

RESEARCH INSIGHTS IN ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING

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Nurairhan Mat Daud



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CHAPTER 1:

Minimising Students' Communication Apprehension: The Application of Groupwork Learning Strategy in English Classrooms

RAFIDAH SAHAR

NUR NABILAH ABDULLAH

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This study investigated the effectiveness of groupwork as a learning strategy during class lectures and discussions to promote active participation, boost self-confidence and attain higher course achievement among pre-university students studying in an intensive English course. Students were exposed to a variety of strategies that incorporated the essence of groupwork learning to reduce their anxiety in oral communication. Students' communication apprehension (CA) scores at the beginning and at the end of the course were compared. The results illustrated that in general the students' level of anxiety was reduced significantly from a very high level of CA to a modestly high level of CA when groupwork was used as a learning strategy, which in turn, encouraged them to actively partake in communicative activities, thus enhancing their learning.

Keywords: groupwork learning strategy, communication apprehension, oral communication

INTRODUCTION

Educational theorists have long stressed the importance of student involvement in the learning process. Students should actively seek and process information, they should not be passive recipients of information (Schunk, 1986; Davis & Murrell,