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**THE IMPACT OF DUOLINGO APPLICATION ON STUDENTS' ENGLISH
COMPETENCE**

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Abstract

This research investigates the impact of Duolingo's app on students' language ability in learning English. This research aims to 1) the ease of use of the Duolingo application, 2) The benefits we get from the features provided by the Duolingo application, 3) Identify what improvements are visible in English competence. This research is a qualitative study to identify the impact of Duolingo application on student's English competence. Participants were two high school students and two college students who currently use Duolingo regularly. The researchers conducted structured interviews to obtain rich details about their experiences. The findings suggested that Duolingo's usability, engaging features and systematic lessons has significantly contributed to their language learning ability, especially in terms of pronunciation, vocabulary and their confidence in using English. This research also emphasized the educational value of such an innovation in a digital era.

Keywords : *Duolingo, Language Learning, Language Skill*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini menyelidiki dampak aplikasi Duolingo terhadap kemampuan bahasa siswa dalam belajar bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk 1) kemudahan penggunaan aplikasi Duolingo, 2) manfaat yang kita dapatkan dari fitur-fitur yang disediakan oleh aplikasi Duolingo, 3) mengidentifikasi peningkatan apa yang terlihat dalam kompetensi bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini merupakan studi kualitatif untuk mengidentifikasi dampak aplikasi Duolingo terhadap kompetensi bahasa Inggris siswa. Partisipan adalah dua siswa sekolah menengah dan dua mahasiswa yang saat ini menggunakan Duolingo secara teratur. Para peneliti melakukan wawancara terstruktur untuk mendapatkan detail yang kaya tentang pengalaman mereka. Temuan tersebut menunjukkan bahwa kegunaan Duolingo, fitur-fitur yang menarik, dan pelajaran yang sistematis telah berkontribusi secara signifikan terhadap kemampuan belajar bahasa mereka, terutama dalam hal pengucapan, kosakata, dan kepercayaan diri mereka dalam menggunakan bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini juga menekankan nilai pendidikan dari inovasi semacam itu di era digital.

Kata Kunci : Duolingo, Pembelajaran Bahasa, Keterampilan Bahasa

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INTRODUCTION

In this era, technology grows rapidly in most aspects of life. People try in using technology to find a lot of information through the existence of technology for example by using the internet. Technology on mobile devices can be excellent supporter if it's not just used to encourage deeper language learning experience for students while also boosting methodological effectiveness through anytime, anywhere access to education. It is bound to happen that studying English will involve technology. Students have access to a vast amount of information through their smartphones.

Technology has increasingly brought massive impacts in various sectors including education. It provides many benefits and has an essential role in people life¹. That is, technology becomes an essential part of the learning experience and is a key issue for educators, from the beginning of preparing the learning experience to the learning and teaching process. Using technology facilitates students' engagement and learning based on

their favorites, especially when they can study in their smartphone². The use of internet-based learning that is applied in modern times is very influential in the field of education compared to the past, because it can develop language skills in a country, besides that increasingly sophisticated technology can help students learn in a structured manner³. Teachers should to integrate modern technology into their lesson plans. One potential approach for teaching and studying English is to utilize application Duolingo⁴.

Duolingo is a free language learning application that can be accessed over the web and mobile devices, Duolingo uses interactive illustrations, gamified design with point rewards and instructions. Translation from the first language or from English to another language is a crucial part of this language learning platform⁵. The program tests the problem the users struggle with and what kind of errors they make at each move along the way. Then it aggregates the data and learns from the patterns that it recognizes. This feature motivates the users to reach their learning target, enables the users to see their learning progress, and ensure that they have potential chance to move to the next level⁶. In addition to its language learning approve platform. Learning a language via online devices is more attractive and

¹ Diva, I., Etfita, F., & Wahyuni, S. (2022). Students' Perceptions of Learning Platform: The Advantages and Disadvantages of Quipper School. *J-SHMIC: Journal of English for Academic*, 9(1), 42-50.

² Zhang, W. (2022). The Role of technology-based education and teacher professional development in English as a Foreign Language Classes. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 910315

³ Anderies, A., Agustina, C., Lipiena, T., Raaziqi, A., & Gunawan, A. A. S. (2023). User Experience Analysis of Duolingo Using User Experience Questionnaire. *Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science Journal*

(EMACS), 5(3), 155-159.

⁴ Ajisoko, P. (2022). Using Duolingo apps to improve English reading comprehension of engineering students in Universitas Borneo Tarakan. *Exposure: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris*, 11(1), 1-6.

⁵ Saraswati, N. A., & Purwati, O. (2021). Autonomous mobile-assisted language learning for young learners using duolingo. *Celtic: A Journal of Culture, English Language Teaching, Literature and Linguistics*, 8(2), 235-246

⁶ Hernadijaya, N. S. (2020). The use of duolingo application to enhance junior high school student's English vocabulary. *RETAIN*, 8(2), 17-24.

practical for EFL learners.

Online learning can improve English learners' motivation and reduce their learning anxiety; it can attract students' attention; it assists introverted learners in expressing their opinions without shyness. The writing is clear, succinct, and simple to read. We make sure that everyone can understand the material by using straightforward and well-known terminology. To improve clarity, we employ the active voice, which indicates that the verb acts on Duolingo. The popularity of game-based applications prompted many educators to explore its potentials as an educational tool and Duolingo is one of these educational applications that applies game elements in its concept⁷. Duolingo has previously been shown to be highly effective at teaching receptive listening and reading comprehension skills. The question remains as to how well Duolingo courses teach productive skills, such as speaking⁸. Speaking exercises and the gamified lesson structure can be a big selling point for Duolingo users. Those are the details which not only they could get its effect on their vocabulary mastery and writing competence simultaneously⁹, not just improve certain language elements (pronunciation, for example) but also stimulate engagement in

learning and motivation to practice.

This research use duolingo as the object of this research. This application focuses on helping foreign language learners learn language learning, including vocabulary building and pronunciation. This research aims to 1) the ease of use duolingo application, 2) The benefits we get from the features provided by the Duolingo application, 3) Identify what improvements are visible in English competence.

METHODOLOGY

The research adopted a qualitative approach to reveal how users perceived the DUOLINGO application in detail. It was specifically intended to know whether it was user friendly, as well as having helpful features and an increase in English skills for its users. The study involved targeting a particular group of participants: two high school students and two college students who had installed DUOLINGO on their personal devices.

A set of structured interviews was used as data collection tool to measure perceptions about the students. These interviews were meticulously designed so that they could give out full information from the learners' point of view on their experience with DUOLINGO. Consequently, the researcher picked out some people who made it possible for other DUOLINGO users to participate in such discussions. These intermediaries were responsible for finding appropriate respondents with high knowledge levels.

⁷ Aulia, H. R., Wahjuningsih, E., & Andayani, R. (2020). The Effect Of Duolingo Application On Students'english Vocabulary Mastery. *Eltr journal*, 4(2), 131-139.

⁸ Jiang, X., Rollinson, J., Chen, H., Reuveni, B., Gustafson, E., Plonsky, L., & Pajak, B. (2021). How well does Duolingo teach speaking skills.

Amazonaws. com. Northern Arizona Univ.[Online]. Available: <https://duolingo-papers.s3.amazonaws.com/reports/duolingo-speakingwhitepaper.pdf>.

⁹ Pradana, W. R. Y., Ratminingsih, N. M., & Ramendra, D. P. (2023). The Effectiveness Of Using Duolingo On Students'vocabulary Mastery And Writing Competence Of The Eighth Grade Students. *Prasi*, 18(02), 126-142.

The obtained data then analyzed or interpreted qualitatively. Starting with organizing, creating transcription, gathering notes, documents, and reviewing. Participants were asked three focused questions during interviews. These focused questions sought to establish different aspects of their interaction with the software program. The instrument of to obtain the data uses interview. There are 3 question items should be responded. The question is about: 1) the ease of use from the application 2) Benefit from the feature 3) increasing of English competence.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. *The easiness of Duolingo use*

These results from the interviews simply underscore that Duolingo works and is easy to use, so pretty much anyone can start learning a language at any time with them. Attendees liked how easy-to-navigate the app is, and appreciated step-by-step instructions that even beginners can understand. A structured learning path and step-by-step layout proved invaluable for those not as tech-literate.

“As a user, I think that the Duolingo application is very convenient. It has an intuitive interface and clear instructions that one can effortlessly go through lessons without any previous experience.” (Participant A)

“I found using Duolingo quite easy. The app moves you on a step-by-step basis as well as having a well-ordered learning path. Starting and continuing for even someone who might not be tech savvy was not difficult at all.” (Participant C)

Moreover, its engaging interface design with daily reminders of practice and

varied exercises have been mentioned as some of the characteristics that motivate users helping them to continue a regular learning schedule.

“Duolingo has been of great help to me. The design of the app is cool and interesting which makes it more enjoyable to learn from there. I like how they provide me with different types of exercises, so I don’t get bored and keep going with my lessons. In addition, reminders to practice every day are important in making sure that my learning routine remains stable.” (participant D)

From the statement suggest that Duolingo effectively combines an intuitive and user-friendly interface with engaging content and helpful features, making it a valuable tool for language learners of varying tech proficiency and experience. From that the researcher found that everyone can use it properly, regardless of the user's age.

2. *Benefit from the features in duolingo*

Participants highlighted the intuitive interface and structured learning path as key features that facilitate easy navigation, even for beginners or those less familiar with technology.

“One of the things that I found most useful on Duolingo was doing speaking exercises. These exercises involve you in speaking of words and sentences correctly. Such that app gives the instant feedback. It greatly increased my pronunciation skills.” (Participant D)

“I especially enjoyed the quizzes that were interactive and also had a streak count which kept me on my toes to practice it daily. Making learning more interactive and enjoyable with the app's gamification - ie: points, streaks etc.” (Participant A)

Participant A found it enjoyable, having gamification through scoring and streak counts, which makes learning to be fun an engaging. Reviewers liked these features for helping them to stay engaged and keep up with the work, as well having multiple exercises per lesson and daily practice reminders. This demonstrates how

effective the design of Duolingo is in motivating users to engage regularly with a cool language app.

3. *Duolingo role in increasing English competence*

Duolingo offers well-structured and comprehensive learning sessions that make it easy for users to improve English language skill. Participant C noted that they improved greatly in reading ability, which could be due to the reasons the app has speaking tests that identify the correct pronunciation and also makes them guess the words correctly. All these activities have a cumulative effect of reinforcing vocabulary but at the same time polishing reading ability.

“While using Duolingo I feel that my English reading has improved because in one learning session there is usually a speaking test that measures the accuracy of pronunciation, or usually the application also asks me to guess the correct word as mentioned.” (Participant C)

“I understand better how to actually read a word, because there are sessions at each level.” (Participant B)

From these answers, this result shows that most of the participants in the study are in consensus and strongly support the statement. There is a greater possibility of improvement in pronunciation, because the app has significant potential for supporting English language learning, particularly regarding accessibility and

learning efficiency.

“Duolingo has seen me increase not only my speaking and reading skills but also increasing my overall confidence in using the language. The lessons are structured and there is regular opportunity to practice and I felt the effect it had in my ability to communicate.” (Participant B)

“The comprehensive nature of Duolingo's lessons, which encompass speaking, listening, reading, and writing skill areas has been important in aiding my overall English skills. The ability of the application to also monitor progress and help identify areas that could be improved has been useful.” (Participant D)

Participant A noted that, not only has Duolingo bettered their speaking and reading skills, but it has also helped to increase their confidence in using English overall. The structured lesson design and regular practice exercises has seen a notable increase in their English knowledge. This participant's comments demonstrated the value of Duolingo- it organised curriculum and on-going practice to build users' language knowledge and their confidence in their skills. Duolingo can motivate students to learn, be more skilled, have equal opportunities to obtain material, eliminate boredom, encourage the creation of new ideas, and make it easier to remember by practicing material in everyday life¹⁰.

In relation to Participant B, Participant B expressed the complete nature of the Duolingo lessons, which include all skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Writing is also one of the language skills. The Duolingo app also provides facilities to hone these skills. Research in this regard shows that the use of the Duolingo Gamification application is sufficient to reduce students' grammatical errors in writing texts. Therefore, this application is highly

¹⁰ Ajisoko, P. (2022). Using Duolingo apps to improve English reading comprehension of

engineering students in Universitas Borneo Tarakan. Exposure: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, 11(1), 1-6.

recommended for use in improving the quality of students' writing skills¹¹. In terms of how valuable they have found the application, this has been particularly important in enriching their overall English competence. The tracking of their progress and the identification of areas that could be improved have been particularly useful in allowing ongoing development. Their comments illustrated that the detail of the Duolingo tracking of their progress and the mechanisms involved in ongoing feedback are particularly important in helping them identify their weaker areas and improve those- they highlighted the importance of providing a balanced and thorough learning experience for language learning.

CONCLUSION

The research results show that the application of Duolingo is very efficient in promoting students' English skills. The simple and user-friendly interface enables users to easily and efficiently navigate through the app regardless of their level of technical expertise. Participants especially appreciated the speaking exercises and gamified elements, like quizzes and streaks, which contributed to the engagement and motivation of the users. The all-encompassing nature of the lessons, which included speaking, listening, reading, and writing, was a key factor in advancing

overall language skills. The option to track progress and get instant feedback was also crucial in pinpointing and correcting the shortcomings. In general, Duolingo's design and features turn it into a valuable resource for language learners, propelling regular practice and boosting self-esteem in using English.

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¹¹ Octaviani, S. K. (2022). Duolingo mobile application for English listening skill

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