

Maximizing the Advantages of Language Laboratory for English Language Teaching in Senior High Schools in Yogyakarta Province

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Abstract

Nowadays, technology is inseparable from any aspects of life, including education. Technology, in whatever form it is, has brought teaching and learning to its new height. It has been used widely, making changes in educational paradigm and delivery. Language teaching and learning is one among many that is also influenced a lot by the development of technology. More advanced facilities are developed along with the rapid changes in technology. One of the basic facilities in language teaching and learning that is based on technology is language laboratory. Both conventional and computerized language lab bring many advantages to the teaching and learning of English. This is what this study focuses on – things that can be done to maximize the advantages of the use of language lab in English teaching. This study reports the discussion results with English teachers in senior high schools in Yogyakarta province, Indonesia. Based on the results of the discussion, there are some common problems experienced by these teachers when using language labs. The problems include the management, human resources, teaching materials, and technical problems. Several ways can be done to minimize the problems and maximize the positive effects of the use of language lab in English teaching. Among them are creating a well-managed language lab, improving the competence and performance of teachers in using the lab, changing or improving the choice and design of teaching materials, and improving the ability to solve technical problems.

Keywords: advantages, ELT, language lab, senior high schools, Yogyakarta