UNVEILING EFL STUDENTS' VOICES: SELF-CREATED DIGITAL CONTENT (SCDC) FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING BEYOND THE PODIUM

Endang Susilowati[1], Eka Fanti Sulistiyaningsih[2], Etika Dewi Kusumaningtyas[3]

[1,2,3] Department of Education, An Nuur University, Purwodadi, Central Java, Indonesia

endangsusilowati.ends@gmail.com

In today's digital age, English as a Foreign Language (EFL) education is being reshaped by rapid advancements in digital transformation. EFL learners today are expected not only to develop linguistic competence but also to communicate effectively across a variety of digital platforms. In this context, student voices offer valuable insights into how creating digital content can enhance language development, build confidence, and encourage greater learner autonomy. This study investigates the experiences, challenges, and growth of Indonesian college students in developing public speaking skills through self-created digital content (SCDC). Grounded in Constructivist Learning Theory, Affective Filter Hypothesis, and Self-Determination Theory, this qualitative study involved nine students enrolled in a public speaking course at an Indonesian university. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, open-ended questionnaires, and reflective journals, and analyzed thematically using Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase framework. This study highlighted three major findings. First, students described the SCDC process as meaningful, empowering, transformative, and challenging. Second, they faced challenges categorized into emotional, linguistic, and technical challenges. Third, they reported growth in confidence, motivation, pubic speaking skills, autonomy, and digital literacy. The findings suggest that in the digital era, SCDC can serve as a valuable tool for enhancing public speaking skills, supporting student autonomy, and expanding language learning beyond the traditional classroom setting. Finally, this study offers pedagogical implications for integrating self-created digital content into language learning.

Keywords: EFL students, students' voices, self-created digital content (SCDC), public speaking, digital era