

THESIS

**A STUDY ON THE SPEAKING ABILITY OF THE
EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP KRISTEN
MERCUSUAR IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2013/2014**



GIOFANUS B. BESSY

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FACULTY
WIDYA MANDIRA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
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**GIOFANUS B. BESSY
REG. NO. 12109067**

**ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
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TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
FACULTY
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**Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Education**

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TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE
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Team of Examiners

No.	Name	Position	Signatures
1.	Drs. AleksiusMadar, M.Ed	Chairman	
2.	Maria Goreti Djehatu, S. Pd	Secretary	
3.	Dra. Floribertha Lake, SS, MA	Examiner I	
4.	Drs. Thomas Ola Dosinaeng, MA	Examiner II	
5.	Drs. AleksiusMadar, M.Ed	Examiner III	

Acknowledged by

Dean of Teacher Training and
Educational Science Faculty


Dr. Alphonse Bunga Naen, M.Pd

Head of English Education Study
Program


Dr. Aleksius Madar, M.Ed

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Kupang

TheWriter

MOTTO

LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD SO WE
HAVE TO FIND WAYS TO BE
ALWAYS THANKFUL TO THE
ALMIGHTY GOD

(*Giofanus B. Bessy*)

DEDICATION

This thesis is particularly dedicated to:

My Father Alfons Bessy and My Mother Bernadetha Tulasi

My Sisters Nobertha Bessy and Regina Bessy

My Brothers Raymundus Bessy, Reynaldo Bessy and Matheus Bessy

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ABSTRACT

This study is entitled "A STUDY ON THE SPEAKING ABILITY OF THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP KRISTEN MERCUSUAR IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2013/2014". It aims to answer the following questions: (1) what is the level of speaking ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Kristen Mercusuar? (2) What are the difficulties of the eighth grade students of SMP Kristen Mercusuar in relation to their speaking ability? The objectives of the study are: (1) to find out the level of the speaking ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Kristen Mercusuar. (2) to find out the difficulties of the eighth grade students of SMP Kristen Mercusuar concerning their speaking ability. In order to find out the answers, the writer used a descriptive method. This method was used because the aim of the study was to describe the speaking ability of the students in the form of vocabulary, structure, pronunciation, fluency, and comprehension. The subjects of the study were twelve students of eighth grade students of SMP Kristen Mercusuar Kupang. The result of the research shows that the students' speaking ability in telling their experiences is in **good level** with **69.7**. The students' speaking ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Kristen Mercusuar in terms of five aspects: pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension is also in average to good level. In terms of pronunciation, the students still have some problems in pronouncing the words even for the words that are familiar enough. Even though the students still have problems with pronunciation but the message they convey is understood. In terms of grammar, the students still frequently make grammatical errors when they speak, especially for subject and verb agreement, preposition, simple past tense, and passive voice, etc. In terms of vocabulary, some students still have problems in providing words to build their speaking because of limited stock of vocabulary. Sometimes, the students use inappropriate vocabulary that make the listeners have to concentrate more to what the speakers saying. In addition, vocabulary also become a problem because of lack of preparation by the students themselves. In terms of fluency aspect, this aspect is related to how confident they are, how well they pronounce the words and how good their preparation. Here, some of students are not confident enough to say what they mean. Most of the students pronounce the words incorrectly; those make them hesitant or have to repeat what they want to say. Based on those result the writer would like give some suggestions as follow; the teachers need to motivate their students in learning English, particularly in speaking skill. The teachers ought to create the atmosphere of teaching and learning more interesting for the students. Not just teaching the students from the book, or try to write all the material in the whiteboard, but the teachers should create an interesting environment such as, playing games, playing a drama, and storytelling. The teachers have to be aware in giving corrections to the students. It is important for the teachers to know the character of their students. Not all students can accept their mistakes corrected directly. For the students; practice is the most important thing to master speaking skill. Therefore, to increase their speaking skill, the students have to be more active in practicing their English. By practicing their English frequently, the students will be qualified and more confident in using their English to communicate.

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