

**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC QUẢN LÝ VÀ CÔNG NGHỆ HẢI PHÒNG**



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KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP

NGÀNH: NGÔN NGỮ ANH- NHẬT

Sinh viên : Ngô Thị Hồng Nhung
Giảng viên hướng dẫn : TS Trần Thị Ngọc Liên

HẢI PHÒNG 07- 2020

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**HOW TO IMPROVE DEBATING SKILLS FOR THIRD YEAR
ENGLISH MAJOR AT HAI PHONG MANAGEMENT AND
TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY**

**KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP ĐẠI HỌC HỆ CHÍNH QUY
NGÀNH: NGÔN NGỮ ANH- NHẬT**

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(Ký và ghi rõ họ)

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Haiphong, June 2020

Student

Ngo Thi Hong Nhung

ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at finding out the difficulties encountered by 3rd year English major in English debating skills and suggesting some solutions to the problem. In order to achieve such aims, the study is set to find out reality of teaching and learning English debating skills in Haiphong Management and Technology University, the difficulties encountered by 3rd year English majors in English debating skills, and the factors influencing debating skills of 3rd years English majors.

To achieve such aims and objectives, the researcher has made use of the combination of both qualitative and quantitative research approaches. From survey questionnaires, third years English major students at HPU mostly agree that debating skills is really important. However, they come to a consensus that there still remain some problems in class such as poor topic-related vocabulary, pronunciation, limited practice time at class and bad basic skills, psychological barriers, etc. It is therefore recommended that more should be done to encourage students to improve their debating skills right at university.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HP: Hai Phong

HPU: Haiphong Management and Technology University

MUN Debate: Model United Nations Debate

NDT Debate: National Debate Tournament Debate

CEDA Debate: Cross- Examination Debate Association Debate

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

It is widely known that English has been an international language which it has become a dominant language in many countries. Currently, about two thirds nations in the world use English as their mother tongue in variety fields of social life: political, business, cultural exchange, education and others. In Vietnam, the need and desire to acquire English has been increasing. With the purpose of finding a good job with high salary or study abroad, English learners not only master the English grammar but also hope to improve their communication ability. For such reason, it is becoming more and more necessary.

When it comes to learning English: listening, speaking, reading, writing are basic skills. Most people just focus on learning these four skills, neglecting one other very important skill in English, which is debating skill. In fact, it is not easy to study well a skill like debating. Almost students have difficulties in debating process such as student's context, topic, characteristic, learning material, etc.... In fact, there are many factors affecting the learners in English debating process. Consequently, it is very difficult for them to master this skill. Like students from universities, I have faced many difficulties in debating. With four- year experience in debating the skill and from what me observed in practicing debating other classmate, it can be found that many students failed in practicing English debating skill. From my point of view, the next four English language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing), English debating is one of important and complex skill. Although students can do grammar exercises very well and master many new words and structures, they cannot apply them in English debating skills effectively. Some of them complained that they felt unconfident with debating tasks so they could hardly express their opinion. That is the reason why I decided to do a research on **How to use improve debating skills for third year English major at Haiphong Management and Technology University**. I strong expect to find out common difficulties in learning debating skill and suggest some solutions of the problem.

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study is aimed at finding out the difficulties encountered by 3rd year English major in English debating skills and suggesting some solutions to the problem.

In order to achieve such aims, the following objectives are set :

- Finding out reality of teaching and learning English debating skills in Haiphong Management and Technology University.
- Finding out the difficulties encountered by 3rd year English majors in English debating skills.
- Finding out the factors influencing debating skills of 3rd years English majors.
- Giving solutions to the problem.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study is conducted to answer the following questions:

- ✓ How is the reality of teaching and learning English debating skills in Haiphong Management and Technology University?
- ✓ What difficulties do HPU 3rd year English majors face in English debating skills?
- ✓ What are the factors influencing debating skills of 3rd years English majors?
- ✓ How to figure out activities to improve debating skill for third year English major at HPU?

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

There are so many different material resources and researchers that require a lot of time and effort while my personal experience is limited. Therefore, this study can only focus on the third year English major to investigate the troubles that students at this class usually encounter and then give some proposals to overcome discovered difficulties and to improve students debating ability.

1.5 DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The study contains of four chapter:

- ✓ Chapter 1: The introduction are aims, scope, and the design of the study.
- ✓ Chapter 2: Literature review are three part:
- ✓ Chapter 3: Activities to improve debating skills for third year English major at HPU.
- ✓ Chapter 4: Recommendations and conclusion.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The nature of debating skills

2.1.1 What is debating?

Student competency in the 21st century is no longer exclusively assessed through a final traditional examination at the end of the term. Instead, a variety of oral, written, individual, group, and interactive assessment tasks are now used, asking students 'to perform real-world tasks that demonstrate meaningful application' (Mueller, 2005, p. 2). Therefore in-class opportunities for debating practice should prepare students for these challenges in the real-world. What is debating?

The debate is a process that involves formal discussion on a particular topic. In a debate, opposing arguments are put forward to argue for opposing viewpoints. Debate occurs in public meetings, academic institutions, and legislative assemblies. It is a formal type of discussion, often with a moderator and an audience, in addition to the debate participants. As an English learner, you want to be able to understand and to discuss a subject. You also want to be able to express your opinion and to support them. You can learn these skills by learning how to debate. Americans use the word debate to talk about discussions among people. Another use of the word debate describes formal discussion. Debaters work on a team to convince a judge that their opinion about a topic has more value than the opposite side's opinion. According to the University of the people said that: "A debate is a structured contest where you try to win by creating the most convincing argument. The debate is oftentimes formal but can occur in informal settings as well."

The debate comes from a tradition that started in Ancient Greece. They believed people needed to have certain skills in a democracy, including debating in public in support of opinion and being able to explain that opinion. A debate contest traditionally has this structure; Teams agree to debate a statement, such as "Should we go to college?" One team supports the resolution. The other one is against the resolution. Each team gives an argument for or against the resolution. Then each team asks questions about the other team's argument. After answering the questions, each team makes more statements to support its

argument. Finally, they summarize the arguments, they talk about them again, in less time.

Competitive debating uses the skills of argument to debate and discuss important issues about our beliefs, government policies, and proposals on how to improve the world or face up to problems in society. A competitive debate should be rational, focused, and structured. Debating builds a unique set of skills helping students to analyze problems, think critically, synthesize arguments, and present these ideas in a cogent convincing manner.

The National Speech and Debate Association says that students of debate research both sides of a topic. They "learn to think critically about every argument that could be made on each side."

2.1.2 Structure of a debate

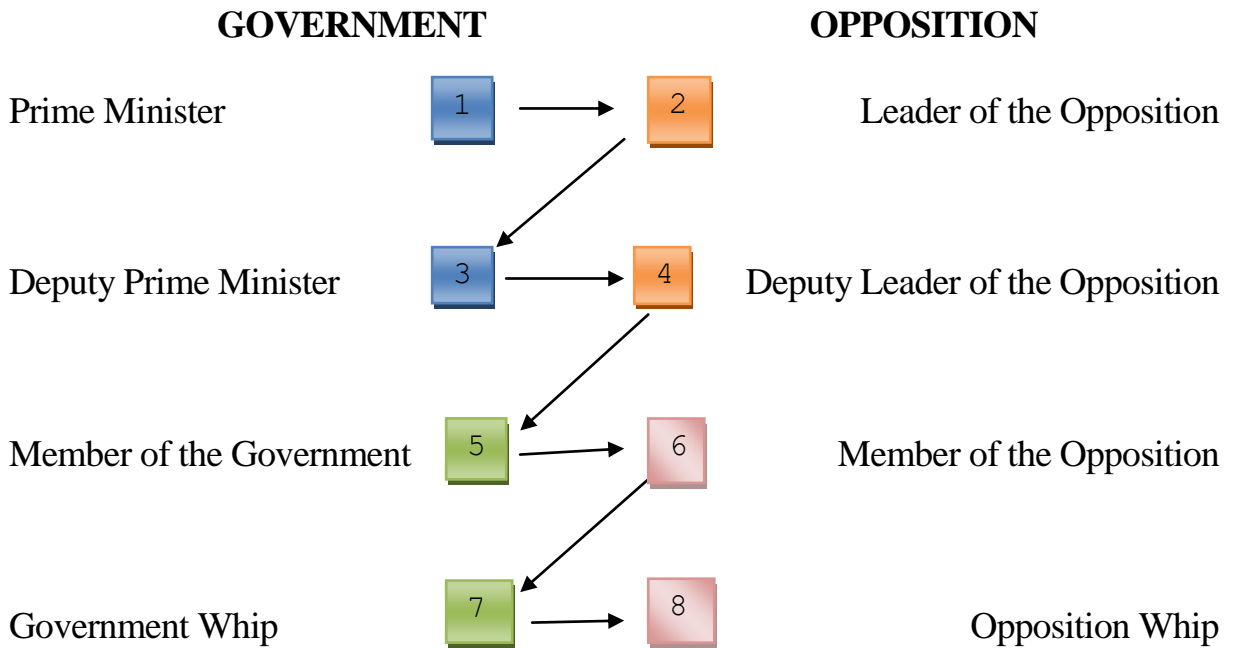
There are several different structures for debate practiced in high school and college debate leagues. Most of these structures have some general features. Specifically, any debate will have two sides: a proposition side, and an opposition side. The responsibility of the proposition side is to advocate the adoption of the resolution, while the job of the opposition side is to refute the resolution.

There are multiple formats a debate can follow and this is a basic debate structure:

A topic is chosen for each debate - this is called a resolution or motion. It can be a statement, policy, or idea. The motion is usually a policy that changes the current state of affairs or a statement which is either true or false.

- There are two teams of three speakers:
 - The Affirmative team support the statement
 - The Negative team oppose the statement
- Sometimes you will be asked to take a position in the debate but in other debates, you will be allocated your position.
- Teams are provided with time to prepare - usually one hour
- Each speaker presents for a set amount of time

- Speakers alternate between the teams, usually a speaker in the Affirmative team starts, followed by a Negative speaker, then the second Affirmative speaker presents, followed by the second Negative speaker, etc. The order of the debate:



- The debate is then judged.
- There may be an audience present but they are not involved in the debate

Once you have learned how to debate in one format you can easily switch to another.

The resolution can take many forms, depending on the format. But in most cases, the resolution is simply a statement of policy or a statement of value. Some examples include, "Be it resolved, English is very extremely necessary in the 4.0 technology age"; "Be it resolved, Should the students have a part-time job while studying?"; "Be it resolved, should students attend extra class after school?"; etc. In many debate structures, there is a requirement that a policy resolution (a resolution regarding the policies followed by some organization or government) represent a change from current policy, so that the opposition team will be defending the status quo.

Usually, there is also a judge present in the debate whose job is to decide the winner.

There are many different types of debate known as: Academic Debate, Public Forum; Presidential Debate; Informal Debate; MUN Debate. But Academic Debate is the most common. Academic Debate is limited to discussing social issues and developing students' attitudes and abilities. So it is widely used in school debate contests. This study will focus on Academic Debate research.

Academic debate is simply defined as a debate conducted under the auspices of an educational institution aimed at providing educational opportunities for its students. The purpose of an academic debate is to allow evenly matched opponents to present balanced arguments and evidence about critical issues. The long tradition of Academic Debate started in about 481 to 411 B.C. and persisted in American schools as an educational method in college and characterized by the debate tournament. A form of informal debate, academic debate merely allows students to systematically express their opinion and support their arguments with facts or evidence. They are designed to facilitate the development of advanced debating skills, improve critical thinking, and increase students' confidence about participating in academic community discussions and dialogue.

Some of the benefits students gained from their debate experience include awareness and knowledge of social issues, development of critical thinking and communication ability, appreciation of change, and respect for academic research. The philosophy of college debate, for example, is “to learn not to win” because the most important thing is to be able to present both sides of the issue and make a critical decision on matters concerning public interest.

The debate in a college environment provides students opportunities to apply their knowledge of debate principles, develop proper attitudes and skills, and experience almost real-life debates. More importantly, debating is to keep

political and public issues alive in the hearts and minds of the academic community.

Below are descriptions some of the most common debate format: Team Policy Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, NDT Debate, CEDA Debate and Parliamentary Debate.

❖ **Team Policy Debate**

Team policy debate is the oldest, and still probably the most popular, the structure of debate practiced in American high schools. The proposition side is called the Affirmative of Aff, and the opposition side is called the Negative of Neg. Each side is a team composed of two debates so that there are four people participating in the debate (not including the judge and audience).

• **Format.**

A round of team policy debate consists of eight speeches. The first four speeches are called constructive speeches, because the teams are perceived as laying out their most important arguments during these speeches. The last four speeches are called rebuttals, because the teams are expected to extend and apply arguments that have already been made, rather than make new arguments. Here is a table of the eight speeches and their time limits:

Speech:	1AC	1NC	2AC	2NC	1NR	1AR	2NR	2AR
Time:	8 min.	8 min.	8 min.	8 min.	4 min.	4 min.	4 min.	4 min.

(A stands for Affirmative, N for Negative, C for Constructive, R for Rebuttal.)

Two things are of interest in this structure. First, the affirmative team both begins and ends the debate. Second, the negative team has two speeches in a row: the first negative rebuttal (1NR) immediately follows the second negative constructive (2NC). (Why? Well, because it's always been done that way.)

In general, the members of each team alternate giving speeches, so that the same person gives both the 1AC and the 1AR, the same person gives the 2NC and the 2NR, etc. Occasionally, the rules will allow a change in this format. For example, affirmative teams will sometimes go "inside-outside" so that one person (usually the weaker member) gives the 1AC and the 2AR, while the other (stronger) debater gives the 2AC and the 1AR.

Usually, there is a 3-minute cross-examination period after each of the first four (constructive) speeches. The person who does the cross-examining is the person who will *not* be giving the next speech for his side. For instance, the person who will give the 2NC will cross-examine after the 1AC. (An exception to this rule is made when the affirmative team goes "inside-outside.") When team policy debate is done without cross-examination periods, the speech times are often extended to 10 minutes for constructive and 5 minutes for rebuttals.

- **Resolutions.**

Resolutions in team policy debate are always of a policy nature, usually chairman policy. The affirmative team almost always defends the resolution by means of a particular example, known as a "case"; if they can show the example (case) to be true, then the general proposition is also shown to be true. For instance, the first resolution I ever encountered in team policy debate was, "Should the students have a part-time job while studying?" Some typical cases teams ran under this resolution were: a part-time job help students with more experience; a part-time job also help students improve soft skills; etc.

- **Style.**

Team policy debate is focused on evidence gathering and organizational ability. Persuasiveness is not considered important -- or at least, not as important as showing plenty of evidence. The best teams give with evidence on their own affirmative and all the possible cases they might have to oppose. If you ever walk into a high-level team debate round, expect to see debaters talking at extremely fast speeds, using lots of jargon. There is very little discussion of values such as freedom, justice, equality, etc. This form of debate can be fun, it

encourages good research and organizational skills, and it is good for getting novice debaters used to debating in front of people.

❖ **Lincoln-Douglas Debate**

Lincoln-Douglas (or L-D) debate began as a reaction to the excesses of team policy debate in high school. L-D is a one-on-one debate, and as in team policy debate, the proposition and opposition teams are called the *Affirmative* (or *Aff*) and the *Negative* (or *Neg*), respectively. The idea was to have a debate focused on discussing the merits of competing ethical values in a persuasive manner. The famed debates between senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas in the 1850s inspired the name and format for this style of debate.

- **Format.**

A round of L-D debate consists of five speeches and two cross-examination periods. The speeches and their times are as follows:

Speech:	Affirmative Constructive	Cross-Ex of Aff by Neg	Negative Constructive	Cross-Ex of Neg by Aff	Affirmative Rebuttal	Negative Rebuttal	Affirmative Rejoinder
Time:	6 min.	3 min.	7 min.	3 min.	4 min.	6 min.	3 min.

Notice that the Affirmative has more speeches than the Negative, but both have the same total speaking time (13 minutes).

- **Resolutions.**

Resolutions in L-D debate are usually stated as propositions of value. Although the propositions are sometimes related to issues of policy, this is not

always the case. Unlike in team debate, the debaters are expected to debate the resolution *as a whole*, not just a particular example.

- **Style.**

Evidence was considered important, but it was not the be-all-and-end-all that it is in team policy debate. The emphasis was on speaking clearly, logically, and fluently.

❖ Parliamentary Debate

Parliamentary debate is yet another form of debate that arose as a reaction against the excesses of NDT and team policy debate. The emphasis in this form of debate is on persuasiveness, logic, and wit. Unlike in other forms of debate, where the resolution is established well in advance of a tournament and is the same for every round in the tournament, in Parliamentary debate the resolution is usually not established until 10 minutes before the debate round begins, and there is a new resolution for every round of debate. Since it would be unreasonable to expect teams to research every topic they could be possibly be asked to debate, parliamentary debate requires *no* evidence whatsoever.

This form of debate is called "parliamentary" because of its vague resemblance to the debates that take place in the British parliament. The proposition team is called the "Government," and the opposition team is called (appropriately) the "Opposition." The Government team consists of two debaters, the Prime Minister (PM) and the Member of Government (MG). The Opposition team also consists of two debaters, the Leader of the Opposition (LO) and the Member of the Opposition (MO).

• Format.

A round of a parliamentary debate consists of six speeches: four constructive speeches and two rebuttal speeches. The speeches and their times are as follows:

Speech:	Prime Minister Constructive (PMC)	Leader of Opposition Constructive (LOC)	Member of Government Constructive (MG)	Member of Opposition Constructive (MO)	Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR)	Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR)
Time:	7 min.	8 min.	8 min.	8 min.	4 min.	5 min.

Several things are notable about this structure. First, as in team policy and NDT debate, the proposition (Government) team -- specifically, the Prime Minister -- both begins and ends the debate. Second, again as in team policy and NDT, the Opposition team has a block of two speeches in a row (the MO followed by the LOR). Third, unlike in team policy and NDT, there are only two rebuttals

instead of four. Consequently, two people in the debate (the PM and the LO) have two speeches each, while the other two (the MG and MO) have only one speech each.

There are no cross-examination periods in parliamentary debate. But there are various motions on which the debaters can rise during others' speeches. These points are: Point of Information, Point of Order, Point of Personal Privilege

- **Resolutions.**

In parliamentary debate, the resolution is usually in the form of a quotation or proverb provided to the debaters shortly before the round (say, about 10 minutes).

The upshot is that the government team has broad latitude to run almost any case they want. Although theoretically the government team is supposed to devise its case only after hearing the resolution, most often a team already has an idea what case it wants to give before then.

There is also no requirement that the government-run a public policy case. All that is required is that the government team must establish a topic that has two (or more) clashing sides and is debatable. Broadly speaking, there are only three types of cases that the government team *cannot* run:

- A tautology.
- A truism.
- A specific-knowledge case.

- **Style.**

Unlike CEDA, the parliamentary debate has managed to preserve its emphasis on persuasion, logic, and humor; this success is most likely a result of eschewing excessive preparation and evidence. The spontaneity and openness of the structure make parliamentary debate free-wheeling and exciting, whereas other styles of the debate can become boring because every debate round at a tournament revolves around the same topic. The downside is that in the absence

of any evidentiary burden, debaters are free to spew utter nonsense, without providing any support for their assertions. All things considered, parliamentary is the most entertaining of any debate-style I've found, and also the most conducive to the development of good rhetorical skills.

- **Variations.**

Parliamentary debate is actually a world-wide phenomenon, but the rules differ greatly from country to country. In Canada, for instance, the structure is just as in the United States, with the following exceptions: the speeches are all one minute shorter; the two back-to-back opposition (MO and LOR) speeches are combined into one long speech delivered by the LO, and the Member of the Government (MG) is called the Minister of the Crown (MC) instead. In the United Kingdom, there are actually four teams in every debate round -- two proposition teams and two opposition teams -- and each person speaks for only five minutes. In some country has a version of parliamentary debate in which there are three teams in each round, or maybe it was two teams of three people each.

2.2 Relationship between debating and other skills

2.2.1 Relationship between debating and debating

In a debate, good speaking skills will be the key to success. Because when you speak well, you will express your views, your evidence, and create your own ego, make yourself different from the majority, or oppose the opinion of the opponent. If you good speak, you will easily interact with everyone in the team and have the opportunity to win.

2.2.2 Relationship between debating and listening

In the successful debate, the learner cannot develop debating skills unless he develops listening skills; he must understand what is said to him. In their pioneer research on listening Ralph G. Nichols and Leonard A Stevens found that "on the average, we listen at approximately a 25 percent level of efficiency." If we allow our attention to wander while an opponent speaks, our reply will be ineffective and off the mark. Ad if we miss 75 percent of our opponents'

arguments, we will surely lose the debate. Debaters quickly learn to listen to their opponents with sharply focused critical attention, recording their arguments precisely on a flow sheet (a specialized note-taking system used by debaters) so that their own responses are to the point- adapting the phrasing of their opponents and turning the subtleties and limitations heard to their own advantage. The ability to listen critically is widely recognized as an important attribute of an educated person. Nichols and Steven found that a top executive of a large industrial plant reported "perhaps 80 percent of my work depends on my listening to someone, or upon someone else listening to me".

2.2.3 Relationship between debating and reading

Like listening, a receptive skill, reading also has some relations with debating in terms of developing each other. Normally, a debating lesson begins by text in which participants should find out some information for their next debating activities. It may be information, evidence...this shows that reading supports speaking by providing necessary information. participants must have enough information, then, they can use it in debating production. Therefore, participants should be encouraged to read for not only having more information, knowledge but also improving vocabulary.

2.2.4 Relationship between debating and writing

The relationship between debating and writing, firstly, will look at factors affecting the choice between debating or writing and how these factors affect the style and language used. The factors include being face-to-face, saving face, permanence, interactivity in for amateness, and context-dependence in which both speaking and writing can be located, rather than occurring as polar opposites. A spoken and written on the same topic will differ in language use relating to grammar, lexis, and style.

2.3 Factors influencing debating skills

There are many factors that have influenced students' debating skills. Various researchers have investigated and found a number of factors that influenced student debating skills such as the efforts of students (Siegfried & Fels, 1979), parents' education, self-motivation, the ages of the students, learning preferences (Aripin et al., 2003). The following are 3 basic factors that affect debating skills:

2.3.1 Learning environmental

- **Teacher Quality**

Agyeman (1993) as cited in Etsev (2005, p. 2) has stated that a teacher who does not have both academic and professional teaching qualifications would undoubtedly have a negative influence on the teaching and learning of her subjects. He further stated that a teacher who is academically and professionally qualified, but works under an unfavorable working environment would be less dedicated to his work and could thus be less productive than a teacher who is unqualified but works under a favorable environment.

- **Class Size**

Kraft (1994, p. 98) in his study of the ideal class size and its effects on effective teaching and learning in Ghana concluded that class sizes above 40 have negative effects on students' debating skills growth. Asiedu-Akrofi (1978, p. 163) has indicated that good teaching is generally best done in classes with smaller numbers to individual attention.

- **School Facilities**

Chan (1996) conducted a study on the impact of the physical environment on students' success. This study classified 165 schools into one of three categories: modern learning, obsolete learning, or half modern learning environment. As one might expect, Chan found student achievements to be highest in modern learning environments and lowest in the obsolete learning environments. Chan concluded that technology and adaptabilities of modern environments better-equipped students for more concentrate.

2.3.2 Basic knowledge

- **Students' Basic Skills**

According to Harvey-Smith (2011, p. 8), there are some basic skills that must be mastered by students who will join the class debates. The basic skills can be summarized as SALSA (Speaking, Arguing, Listening, Synthesizing, and Arranging). He has also stated that:

“Speaking means talking loudly, fluently and without hesitation. Arguing means condensing what you have to say into a persuasive point(s). Listening means hearing and understanding the points made by others. Synthesizing means matching the points you and the others have made. Arranging means structuring your points into a persuasive speech.”

Harvey-Smith (ibid) also gave some suggestions for beginning debaters. The suggestions are willing to speak in front of a class, the ability to express your opinion toward one problem by speaking, arguing practice. In addition to this, the knowledge of the topic and the rhetorical pattern of the debate are important for students to show their ability to defend their idea and at the same time to contradict the opponents' argument in a structured way (Samad, 2016; Samad & Fitriani, 2016; Samad & Adnan, 2016; Samad, 2013).

- **Vocabulary ability**

An obvious factor that makes a big influence on comprehension is the gap between the listener's vocabulary knowledge and the vocabulary of the message. For example, the debate is talking about a completely different topic or belonged to another special major, and the listener does not have any knowledge about that subject or just know a little bit, the result surely is that he could not understand what are talking about or luckily partly understand of that one. Vocabularies in the debate education are definitely different from the ones of the debate of an economy and the listener does not have the block of specialized words of what he is listening to will get in trouble with the critic process.

- **Phonology and grammar**

According to a research of Goh (2000), 40 language students are asked to talk about the processes they used to act to the English speaking, as well as the problems they encountered. From the result of research, she found that when language students do not know how to pronounce a word, they will pronounce those words according to their native pronunciations. The pronunciation and

grammar capability of the listeners decide the speed of evaluating and reacting to the information they get. With a sentence with length and complex grammar structure, the listener having low grammar ability will get in trouble with analyzing and delivering a suitable answer. And a clear thing is that if you do not pronounce a word in an exact way, you will not be able to hear what word being talked about.

- **Listening ability**

Debating skills cannot be developed unless we develop listening skills (Doff, 1998). Students must understand what is said to them to have a successful debate. Shumin (1997) shares the ideas of Doff (1998) by stating that when one person speaks, the other responds through attending by means of the listening process. In fact, every speaker plays the role of both a listener and a speaker. Therefore, one is certainly unable to respond if he/ she cannot understand what is said.

- **Students' Attitude**

Kara (2009) as cited in Alzwari (2012, p. 121) has stated that positive attitudes lead to the exhibition of positive behaviors toward courses of study, with participants absorbing themselves in courses and striving to learn more. Shams (2008) conducted a study attempting to investigate students' attitudes, motivation and anxiety towards the learning of English. The findings underlined that the students had affirmative attitudes and high enthusiasm for English. This also highlighted that most Factors that Affect Students' Success in English Debates (Zulfahmi) 141 of them showed positive attitudes towards the English language and its learning which, in turn, emphasized the value of English language efficiency in their daily life.

- **Teamwork skills**

Fisher, Hunter and Macrosson (1997), Johnson and Johnson (1995, 1999), Parker (1990) and Harris and Harris (1996) as cited in Luca and Tarricone (2002, p. 641) have said that teamwork relies upon individuals working together in a cooperative environment to achieve common team goals through sharing knowledge and skills. The literature consistently highlights that one of the essential elements of a team is its focus toward a common goal and a clear

purpose. so teamwork skills are also is an important factor influencing for debating skills.

- **Background knowledge of the topic, content, and culture**

Listeners' background knowledge about a passage makes a big impact on the extent of their ability to understand what has been said. For example, a person is in a debate talking about a special topic, if he doesn't have the basic knowledge about that topic, he will not be able to understand all of the contents and meanings that the speaker wants to deliver. Another example, you debate with a person come from another country and of course, that person has a habit of using local words, not popular words, you will be surely in trouble with understanding what that person is talking about to critic.

2.4 Concluding remarks.

This chapter was set out to answer three questions:

1. What is debating?
2. What is the structure of a debate?
3. What are the types of debates?

From the findings, the following conclusions can be drawn out: The debate is a process that involves formal discussion on a particular topic. In a debate, opposing arguments are put forward to argue for opposing viewpoints. Debate occurs in public meetings, academic institutions, and legislative assemblies. It is a formal type of discussion, often with a moderator and an audience, in addition to the debate participants. It is hoped that this study will be one of the useful teaching material recourses in teaching debating skills to English major students at universities in general and at Haiphong Management and Technology University in particular.

CHAPTER 3: ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE DEBATING SKILLS FOR THIRD YEAR ENGLISH MAJOR AT HPU.

3.1 English teaching and learning condition at HPU.

3.1.1 The teaching staff

The teaching staff of Haiphong Management and Technology University in general and the Foreign Language Department in particular have high professional level and high sense of responsibility. All the lectures of Foreign Language Department are not only well-qualified, responsible but also very enthusiastic. Furthermore, they have modern professional teaching style, they understand the students and they are very friendly. Talking to the students and sharing their experience help both teachers and students understand one another deeply and enhance the quality of the lectures. One more considerable point is attending of foreign lectures in English classes. Students have chance to practice with the native speakers so that they can speak English well if they know how to take those opportunities.

3.1.2 The student

A total of 20 students in the class NA2101 who are in the third year of the English Department at HPU are selected for this study. Some of the evidence is unfortunately showing that many of the students who have just finished high schools are really passive in their learning process. They appear to be used to listening to the lectures and writing down what the teachers read aloud or copying what is written on the board. Particularly, for English majors a big number of them are really reluctant in their learning English debating proven by the fact that they only focus on trying to understand words and grammar structures in the given textbook. Consequently, a number of students cannot debate English fluently. Therefore, a question raised here is what we would do now to inspire in students the interests and motivation to improve their English debating learning. the Following are the advantages and disadvantages of the third-year English majors at HPU:

- Advantages:

- students can receive constant help and support of the school and the lecturers in Foreign Language Department.
- They have chance to study in a modern studying environment which have been equipped with modern facilities.

- They can practice directly with the foreigners in class.
- Disadvantages:
- The students background knowledge is not uneven.
 - A big number of students are lisp.
 - Students focus too much on grammar and forget the importance of debating skill.
 - Some of them are so shy and lack of confidence and they try to avoid debating in front of the class.

3.2 The reality of learning and teaching English debating skills for the third year English major students at Haiphong Management and Technology University

The students' classrooms have been equipped with projectors, camera, air -conditioners, computers with an internet connection and wireless internet connection. The teachers often use projectors to make English lessons more interesting and effective. Besides, the school library is an “electronic library system”, which has been equipped with many modern high-speed computers, over 7000 books, more than 16000 electronic documents Elib and electronic documents ProQuest. This is really a big advantage for students learning. In addition, there are many activities outside classrooms held by teachers and students for fostering English debating learning and encouraging students to express their abilities. These useful activities often attract students to participate in such as: e.g: English Olympic, Debating Contest, Halloween's Day, Christmas's Day,...in which students can both play and exchange knowledge in English so they can learn more. Furthermore, students have many opportunities to talk and study with foreigners who are GAP teachers from different countries like England, Australia,... This is a good chance for them to improve their English debating skill. It can be said that the learning conditions at HPU are good enough and convenient for students to study English effectively.

The 20 copies of the questionnaire delivered to the learners. The data are analyzed in this part of the study in the below tables and charts which show the responses for the questions in the questionnaires. Besides, the first question the questionnaires bring a result that according to students’ opinion, debating skill is very difficult.

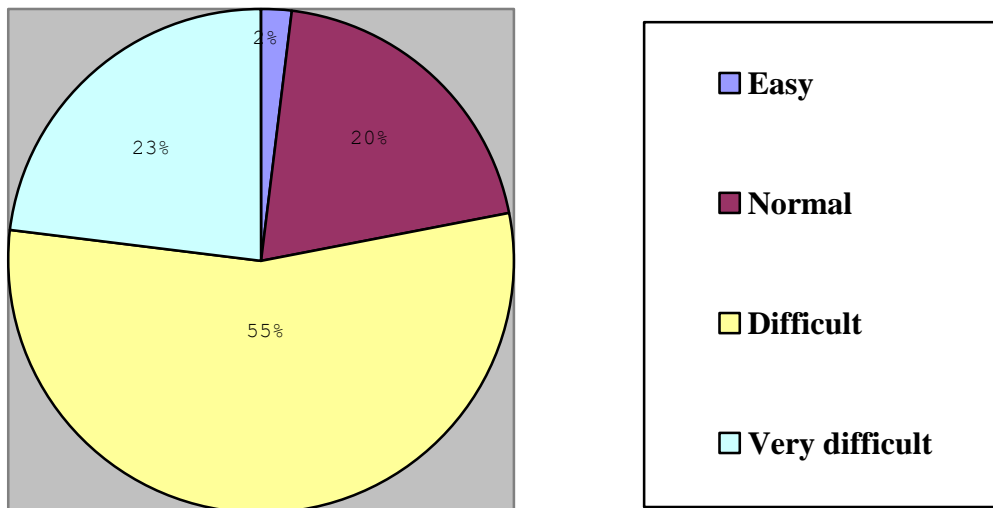


Chart 1: The students' assessment of learning the debating skills

It can be seen obviously in the chart that the debating is a difficult skill to learn. 55% of the learners suppose that debating is difficult. For the students, debating English and learning this skill is really a problem. Moreover, the number of learners who agree that learning the debating skill is very difficult took 23%. It is the same as the number of the learners who find learning debating normal (20%) or easy (2%). In fact, as what can be seen by the observation, the learners who confirm that it is easy to learn listening skills are the best students and students in urban have condition of learning English in English Centers or international schools. In short, the survey proved the assumption about the difficulty of debating to English and learning it.

Whether these difficulties can make the students uninterested in it or not? This matter was clarified by the next chart which showed the learners' interest in learning the debating skill at class.

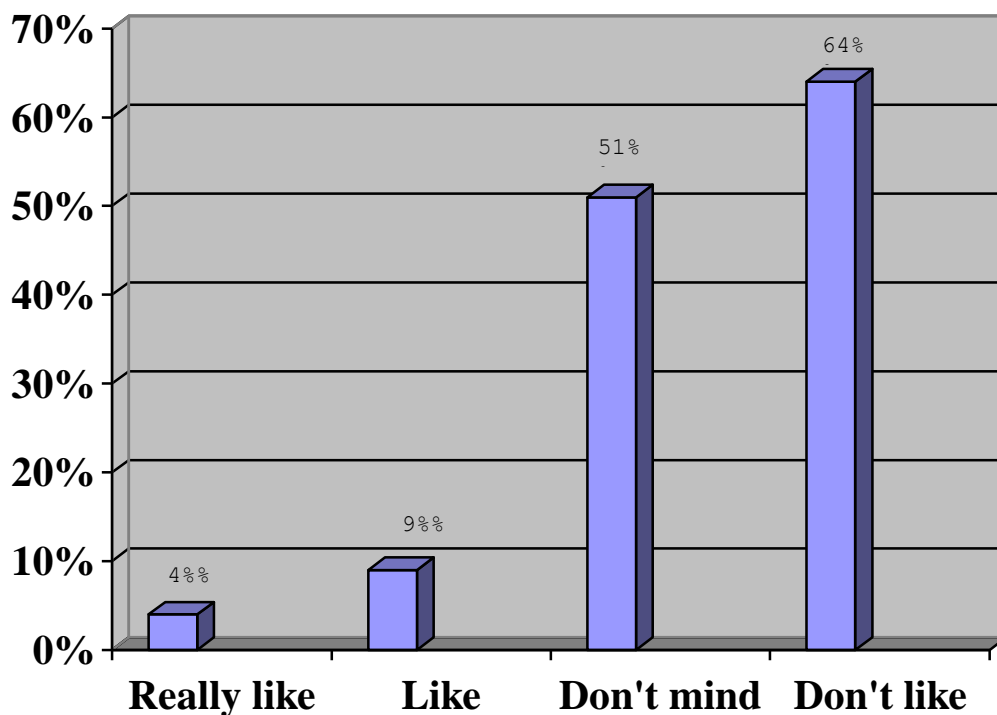


Chart 2. The students' interest in learning debating skills

The column chart shows a surprising result which is similar to the author's subjective assumption. Normally, the difficulties bore the students. Due to difficulties of learning the debating skill, only 4% of the learners like this skill very much and 9% of them like it. Debating is as boring as many people thought. As it can be seen, in the English class, learning debating is not interesting. 64% dislikes it. 51% of the learners do not mind learning this skill. For them, learning debating might be neither interesting nor boring or it depends on each lesson. In conclusion, debating English is not a favorite subject of the students and it is difficult for students.

3.2.1 The importance of debating skills.

To research more clearly the opinion of teachers and students in NA2101 at Haiphong Management and Technology, the third question in the questionnaire is designed to find out their assessment on the importance of debating.

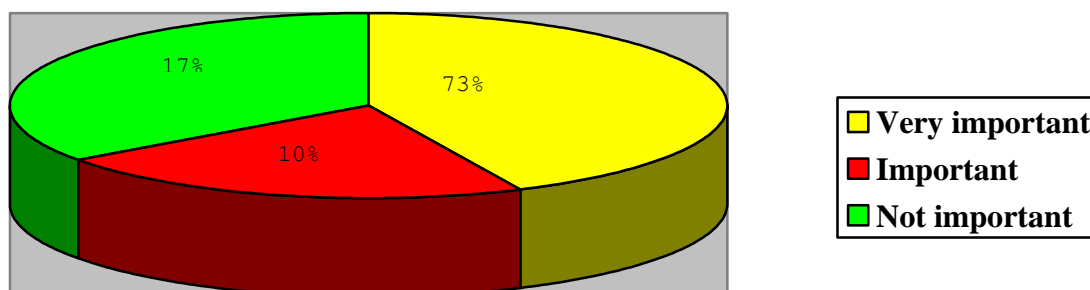


Chart 3. Students' attitudes towards the importance of English debating skills

It can be seen clearly from the chart 3, most of the students agree that learning debating skill is important as well as important is 73%. Meanwhile, there are only 10% of them reckon that it is not important. This chart shows that most of students at NA2101 claim that English debating skill has an important role in learning English with a lot of fields in life. In conclusion, debating skill is one of the most necessary skills to communicate in the real life. In learning English, it is more and more important to learn this skill.

3.2.2 Some elements in learning English debating skills.

To have more details about the students' real situation in learning English debating skill, the fourth question of the questionnaire is designed. The result is shown on the chart below.

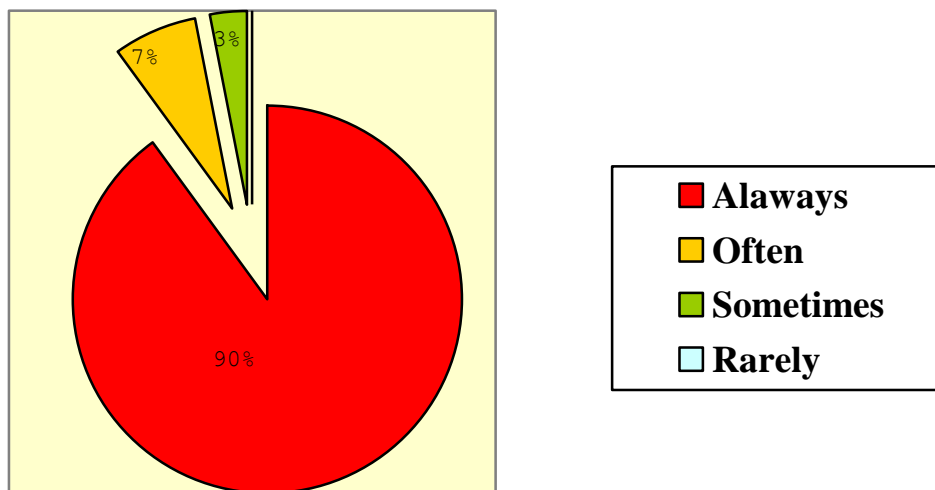


Chart 4. The frequency of students having problems in learning English debating skills

Statistics provide in Chart 4 shows the frequency of students' having problem when learning debating skill. According to the collected data, 7% students who are very often and 90% of them always have trouble when debating; in addition, 3% sometimes make this and 0% rarely. To sum up, students always have problems in debating English and this is a thing that students need repairing.

3.2.3 Causes of difficulties in English debating skills.

3.2.3.1 The difficulties are often encountered by students when learning English-debating skills.

To find the techniques to improve debating skill for students in Haiphong Management and Technology University, the researcher wants to find out the reasons which make you difficult to learn English debating. The fifth question in the questionnaires is designed for researching this thing. Some factors are often be encountered:

- Context
- Learning environment
- Background English skills

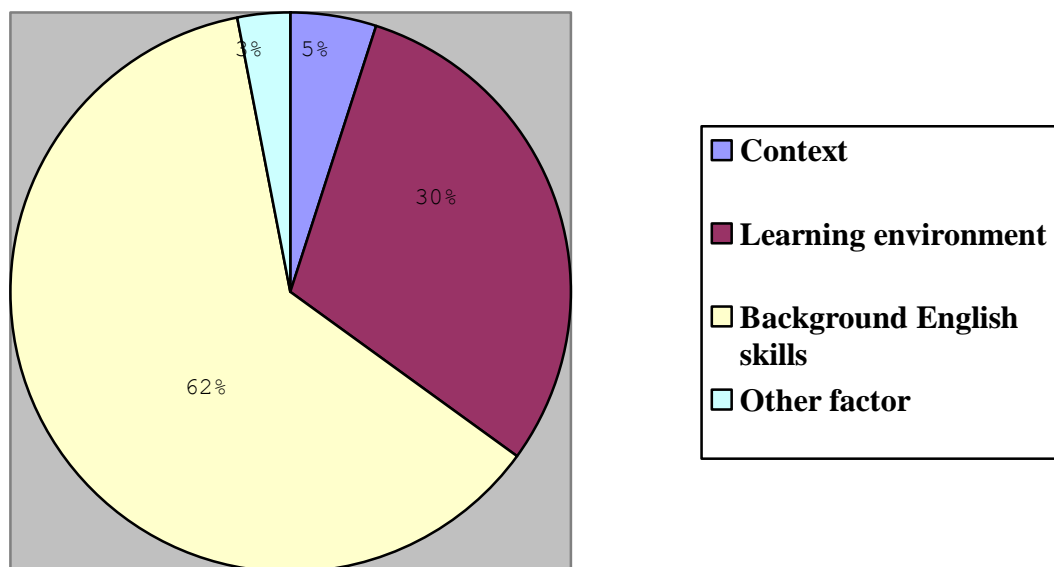


Chart 5. Difficulties in students' debating

The chart shows that the context is not a big problem. Only 5% of the learners think it made them difficult to debate. There is 30% chose the environment. The most number of the students (62%) find that the main reason for the difficulties in debating is the bad basic skills in English. Except those factors, 3% of the learners also point some other factors affecting their debating are teaching methods, and their background knowledge. In short, most of students agree that the difficult of students often have in English debating skills is that they don't have much time to practice.

3.2.4 The factors affecting the interest in English debating skills.

To find out the factors have influence on the interested in English debating skill, the question 6 of questionnaire is mention about it. Four factors that influence in this skill, students give their opinion in this thing.

- Interesting topics
- Exciting activities
- Adequate and modern equipment
- Good teaching methods

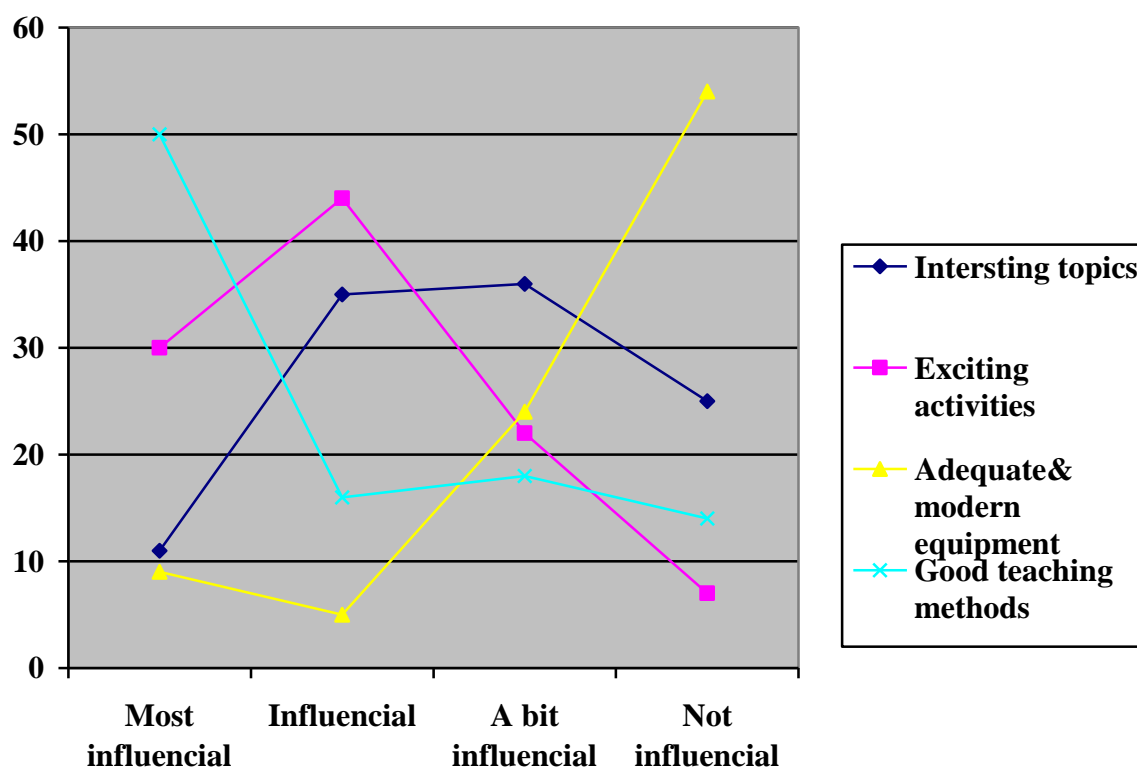


Chart 6. Factors motivating students' learning the debating skills

It is easy to see from the above chart that the most influential factor to the students' motivation is the good teaching methods. 50% of the students affirm that. 16% of them think they are influential. So teaching method is the first element that all the teachers should notice in teaching any skills, not only for the debating skill. The next factor that many students find interested is the debating activities. 30% of the learners define the exciting activities motivate them a lot to learn better. Furthermore, 44% suppose that they are influential. A small number (7%) of the students think activities do not effect. In the meanwhile, 11% of the students rank the interesting topics the most influential factor, and 35% agree they are influential. However, 36% insist that topics had a bit influence. Also, 25% say the topics have no effects their debating. The least influential factor of four is the equipment. Adequate and modern equipment are assessed that it does not have any effect on the learners' learning the debating skill by 54% of the learners. It is an amazing number due to the need of the equipment.

3.2.5 Activities for improving English debating skills at Haiphong Management and Technology

3.2.5.1 The activities students like most in debating English class.

The next question in the questionnaire for students is about the activities students like most in debating English class. There are some activities frequently occurring in debating English class with types of exercises:

- Organize small scale debates
- Role-play
- Reflex training games
- Answering the comprehension questions

Assessment	Organize small scale debates	Role-play	Reflex training games	Answering the comprehension questions
Most favorite	29%	19%	40%	18%
Favorite	27%	37%	21%	11%
Normal	25%	35%	30%	22%
Uninterested	10%	9%	10%	49%

Table 1. Students' opinion about the activities that they like most in debating English class

From the table, it can be seen that the most favorite debating activities were reflex training games (40%) and organize small scale debates (29%). Most students (49%) feel uninterested in answering the comprehension questions. Besides, only 18% of the learners confine comprehension questions are the most favorite activity. And only 11% of them like answering the comprehension questions. Meanwhile, role-play is supposed a normal activity. 35% of the learners think it normal and 37% of them liked it. Then, debating activities affect the students' interest in learning this skill a lot. According to the collected information of the interview, when asked "What kinds of activities in class do you like most?". Two students of them like playing games which relate to topic, and choose the correct answer. The other student share: "I am interested in playing games and role-play. It is a useful way to improve confidence". In conclusion, the activities in debating English class play an important in learning and teaching English. It will bring students and teachers much interest.

Below is an example debating lesson in class:

- Objectives: Students can learn the way to express their opinions of for or against something. Specially, it is the way to encourage students' critical thinking with logical evidences to convince the listeners.
- Procedures:
 - Teacher gives a situation and divides class into small group then let each draw lots to choose which group is for or against.
 - Teacher lets students discuss it to find as many evidences as possible to persuade others.
 - After finishing, teacher calls the representative of each group to start the debate. The members of group listen and have questions for other group.
- Example given: Unit 3: A trip to the countryside
 - Teacher shows the situation: Someone says that living in the countryside is more comfortable than in the big city. Do you agree or not? Why?
 - Each group discusses to find evidences to protect their opinions
 - Teacher can give students some clues for debate:
 - Living environment
 - Means of transport
 - Job opportunity
 - Entertainment
 - People
 - After students finish their debate, teacher gives comments and summarizes the main ideas.

3.2.5.2 The activities students should do before and while debating in class.

In the debating class, how they learned this skill. There are some activities that students should do:

- Before debating, students should be pre-taught some related new words, at the same time, they have to predict the content of the topic by the activities that the teacher gives.
- After debating, students should make a conclusion and focus on the fix mistakes, which was given by the teacher.

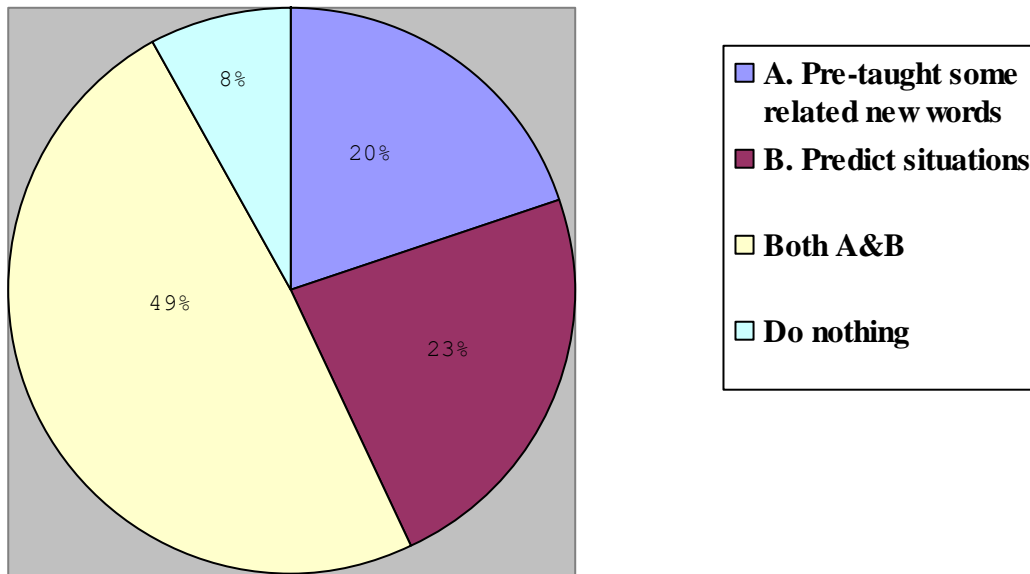


Chart 7. What students should do before debating

The chart shows that most students (49%) in debating classes are taught the new words relating to the topic and they often predict the contents of the situation base on the activities given by the teacher. But some of them only learn the new words (20%) and the other learners (23%) guess the situation before they start debating. Just have 8% students do not do anything. In conclusion, students should prepare things that relate to the topic before debating.

So after debating, what students should do? The next chart will show this question:

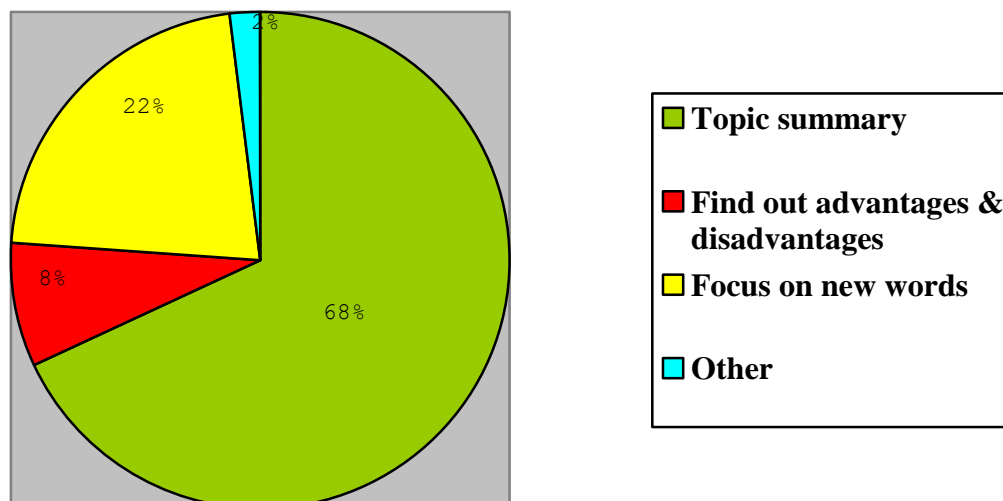


Chart 8. What students should do after debating

The chart shows that the majority of the learners (68%) know to summarize the topics after debating. It is a positive activity which helps students a lot in training the debating skill both in the English class as well as other real life situations. 22% of them often try to learn the new words after finishing debating. The other 8% of them only find out advantages and disadvantages. These results reflect the method of teaching and learning the debating skill. In conclusion, English debating skill is a difficult subject and what students do before and after debating is important.

3.3 Discussion

Generally, it is very clear from above the data analysis that both teachers and students have plenty of difficulties in teaching and learning debating. Most of the students in university say that English debating is difficult (55% of students) and very difficult (23% of students).

According to the students in HP, there are some main reasons (Poor topic-related vocabulary, pronunciation, limited practice time at class and bad basic skill) affecting students a lot while they learn English debating skills. In addition, the most activities that students want to do in class are debate (40%) and choosing the correct answers (19%). Most of the students also agree that there are some activities to improve English debating skill, such as: before debating, students should be pre-taught some related new words and predict the

content of the topics by the activities that the teacher gives; after debating, students should summarize about the topics and learn the new words.

After conducting the survey, it goes without saying that, debating skill is chosen to be a crucial skill by the students; however, students still are passive and not self-conscious in debating practice that cannot create the good habit of debating English. Moreover, in the process of learning debating English, English majors at HPU face up with lots of difficulties including psychological barriers, lack of environment, pronunciation, grammar, and the lack of motivation. Therefore, most of the students regarded some teachers' techniques as the best encouragement to motivate them to speak English in the class. The findings above give some suggested activities in order to increase the effectiveness of learning debating. In which, playing warm-up games, writing an outline or providing related vocabularies are some activities that students expect for pre-debating to have a good preparation for debating lessons; meanwhile, for while-debating activities, students prefer taking part in some activities such as group discussion, role-play, presentation and magazine design as well. Writing a report and interviewing are favorite activities that are chosen by students.

In conclusion, in order to get the maximum benefits of the offered technique, some recommendations are proposed to the students in Haiphong Management and Technology University.

CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUCLUSION

This chapter will deal with a summary of the major findings, recommendation, limitations of the study and some suggestions for further studies.

4.1. Summary of the study.

To reach what the author aimed at this study, the study was divided into four chapters with their own purpose. The first chapter briefly covers the theories related to the study. The second chapter presented the theoretical basis of learning English debating skills. The third chapter presented the research methodology of the approach to debating in HP through questionnaires and interviews. and helps the author find the answers to four research questions stated in the introduction. The last chapter is some recommendations and suggestions to improve English debating skills at Haiphong management and technology university.

Being one of Haiphong Management and Technology University 3rd year English majors, from facing a lot of difficulties in debating, together with the deep awareness about the importance of debating skills; the researchers decided to carry out the study with the hope of finding some obstacles that students experience in debating process as well as suggesting some solutions to improve their debating skills. The study includes four main parts. Part I is the introduction of the research. It introduces to the readers the basic information why this thesis is fulfilled, how it is conducted, and what is conducted for. Part II is the development of the thesis including four chapters. The first chapter provides readers an overview of the theoretical background on which this study bases on. They include the definition of debating, the structure of a debate, the type of debates, etc. Part III introduces the activities to improve debating skills for third year English major at Haiphong Management and Technology University in the thesis. It is action research with the definitions and processes. Basing on the literature, four questionnaires were designed for 3rd year majors and teachers of the Faculty of Foreign Languages, and using a quantities method to analyze the data, findings were found and represented in chapter three. Accordingly, students' obstacles in the debating process are lacking basic English skills, possessing stress and nervousness, learning in an unfavorable

environment, and lacking general knowledge. The last part is the discussion and recommendations for the obstacles found above to help learners to overcome these difficulties. There are both suggestions for students and teachers consisting of improving basic English skills and pronunciation, broadening social and cultural knowledge, creating a good learning environment, building confidence in debating, materials should be authentic, combined with various accents, and using both top-down and bottom-up processing skills. The summary of the previous parts and chapters. It is also the part the concluding marks are drawn out and pedagogical implications and suggestions for further researches are presented.

4.2 Recommendation of the study.

The previous part shows that the third-year students of English in Haiphong Management and Technology University have in countered a lot of difficulties in learning to debate in English. Hence, This chapter suggests some ways to minimize the students' difficulties in the debate.

4.2.1 Recommendation for the students

*** Improving vocabulary and pronunciation**

There are some following ways to improve vocabulary and pronunciation:

- Learn words in topic so that students can remember words more easily because they are in the logical system.
- Do variety of vocabulary exercises regularly
- Read stories, novels, newspapers or magazines in English
- Actively participate in environments where there is much word usage, use the new words in the real life
- Use body well to learn English.
- Listen to authentic spoken texts and repeat word or sentence heard with right stress and intonation.

*** Improving basic debating skills**

Students should search and find out the research materials from different sources from the Internet, televisions, radios, websites, etc, and research to the varying type of debate. So that they can get familiar with their different structure, rule. Here are some authentic, useful, and interesting books, and websites that the writer wants to introduce to the readers:

- Asking the right question: A guide to critical thinking (M. Neil Browne-Stuart M. Keeley)
- Skill sharpeners critical thinking (NXB Evan Moor)
- Thinking fast & slow - (Daniel Kahneman)
- Predictably Irrational - Phi lý trí (Dan Ariely)
- The Art of Thinking Clearly (Rolf Dobelli)
- Mistakes Were Made (But Not by Me): Why We Justify Foolish Beliefs, Bad Decisions, and Hurtful Acts (Carol Tavri)

Websites retrieved from:

- TED Talks: <https://www.ted.com/talks>
- Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/>
- Boundless: <https://lnkd.in/frNwtcA>
- Trivium Education: <https://lnkd.in/fpXgfyJ>

*** Broadening social and cultural knowledge**

Without having enough knowledge of society and culture in debating, students will face problems of interpretation in the “understanding” step. Thus, it is necessary to widen this kind of knowledge in some ways. The suggestions are searching for information on the internet, watching TV and listening to the radio regularly, asking and learning from the professional people, learning from books, newspapers, magazines, from friends, and from real life. Especially, talking to foreigners is really a good way to improve the social as well as cultural knowledge. Students not only can hear the speakers’ voices but also can know more about the countries through real people. It is interesting if students can go abroad or go traveling. Because “Traveling widens your knowledge”.

*** Creating a good learning environment**

The learning environment for debating skills, which is a vital key affecting the quality of both learning and teaching debating skills. However, as mentioned in the previous chapter, the findings of this study show that the students are not satisfied with the recent learning environment. Students suppose that the debating classes are still so noisy. Consequently, the students find it hard and challenging to concentrate while debating. It is, therefore, essential to upgrade the classroom so that all students have a good chance to study debating skills in such a motivating environment for improving their debating skills.

To create a good learning environment, students should:

- Find a quiet place to debate in order to concentrate better during the debating comprehension process.
- Have good physical conditions for learning: air-conditions, a comfortable chair, etc.
- Make a friendly and pleasant atmosphere

*** Building confidence in the debating process**

As mentioned above, linguistic factors are the main reasons for students' nervousness and stress during the debating process so it is necessary to build students' confidence in a first way - dealing with linguistic problems. The students should study; have good knowledge about the phonetics and phonology, pronunciation, grammar, etc. Try to apply, practice, and get used to using them in real life. The second is preparing relevant knowledge carefully before debating. Make sure that, before joining a debate, you should understand very clearly, what you are expected to do, carry out the planned activities confident that you are doing the right thing. The third is having ambiguity tolerance. Do not worry if you do not express every word. It is very important that you learn to accept that a debating task can often be completed even when you change some of the words has the same meaning.

4.2.2 Recommendation for the teachers

- **Materials should be authentic**

Authentic material allows the students to hear a much more real act of debate with all the interactional features which are normally not found in scripted materials. It gives them a true representation of real spontaneous speech with its hesitations, false starts, and "mistakes", which will make them more able to cope with "real life" speech when they meet outside the learning situation. If the students have the opportunity to study a range of authentic texts, they will sample many different voices with varying accents, both social and regional. They will express things in a variety of ways. Students need to experience as wide a selection of debating situations as possible. Teachers should not wait until their students become advanced learners to begin using authentic materials, although at first texts will have to be selected carefully and tasks kept simple so that students are not demotivated by being confronted with texts and activities, which they cannot handle. The use of authentic materials, such as workplace training videos, audiotapes of actual workplace exchanges,

and TV and radio broadcasts, increases transferability to debate outside of the classroom context.

- **Materials should be combined with various accents**

Debating materials should be combined from different sources to ensure that they are interesting and appropriate enough for all levels of the students.

- **Developing both top-down and bottom-up processing skills**

As mentioned above, top-down oriented activities encourage learners to discuss what they already know about the topic. So that they will carry out the planned activities confident that, they are doing the right thing and they will succeed with whatever debating tasks they are asked to do. Moreover, bottom-up practice activities give confidence inaccurate comprehension of the components of the language (sound, words, intonation, grammatical structures).

- **Do not force them to debate**

Nobody wants to do something by forcing someone. If you want to do something, you can do your best. On the contrary, you can not be aware of what you did or are doing. So, should we wait until students are ready? Yes! If he or she does not want to debate, let them not to debate, but it does not mean that you ignore them! It means to encourage them.

4.3. Limitation of the study.

Although the study has certain strong points such as collection methods, survey questionnaires for students, due to limited time, lack of sources, the researcher's ability, and other unexpected factors, it is obvious that the study has got a number of short-comings. First of all, due to the limited time, experience to some extent, the researcher could not conduct other methods such as classroom observation which can make the obtained results more reliable. Secondly, due to the limitation of the scope of the study, the researcher only focuses on the students at Haiphong Management and Technology which account for a small number of students in HP. Therefore, the result of the study can't be generalized. Besides, the researcher could not cover all the aspects of difficulties. In addition, the techniques suggested in this research are selected from different reliable but limited sources. In spite of the mentioned limitations, I hope that this exploratory research will contribute to the better situation of teaching and learning English debating skills in HP.

4.4. Suggestions for the further study.

Because of the limitation, this study could not cover all of the aspects of the study. Besides, the study only focuses on difficulties for students in HP in order to help them improve their debating skills. Moreover, for further studies, to get better results, the researcher should invite more participants and the data collection method. Together with using survey questionnaires and interviews, observation is also necessary to get more persuasive conclusions. All in all, despite the study, it can avoid to the limitation, the research has been completed under the guidance of the supervisor and self-effort. Any comments and criticism will be highly appreciated for better further study.

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