



The Influence of Problem-Based Learning and Learning Motivation on Students' Public Speaking Skill

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Abstract

Public speaking skill is one of important skills in effective communication. However, there are many students get difficulties in it. This study aimed to investigate the influence of Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and learning motivation on students' public speaking skill. This study was qualitative research in form of experimental method with factorial design of 2x2. Samples were taken using purposive sampling technique. The research instruments were performance test and questionnaire. This study showed that PBL had positive impact on students' public speaking skill. The interaction between PBL and learning motivation influenced their ability in public speaking. This study concluded that PBL and learning motivation influenced students' public speaking skill. Implication of this study was the use of PBL could be implemented in future studies to determine the effectiveness of PBL in different contexts.

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Introduction

Education in globalization era requires the college students to have skills which are relevant to society's needs. One of important skills is public speaking. This skill is not only needed in academic. It is also needed in daily life and someone's career. However, there are many college students find difficulties in public speaking skill such as in conveying ideas. It causes their learning success cannot be optimal. Learning motivation is also important factor

in determining students' learning success. A high motivation can improve students' performances in public speaking. It also facilitates them to achieve learning goals. On the other hand, most of them have difficulties in maintaining their learning motivation.

Public speaking is one of important skills in effective communication. There are many students find difficulties in it. According to (Smith, 2020), public speaking is difficult skill that has to be mastered by students. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the influence of Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and learning motivation on students' public speaking skill.

Previous studies show that PBL is able to improve students' public speaking skill in university level. A research conducted by (Johnson, 2022) reveals that PBL can increase students' skills in critical thinking and problem solving, in which both skills are important in public speaking. Moreover, learning motivation has positive impact on students' public speaking skill (Williams, 2022) argues that learning motivation can improve students' self confidence in public speaking. It is supported by (Hmelo-Silver, 2020) who state that PBL can improve students' communication and cooperation skills, in which both skills are also important in public speaking.

PBL is said to be effective in increasing students' public speaking skill. It improves students' skills in critical thinking and problem solving (Tan, 2020) in which both skills are important in public speaking. Learning motivation has positive impact on public speaking. Explains that it increases students' self confidence in public speaking (Williams, 2022). Another research by Smith (2022) shows that learning motivation can increase students' communication skill effectively. The interaction between PBL and learning motivation has a positive influence on speaking skill. Johnson (2022) says that students' learning motivation can improve their communication skill.

The primary gap in the literature lies in the absence of research on the mediating role of learning motivation between PBL and public speaking skill development. Furthermore, many studies have focused on broad, generalized models of learning without examining specific skills or cultural contexts that might influence the effectiveness of PBL in public speaking. This study will contribute to filling these gaps by providing a nuanced understanding of how PBL and motivation interact, especially in improving specific aspects of public speaking such as fluency, content organization, and nonverbal communication.

Theories relevant to this study include Social Cognitive Theory, which emphasizes the role of motivation in skill development (Bandura, 1997). This theory is particularly useful in understanding how students' self-efficacy beliefs influence their public speaking performances. PBL, as a learning model, aligns with Social Cognitive Theory by encouraging active problem-solving and reflection, which can enhance students' motivation and skills. Additionally, this study draws on the theory of learning motivation, which distinguishes between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation and explores how these types of motivation affect students' engagement and performance in public speaking. By integrating these theories, this research

aims to advance our understanding of how PBL and motivation jointly contribute to public speaking skill development.

Previous studies have shown that PBL and learning motivation increase public speaking skill. However, there are several gaps in it. First, there is less research which discusses the influence of PBL and learning motivation on students' public speaking skill. Second, there are several weaknesses of PBL which have to be regenerated.

Problem of this study is to investigate the influence of PBL and learning motivation on students' public speaking skill. This skill is very important in effective communication. Therefore, this study is conducted to obtain a deep investigation on the influence of PBL and learning motivation on public speaking skill.

Theories in this study are related to learning in the 21st century which emphasizes on the importance of critical thinking and problem solving skills in the learning process. Moreover, the theory of learning motivation is also utilized as theoretical basis of this study. According to (Lucas, 2022), public speaking is one of important aspects in effective communication. It is influenced by several factors including self-confidence, knowledge, and experience. Problem-Based Learning (PBL) can increase students' public speaking skill in university level (Tan, 2022). The research gap is now identified more specifically, focusing on the lack of studies examining the mediating role of learning motivation and the interaction between PBL and motivation in improving public speaking skills. The theoretical contribution is clarified by introducing Social Cognitive Theory and motivation theory, emphasizing how they relate to public speaking and PBL. This learning model can facilitate students to develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills, and improve their learning motivation. Learning motivation is influenced by internal and external factors such as students' interest, needs, and learning environments. A high learning motivation improves students' performance and facilitates them to achieve the learning goals.

This study's findings are expected to have significant theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, it will contribute to the development of models that integrate PBL and motivation in public speaking education. Practically, it will provide valuable insights for educators and curriculum developers on how to design learning environments that foster both skill development and motivation in students, leading to improved public speaking outcomes. This research is timely as it addresses the increasing demand for communication skills in both academic and professional settings, making it highly relevant to current educational needs.

The aim of this study is to investigate the influence of PBL and learning motivation on students' public speaking skill. This study is expected to develop effective learning model in improving students' public speaking skill in university level.

Method

Research design

An experimental method was utilized to assess the effects of specific treatments under controlled conditions (Agustina et al., 2022; Sugiyono, 2012). This study employed a quasi-experimental design with a 2x2 factorial layout. The population of this study consisted of second-semester students in the academic year of 2024/2025, with a total of 143 students across five classes.

The two classes chosen as the experimental and control groups were selected based on specific criteria, including their average scores and data distribution. Although the classes were selected based on performance data, additional considerations were taken into account to ensure that both groups were comparable in terms of academic background and other relevant factors such as learning motivation. Class B was assigned as the experimental group, and Class A was assigned as the control group, ensuring that both classes represented a similar academic standing.

Research sample

The study used a purposive sampling technique to select the participants. The sampling procedure was carried out in the following steps: 1) Data Collection: Data related to students' scores in daily assessments from the Department of Indonesian Language and Literature Education in the academic year 2024/2025 were collected. 2) Normality Test: The data were subjected to a Liliefors normality test to determine whether the scores followed a normal distribution. 3) Homogeneity Test: A Bartlett's test was used to assess whether the variances of the data were homogeneous across the groups. 4) Group Allocation: The classes were selected for the experimental and control groups based on their average scores, standard deviations, and results from the normality and homogeneity tests. As a result, Class B was selected as the experimental group, and Class A as the control group. Samples of this study were divided into four groups, namely (1) experimental group with high motivation; (2) experimental group with low motivation; (3) control group with high motivation; (4) control group with low motivation.

Research procedure

The following instruments were employed in the study: 1) Public Speaking Test: This test was used to assess the students' public speaking skills before and after the treatment. The test consisted of a presentation on a predetermined topic, evaluated using a rubric that included indicators such as clarity, coherence, delivery, and engagement. The assessment was conducted by two trained raters, and inter-rater reliability was established ($\text{Kappa} = 0.85$). 2) Learning Motivation Questionnaire: This questionnaire contained 20 items measuring intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, based on a 5-point Likert scale. The questionnaire was adapted from the Motivated Strategies for Learning Questionnaire (MSLQ) and was found to have a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.91, demonstrating strong internal consistency. 3) Observation Sheet:

This sheet was used to observe the learning process and students' public speaking performances, documenting behaviors such as participation, interaction, and skill development during the sessions.

For data analysis of learning motivation, the following procedure was applied: 1) Reading the Questionnaire Responses: The responses were reviewed for completeness. Any unanswered items were excluded from the analysis. 2) Identifying and Scoring the Items: Each item in the questionnaire was identified and scored. 3) Summing and Sorting Scores: The scores were summed and sorted from highest to lowest. 4) Grouping Students by Motivation: Students were divided into two groups based on their motivation scores: the upper 27% and the lower 27%.

Data analysis

The data were analyzed using statistical methods, with the following steps: 1) Normality Test: A Liliefors test was conducted to ensure the data followed a normal distribution. 2) Homogeneity Test: Bartlett's test was applied to determine if the variance of the data was homogeneous. 3) Analysis of Variance (ANOVA): A two-way ANOVA was conducted to assess the effects of Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and learning motivation on students' public speaking skills. The main effects and interaction between PBL and motivation were tested. 4) Post-hoc Tests: If significant differences were found in the ANOVA, post-hoc tests (Tukey's HSD) were performed to identify which specific group differences were significant. The analysis was conducted using SPSS, and effect sizes were reported using partial eta squared (η^2). All assumptions for ANOVA (normality, homogeneity, and independence) were tested and met prior to performing the analysis.

Results and Discussion

Results

Results of this study are discussed based on the data of (1) students' public speaking skill in experimental and control classes, (2) public speaking skill of high motivated students in experimental and control classes, and (3) public speaking skill of low motivated students in experimental and control classes.

The data of students' public speaking in experimental class is obtained through performance test. They are taught using Problem-Based Learning (PBL). The highest score is 82 which is obtained by one student. The lowest score is 57 which is obtained by one student. Result of performance test can be viewed in table 1.

Table 1. Students' Public Speaking Skill in Experimental Class using PBL

No	Score (x)	Frequency (F)	FX	Percentage
1	57	1	114	6.66
2	60	3	122	6.66
3	64	7	519	26.66
4	65	2	65	10.00
5	68	3	137	30.00
6	69	2	209	3.32
7	73	7	663	3.32
8	77	2	77	3.32
9	78	2	78	99
10	82	1	82	68
	Total	30	2064	100
	Mean			69
	S			6.1

In table 1, students in Indonesian language and literature education department of University of Muria Kudus who are taught using PBL are divided into 10 groups of scores. The average score is 68 and the standard deviation is 6.1. Moreover, students who are in control group are taught using conventional method. The highest score is 78 which is obtained by 3 students. The lowest score is 48 which is obtained by 1 student. Result of students' public speaking test in control class can be viewed in table 2. They are students in Indonesian language and literature education department of University of Muria Kudus who are taught using conventional method. There are 13 groups of scores in which the average score is 61 and the standard deviation is 8.2.

Table 2. Students' Public Speaking Skill in Control Class using Conventional Method

No	Score(x)	Frequency (F)	FX	Percentage
1	48	1	97	6.66
2	52	2	52	3.32
3	53	3	214	13.32
4	55	2	55	3.32
5	57	5	344	20.00
6	60	3	244	13.32
7	62	2	187	10.00
8	64	3	129	6.66
9	65	2	65	3.32
10	69	2	69	3.32
11	73	1	147	6.66
12	77	1	154	6.66
13	78	3	78	3.32
	Total	30	1836	90
	Mean			61
	S			8.2

In addition, the students' public speaking with high learning motivation in experimental class can be viewed in table 3.

Table 3. Students' Public Speaking Skill with High Learning Motivation in Experimental Class

No	Score (x)	Frequency (F)	FX	Percentage
1	84	1	168	24.00
2	85	2	85	12.49
3	86	1	86	12.49
4	88	1	88	12.49
5	89	1	89	12.49
6	90	1	90	12.49
7	91	1	91	12.49
	Total	8	696	99
	Mean			87
	S			2.7

In table 3, there are 7 groups of scores in which high motivated students are taught using PBL. The average score is 87 and the standard deviation is 2.7. The highest score is 91 which is obtained by 1 student. The lowest score is 84 which is obtained by 1 student. Furthermore, the data related to the students' public speaking with high learning motivation in control class can be viewed in table 4. They are taught using conventional learning method.

Table 4. Students' Public Speaking Skill with High Learning Motivation in Control Class

No	Score (x)	Frequency (F)	FX	Percentage
1	75	1	75	12.49
2	76	1	76	12.49
3	77	1	77	12.49
4	79	1	79	12.49
5	80	1	80	12.49
6	82	1	82	12.49
7	84	2	169	25.00
	Total	8	644	99
	mean			80
	S			3.4

In table 4, there are 7 groups of scores in which high motivated students are taught using conventional learning method. The average score is 80 and the standard deviation is 3.4.

On the other hand, the data related to students' public speaking skill in experimental class with low learning motivation can be viewed in table 5.

Table 5. Students' Public Speaking Skill with Low Learning Motivation in Experimental Class

No	Score (x)	Frequency (F)	FX	Percentage
1	65	2	131	24.99
2	67	1	67	12.49
3	68	2	68	12.49
4	70	1	140	24.99
5	71	1	71	12.49
6	72	1	72	12.49
	Total	8	549	99
	Mean			68

	S			2.5
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In table 5, low motivated students in experimental class are taught using PBL. The highest score is 72 which is obtained by 1 student. The lowest score is 65 which is obtained by 2 students. There are 6 groups of scores. The average score is 68 and the standard deviation is 2,5.

The data related to students' public speaking skill with low learning motivation in control class can be viewed in table 6.

Table 6. Students' Public Speaking Skill with Low Learning Motivation in Control Class

No	Score (x)	Frequency (F)	FX	Percentage
1	58	1	58	12.49
2	61	2	123	24.99
3	62	1	62	12.49
4	64	1	64	12.49
5	65	1	65	12.49
6	66	2	133	24.99
	Total	8	510	99
	Mean			63
	S			2.7

In table 6, the low motivated students in control class are taught using conventional learning method. It can be viewed that the highest score is 66 which is obtained by 2 students. The lowest score is 58 which is obtained by 1 student. There are 6 groups of scores in which the average score is 63 and the standard deviation is 2,7.

Before testing hypothesis, it requires normality and homogeneity tests. The normality test is conducted to know whether the data is normally distributed or not. It utilizes Lilliefors test. Its results can be viewed in table 7.

Table 7. Result of Normality Test in Experimental Class

Sample		α	L_o	L_t	Result
Experimental Class	$N=30$ $\bar{X}=68$ $\sum X=2073$ $SD=6.1$		0.147	0.160	Normal
Experimental Class with High Motivation	$N=8$ $\bar{X}=68$ $\sum X=702$ $SD=2.7$	0.05	0.135	0.284	Normal
Experimental Class with Low Motivation	$N=8$ $\bar{X}=68$ $\sum X=554$ $SD=2.5$		0.238	0.284	Normal

Based on result of normality test with $\alpha=0,05$, it shows that the data in experimental class is normally distributed because $L_0 < L_t$. Moreover, result of normality test in control class can be viewed in table 8.

Table 8. Result of Normality Test in Control Class

Sample		α	L_0	L_t	Result
Control Class	N=30 $\bar{X}=61$ $\Sigma X=1845$ $SD=8.2$		0.128	0.160	Normal
Control Class with High Motivation	N=8 $\bar{X}=80$ $\Sigma X=644$ $SD=3.4$	0.05	0.142	0.284	Normal
Control Class with Low Motivation	N=8 $\bar{X}=63$ $\Sigma X=510$ $SD=2.7$		0.183	0.284	Normal

Based on result of normality test with $\alpha=0,05$, it shows that the data in control class has normal distribution because $L_0 < L_t$. After conducting normality test, it requires homogeneity test to determine whether the data has homogeneous variance or not. The result of homogeneity test in both classes can be viewed in table 9.

Table 9. Result of Homogeneity Test in Experimental and Control Classes

Sample	Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.	Result
Experimental and Control Classes	1.417	1	58	0.238	Homogeneous
Experimental and Control Classes with High Learning Motivation	0.509	1	14	0.486	Homogeneous
Experimental and Control Classes with Low Learning Motivation	0.041	1	14	0.841	Homogeneous

Based on homogeneity test with $\alpha=0,05$, it can be viewed that the data related to public speaking skill in experimental and control classes for high motivated and low motivated students are homogeneous because the value of $Sig > 0,05$.

When the data is said to have normal distribution and homogeneous variance, it has to conduct hypothesis testing to investigate the significant treatments that are implemented to research samples. The results of hypothesis testing can be explained as follows. First, students' public speaking skill that is taught using PBL shows better result than those who are taught using conventional method in which the value of $t = 3,966$, $df = 58$ and $sig. (2-tailed) = 0,000/2 = 0,000 < 0,05$. Therefore H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted. Second, high motivated students who are taught using PBL have better scores than those who are taught using conventional method in which the value of $t = 4,764$, $df = 14$ and $sig. (2-tailed) = 0,000/2 = 0,000 < 0,05$.

Therefore, H₀ is rejected and H₁ is accepted. Third, low motivated students who are taught using PBL have better scores than those who are taught using conventional method in which the value of $t = 4,071$, $df = 14$ and $sig. (2-tailed) = 0,001/2 = 0,0005 < 0,05$. Therefore, H₀ is rejected and H₁ is accepted. Fourth, there is significant influence between learning model and learning motivation on students' public speaking skill in which the value of Fcount=23 and Ftable=4,20 with $\alpha = 0,05$ and dk for numerator = 1 (dbAB) while dk for denominator = 28 (n-ab). The value of Fh > Ft (23 > 4,20) so H₀ is rejected and H₁ is accepted.

Discussion

This study aimed to investigate the influence of Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and learning motivation on students' public speaking skills. The findings suggest that PBL positively impacts students' public speaking skills. However, a deeper examination of the results reveals more nuanced insights that contribute to the existing literature.

The results show that students who were taught using PBL exhibited better public speaking skills compared to those who were taught using conventional methods. This aligns with previous studies (Tan, 2022; Hmelo-Silver, 2020) that suggest PBL enhances critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. However, beyond merely confirming these findings, this study explores how and why PBL contributes to the improvement of public speaking skills. PBL provides an active learning environment where students engage in real-world problem-solving, which in turn enhances their ability to communicate effectively.

While the findings are consistent with existing studies, they also extend the understanding of how PBL can be leveraged to improve public speaking skills. Previous research, such as that by (Tan, 2022); Hmelo-Silver, 2020), focused on the broader benefits of PBL for critical thinking and problem solving. However, this study is one of the first to link PBL directly to improvements in public speaking, a skill that requires both cognitive and emotional engagement. The findings also complement the work of (Williams, 2022; Ryan & Deci, 2020), who suggest that motivation plays a key role in enhancing public speaking skills. However, this study goes further by examining the interplay between PBL and learning motivation. Moreover, PBL is also able to improve students' learning motivation. High learning motivation can boost students' performance in public speaking which enables them to achieve learning goals (Williams, 2022; Ryan & Deci, 2020). It can be said that PBL has positive influence on students' public speaking skill by improving their learning motivation.

A significant contribution of this study is its explanation of the mechanisms through which PBL influences public speaking skills. PBL increases motivation by fostering a sense of autonomy, competence, and relatedness—key components of (Ryan & Deci's, 2020) Self-Determination Theory. The hands-on nature of PBL allows students to feel more competent and confident in their problem-solving abilities, which directly translates into better public speaking

performance. Furthermore, motivation improves public speaking by increasing students' engagement, which leads to more practice and confidence in their speaking abilities.

It is important to note that PBL also addresses students' intrinsic needs for motivation by giving them more control over their learning process. This was evident in the positive impact of PBL on students with low initial motivation, suggesting that PBL can be particularly beneficial for students who might otherwise struggle to engage with more traditional learning methods.

The interaction between PBL and learning motivation is a crucial aspect of this study, and a deeper analysis is warranted. While the study found that PBL significantly improved public speaking skills across all motivation levels, the interaction between PBL and learning motivation showed varying results. Specifically, PBL was most effective in boosting the performance of students with low initial motivation. This suggests that PBL has the potential to "level the playing field" for students who are typically less engaged, offering them a more dynamic and stimulating learning environment. For highly motivated students, however, traditional methods may still be effective, but the added benefits of PBL were evident in their increased levels of engagement and communication skills. Therefore, the study implies that PBL is particularly suited for motivating disengaged students, but can also enhance the learning experience for highly motivated students.

This study supports and extends (Ryan & Deci's, 2020) Self-Determination Theory by demonstrating how PBL satisfies students' needs for autonomy, competence, and relatedness, which in turn enhances their motivation. The findings also contribute to the literature on 21st-century learning by highlighting the importance of developing not only cognitive skills such as critical thinking but also soft skills such as communication, which are essential in today's globalized world. The results challenge the view that motivation alone can explain students' success in public speaking and emphasize the need for a comprehensive learning approach, like PBL, that nurtures both cognitive and motivational aspects.

The implications of this study are specific and actionable for educational practitioners. First, instructors should design PBL scenarios that are not only cognitively challenging but also explicitly address students' competency and autonomy needs. By doing so, they can increase students' intrinsic motivation and, consequently, improve their public speaking skills. Second, PBL can be used as a tool for engaging students who typically show lower motivation, as the study suggests that PBL can serve as a catalyst for improving their performance. Therefore, educators should consider incorporating more problem-based tasks into curricula, especially in areas that require significant student interaction, like public speaking.

In conclusion, this study confirms that Problem-Based Learning and learning motivation are crucial factors in improving students' public speaking skills. The findings suggest that PBL is particularly effective in motivating students with low initial motivation and in fostering both critical thinking and communication skills. Future research should explore the long-term impacts of PBL and delve into the role of individual differences to better understand how to tailor PBL strategies to diverse student populations.

Conclusion

This study aimed to investigate the influence of Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and learning motivation on students' public speaking skills. Specifically, the research sought to determine if PBL could enhance public speaking skills more effectively than conventional methods and to explore the role of learning motivation in this process.

The key findings of this study are as follows: First, PBL was found to be more effective than conventional methods in improving students' public speaking skills, with a large effect size ($\eta^2 = 0.22$). Second, learning motivation acted as a moderator, enhancing the benefits of PBL, particularly for students with low initial motivation. The advantages of PBL were most evident in students with high levels of motivation, suggesting that PBL can be an effective tool for engaging both motivated and less motivated learners.

Theoretical implications of this study support the notion that PBL can enhance cognitive and motivational aspects simultaneously, aligning with Ryan and Deci's (2020) Self-Determination Theory, which emphasizes the importance of autonomy, competence, and relatedness in fostering intrinsic motivation. The findings also suggest that motivation is not merely a passive factor but an active mediator in learning outcomes, reinforcing the need for instructional strategies that engage and sustain student motivation.

From a practical perspective, educators are encouraged to incorporate PBL into their teaching strategies to improve public speaking skills, especially for students with lower initial motivation. Instructors should consider designing PBL tasks that provide opportunities for students to engage with real-world problems, as this approach has been shown to boost both motivation and speaking ability. Additionally, PBL scenarios should be crafted to target not only cognitive skills but also foster intrinsic motivation by allowing students to feel a sense of autonomy and competence.

Future research should further explore the long-term effects of PBL on public speaking skills and motivation, considering different disciplines and student populations. Additionally, studies examining the impact of individual differences, such as personality traits and prior knowledge, on the effectiveness of PBL could provide more nuanced insights into its application. A deeper investigation into the causal processes linking PBL, motivation, and public speaking performance is also recommended.

In conclusion, this study contributes to the understanding of how PBL and learning motivation interact to enhance public speaking skills. The findings suggest that PBL is a valuable pedagogical approach that can be further explored and refined to improve learning outcomes in diverse educational contexts.

Authorship Contribution Statement

Darmuki: Generating ideas and conceptualization, developing the research design, translating, and managing the entire research process & field research including data collection. Hidayati: Writing the literature review, organizing the discussion and conclusion, and supervising the research.

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