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The Importance Of English Skills For Heavy Equipment Engineering Students At The Olat Maras Community Academy

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Abstrack

The existence of the English language has always been an interesting topic for everyone because it plays an important role in one's career and in fulfilling job opportunities. Employees who are proficient in English in a company earn higher wages than those who cannot speak English. The heavy equipment engineering study program at the Olat Maras Community Academy is a technology study program and the language used is English, such as in manuals, instructions and terms in heavy equipment engineering. Heavy equipment engineering graduates have English language skills, which greatly increases their chances of being accepted for jobs offered by companies. Being able to communicate in English and operate heavy equipment are very strategic for improving one's standard of living. The purpose of this study is to determine the perceptions of students in the heavy equipment engineering study program at the Olat Maras Community Academy. The method used in this research is qualitative, using a descriptive quantitative approach to analyse the research data obtained. The results show that 92.8% of heavy equipment engineering students are aware that English plays an important role for heavy equipment engineering students at the Olat Maras Community Academy in supporting their careers. Students of the heavy equipment engineering study program at the Olat Maras Community Academy are not satisfied with their skills but also English language skill.

Keywords: *The Importance, English Skills Heavy Equipment Engineering, Students*

1. Background

English language skills enable students to adapt to various job opportunities. This is because students are able to understand messages conveyed in English. Students with English language skills will find it easier to acquire knowledge and skills in the field of heavy equipment engineering because everything from manual book to the names of heavy equipment parts is written in English. This poses a significant challenge for students who are unable to speak English. Therefore, English language proficiency is essential for every heavy equipment engineering student at the Olat Maras Community Academy.

Nowadays, English has become a necessity for everyone to support communication interactions. The existence of English has always been an attractive thing for everyone because it has a good role and function for careers and for fulfilling job opportunities. English is unique, so that even a few people who can use its vocabulary are already considered capable of speaking English and are categorised as people who are good at English. Furthermore, when it comes to the world of work, there is a difference in treatment between employees who have English language skills and those who do not. In India, employees who are fluent in English earn an average hourly wage that is 34% higher than employees who cannot speak English; even those who can speak a little English earn 13% more than those who cannot speak English at all[1]. The reason is that a company will find it easier to cooperate with international companies to increase business accumulation through the utilisation of human resources. This states [2] that the English language today is not only a language to be learned for pragmatic purposes, such as education and job prospects, but it has also gone beyond that to function as the effective lingua franca for the ever-changing globalized world. Sementara itu, international companies use communication in English as one of the major criteria for recruiting

their staff [3]. This means that English language skills are a key requirement for anyone who wants to work in an international company.

The inclusion of English language courses in the heavy equipment engineering study program is intended to assist students so that upon graduation they are ready to work in reputable companies and are able to communicate with people from different cultures. Through a deep understanding of English, students will find it easier to adapt to the work environment before and after graduation, even if the human resources at the workplace come from non-Indonesian countries such as the United Kingdom or Australia. In addition, English is also the language that unites communication between people around the world. Therefore, the application of English in the heavy equipment engineering study program curriculum at the Olat Maras Community Academy is a strategic step to strengthen employment opportunities for students of the heavy equipment engineering study program at the Olat Maras Community Academy. English language teaching for students of the heavy equipment engineering study program at the Olat Maras Community Academy is carried out through various methods such as discussions, storytelling, interviews, and practical project presentations using a reliable approach and total physical response methods. These activities not only improve English language skills but also prepare students to face challenges in the workplace after graduation.

The heavy equipment engineering study program is a technology-oriented engineering study program. A scientist named [4] explains that engineering is related to technology, and even today, technology is dominated by English, both in terms of providing work skills and objects as well as their extensions. Therefore, it is very important for students of this study program to have English language skills. The reason is that the references for engineering knowledge are dominated by English texts to increase knowledge and skills as well as for career development through communication in English at a global level. This can trigger diplomacy and career support or cooperation in the field of heavy equipment engineering.

2. Literature Review

According to data from the World Bank in 2017, 88 countries with English language proficiency have had a positive impact on their economic growth rates. Other findings also explained by EF EPI in (2018) that if the people of a country have good English language skills, then the economy, knowledge, technology and quality of life of that society will also improve. Meanwhile, in a study conducted by Mc Cormik in 2013 it was stated that English language proficiency can increase the human development index when viewed from the perspective of education and standard life expectancy of the community. From those explanations, it can be seen that understanding English is an important factor in achieving stability in life and in careers in the field of technology, such as heavy equipment. English language skills play an important role in job interviews and in establishing working relationships with other individuals or companies in order to achieve career success. In newly established technology companies, the communications of ideas that are then realised as a vision and mission, and the attraction of investors are more commonly done in English. English language skills are not a trend that must be possessed, but rather a basic requirement to facilitate (catalyse) all forms of work initiatives to achieve targeted success.

In addition, the use of English in the heavy equipment-engineering program at the Olat Maras Community Academy aims to help students find employment quickly. This refers to the opinion [5] that English in heavy equipment engineering programs has a specific purpose, namely to develop students' language skills to meet the needs of the field. Meanwhile, English learning materials can be presented in the form of pictures in heavy equipment operation manuals, direct conversations with technicians, or the use of prototypes [6]. Furthermore, the issues of workforce needs and requirements related to heavy equipment are not only about the skills to operate heavy equipment but also about English language skills [6]. To that end, teaching activities in the heavy equipment engineering study program at the Olat Maras Community Academy also pay more attention to students so that they have English language skills, because the heavy equipment engineering study program is not only applicable at the national level but also internationally. In terms of the curriculum, English language courses play a strategic role in preparing prospective workers in the heavy equipment field. All parts of heavy equipment use English, as do the workplaces at international companies. This requires adequate English language skills to be able to work and compete in international companies. To that end, teaching activities in the heavy equipment engineering study program at the Olat Maras Community Academy also pay more attention to students so that they have English language skills, because the heavy equipment engineering study program is not only applicable at the national level but also internationally. In terms of

the curriculum, English language courses play a strategic role in preparing prospective workers in the heavy equipment field. All parts of heavy equipment use English, as do the workplaces at international companies. This requires adequate English language skills to be able to work and compete in international companies.

When heavy equipment engineering graduates from the Olat Maras Community Academy have English language skills, they have a better chance of being accepted for jobs offered by companies. Working in the heavy equipment field is not limited to being an operator; graduates can also become technicians who work with heavy equipment components. To work on heavy equipment components to the fullest extent, a thorough understanding of English is required, specifically technical English related to heavy equipment such as undercarriage, sprocket, boom, arm, track shoes, and track link.

Based on Law Number 12 of 2012 concerning the higher education management system in Article 5, every higher education institution must have graduates with scientific knowledge who are able to understand technology in order to realise and improve the nation's capabilities in global competition. To that end, English language teaching is tailored to the needs of students, focusing on everything related to heavy equipment, from interview skills to heavy equipment terminology in the field. English language learning activities in the engineering program are applied in accordance with the needs of program graduates [7]. English skill in modernization is required for developing career, knowledge, skill, and to expand the understanding of technology so that easy to get a job especially at this modernization and also English plays an important role in helping students improve their lives towards economic equality in social life. The explanations provided by the experts can be summarised as English plays an important role in helping students improve their lives towards economic equality in social life [8]. Furthermore, stated too that all of these English language competencies enable students to speak English guided by educators, such as reading texts, conversing, and completing short questions to increase students' English vocabulary [8]. Dealing with explanation, in order for students in the heavy equipment engineering program to have the competencies expected by the job market; all language term in heavy equipment should be teach in reading and speaking, for writing students have to teach how to write job application letter, activity report, and manual inspection. All those things are applicable anywhere during meet with heavy machine. For adding English language ability and students' learning experience, it is required to applied in real context as [9] stated that language is applicable so that need to continuous direct practice is necessary for more effective use of English which can be done anytime and anywhere even in an English-speaking minority environment. The final point of the information presented [10] claims that English is one of the keys to a successful career and a foundation for success because whoever who want to work in the world need good communication skills. These skills include being able to speak English well and understanding how to use visual tools to share information [11].

3. Research Method

This research is qualitative research because there is no special treatment of the research objects being studied. Qualitative research is research to understand social phenomena in their natural context [12]. Thus, the research was conducted without any special treatment. To analyse the data, a descriptive quantitative approach was applied because the data collected consisted of figures describing the importance of English for students of the heavy equipment engineering program at the Olat Maras Community Academy. The data source for this study was a questionnaire, which was then analysed descriptively using percentages presented in table form and then summarised.

4. Result and Discussion

This research was conducted on first-semester students of the heavy equipment engineering study program at the Olat Maras Community Academy. Based on research data obtained from first-semester students of the heavy equipment engineering study program at the Olat Maras Community Academy, the following was obtained:

Table 1.

Students perspective toward The importance of English Skills for Heavy Equipment Engineering Students at the Olat Maras Community Academy

No	Statement	Persentase	Students' perspective
1	English is important for supporting a career in heavy equipment.	74.8%	English language skills can support

			work anywhere
2	Being proficient in English plays an important role in finding employment after graduation.	92.9 %	It is easy to find employment both domestically (nationally) and abroad (internationally).
3	English must be mastered by heavy equipment engineering students to support a better career.	88.1%	Heavy equipment components use English so that they can compete with foreign workers in mining and construction companies.

In accordance with the results obtained through this study, students of the heavy equipment engineering program are aware and acknowledge that English plays an important role in supporting careers in the heavy equipment field and other careers. The reason for this is that the research findings show that 92.9% of students in the heavy equipment-engineering program acknowledge that English language skills can support their careers or make it easier to find work both domestically and abroad. Furthermore, 88.1% of students in the Heavy Equipment Engineering program at the Olat Maras Community Academy believe that English must be mastered, and 74.8% believe it is important for supporting careers in the heavy equipment field. English in the heavy equipment engineering study program at the Olat Maras Community Academy is a compulsory subject that aims to complement the lack of skills in heavy equipment. This means that English plays a role in increasing students' knowledge through reading, writing, and speaking for students in the heavy equipment engineering study program. Therefore, the presence of English for heavy equipment engineering students is to prepare them to be more competitive in the heavy equipment industry, such as mining and construction. Being able to communicate in English broadens work opportunities because English is a universal language spoken by many people who work in multinational companies.

Currently, the era of globalisation is increasingly accepted by society, with all information being in English; English language skills are highly needed in such conditions. English language skills for heavy equipment engineering students are a strategic way to increase cognitive competence and strengthen character, thereby helping all aspects of social life, from the incapable to the capable, from ordinary workers to professionals who prosper towards a good standard of living. In the world of work, whether in education, social, cultural, economic, or tourism fields, English language skills are still needed because all of these fields involve global interactions where English is the language of communication. Furthermore, if graduates of the heavy equipment engineering program from the Olat Maras Community Academy work in strategic sectors such as education, economics, or tourism, English language skills are considered the greatest career enhancer and simultaneously the determining factor for career failure.

In the importance of English skills for heavy equipment engineering students at the Olat Maras Community Academy there are some aspects that should be noticed.

a. English Skill in Industry Global

In today's digital era, also known as the era of globalisation, communication and access to information are unlimited. English dominate all information, which is why English is referred to as the lingua franca. It does mean that English is a language that unites communities who speak other languages. Understanding English facilitates relations between people from different countries, enabling them to establish cooperation and maintain harmony. English is widely used by people in the workplace and professional settings, especially in this era of modernization. This certainly signals that English plays a very important role in bridging all forms of work aspirations and targets. In addition, reading materials and information related to products and projects that use heavy equipment are mostly presented in English. This provides information that heavy equipment engineering is a global profession, meaning that every country always has construction projects that use heavy equipment. Referring to the widespread role of English,[13] explains in detail that individuals who are proficient in English have broader access to the latest knowledge, which enables them to adapt to the latest

technological developments and participate in global innovation; in this case, English plays a very important role in accelerating technology transfer and expanding the reach of knowledge between countries.

In large-scale or global industries such as Caterpillar and Komatsu, the language used in operating manuals, spare parts catalogues, and work safety procedures is English. This reality requires students enrolled in heavy equipment engineering programs to master two skills, namely technical skills and English, in order to understand and compete with applicable global standards. In line with this importance [14] explains that English speaking skills play a crucial role in career success in the global business world and In the midst of globalisation and increasingly fierce competition, effective communication in English is one of the main keys to opening doors of opportunity in the international business world. This means that someone who is able to produce language well and correctly and can be understood will be able to interact both virtually and non-virtually. In addition, acquiring information to increase knowledge and learning experiences will be easier, thereby increasing competence due to English language skills, both in work matters and cultural integration. Furthermore, based on various information compiled by researchers, English language skills on a global scale have several positive impacts, such as expanding professional networks, increasing business profits through cooperation, and more focused business development due to the support of information presented in newsletters by developed countries. In line with the information described above, the government has taken a stance in encouraging the working population to be proficient in English. It can be seen that every element of education requires English language programs, either in the form of specialised or compulsory lessons, which aim to increase the competitiveness of human resources in the global workplace. Therefore, English language skills in the global context of the workplace are likened to a key that can open doors to job opportunities, ultimately leading to success and a prosperous economy.

b. Integration of English Skill with Technical Skills

In English, there are four main skill components, namely reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This opinion clearly emphasises that English language skills consist of four skills, namely reading, speaking, listening, writing, and vocabulary. All of these components have different functions and purposes but complement each other in forming the ability of English language users. Reading skills are needed to understand the information contained in work safety documents or other documents such as cooperation agreements, and vocabulary is needed for the smooth functioning of all elements of English language skills. Writing plays a role in composing at least job applications, work reports, and communication via electronic mail. Speaking and listening are two very important skills for receiving and sending messages directly, such as during job interviews and training. With the advancement of science and technology, English has been used as a tool for oral and written communication in all environments around the world [15]. This condition shows that English language skills play an important role for technicians and academics alike. Today's digital age, most industries as employers not only want graduates who have technical knowledge, but more than that, they want good communication skills and sufficient English language skills so that users do not have difficulty finding solutions to improve their human resource capacity.

Technical graduates need to prepare themselves with English language skills, which can be done through learning from various media and methods such as images and discussions. Another thing to note is that in order to avoid technical problems, it is important to train yourself in listening and reading. The reason is that these are the basics of knowledge known as cognitive input for language, while speaking and writing are outputs of language input (language output) involving the psychomotor domain. When all these components are well organised, they will produce attractive speech and writing. As a result, technical terms related to heavy equipment or similar items, such as reading equipment manuals, SOPs, and troubleshooting equipment, will be easy to implement without assistance from others. When this happens, the company will at least have been helped to achieve the progress it wants to achieve. In line with the internal conditions of the industrial world, companies such as heavy equipment companies and the like indirectly require their employees to have English language knowledge and skills because the global community in the era of globalisation wants communication to be in English. Companies that tend to use English in their interactions will appear more elegant and advanced. The reason is that the public's initial assessment of a company is based on the way it interacts and communicates, so that the company is claimed to have a large international network. Therefore, refers to [16] in this era of globalisation, all levels of society are ultimately required to be able to speak English as an internationally recognised language. In view of the impact of this explanation, [17] states that English language

skills, both spoken and written, are very much needed given the increasing number of fields of work that intersect with the international world, for example, improving the quality of information and communication services for foreign guests. The era of globalisation requires every segment of society to improve their competencies, both in technical skills such as foreign language proficiency and non-technical skills such as cooperation and problem solving, in order to position themselves appropriately so as not to hinder the pace of the economy, which involves interactions between various nations and countries. Therefore, in order to be competitive, it is necessary to have certain skills, as stated by[18] that language skills are essential for all individuals because they are one of the ways to develop an individual's cognitive abilities and character, especially in today's ever-changing modern world. An individual's form of self-defence in today's modernisation is to improve communication skills, which can help all aspects of life, from professional to social life[19].

c. Long-term implication

Having English language skills is not only applicable to students enrolled in heavy equipment engineering programs but also in all business sectors such as SMEs. Based on research conducted by Alshanty & Emeagwali in 2019 about the contribution of MSMEs in developing people economic, it was found that 90% of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have a positive impact on the global economy. This information shows that the economic growth of a nation such as Indonesia is largely supported by the role of micro and medium-sized businesses. The reason for this is that the majority of the population is in the lower-middle economic bracket rather than the upper-middle bracket, so the circulation and transactions of economic needs in meeting the market demand for goods and services are largely carried out by micro and medium-sized businesses. This thing illustrates that MSMEs are recognised as the backbone of the economy in countries such as Indonesia because, in addition to stabilising state revenue, they also reduce unemployment by creating job opportunities. In this era of rapid globalisation, the role of English is very important for industry players such as MSMEs in order to expand product marketing because, in addition to product service quality, it is also important for competing with imported products. To face increasingly fierce global competition, MSMEs need to have technical skills, namely English, for both owners and employees in order to compete in the international market. This is because a lack of technical skills will hinder the promotion of SME products. Referring to the opinion of[20] which explains that SME players who lack or do not have English communication skills are a major obstacle in promoting products and introducing products to non-local consumers. This means that MSME products must be labelled in English, not Indonesian, so that the market reach of these goods is more widely known by the global community. The existence of MSMEs is a business sector that offers a wide range of products and services for everyone's needs and has strong potential in driving the nation's economic activities in meeting the needs of the people and improving the welfare of society. According to the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs in 2011, MSMEs produce a variety of products and services that play an important role in creating business opportunities as a solution to unemployment while also driving community economic activity, which is a source of income for improving welfare.

Proficiency in English for MSME players has an important role that can have an impact on several things [21] such as increasing customer confidence and satisfaction through the use of English communication, attracting the interest of foreigners due to a common language that can be understood, and establishing overseas cooperation to increase the promotion and sales of business products. Furthermore, the pace of the European Economic Community (EEC) cannot be held back by the development of the digital world, namely gadgets and other electronic goods. This condition is a clear indication for business actors that English, apart from being a global language (*lingua franca*), is also a means of accessing information on technology, education, and product promotion in international forums[22]. The use of English in MSMEs can be through product names, materials, and product prices. Although seemingly minor, these simple steps can optimise the fulfilment of consumer desires and needs while adding value to product sales[23].

Possessing technical skills, namely English language proficiency, can ensure the continuity of work activities for individuals with English language abilities. In addition to employment opportunities, it can also increase income and expand professional networks with business actors abroad. The reason is that the textual messages conveyed on SME products contain values that can influence consumers' perceptions of the brand and products offered, while also fostering consumer trust in the product image and brand produced by SMEs. Consumer

attention to a product occurs directly but can also occur indirectly, namely through comments when the product is promoted in digital media. For this reason, the appropriate use of language can encourage consumers to buy marketed goods. In this position, English is very important for MSMEs because the selling value of goods domestically and abroad is different. If SME operators wish to continuously increase their turnover, they must also be able to produce English content to expand their products into international markets. So, English proficiency in the long term is not only important for students in vocational education but also for SMEs in influencing workplace interactions in the modern era.

d. Practical function

Students enrolled in the Heavy Equipment Engineering program at the Olat Maras Community Academy will certainly be more competitive if they have English language skills. This means being able to read, write, speak and listen to English. The impact of this is greater access to references on new developments in heavy equipment engineering, opportunities to find work in multinational heavy equipment companies, and foreign business partners. Therefore, it is important to realise that English language skills are crucial to understand, comprehend, and improve in order to thrive in the global market and not be left behind. This reality highlights that language encompasses implicit elements such as information, knowledge, technology, art, culture, and maintaining relationships with people from other nations. According to [24] English is one of the important soft skills to master because it will be a necessity in global interactions and the language used in technology. In line with its function in the current era of globalisation [25] success in various fields, including technology, requires English language skills, which are not merely an advantage but a necessity. Lingua franca skills provide many benefits for heavy equipment engineering students during social interactions both on and off campus, such as exchanging ideas with foreigners through media such as facebook and twitter, gaining new insights into the use of technology, and listening to expert advice on job interview techniques, where the language used is automatically English. Looking back at this exploration, English language teaching at the Olat Maras Community Academy is more oriented towards fulfilling workplace requirements, particularly those related to heavy equipment. In addition, students in the heavy equipment engineering study program develop their English language skills directly on heavy equipment by naming, pointing to and explaining how to operate heavy equipment.

The development and pace of the information age in globalisation requires all human resources to be able to adapt and compete with other human resources in various sectors. To be able to adapt to these increasingly advanced modern conditions, the improvement of human resources through education and skills is necessary and must be continuously pursued. The reason is that if education in a region progresses, the nation and state will also progress. To face the demands of change, practical functional abilities remain a concern, both technical, such as English, and practical, such as how to operate heavy equipment or other tools. If both science and technology can be mastered, then human resources in society will become human resources that can survive in the midst of globalisation. In line with the trend of globalisation, proficiency in English, including reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, has become a benefit for job seekers in order to adapt to global developments. All forms of work units and organisations begin with an idea, which is then presented through communication or appropriate language so that the idea can take the desired form. Examples include problem solving, organisation, leadership, openness, cooperation, and motivation. All of these things certainly use language as the starting point for action. This means that when new graduates or anyone else looking for work have good communication skills, which are a key requirement for getting a job, and are able to communicate in English, they will have a better chance of being accepted for work, especially among graduates with certain skills.

5. Conclusion

Based on research data, it has been found that English plays an important role for students of the heavy equipment-engineering program at the Olat Maras Community Academy in supporting their careers and expanding their work activities, increasing their number of work partners from national to international. In addition, having English language skills not only supports heavy equipment operating skills but also enables students to work in international companies. Referring to the findings of research that has been conducted, students of the heavy equipment engineering program at the Olat Maras Community Academy need not only heavy equipment operating skills but also English language skills if they want to be compatible resources in the world of work. The reason is that being able to

communicate in English makes them more competitive than those who cannot speak English, allows them to build international networks, and broadens their knowledge, such as information about work and heavy equipment technology or other technologies. However, English skill for heavy equipment engineering students at the Olat Maras Community Academy has some aspects that useful for future such as English plays a part in the world of heavy machinery as to know Operator manual as in caterpillar, SOP as Komatsu, training in international scale; integration of english skill with technical skills for reading catalog spare part, writing wrok report, technical prentation, understanding training video; long-term implication which impact on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), local industries, global workforce which is providing probability to get employability, access to literature, certification, and passed the job selection process at a multinational company, obtained international operator certification.

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