

Abstract

Riya Hanita Sari. 2025. An Action Research Applying Mind Mapping Strategy to Improve Students' Speech at the Ninth Grade Students of SMP Darul Hikmah Kutoarjo Islamic School in the Academic Year of 2024/ 2025. S2 Thesis. English Education Program, Post Graduate Program, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purworejo. Advisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Junaedi Setiyono, M.Pd. and Dr. Puspa Dewi, M.Pd.

This study employed Classroom Action Research (CAR) to investigate the effectiveness of Mind Mapping in improving students' English speech performance and to examine their perceptions of its use as a learning strategy. The participants were 15 ninth-grade students of SMP Darul Hikmah Kutoarjo Islamic School in the academic year 2024/2025. Data were collected through observation sheets, performance tests, questionnaires, and interviews.

The research was conducted in two cycles, with two meetings in each cycle. The students' average score increased from 60.33 in the Pre-cycle test to 68.33 in Post-test Cycle 1, and further to 81.00 in Post-test Cycle 2. Based on aspects of speech analysis, Fluency showed the greatest improvement, rising from 34 to 44 and then to 55, with a total gain of 21 points. Meanwhile, Vocabulary demonstrated significant progress, increasing from 35 to 44 and then to 54, with a total gain of 19 points. Guided step by step through Buzan's framework of Mind Mapping, students showed notable progress, with the level of teaching effectiveness improving from a score of 8 to 9, indicating a shift from "Good" to "Excellent."

Questionnaire findings further supported these results: out of 75 responses, 70 (93.3%) were positive and 5 (6.7%) were neutral, with no negative responses. Interview results suggest that students hold positive perceptions of Mind Mapping and acknowledge its benefits in enhancing their speech performance. Overall, students' perceptions shifted from initial uncertainty and unfamiliarity toward acceptance and appreciation.

Keywords: *Mind Mapping strategy, English speech performance, aspects of speech, students' perception*