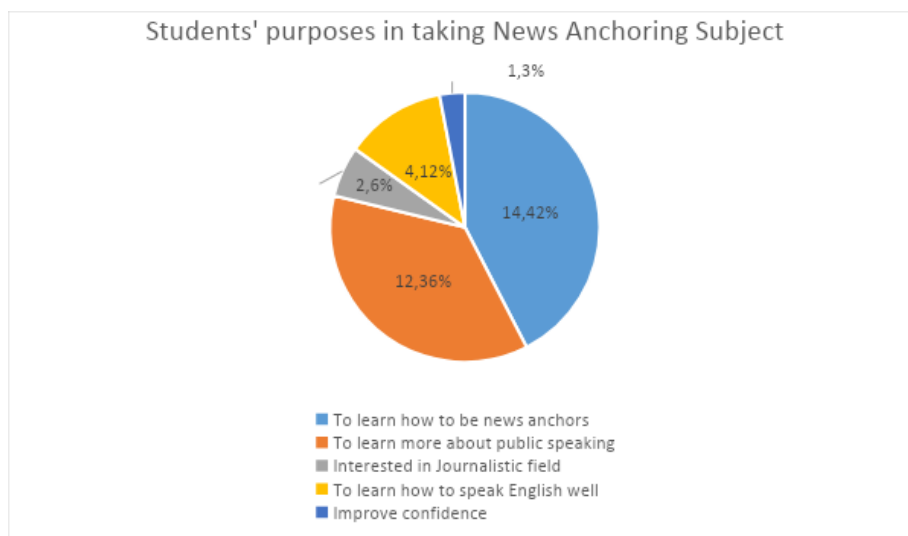


Figure 1. Students' purposes in taking news anchoring subject

The second question that we asked in our questionnaire was the performance of the lecturer. This factor is very essential because it can motivate students to learn in this subject. Based on the research result, most of the students said that the lecturer has good performance. This is proved by some of the opinions, such as (1) he delivers the material very well, (2) he is full of spirit when teaching this subject.

Besides, students also gave their opinion about the benefits of taking this subject. The answers they gave were in line with the first question that asked about their purposes of taking this subject. The following chart shows the result.

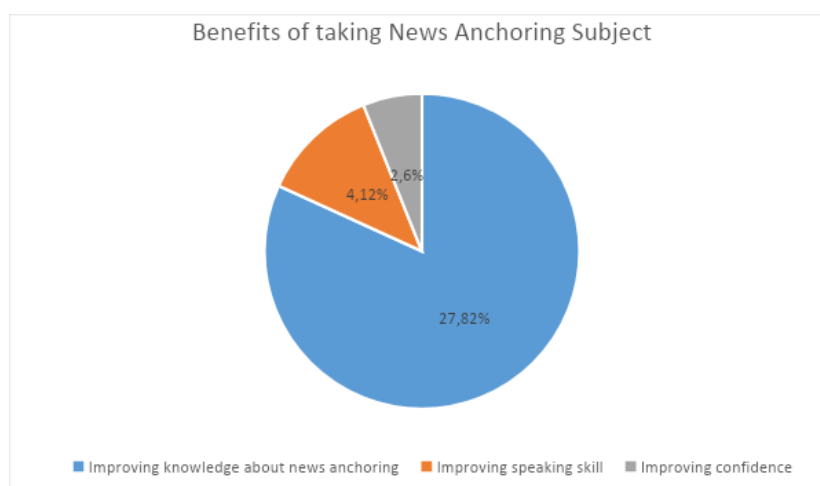


Figure 2. Benefits of taking news anchoring subject

The chart above shows that most of the students benefited from taking the News Anchoring subject. Actually, their answers are related to each other. Most of the students agreed that taking this subject can improve their skills in reading news and becoming news anchoring. They also can learn more about the knowledge of news anchoring (27.82%). The other benefits, such as improving speaking skill and confidence can be side benefits that support the biggest benefit from taking this subject.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the EED's students of UAD are very satisfied with the existence of the News Anchoring subject. They believed that this subject is very enjoyable to learn and is very practical. They also argued that their goals in the beginning of learning this subject could be achieved such as improving confidence, fluency, and pronunciation. Not only that, knowledge regarding journalism was also one of the students' aims in joining this subject that could be achieved well this semester. The lecturers' performance was also one of their considerations of why they were satisfied with the subject. Most of the students said that the lecturers were professional, expert, and very open to all of the students' curiosity and questions. Therefore, the students feel that the class was very interesting even if it was conducted online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the future, research regarding this topic should also need to focus on the offline learning process in the News Anchoring subject. Some students believe that the offline learning process can be more effective because they can practice directly in the journalism laboratory or visit some TV stations to get more exposure. The university should consider this as well because the News Anchoring subject belongs to a practical subject.

Finally, the students' career in the future depends on how they prepare for it now. A university, as a place that is responsible for their formal education, has done its best to give them exposure for both hard skills and soft skills even in the Covid-19 pandemic. The writers hope that this research can make more students aware that opportunities are waiting for them in the future as long as they work for it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank Allah SWT for giving us strength to finish this paper. We are also grateful to have our family as our support system. Furthermore, this work would not have been possible without the support from our Unit and Department, Language Training Center, Mechanical Engineering Department, and Civil Engineering Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. We also appreciate the participation of the English Education Department's students of Universitas Ahmad Dahlan as our respondents. This work would have never been completed without your help. Finally, we would especially like to thank the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Universitas Ahmad Dahlan for giving us platform to channel our interest in scientific writing.

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