

Seminar on English in and for Malang with Jacobus Graeper

March 15, 2008

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Two English Department students, the Master Ceremony of the program, opened the seminar by showing the slides of Ma Chung University. Interestingly they spoke not English but also Chinese and certainly made some of the audiences amazed.

In the Seminar on in and for Malang, Mr. Jacobus Graeper, the keynote speaker who was born in Amsterdam and retired from the University of Groningen, presented his views about English language learning in Holland.

“Being close to England, Holland has favorable language exposure to learn English. Besides meeting with the people of England there, most of the street names, for example, are no longer in Dutch but in English,” said Mr. Graeper. He also added that cultural background of the individual learners also played important role in language learning. “Dutch students tend to be straightforward and hence never hesitate to express themselves verbally. In fact, this way has been a great help to improve their language. They say what they think” said Koos, Mr. Graeper’s nick name.

When learning a language, one cannot ignore the importance of grammar. “It is impossible for your listener to understand you well if you have no proper understanding on grammar. Without grammar, your conversation becomes meaningless. Just consider the following sentence: Me Tarzan and You Jane,” Mr. Jacobus Graeper said before closing his presentation. (DG)