THE IMPROVING STUDENTS' PRONUNCIATION ABILITY BY USING ELSA SPEAK AS MEDIA IN XI AKUNTANSI 1 CLASS OF SMK NEGERI 1 KUTACANE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

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ABSTRACT

Most of the schools in indonesia focus on teaching translation and grammar without providing a lot of chances for students to practice their pronunciation skill in the classroom activities. The teachers just translate what they read on the book. The purpose of this research is to see Whether ELSA Speak Application can improve students' pronunciation ability or not. This research applies the experiment design. And The design that is used in this study is one group pre-test and post-test design to masured students' pronunciation ability. Population of this research in XI Akuntansi 1 is 324 Students and took sample as much 36 students. This research also uses quantitative method to analyse the data. The data of pre- test and post-test of this research showed any improvement and calculated by using t-test, it was founded that $t_{observation} = 15,41$ and t_{table} of level α 5% with df n – 1 (36 – 1 = 35) = 2,030. That means the hyphotesis of this research is received because $t_{observation}$ higher than t_{table} 15,41 > 2,030. Based on the findings, researcher found that ELSA Speak Application can improve students' pronunciation ability at SMK Negeri 1 Kutacane especially XI Akuntansi 1 Class. This ELSA Speaking Application showed improvement for the students' pronunciation ability was measured by the score of the pre-test and post-test. And it was proven by because tobservation is higher than t -table..

Key word : ELSA Speak Application, Pronunciation.

Background Of The Research

Language is truely important in human life, because it is one of the way people communicate with one another, build relationship and create a sense of community. Noermanzah (2017:2) explained that "Language is a message conveyed in the form of expression as a means of communication in certain situations in various activities. And by using language people can make statements convey facts and knowledge describe something report a problem and maintain social relationships among language users". According to McDonough and Shaw (2016) "language is a tool to express feelings and its main function is interaction and communication.". That shows that by using language, people can express their ideas, feelings, and informations through communication. And there are 6.500 spoken language all around the word. One of those is English.

English is a very popular language because it is spoken by many people around the world and has become an international language. English is not only used in daily life it opens technical and scientific knowledge. This means that English has a great impact on education and many things. There are 4 key skills that students need to develop while learning English. That is speaking reading writing and listening. Speaking is a skill that must be mastered. However when we speak we need correct pronunciation so that people can understand what we are saying.

Pronunciation is very important because it gives big influence when we are speaking. According to Fazers research (2016) "the most popular oral communication skill is pronunciation". Ridwan (2016) "The problem with English pronunciation as a foreign language is that the intonation of the first language as well as the rhythmic stress and speech sounds affect the second language". Furthermore, a study by Morley (2016) states "the first thing that can give a positive impression of a speakers language skills when communicating with others is pronunciation. As a result both speaker and listener will be confused by bad unclear pronunciation". So even though no matter how many vocabularies do we have but when speak to people with inaccurate pronunciation, the communication will not be going good enough. And sometime pronunciation creates fluency when we speak. So we need practice more about this pronunciation, not just through dictionary but also another media or technology like, listening to music, watcing movie or use an application on mobile phone. There are some reasons why the researcher wants to conduct this research.

The first one is most of the schools in indonesia implement the old traditional way of learning process. They mostly focus on teaching translation and grammar without providing a lot of chances for students to practice their pronunciation skill in the classroom activities. They just translate what they read on the book.

Secondly, it is from the students. Most of students dont really have enough interested in learing english, it might be because the way of teacher teach them (which has explained above) makes students get bored and lost disinterested. And fatally could make students dont have motivation to learn.

The third one related to technology, technology has received a lot of attentions because the potential that it has to solve learning problem in modern era. The low interested and minim of participation of the students have in learning process, make the teachers think twice how to get those students attentions. Technology is something we can not escape in life, because technological progress will go hand in hand with advancement of science. Technology keeps going forward with the ages, no matter what. In daily teaching-learning, we often see there is big impact of technology to education field. Technology is such a great tool and really valuable to support and help learning and teaching language, especially English. Even when inside or outside of classroom. By using technology as media is one of ways to get students enthusiasm for learning english.

Anwar (2016) stated that teaching and learning using some technology- related media is one of the innovations in teaching and learning in the 21st century. Teaching using traditional media has its advantages in promoting cultural values but using advanced technology or platforms like robots is more beneficial in terms of achieving better results as it relates to the daily life of students of this age is direct from". In technology there is a thing called Artificial Intelegence (AI) Technology, that means (Verihubs, 2022) AI is Simulation of human intelegence and have modeled in mechine, and programmed to think just like human does. According to me, AI is kind of unique technology to help students in learning english in happy, understandable, and flexible. Bluemenfeld et al. cited in Anastasiades (2012) say that "it may be a desire to involve students giving potential students the opportunity to learn independently". All of these AI structures and properties are matched with a phone app called ELSA Speak. English Language Speech Assistant (ELSA) is kind of different from other application, because ELSA helps users improve english pronunciation. The English Speech Assistant (ELSA) app was created by Vu Van in 2015 and based in San Francisco USA. Vu Van, (2016) said that "With this technology, ELSA Speak can accurately detect more than 95% of user pronunciation errors". Kholis Adhan (2021), stated that "Elsa Speak is one of

Automatic Speech Reconition used for teaching pronunciation". In school the students often pronounce words incorrectly when they speak or read. So this app (ELSA Speak) is good to student learning how voiced, vocalized, uttered, and asserted the english word correctly in oral language. This is one of the things that sets ELSA apart from other English language learning apps. ELSA Speak offers users over 1200 lessons and over 60 topics from pronunciation practice to the words and phrases they need. This application is supported by features such as free online dictionary of speech recognition of proven personalized curriculum and free assessment is one of the intelligent artificial intelligence techniques of language acquisition especially for measuring speaking skills. For example the ELSA Speak system analyzes when students say certain words or phrases and provides corrective feedback including giving speaking points and it can be difficult to get good grades.

Based on the identification of the problems above, the research questions are formulated as follows : Does use ELSA Speak Application as media can improve students' pronunciation ability? and How significant the improvement that student get by usnig ELSA Speak in learning pronunciation.

Definition of ELSA Speak App

ELSA was founded in 2015 by Wu Wan and is based in San Francisco USA. The program that ELSA Speak does have is designed to assist user in understanding about pronunciation errors that user did. "We use artificial intelligence (AI) and speech recognition to help you improve and refine your Pronunciation English." (Philar, 2013). Also ELSA Speak Application is ranked as top 5 AI Application.

ELSA Speak - Accent Reduction is an English speaking assistant non-native English accent app (Baker and Adlatishms : 2019). According to Kusumah (2017) "Elsa Speak is a mobile app that can run on her Android and iOS operating systems. This application is designed for independent learning to help you learn in English without the need of a teacher. The application claims to provide users with a better learning experience by introducing the latest technology".

Overview ELSA Speak Apllication

Below are the steps how to use ELSA Application :

1. Open PlayStore in Android and AppStore in Ios

2. Search "ELSA Speak", then download it

3. Register or Login with Facebook or Google-mail.

4. On the learning display, the user can choose which one of materials that user want to study off

5. After that, the user will be pronouncing words, sentences, or even paragraph on the

conversation.

6. After Finish, ELSA App will give score based on how fluent and well the pronunciation that the user did.

7. ELSA App Also marks the location of Error Pronunciation the users did.

Figure 2.1 Welcome Display

Figure 2.2 Learning Display

Figure 2.3 Practice Display

Figure 2.4 Score Display

The Advantages of ELSA Speak Application

Here are some benefits of using ELSA Speak based on an article the researcher found :

1. This application provides easy navigation between subjects and skill level reports and other features.

2. The user can propose a language (English, Bahasa Indonesia, Vietnamese, Japanes, etc) as users needs.

3. There are various good conversation topics to practice, like Food, Entertainment, Technology, Culture, etc

4. The users can choose the exercise they want to practice baded on their level skill.

5. Flexible, the user can practice anywhere and anytime.

6. When practice the users immidietly gey feedback of pronunciation errors that users did.

7. The app tells the user where there is a problem and where improvement is needed.

The Disadvantages of ELSA Speak Application

Every learning media must be has positive and negative sides based on condition and situation for learning. So below are the advantages of this application according to researcher's experience when use this app :

1. This Application has limit when the users want to practice more. It is only 5 times for a day (24 hours).

2. It needs to upgrade to be premium when the users want to practice more then the limit that founder has setted up.

3. The price is expensive enough for students, it is Rp. 66.333 per month and Rp. 89.667 per month.

Definition of Pronunciation

Pronunciation is very important when we speak it affects the meaning. If someone mispronounces something while speaking, other people will get different meaning from what the speaker try to say. It can distrupt the communication. Pronunciation is one of the reasons why misunderstanding and miscommunication are happened. According to

Hendahati's journal (2014), she stated that "Pronunciation is how people learn to pronounce words".

In Julia's study (2016), said that "The pronunciation is the basic foundation of oral communicating skill. If there is no pronunciation, there would be no spoken language and oral communication".

Furthermore the definition of pronunciation taken from the Oxford dictionary states that pronunciation is the way in which a language or a particular word or sound is pronounced".

2.1. Elements of Pronunciation

There are five important elements of pronunciation (According to Islamic Junior High School Al-Mursi, 2019), so those are : vowels, consonants, pop sounds, final sounds, syllable and word stress.

a. Vowels

Vowels in this case means sound of vowel. In Oxford Dictionary says there are 22 vowel :

- ʌ cup /kʌp/	- iː see /siː/
- ɪ sit /sɪt/	- uː too /tuː/
- i happy /'hæpi/	- æ cat /kæt/
- ʊ put /pʊt/	- ɔː saw /sɔː/
- u actual /'æktʃuəl/	- ɜː fur /fɜː(r)/
- e ten /ten/	- eɪ say /seɪ/
- ɒ got /gɒt/	- əʊ go /gəʊ/
- ə about /ə'baʊt/	- aɪ my /maɪ/
- ɑː father /'fɑːðə(r)/	- ɔɪ boy /bɔɪ/
- ʊə pure /pjʊə(r)/	- eə hair /heə(r)/
- aʊ now /naʊ/	- ɪə near /nɪə(r)/

b. Consonants

According to McCully (2009: 215) "a consonant is a sound whose pronunciation involves some auditory disturbances in the oral cavity". Thus a consonant is a sound the pronunciation of which implies some disturbances in the sounds in the oral cavity. There are 24 consonants in English, those are: */p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ, θ, ð, m, n, ŋ, h, i, r, w, and j/. There are 2 types of consonants, are :*

1. *Unvoiced Consonant, is consonant sounds that cannot cause vibrations in the mouth if they are sounded. When sounding an Unvoiced Consonant, the state of the lips, tongue, or throat does not vibrate at all /f, p, t, tʃ, k, θ, s, ʃ/*

Exmple :

- *p : mop* /mɒp/ - t : two /tuː/
- k : kick /kɪk/ - f : fan /fæn/

2. *Voiced Consonant, is the opposite of unvoiced consonant, that means consonant sounds that can cause vibrations in the mouth if they are sounded /b, d, dʒ, g, j, l, m, n, r, v, ð,y, z, ʒ, ŋ /*

Example :

     - b : mob / mɒb/ *-   d* : do /duː/

     - g : gig / gɪg/   -   - *v* : van /væn/

c. Pop Sounds

Also called the popping sound. In Arabic we know the term qolqolah, or sound reflection. It turns out that in English, there are several sounds that need to be reflected at the end of a word.

p, example :	k, example :
cap /kæp/	leak /liːk/
lap /læp/	wick /wɪk/
t, example :	tʃ, example :
got /gɒt/	watch /wɒtʃ/
seat /siːt/	catch /kætʃ/
b, example :	g, example :
cab /kæb/	league /liːg/
lab /læb/	wig /wɪg/
d, example :	dʒ, example :
god /gɒd/	wadge /wɒdʒ/
seed /siːd/	cadge /kædʒ/

d. Final Sounds

Basically, pronunciation can not separable from the final sound. Final Sounds is the last sound when sayin g a word. For example the word "like", when prounce it the last sound is certainly *k* not *e*. So the letter is just the final writing.

e. Syllable and Word Stress

According to the Oxford Dictionary "a syllable is a unit of sound that has vowels with or without surrounding consonants that form all or part of a word". A syllable is one or more characters representing a unit of speech and consists of one continuous sound.

According to Oxford Dictionary, stated that "Stress is pressure or tension exerted on a material object". Word stress in Pronunciation is the emphises in spesific syllable when pronounce a word. Sometime, we found an english word that has more that one slyllable, so every syllable in that word can be stressed and unstressed.

1. Syllable

   According to J. D. O'Connor & J. L. M. Trim's journal (2015:122), stated thats "In this way the pronunciation of each phonetic feature is confirmed although later it is useful to

combine the two". And according to Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus ; Cambridge University Press said that "A syllable is a unit of speech a whole word or one of the parts into which a word can be divided usually made up of vowels". So syllable is the unit of sound, that is single group of uninterrupted sound produced with a single pulse of air from the lungs.

Look at the example word below :

- Study : /ˈstʌdi/ = Stu - dy /ˈstʌ - di/ Study word has 2 syllables
- Understand : /ʌndəˈstand/ = Un - der - stand /ʌn-dəˈ-stand/ Understand word has 3 syllables.
- Ordinary /ˈɔːdɪn(ə)ri/ = Or - di - na - ry /ˈɔː - dɪ - n(ə) - ri/ Ordinary word has 4 Syllables.

2. Stress Word

In English specifically when learning the speaking, it will often apply word stress to a word, so when speaking the tone is not flat. Word stress is on the syllable in different placed in english.

"Stress is an important feature of English word recognition" (Kenworthy in Gilakjani, 2012: 126). Word stress is very important in English because it can be used to change the meaning of compound phrasal verbs and similar-sounding idioms. Word stress patterns make pronunciation natural and clear when conveying something.

Stress word is devided into 2 kinds, first one is Primary Stress and second one is Secondary Stress.

a. Primary Stress

Primary Stress is strong pressure in word. The sign of primary stress is upper comma {ˈ}

Example :

- Positive /ˈpɒzɪtɪv/

As we can see that the position of upper comma (ˈ) is before P latter. That means that the stress of Positive word is on the beginning of syllable.

- Ability /əˈbɪlɪti/

This one, position of the upper comma (ˈ) is after A latter and before b latter. It is meant the stress of Ability word is on the second syllible.

b. Secondary Stress

Secondary Stress is waek pressure in word. The sign of secondary stress is bottom comma {ˌ}

Example :

- Misunderstand /ˌmɪsʌndəˈstand/

As we can see that Misunderstand word has bottom comma (ˌ) before M latter. That is meant that the stress of

Misunderstand word is on first syllable with weak pressure. Additionally, there is strong pressure in forth syllable (last syllable) because of the upper comma is right before S Latter.

- Education /ˌɛdjʊˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/

This word has same weak word stress as word above. Bottom commaa (ˌ) in the beginning of word or in the first syllable. And the strong sress (ˈ) in ca /kei/ syllable.

3. The Rules of Word Stress

With knowing the rules of stress word makes students tobe easier to pronounce words in exact way. So these are the rules of word stress :

- Word stress only happens to the words that have two syllables or more.

- Every one word has one primary stress.

- Generally, every adjectives and nouns have word stress in the beginning of syllable.

- Every words that end with "tion or sion" can be sure that the position of word stress is before that "tion or sion" word.

Research Methodology

This research applies the experiment design. Experiment is a research methodology that is used for finding the effect of specific treatment Sugiyono (2018:6). And The design that is used in this study is one group pre-test and one group post-test design to masured students' pronunciation ability. This research also uses quantitative method to analyse t

The researcher will give student a test before give them the treatment. Follow-up examinations will be carried out immediately after treatment. The population in this research is eleventh grade of SMK Negeri 1 Kutacane (324 students) which is consisted of 10 classes. In this research researcher has taken XI Akuntansi 1 as sample and this research using simple random sampling Technique.

The purpose of this research is to test the influence X variable to Y variable which will be researched. Verification research will test which hypothesis will be receive and reject. The researcher has used quantitative method.

Findings

Based on the findings result, the students' score of pronunciation before used English Language Speech Assistant (ELSA) application showed that the students' pronunciation at SMK Negeri 1 Kutacane especially XI Akuntansi 1 were poor by seeing the mean of pre-test's score. That was because the students have minimun chances to practice their pronunciation abilitty in class room and that makes students don't know how pronunce most of words correctly.

In treatment, the researcher discovered that the majority of the students had pronunciation issues during the first session because they were having trouble pronouncing. From the second meeting onward, they made an effort to pronounce certain sounds correctly and also paid attention to the explanations the researcher offered them at the conclusion of each meeting. The researcher administered a post-test to gauge the students' performance after using the ELSA application in English teaching and learning up until the last treatment session. After administering the post-test, the researcher attempted to gauge how much the students' pronunciation had improved. . In the pre-test, the students' got 41,78 as mean score and the post-test got 76 as mean score. It means that after gave some treatments by used English Language Speech Assistant (ELSA) application , the students' pronunciation was improved..

Conclution

Based on the findings and discussion in the previous chapter, researcher found that ELSA Speak Application can improve students' pronunciation ability at SMK Negeri 1 Kutacane especially XI Akuntansi 1 Class. The ELSA Speak application which shows an increase in students' English proficiency is measured by pre-test and post-test scores. Based on the results of data analysis, it can be seen that through the ELSA Speak application, which is easier to use with very detailed procedures, it is easier for students to understand pronunciation. This ELSA Speaking Application showed improvement for the students' pronunciation ability was measured by the score of the pre-test and post-test. We can see that through ELSA Speak Apps which is more simplier to use, and more easier to get the student from senior high school can easily learning English from their phone. And it was proven by because tobservation is higher than ttable.

Suggestion

Based on the conclusion that the researcher have made, the researcher proposes some suggestions :

1. For English teachers

It is advised to use a variety of methods, such as the ELSA Speak application for teaching English pronunciation. Numerous talk topics that are both appropriate and simple to practice pronunciation are available in the ELSA Speak Application.

2. For students

In the learning process, students must be able to be active in the classroom, students are required not to be afraid and not ashamed to try, especially in learning pronunciation. They must be confident to pronunce words to their teacher and friends to improve their pronunciation during the learning process.

3. For the next researcher

It is suggested that this research can be used as a reference to conduct other research in the same field. The next researcher can use a pre- experimental research design to find out whether the use of the English Language Speech Assistant (ELSA) application can have an effect on improving students' abilities, especially in pronunciation skills. And the similar research may be improved by trying to be more creative in applying the ELSA Speak application on student' pronunciation ability.

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