Students' Perception of the Causes of Anxiety in Speaking English at an Islamic Private Senior High School in Yogyakarta

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Devy Tri Lestari 20160810032

English Language Education Department
Faculty of Language Department
Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta
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Approval Page

Students' Perception of the Causes of Anxiety in Speaking English at an Islamic
Private Senior High School in Yogyakarta

Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta Language Education Faculty English Education Department

We hereby approve the Skripsi of

Devy Tri Lestari 20160810032

Candidate for the degree of Sarjana Pendidikan

March 30, 2020

Sri Rejeki Murtiningsih, S.Pd., M.Ed., Ph. D.

The Skripsi Supervisor

March 30, 2020

Indah Puspawati, S.Pd., M.A.

Examiner 1

March 30, 2020

Puput Arfiandhani S.Pd., M.A

Examiner 2

Yogyakarta, March 30, 2020

Dr Survanto

ecepted

Dean of Language Education Faculty

Statement of Authenticity

This student

Name

: Devy Tri Lestari

Student number

: 20160810032

Department

: English Language Education Department

Faculty

: Faculty of Language Education

University

: Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

I certify that this undergraduate thesis entitled: "Students' Perception of the Causes of Anxiety in Speaking English at an Islamic Private Senior High School in Yogyakarta" is my original work. No other person work or ideas have been used without any permission or acknowledgement. Except where those cited in the quotations and references.

Yogyakarta, 18 Februari 2020

Devy Tri Lestari

NIM.20160810032

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ABSTRACT

Speaking anxiety is the state when the learner feel worry, stress, and uncomfortable to speak English with others. Speaking anxiety can happen to any of student due to lack of English knowledge, communication apprehension, and afraid of making mistake. This study aimed to investigate the causes that contribute to speaking anxiety as well as the strategies to regulate speaking anxiety used by senior high school students. The participants for this research are six students, with four students of the twelfth grade and two students of eleventh grade from one of Islamic private senior high school in Yogyakarta academic year 2019/2020. The participants were selected using purposive sampling. The results of this study revealed that the students experience anxious feeling when they need to speak English with each other that caused by these following factors: communication apprehension, test anxiety, and fear of negative evaluations. Further, the research also found that the students have strategies to regulate their anxiety. These strategies are: preparations, relaxation, positive thinking, peer support, resignation, and teacher support.

Keyword: Speaking skill, Speaking anxiety, Causes of speaking anxiety, Strategies to regulate anxiety.

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