

THE INFLUENCE OF PUBLIC SPEAKING IN GETTING A JOB FOR THE ALUMNI OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF SRIWIJAYA STATE POLYTECHNIC

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Abstract: This research was conducted to find out whether public speaking influenced the alumni of English Department of Sriwijaya State Polytechnic in getting a job or not. The purpose was to know the influence of public speaking towards it. Quantitative method was used by comparing the score of alumni's public speaking. The population were the alumni of English Department, Sriwijaya State Polytechnic in 2019 and 2020. There were 86 participants answering the questionnaires and 60 of them met as the sample criteria. The data were collected by using readymade questionnaire. The result showed that there was a positive and significant influenced of public speaking in getting a job for the alumni of English Department, Sriwijaya State Polytechnic. In conclusion, the better a person's public speaking skill, the higher opportunity of that person in getting a job. This is supported by the results of the answers from the questionnaires that revealed the influence of public speaking in getting a job for the alumni of English Department of Sriwijaya State Polytechnic reaching 85,04%. The result of the questionnaires was also supported by the percentage of public speaking score owned by 60 respondents with the total percentage was 86%.

Keywords: *English department, getting job, public speaking.*

In everyday life, communication events are encountered everywhere. In general, communication has a role in determining the movement of life because almost all activities, whether individually, in groups, socially, culturally, politically, economically, religion, and relations between nations are carried out by communication. Through communication, the attitudes and feelings of a person or group can be understood by other parties. However, communication will be effective if the message conveyed can be interpreted properly by other parties or the recipient of the message.

Everyone can communicate, but not everyone can speak fluently and attractively in public. At the level of communication, speak in front of public is known as public speaking. In a communication process, public speaking is a form of elaboration in a one-way communication model where messages are conveyed in a unidirectional form from a communicator to the communicant (Zulfazli, 2015). The skills and techniques in public speaking need to be possessed by a speaker so that the objectives, material and information to be conveyed to the audience can be captured and accepted by the audience.

In preparing for the world of work, students in this case need to be equipped with public speaking skills. Many companies are requiring someone to have the communication skill be it persuading, negotiating, and speaking effectively. In practice, public speaking skills are less familiar to the younger generation. Public speaking is important not only for adults but also for students, especially the alumni of English Department at Sriwijaya State Polytechnics. Public speaking skills are very crucial for them because the English Department is one of the majors that studies public speaking material, especially dealing with the world of work. Therefore, the writers would to know the influence of public speaking in getting a job for the alumni of the English Department of Sriwijaya State Polytechnic. This study attempted to find out whether there was the influence of public speaking in getting a job for the alumni of the English Department of Sriwijaya State Polytechnic or not.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Speaking

Speaking is defined as the ability to pronounce articulation sounds or words to express, state and convey thoughts, ideas, and feelings (Tarigan & Guntur, 2008: 14). In addition, Setyaningsih (2018) states that speaking is a person's ability to convey the opinion of his mind. Skillfully speaking, ideas and opinions can be expressed to others. Expressing ideas correctly and appropriately will affect communication with others.

It can be concluded that speaking is a communication process in delivering a message from one to another in the form of expressions, ideas, information which contains a certain meaning orally.

Public Speaking

According to Zarefsky (2013), public speaking is a continuous communication process in which messages and symbols circulate repeatedly between the speaker and the listeners. Woolbert (2017) states that public speaking is a knowledge of one's behavior. In preparing the public speaking material, the following points must be considered: understanding the material, knowing what the audience likes and the audience's situation, choosing sentences in a logical and easy to understand manner.

In addition, Brigance (2012) states that public speaking is a persuasion that includes four elements, namely: grab the listener's attention, make the listener believe in your abilities and character and develop each material idea according to the audience's perceptions.

In short, public speaking is communication process between the speaker and the listeners, conveying messages that the listeners can understand and believe.

Public Speaking in Working

According to Hendriyani and Dharmawan (2015), public speaking is a situation that happens a lot in society. Someone does not need to be the leader of an organization or the head of a certain group to do public speaking. Whatever the role in society: a mechanic, architect, doctor, secretary, communications consultant, accountant, politician, lecturer, staff, or housewife; Someone needs to have public speaking skills. Public speaking skills are needed to convey ideas, discuss things, to report work results to other people. These skills are increasingly important when someone occupy leadership positions such as supervisors, managers, directors, in order to effectively lead meetings, motivate subordinates at work, or even give a successful speech in front of all employees.

In addition, Kandani and Victor (2020) states that public speaking skills are needed to support the work. Public speaking can be a means of promotion for one's career. A person who masters public speaking clearly gives the impression of being smart, and has self-confidence, and an image that is built in a healthy manner. Seeing this, if there is an opportunity, task, or project, the leader will choose or send someone who has public speaking skills to speak in front of clients.

In summary, public speaking skills are needed to support the work, to convey ideas, discuss things, to report work results to other people, and can be a means of promotion for one's career.

English Department at Sriwijaya State Polytechnic

Sriwijaya State Polytechnic, is a public higher vocational institution located in the city of Palembang, South Sumatra, Indonesia. One of the study programs at the Sriwijaya State Polytechnic is English Department in the international level of hospitality industry. One of its mission is produce graduates who are competent and professional in communicating using English in the hospitality industry. It is well-defined that public speaking skills are the crucial competencies for the alumni. It is because the English department is one of the majors that studies public speaking material, especially dealing with the world of work.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Method of Research

This study used quantitative research to analyze the data. Fellows and Liu (2008) said that quantitative research methods are typically adopted because they are scientific methods and provide immediate results. Another reason for selecting this approach is that it is more efficient, can test hypotheses and always aimed at clarifying features, count them and build statistical models to explain what is observed during research.

Population and Sample

Population

The population of this research was the alumni of English Department at Sriwijaya State Polytechnic in 2019 and 2020, a total of 175 people.

Sample

This study used purposive sampling. The sample in this study was the alumni of English Department of Sriwijaya State Polytechnic in accordance with the characteristics of the sample that has been determined.

The characteristics of the sample of this study are as follows,

- a. Alumni who graduated in 2019 and 2020
- b. Alumni who have found job less than 1 year after graduating
- c. Alumni who already have jobs in an agency, company, or government office.

The samples of this research were the alumni of English Department of Sriwijaya State Polytechnic who met the sample criteria, a total of 60 people which was 34% from the population.

Technique of Collecting the Data

In this study, the writer used one method of collecting the data, that was questionnaire. The writers used closed questionnaire structure as the technique for collecting the data and that had 23 questions based on the ready-made question that had got validation of another research before the data were placed in nominal data which has options answers, and ordinal data which has ranked answers.

Technique of Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the questionnaire data, the writer compared the results of the questionnaires data with the percentage of public speaking scores owned by the Alumni of English Department at Sriwijaya of State Polytechnic. Then, the writer has developed steps in knowing the influence of public speaking in getting a job that is expected to be great interest to students, that public speaking can affect the ability of speaking in public especially in getting a job.

The writer used Likert Scale for the assessment criteria in the questionnaires. The Likert Scale is used to measure attitudes, opinions, and perspectives of people or groups about social phenomena. Likert Scale has a gradation of answers from very positive to negative, which usually uses words (Sugiyono, 2013). Since the questionnaires were developed in Bahasa Indonesia, the Likert Scale was also translated into Bahasa Indonesia.

- I. Strongly disagree = (1) Sangat Tidak Setuju (STS)
- II. Disagree = (2) Tidak Setuju (TS)
- III. Neutral = (3) Netral (N)
- IV. Agree = (4) Setuju (S)
- V. Strongly Agree = (5) Sangat Setuju (SS)

The writer used the classification TCR (Tingkat Capaian Responden) or Level of Respondent's Achievement by Sugiyono (2010) to determine the level of achievement of respondents.

$$TCR = \frac{\text{Average Score} \times 100}{\text{Maximum Score}}$$

Where, TCR is Tingkat Capaian Responden (Level of Respondents' Achievement)

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This part was intended to answer the question in the problem formulation whether there is an influence between public speaking in getting a job for the alumni of the English Department at Sriwijaya of State Polytechnic or not. This was the result of an online questionnaire of the 86 the alumni of English Department of Sriwijaya State Polytechnic in 2019 and 2020. The questionnaire

had 23 questions of the influence of public speaking in getting a job. These are the classification of respondents and the result of the questionnaires.

A. The Classification of Respondents

1. Graduation Year

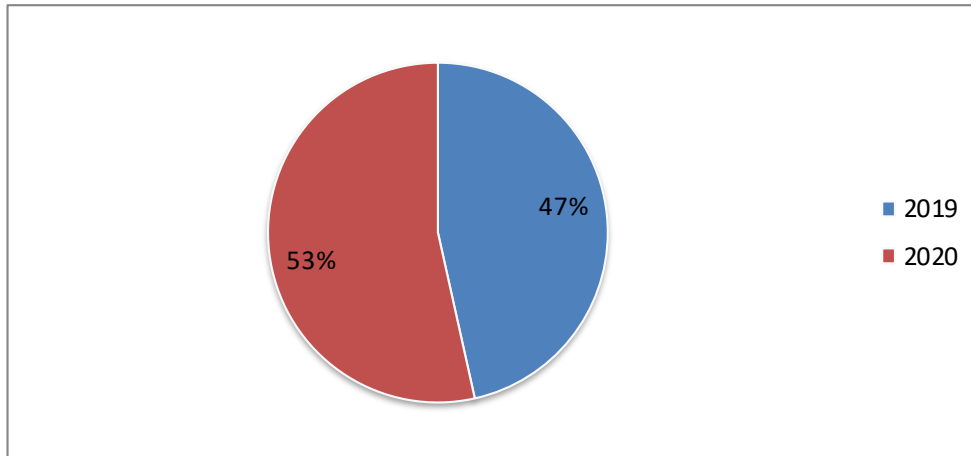


Chart 4.1 Graduation Year

From the chart 4.1 above, it shows that there were 40 respondents from the alumni of English Department State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya in 2019 with a percentage of 46.51%. While there were 46 respondents from the alumni of English Department State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya in 2020 with a percentage of 53.48% with the total of the respondents was 86 people.

2. Having a Job

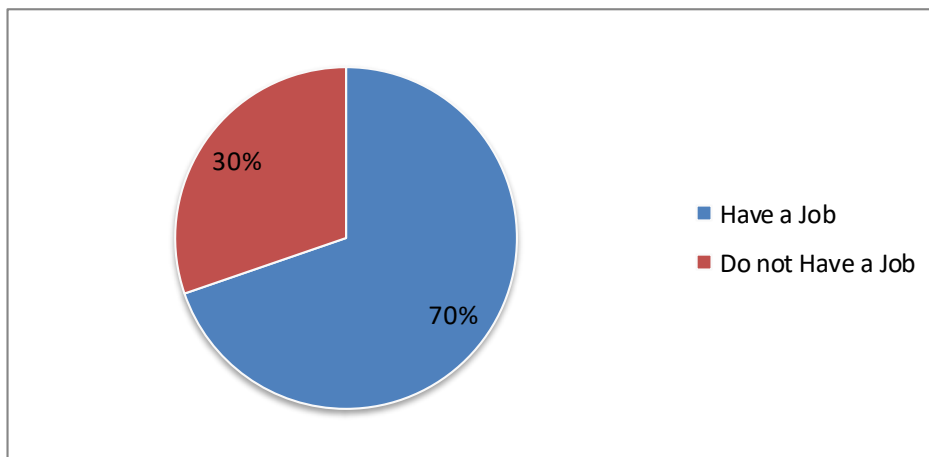


Chart 4.2 Having a Job

From the chart 4.2 above, it shows that out of 86 respondents, there were 60 respondents who had a job with a percentage of 69.8%. While there were 26 respondents (30.2%) who did not have a job.

3. Time to Get the Job

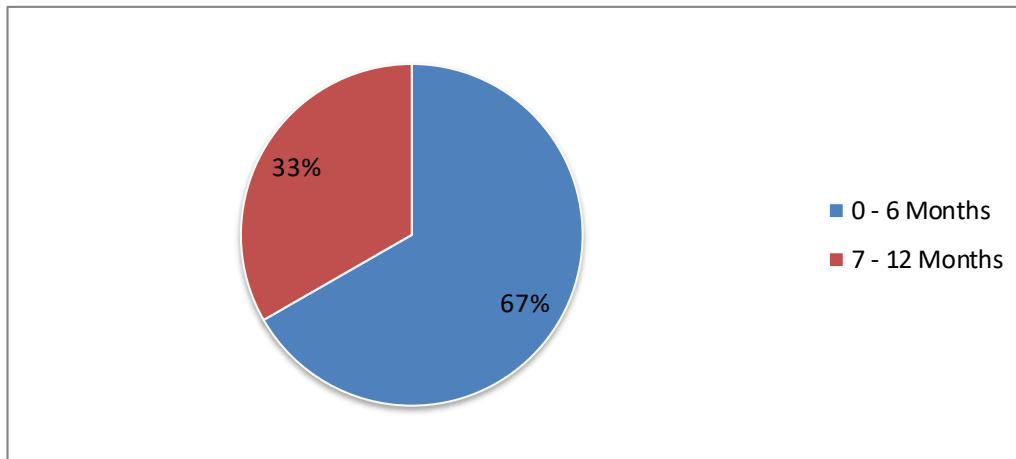


Chart 4. 3 Time to Get the Job

From the chart 4.3 above, it shows that there were 40 respondents who have found job less than 0 – 6 Months after graduating with a percentage of 66.7%. While there were 20 respondents who have found job less than 7 – 12 Months after graduating with a percentage of 33.3%. The total of the respondents who had a job were 60 people.

B. Score of Public Speaking

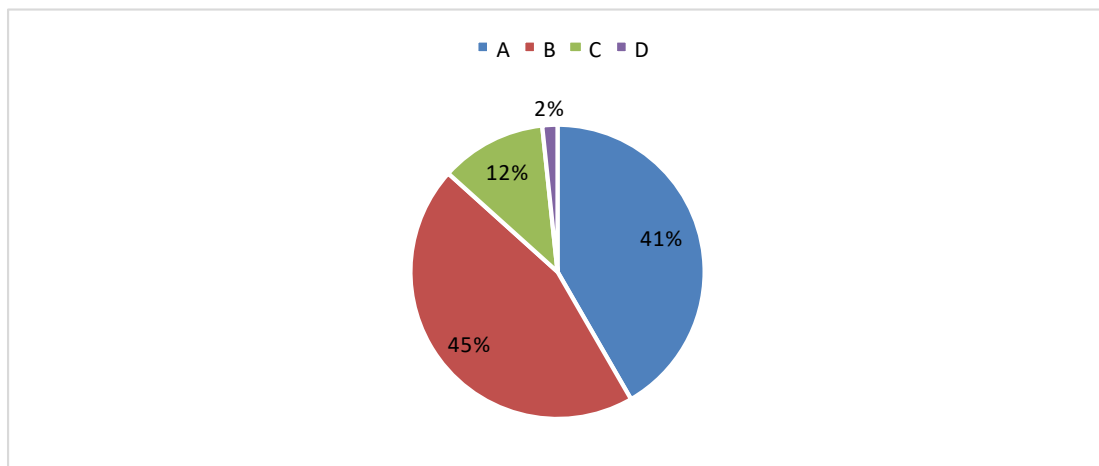


Chart 4. 4 Score of Public Speaking

From the chart 4.4 above, it shows that there were 25 respondents who got “A” as the score of public speaking with a percentage of 41%. There were 27 respondents who got “B” with a percentage of 45%. While there were 7 respondents who got “C” as the score of public speaking with a percentage of 12%. There were 1 respondent who got “D” with a percentage of 2%. The total of respondents who had a job were 60 people.

Table 4. 1 Table of Score

Absolute Score (Number)	Relative Score (Letters)
80 – 100	A
66 – 79	B
54 – 65	C
40 – 53	D
<40	E

C. The Result of Questionnaires

The results of the assessment of 60 respondents to the 23 questions carried out to assess *Tingkat Capaian Respondent (TCR)* on the evaluation of indicator of public speaking in getting a job can be seen in the table 4.1 below:

Table 4. 2 The Result of Questionnaires

No.	Question	STS (1)	TS (2)	N (3)	S (4)	SS (5)	N	SCORE	TCR
1	Saya berkomunikasi dengan menggunakan tata bahasa yang baik	0	0	3	25	32	60	269	89.67
2	Ketika berkomunikasi saya menggunakan gerakan tangan sesuai dengan kebutuhan	0	1	6	19	34	60	266	88.67
3	Pesan yang saya sampaikan jelas dan mudah untuk dipahami	0	0	8	20	32	60	264	88.00
4	Saya berbicara menggunakan volume suara yang terdengar jelas	0	0	6	28	26	60	260	86.67
5	Saya menjaga kontak mata pada audience saat berkomunikasi	0	2	6	15	37	60	267	89.00
6	Saya berusaha mengucapkan artikulasi huruf dengan benar	0	1	5	21	33	60	266	88.67
7	Saya menggunakan penekanan ketika menunjukkan suatu poin penting	0	1	8	20	31	60	261	87.00

8	Saya menarik perhatian audience dengan memainkan nada suara yang bervariasi	0	2	13	23	22	60	245	81.67
9	Saya menggunakan nada sesuai dengan arti kata yang saya maksud	0	2	11	27	20	60	245	81.67
10	Ekspresi wajah saya sesuai dengan arti kata yang saya ucapkan	0	0	17	20	23	60	246	82.00
11	Saya percaya diri ketika tampil di hadapan seseorang atau banyak orang	0	4	13	20	23	60	242	80.67
12	Saya mampu mengatasi kegugupan saat wawancara kerja atau presentasi kerja	0	2	9	27	22	60	249	83.00
13	Saya mampu berkonsentrasi dengan baik saat berbicara di depan umum	0	1	12	23	24	60	250	83.33
14	Saya memiliki kemampuan untuk berbicara di depan umum, maupun saat wawancara kerja	0	2	10	26	22	60	248	82.67
15	Saya mempersiapkan materi dengan matang saat akan melakukan wawancara kerja atau presentasi	0	0	9	25	26	60	257	85.67
16	Saya melakukan latihan public speaking sebelum melakukan wawancara kerja atau presentasi kerja	0	1	13	22	24	60	249	83.00
17	Kemampuan public speaking saya membantu saya bersikap tenang ketika dihadapkan pada pertanyaan yang menjebak	0	1	12	27	20	60	246	82.00
18	Saya mampu menyesuaikan diri saat menjawab pertanyaan wawancara kerja atau presentasi kerja	0	0	14	21	25	60	251	83.67
19	Saya pernah mengajukan pertanyaan kepada pewawancara ketika melakukan wawancara kerja	2	2	11	18	27	60	246	82.00
20	Saya melibatkan audiens untuk memberikan respon dalam bentuk tanya jawab saat presentasi kerja	1	3	8	31	17	60	240	80.00
21	Public speaking membantu saya melakukan presentasi atau wawancara kerja dengan baik dan lancar tanpa kendala	0	1	7	21	31	60	262	87.33
22	Public speaking membantu saya menjawab setiap pertanyaan dalam wawancara dengan baik	0	0	5	25	30	60	265	88.33
23	Salah satu pertimbangan mendapatkan pekerjaan adalah karena mempunyai kemampuan public speaking	0	1	5	13	41	60	274	91.33
									85.04

The respondents scale and scores used were:

- I. (STS) Strongly Disagree = (1)
- II. (TS) Disagree = (2)
- III. (N) Neutral = (3)
- IV. (S) Agree = (4)
- V. (SS) Strongly Agree = (5)

From table 4.1 above, it can be concluded that from the 23 questions assessed to 60 respondents, the value of respondent achievement level was 85.04%. Based on table 3.1, if the percentage of achievement reaches 80% - 89% is included in the appropriate criteria. The result of the questionnaires was also supported by the percentage of public speaking scores owned by 60 respondents which indicates that there were 25 respondents who got "A" as the score of public speaking and 27 respondents who got "B" as the score of public speaking with the total percentage is 86%. Therefore, it can be concluded that public speaking influenced the alumni of the English Department of State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya in getting a job.

Discussion

The results show there was a positive and significant influenced of public speaking in getting a job for the alumni of English Department State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya.

There were several influences of public speaking in helping the alumni of the English Department of the Sriwijaya State Polytechnic to get a job:

1. Public speaking helps someone to communicate in a good way communication
 - a. Using a good grammar

All the respondents agreed that using good grammar when communicating with other people especially the interviewer or when having a work presentation helped them in getting a job. Good grammar and vocabulary helped the respondents to arrange the sentences in expressing their ideas, feeling and thoughts to avoid misunderstanding when doing a job interview or work presentation.

- b. Using a body language

All the respondents agreed that using a body language when communicating with other people especially the interviewer or when having a work presentation helped them in getting a job. The use of body language is very necessary when communicating with other people because body language can represent the answers and readiness to take part in the interview. Here are some body languages that must be considered when participating in a job interview and job presentation: shaking hands to tell how enthusiastic someone in taking the interview test; the position of the head must be upright; using a hand movement will make more flexible when speaking, etc. A job interview is the perfect time for someone to introduce themselves and show off their skills in front of the interviewer. As a result, maximizing the

performance and avoiding unnecessary body language are important so that this job interview will run successfully. If someone can optimize body language, the power of information will increase.

c. Maintaining and paying attention to the tone and intonation

All the respondents agreed that maintaining and paying attention to tone and intonation when communicating with other people especially the interviewer or when having a work presentation helped them in getting a job. Tone and intonation of the voice also play an important role in determining the success of the interview. An intonation that is too flat will give the impression of disinterest, while repeated use of informal words, such as "mmm" or "eee" can give the negative impression that they are not very prepared for the interview. Someone must be able to adjust the volume of his voice, so that it is neither too loud nor too low. High volume can be used to convey passionate topics. These statements are related to Bintang (2014) who states that intonation provides emphasis on certain words to give the effect of sharpening meaning and attention to the audience. Intonation adds to the amplifying effect of the information by adjusting the pitches and lows. Tone is more influential in delivering messages than words.

d. Maintaining and paying attention to the eye contact

All the respondents agreed that maintaining and paying attention to the eye contact when communicating with other people especially the interviewer or when having a work presentation helped them in getting a job. It is important to make eye contact with the person someone is talking to. It shows seriousness and respect for the interviewer. In his book, entitled "301 Smart Answers to Tough Interview Questions", Oliver (2005) states that the best eye contact during a job interview is to keep enough eyes on the interviewer, not looking into his eyes throughout the job interview. These statements are related to Bintang (2014) who states that to strengthen the relationship with the audience, provide thorough eye contact. Avoiding eye contact is often defined as being unsure of oneself. Breaking eye contact with the audience means cutting ties with them.

2. Public speaking helps someone become more confident

All the respondents agreed that public speaking helps someone become more confident when speaking in front of many people especially during a job interview or work

presentation. Confidence means understanding ourselves, what our strengths and weaknesses are. Confidence helps someone to be calm when faced with tricky questions, because someone will feel more confident knowing their personal information in their hand, so they can be aware of questions related to the resume they were create. This statement is related to Nikita (2012) who states that mastering public speaking have several benefits, including: increasing self-confidence, helping someone improving communication skills, and lessening the anxiety and fear when speaking in front of others. In addition, Kandani and Victor (2020) states that public speaking skills are needed to support the work. A person who masters public speaking clearly gives the impression of being smart, and has self-confidence, and an image that is built in a healthy manner.

3. Public speaking helps someone in answering the questions

All the respondents agreed that public speaking helps someone in answering the questions during a job interview or job presentation, involving in the form of answering the questions and giving the questions during a job interview or presentation. Public speaking helps someone to answer the questions from the interviewer clearly and in accordance with the intent of the questions given. The way to answer is also enthusiastically, and confidently. It is in line with Schreibe and Hartranft (2013) who states that public speaking provides career benefits to improve the ability to communicate with other people, be it persuading, negotiating, providing support, and speaking effectively. In addition, Hendriyani and Dharmawan (2015) states that public speaking skills are needed to convey ideas, discuss things, to report work results to other people.

4. Public speaking helps someone when faced the uncontrollable situations

All the respondents agreed that public speaking helps someone when faced the uncontrollable situations during a job interview or job presentation. For example, confusion over the questions given by the audience. A good speaker has to be able to calm down and answer the question carefully. This statement is related with Bintang (2014) who states that sometimes the speaker will be faced with uncontrollable situations. A powerful speaker must be able to take the necessary steps. First, calm down. Self-control is the first step to a successful presentation. Don't let emotions and nervousness get to the audience. If the speaker can control

himself, then the audience will definitely be "conquered". The speaker just has to be calm, and remember all the things he has learned.

5. Public speaking helps someone to do the job interview or job presentation well and smoothly without any problems

All the respondents agreed that public speaking helps someone do the job interview or job presentation well and smoothly without any problems. For example: someone is able to concentrate when communicating with other people, always prepare the material carefully, and practice speaking before doing a job interview or presentation. It is in line with Bintang (2014) who states that the secret to make a good presentation is preparation and practice. Preparation can increase self-confidence. Preparation and practice can also control fear. By increasing the number of exercises, one can filter out the weaknesses of the presentation to be delivered. Preparation and practice mean building personal power and self-confidence.

6. Public speaking is one of the criteria in getting a job

All the respondents agreed that public speaking is one of the criteria in getting a job. It is supported by Kandani and Victor (2020) who state that public speaking skills are needed to support the work. Public speaking can be a means of promotion for one's career. Moreover, Hendriyani and Dharmawan (2015) states that public speaking skills are needed to convey ideas, discuss things, to report work results to other people. These skills are increasingly important when someone occupy leadership positions such as supervisors, managers, directors, in order to effectively lead meetings, motivate subordinates at work, or even give a successful speech in front of all employees.

CONCLUSIONS

Public speaking influenced the alumni of English Department, Sriwijaya State Polytechnic in getting a job. This was supported by the results of a questionnaires that revealed the influence of public speaking in getting a job for the alumni of English Department of State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya reaching 85,04%. The result of the questionnaires was also supported by the percentage of public speaking scores owned by 60 respondents which indicates that there were 25 respondents

who got “A” as the score of public speaking and 27 respondents who got “B” as the score of public speaking with the total percentage is 86%.

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