

### Abstract

Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY) has Student English Activity (SEA) unit to support the students in improving English skills. Unfortunately, many of EED of UMY students do not join this organization. Possibly, they are not aware of the benefits of joining SEA. This research aimed to find out the benefits of joining the SEA of UMY and to investigate the effective SEA programs to improve students' English skills based on what students perceived. This study is a qualitative research using descriptive qualitative design. The participants of this research were four students of the EED of UMY joining the SEA of UMY. The researcher used interview as the data collection method. Open coding, analytic coding, axial coding, and selective coding were conducted to analyze the data. The findings revealed the benefits of joining the SEA of UMY related to English skills and non-English skills. In terms of English skills, joining the SEA of UMY enables students to practice English skills and to improve speaking and writing skill. In terms of non-language benefits, joining the SEA makes the students more confident, be a good organizer, know more about campus bureaucracy, have many friends and network, and become more adaptive. The findings also showed that discussion, English camp, and debate programs of SEA were effective SEA programs that could help the students improve their English skills.

*Keywords:* the benefits of joining student activity unit, the effective SEA programs, students' English skills