ABSTRACT

English plays a crucial role in supporting students' academic achievement and future prospects. Among the four English language skills, speaking is an essential skill that enables students to express their ideas and communicate with others. Self-confidence is one of the factors that support students' speaking ability. However, many students demonstrate a lack of self-confidence when speaking English, as evidenced by low participation, fear of making mistakes, excessive focus on external factors, and fear of mispronouncing English words. Therefore, this study was conducted under the title *"Examining the Motivational Factors Behind Students' English-Speaking Confidence in a Junior High School."* This study aimed to identify the motivational factors that contribute to students' confidence in speaking English. The research methods used were observation and interviews involving 22 participants from Class VIII (7) at SMP Negeri 1 Syamtalira Bayu. The results of the study indicated that seven motivational factors contributed to the development of students' speaking confidence: personal interest in English, peer support, enjoyable learning activities, teacher support, future goals, academic demands, and family support. Personal interest in English was the factor that most clearly shaped students' speaking confidence. The implication of this study is the need to create a positive and supportive learning environment to encourage students to become more confident in speaking English.

Keywords: *English Learning, Motivational factors, Self-confidence, Speaking skills, Junior High School.*

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