



## The Benefits of Literature in Developing Talent and Self-Confidence for English Club Extracurricular Students in High School Level

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Nabillah, Y.T., Ittaqitafuzi and Rohmana, W.I. (2024). The Benefits of Literature in Developing Talent and Self-Confidence for English Club Extracurricular Students in High School Level. *Journal of English Language and literature*, 9(1), 213-218. doi: 10.37110/jell.v9i1.198

Received: 13-12-2024

Accepted: 28-02-2024

Published: 02-03-2024

**Abstract:** This study investigates the benefits of literature on the talent development and self-confidence of high school students participating in extracurricular English Club. Literature, derived from the Sanskrit word 'shastra', serves as a guide and source of information and includes various forms such as drama, poetry, tales, and speeches. Recognizing the importance of literature in developing talents and self-confidence, this study examines the role of extracurricular English Club in creating a supportive environment for students. Extracurricular activities, including English Club, play an important role in the character and academic development of young people. In response to the growing importance of English proficiency, some educational institutions have introduced English extracurricular programs to showcase students' potential and interests. This study, conducted at MAN 1 Kota Malang, East Java, used a descriptive qualitative approach to assess the impact of English clubs on students' literacy skills, self-confidence and talent development. The results showed that the English club at MAN 1 Kota Malang focuses on improving students' English skills, especially speaking. Through speaking, poetry, storytelling and drama exercises, students develop their imagination, analytical ability and general communication skills. Literature-oriented exercises help students overcome shyness, fear of making mistakes, and anxiety, and improve self-esteem. The study concludes that incorporating literature into extracurricular activities not only improves language skills, but also contributes to the development of talent and self-confidence, which are crucial for future success.

**Keywords:** *literature, extracurricular, english club, development talent, self-confidence*

### INTRODUCTION

The Sanskrit term for literature is shastra, meaning "text containing instructions" or "guidelines". The fundamental words for literature are shaas, which means to teach, guide, or provide instructions, and tra, which means tool or means. Literature serves as a

guide, a teaching instrument, and a source of instructions. Literature is the manifestation of human expression via language in the form of spoken or written works. It can be further classified as experiences, viewpoints, creative ideas, reflections of reality, or uniquely packaged original facts (Abdi, 2023). In the field of literature, there are various forms such

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as drama, singing, speeches, rhymes and poetry.

Literature is one of the most important subjects that should be learned. It is because the benefits of literature will bring an improvement to the language skills of students. Students will also be able to express themselves and build confidence through literature learning implemented in their respective schools. Literature encourages interaction between students as they can exchange ideas, share understanding and encourage each other in the application of literature. Literary learning contains several layers of meaning, which makes students use their imaginations and it encourages students to discuss their feelings and opinions. Studying literature makes the students be able to express themselves through opinions and responses. It will gain their confidence, social interaction, and develop their talent. According to Berger et al (2020) Extracurricular activities have significant implications for adolescent development, especially for the process of configuring the central identity during this phase of development

The inclusion of extracurricular activities in the curriculum has a big impact on how adolescents develop, enhancing both their character and academic performance. Extracurricular activities have a big impact on how adolescents develop, especially on how their central identities are constructed at this stage of development. Well-run extracurricular activities are an important aspect of a child's life, not just for teenagers. (Rahayu & Dong, 2023). In the current day, being proficient in English has become important. The students' lack of fluency in the English language stems from the constraints of educational institutions. Some educational institutions solve the problem by allowing students to exhibit their interest in and potential for English by extracurricular English language learning (Astari & Hadi, 2022). This research aims to find out how the existence of English extracurricular clubs can create Developing Talent and Self-Confidence through English Club Extracurricular Students a comfortable English environment for students.

In high school level, the study of literature is not applied deeply because the study is

English in general. However, there are also extracurriculars for students to help them build their talents. One of the extracurriculars in school that improves the study of literature is English Club. In this extracurricular, students will focus on improving their skills, talent, and confidence in English, especially in the literature aspect. The purpose of this research is to prove how literature can build the talent and self-confidence of the students through English Club extracurricular in high school level.

According to previous study conducted by Hidayat et al (2023) literature was implemented in extracurricular "Student Conversation Club". The researchers aimed to present an overview of how literature is employed in extracurricular activities. The objective was to identify obstacles hindering the application of literature in this extracurricular setting. The research revealed positive outcomes, indicating that the implementation of literature in the "Student Conversation Club" significantly enhances students' language skills, particularly in English. Meanwhile, the writers breakdown about the benefit of literature in developing talent and self-confident in extracurricular "English Club" activity. This study highlight the result of the implementation of literature in the extracurricular and how it is important to the students.

Another study examines how secondary school students perceive the teaching of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) literature. The results showed that the 15 schools studied incorporated four approaches from the Comprehensive Approach, with the language approach being the most dominant. The students saw EFL literature as a means to improve their language skills, but also recognised the benefits associated with context, audience and text approaches. This study concludes that students' perspectives are crucial in developing an integrated Foreign Language (FL) and literature curriculum. The study also advocates teachers to understand students' beliefs about the benefits of FL literature, compare them with the curriculum offered, and enrich existing programmes. Understanding students' perceptions can improve ongoing educational practices (Bloemert et al, 2017). Whereas in this study, the writers highlights how literature can enhance students' talents and



confidence through extracurricular activities in high school level.

## METHOD

The method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative to determine the development of students' abilities, confidence, and talents in the field of literature through extracurricular English Club activities. According to Patton and Cochran (2007) qualitative methods aim to understand certain social life aspects, in general qualitative methods result in words rather than numbers required in data analysis. In addition Hammersley and Traianou (2012) stated that the data source from qualitative research usually in a form of disorganized data such as excerpts, audio logs, or written text which is why qualitative approach is an appropriate way to conduct this research since the data taken is in the form of results from interviews with objects. The object of this research is students who actively participate in English Club extracurricular activities in senior high school level in Malang. The study took place at MAN 1 Kota Malang, East Java, on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

From this study, it was found that implementation of literature in high school is highly important. English Club extracurricular in MAN 1 Kota Malang is one of extracurriculars which focus on English skills development. In English Club, there are two skills taught by the mentors which are speaking and writing skills. Speaking practice is held every Tuesday and writing practice is held every Thursday after school. In the speech skill aspect, there are four kinds of focus, speech, poem, storytelling and drama. For writing skill, students are trained to answer questions in preparation for the Olympiad.

In this study, there are some student members of English Club MAN 1 Kota Malang who play an important role. The students willingly participated in this research without any coercion. In the interview conducted with the student said, "In my opinion, literature is extremely important, especially in today's era. Literature isn't just about studying classical

works; it also helps us develop skills or talent, and confidence, especially for students". Based on the result, there are two main points that highlight the benefit of literature which is really helpful for students in today's era.

### Role of Literature in Developing Talent and Skills

In English Club, the students are divided into groups for their speaking practice every Tuesday. Every group will learn different skills; such as speech, poem, storytelling, and drama. Usually, they will read the text first to understand the point of what they are going to present. According to Bordia (2022), The power of literary texts to unleash students' creative potential is well known. Since literary texts or reading texts requires active engagement, it stimulates your students' creative thinking and concentration power. This helps them to come up with creative ideas that are new and can make a difference. Ifa, one of the students said, "Literary works are usually diverse, such as fiction or legends. When we read them, we indirectly imagine the events. This can improve our imagination, and the benefits are not only short-term, but also long-term. For example, if we like literary works with unexpected plots, it will keep us thinking and solving problems. From there, we can improve our analytical skills." After they read and imagine how they will present, they try to make a performance in front of the mentor to make sure that they are doing the right thing.

Feby said, "From practicing speech and poetry, I become better in speaking skill and it helps me to communicate very well because of what I learn. I did improve my speaking skill that I thought I would continually be bad at." According to the students, the members who joined this club would significantly improve their skill and talent. Hanna also said, "Now I often going to a competition to show my speaking skill in storytelling and speech, school also often call me if they need a Master Ceremony". According to Hanna and Feby, with the learning of literature in the extracurricular english club, they get very useful benefits. Those who initially felt insecure because they did not have any talent, now they don't feel that anymore. Their talents and skills are well honed through speech and storytelling practices in learning literature in

this club. When students are able to express their innovative ideas in the most effective way, they will have the opportunity to excel in a variety of endeavors (Bordia, 2022)

The result of the study retrieved that the students succeeded in improving their talent by learning and practicing literature in English Club extracurricular. They start from basic skills they have and join the club to make a change in their talent. They consistently practice and evaluate their performance until they are ready to show themselves in front of people. They improve their vocabulary, imagination, and then they are well prepared to perform the part of literature to a competition or an event.

### **Role of Literature in Developing Self-Confidence**

Besides developing skills and talent, literature also helps the members to gain and improve their confidence by communicating, practicing and performing in front of people. When students gain the ability to communicate effectively, they feel confident (Bordia, 2022). After reading a drama script and fictional books for their inspiration, Ifa said, "Many literary works adapt the conflicts and challenges of life. We can learn from characters who overcome obstacles, inspiring confidence to face difficult situations. Through characters in literature, we can identify with those who have positive qualities or overcome challenges. This can build confidence by providing positive examples." According to her, "Studying literature provides benefits beyond just understanding the text, shaping our mindset, developing skills and providing deep insights into humanity. For example, if we enjoy reading and performing literature, we can enrich our vocabulary and have a better understanding of grammar. So, it will make it easier for us to communicate. If our vocabulary is broad, our communication will be good. If our communication is good, we will be more confident when presenting in front of many people." It indicates that the students get the benefits in improving their confidence from practicing literature significantly in the club.

The desire to practice what has been learned is a manifestation of building confidence in oneself. The more practice that is done, the stronger the confidence that is built. Feby said,

"Building self-confidence is something that is not easy for many people, including me. At the beginning there must be shyness, afraid to come forward, afraid to make mistakes, if wrong, afraid of being laughed at and so on. However, if it continues like this, then the quality in a person will not improve. I personally learned a lot to develop self-confidence through the English Club program. In English Club, I learned to be brave enough to perform and speak in front of many people. Every Thursday, we practiced the literature to speak up. And as I followed the mentor's directions diligently, I now have the courage and confidence to speak in front of many people." According to Feby, the benefit of literature in developing self-confidence is really important for future life. It gives motivation to be better at communicating with other people and creates an achievement for herself (Destrianti & Hati, 2018).

The practice of literature in English Club activity brings positiveness to the students who actively join the club. It continuously brings an achievement to the students that they can really pass the difficulty and insecurity of their English skills. They are just silent and have no desire to speak, but the goal of the program is to focus on the students' speaking skills (Ahmad & Najim, 2020). Hanna said, "Because of practicing literature in English Club, I become confident to participate in competitions out there, such as speech and storytelling competitions. Seeing the abilities I have, I also often become the Master of Ceremony several times in several events. This is what I feel by joining English Club and it is beneficial to increase the confidence in myself".

The results of research conducted by researchers on students who take part in the extracurricular English Club MAN 1 Kota Malang prove that through literature learning can foster talent and skills and increase self-confidence for students. Students feel that by participating in this learning, they can improve the quality of themselves. Initially most of the students were dissatisfied with their skills, felt less than others, and felt embarrassed when they had to speak in front of many people. But they realized that it is not good if left unchecked, they will be stuck in place, while others can move forward. They also decided to join the extracurricular activities. In English Club they are taught to dare to perform and be



confident when dealing with many people. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they are always guided to be able to grow their talents and skills and increase their confidence through speaking. From this speaking, they began to feel many benefits, especially by not feeling shy or insecure if they have to speak in front of many people. By often practicing speaking, this makes talents, skills, and self-confidence increase. This proves that through literature learning in extracurricular English Club which focuses on speaking, namely speech and storytelling, it can develop talents, skills, and self-confidence.

## CONCLUSION

From this study, it can be concluded that the researcher aims to find out the benefits of applying literature, especially in extracurricular English Club activities at the high school level. It was found that students who take part in English Club activities get a variety of literature lessons. So, this can provide benefits for them. One of the benefits obtained by students in this club is to grow their talents and talents. From the data obtained, the interviewed objects feel these benefits not only in the short term but are useful for them in the future. The interviewed objects can find talents and improve their skills through literature practice in this activity.

Another benefit obtained by students by participating in literature learning through this English Club extracurricular activity is to foster self-confidence. In the English Club, learning is directed to dare to appear in front, almost every meeting the students are directed to practice what they learned that day. By doing practice, confidence in students increases slowly. This proves that studying literature in the English Club extracurricular activity can increase self-confidence in a person.

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