

**ANALYSIS OF 8TH GRADE STUDENT'S ENGLISH SPEAKING
DIFFICULTIES AND TEACHING STRATEGIES AT SMP NEGERI SATU
ATAP 2 SUKASADA AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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ABSTRACT

English, the most commonly spoken language worldwide, is spoken by billions of people as a first, second, or even foreign language. Speaking proficiency is of utmost importance as most communication happens through speech. After the COVID-19 pandemic, learning went online and learning became difficult because learning in speaking English cannot be practiced directly. Realizing this, this study aims to find out what are the difficulties in speaking English of grade 8A students and what are the teaching strategies of English teachers in overcoming the difficulties in speaking English of grade 8A students at SMP Negeri Satu Atap 2 Sukasada after the COVID-19 pandemic. This study involved 1 class of 8th grade students, getting valid responses from 31 students, and 1 English teacher who taught in class 8A. This study used observation and interviews with teachers and students of class 8A to analyze the speaking difficulties . The results showed that there were difficulties in learning English speaking in class 8A students, namely there were three difficulties in speaking English. The difficulties are vocabulary, the second is lack of focus, and the third is nervousness. The English teacher's strategy after knowing the difficulties is, the teacher has two teaching strategies. First, giving students time to literate and read English sentences and vocabulary well, second, learning pictures, videos, and native speakers frequently, students' focus becomes more improved than before, and by monitoring learning directly.

Keywords: English Speaking Difficulties, Teaching Strategies, After Covid-19 Pandemic.

