ENGLISH PHONOLOGY: STUDENT’S PERCEPTION TOWARD ENGLISH SOUND APPLICATION TO THE LEARNING OF PRONUNCIATION

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ABSTRACT

Pronunciation is a crucial thing in English speaking, which is phonology in action. Phonological rules deal with the correct pronunciation of words. Pronunciation is an aspect of learning English that many students struggle with. In this digital era, students need simple things to learn pronunciation. English sound is the application to help students learn pronunciation. This application learning more detailed about pronunciation, such as stress, symbol, sound, etc. This study is aims to investigate the perception of the students toward English Sound Application to the learning of pronunciation. The researched method used in this study is descriptive qualitative method, and the data collected through depth-interview. The data gathered through the interview with 10 students of 6th Grade English Education Department the result of the research have shown that most of the participant are the user of English Sound Application, and this app really enjoyable, useful, and gave many improvements in english. Accordingly, this research recommends students use English Sound Application in the learning of Phonology and pronunciation.

Keyword: phonology-pronunciation, perception, English Sound Application
INTRODUCTION

As an international language, English is a communication device between nations and countries around the world. (Fatimannisa, et al., 2020) states that the ability to speak English is very important for students because it has become a universal language in the world of technology, politics, commerce, and the most important thing in the field of education. Supported by (Aprianoto, 2020), the ability of speak English in education program can give effects on student's participation during learning process. English being an important subject and students be expected to have a good skill into it appropriate with the Indonesian curriculum. Unfortunately, many students have low average in English skill because they think that English lesson are difficult to learn. From 4 basic English skill, students at least able to speaking.

To have a great speaking, students must be mastered English pronunciation. Pronunciation is an aspect of learning English that many students struggle with. According to (Sayer, 2015), pronunciation is the biggest difficulties in English Foreign Language (EFL). Most of them feel difficult to have a good pronunciation because they do not understand well about phonology. There are two factors the cause of difficulties in pronunciation such as internal and external factors. The internal factors occurred by students themselves such as motivation, goals, attitude, and interest (Mulatsih, 2015). In external factors came from outside of students such as condition, environment, materials, and situation (Mulatsih, 2015). As we know that pronunciation is a phonology action. So, student must be understanding about phonology.

Phonology is a subject in linguistic that examine about symbols and how to produce sound of that symbols. Similarly, (Nordquist, 2019) states that phonology is a branch of linguistic to learn about sounds and pattern in English. Based on that, phonology is talked about oral skill. In addition, (Chen & Gowsami, 2010) states that phonology is such information about oral capability. They want to have a good pronunciation while sound out the symbols. It means that all of them worth it to learn more seriously (Lauder, 2008). So, students must study continuously in phonology to get their goals improves between orally and symbols.

In learning phonology, English students need a media that will help them easier through the learning process. One of the best media in digital era is utilize technology. The famous one is technology-based learning tool. (Haryadi & Aprianoto, 2020) states that technologically-based learning tool is very fits in teaching learning process to reach the goals. Moreover, this era is addicted to technology. Supported by (Cahyana, 2020), in this modern people are familiar with technology as a media in teaching learning because it makes easier and understandable. Based on that, technology is really helpful and simple to use during learning activity.

Nowadays, many learning applications are easily installed on the phone accordance with the student in digital era. Students are preferring simple thing to learn English such English Sound Application. (Fathira & Zuriati, 2021) states that by using English Sound Application as a media in learning process will be simple to
apply and easy to remember the material. In addition, English Sound Application is Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) that can be use easily access, simple, fits to students but also contains the materials (Aprianoto, 2020). English Sound Application is a perfect tool for learning pronunciation and also really support student in phonology course. This application has features that can assist to support phonological learning process in pronunciation and also vocabulary aspect.

To approve, this study using descriptive qualitative approach which is the main procedure with interviewing students. Researcher interviewing with 5 questions about the use of English Sound Application during learning process to 10 students of 6 TBI A. Based on the learning features available through English Sound, the researcher is inspired to find out about student’s perception of 6th grade to the learning of pronunciation in phonology course. The researcher wants to know whether the use of that app can help and support student to learn English in phonology course. English sound application brings many advantages. For teacher, this paper can be inspiration to teaching. On the other hand, for student this paper can be a source of education and also help student to learn English especially in phonology course.

The distinctions between this research with previous research is can be seen by on the focus each research.

First, (Aprianoto, 2020) based on his research, there are similarities between this research and his research. Both are having the same media such English Sound Application and the main purpose is to know whether the use of that application can help students in learning process. In the other hand, the focus of the course in this research is on phonology course and for his research is only in learning process.

Second, (Fathira & Zuriati, 2021) research is focusing in students’ perceptions by evaluating students during using English Sound Application. The similarity is in the app and the purpose of the research. Meanwhile the distinction in this research is focusing in phonological aspect such as symbols and pronunciation and their research is focus on pronunciation ending -s.

The next, (Benzies, 2017) is focus in pronunciation with technologies which is using various software. Differently, in this research is using specific media such English Sound Application and focus in students’ responses by using that app. Similarly, both are focus in phonology aspects.

The last, (Mulatsih, 2015) research is focusing the use of English song can increase students’ pronunciation ability or not. It is different with this research. This research is focusing in students’ perceptions of the use English Sound Application. Similarly, both are including pronunciation but, in this research, not only in pronunciation aspect but also all the aspect of phonology using that app.

From all of the distinctions above, this research is different from others research. The reason this research is focus on the use of English Sound Application in phonology course can help students easier and understanding the material
during learning process. So, it is unique and interesting to make this research because it is rare to make research such this topic instead not to be the first one.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Phonology

Phonology is one of the most important components in language. The competency of studying phonology to get a good speaking and also correct pronunciation. English phonology is a course that learn about speech sound and how they are used in language. Phonology is a branch of linguistic that studies how languages or dialects systematically organize their sound and the term also refers to the sound or sign system of any language variety. (Hamka, 2016) stated phonology concerned with how these sounds are systematically organized in language, how they are combined to form words, how they are categorized by, and interpreted in the minds of speakers. According to (Lass, 1985) phonology is sub-discipline within linguistics concerned with the sound of the language and it is concerned with the function, manner, and organization of sounds as linguistic elements. Indeed, in phonology there are symbols and how to sound or pronounce the symbols that is necessary to understand about sound and pronunciation in language.

Phonology is the branch of linguistic that study about spoken word. Based on (Harley, 2006), phonology is from the root’s phono- of Greek which is "voice", "sound" and -logy “saying”, speaking. Meanwhile, (Harley, 2006) states that phonology is the study of sound structure that are difference with morphology, syntax, and historical linguistics. The important feature in phonology is how to pronounce and sound the structure of the sentence. Similarly, (Lubis, 2019) give the opinion that phonology is exactly a part of how a word want to pronounce and the sound structure itself. So, phonology is concerned in study of speech sound with their pattern in language.

Speaking and Pronunciation

Pronunciation definitely linked to speaking. (Boonkit, 2010) states that when someone does not use their mother tongue, speaking being a principal skill to communicate in any language. Moreover, (Gaskari & Azari, 2013) added that to deliver messages to each other in daily communication, need a good speaking ability. Pronunciation is a crucial thing in speaking. (Bahadorfar & Omidvar, 2014) state that people are a good speaker if listeners can understand what their saying well. Then, acquiring excellent speaking skill requires mastery of pronunciation. (Purwanto, 2019) states that pronunciation is a key element of the learning of oral skills in a second language. Based on that, people who are good in pronunciation can be called as a good speaker.

Way of particular word pronounce called pronunciation. (Maiza, 2020) defines that pronunciation refers to the producing sound in order to make meaning. Pronunciation not only learn about spelling word to word, but also includes the intonation, stress, sound, etc. Many students think that they are not speaking well because of not being fluent in pronunciation. Practice and practice will enhance
their speaking skill, especially in part of pronunciation. Learning pronunciation will be less effective if only in the classroom. Students must have initiative to learn a lot out of classroom learning process.

**Technology and English Sound Application**

Technology development is something that cannot avoid in life. Technology progress will run in accordance with scientific progress knowledge. Technological advances are needed to help student to improve their abilities, especially in phonology course. According to (Sukma, 2016) state that technological advances that are increasingly advanced, many applications are created that make language learning easier. Learning based on technology really needed in this digital era. Digital technology is able to create an English application in order to help student learning English. There are many applications in order to enhance student English skill, especially in speaking. The English Sound Application is one of application that can help student learn speaking included phonology. English Sound helps student learn, and practice English whenever they want. This app can support to improve their speaking skill with an easy and simple way. This application is free by downloading from the app store or google play store. Many kinds of tools that will be found in it, such as phonetic symbol, how to sound, learning video, and also training.

**METHOD**

Since the purpose of the study is to find out student’s perception toward English Sound Application to the learning of pronunciation, the researchers will use descriptive qualitative. According to Invalid source specified., qualitative research is descriptive which the data are collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. The researcher will use this kind of method because the researcher focuses on analyzing student’s perception, so the data will be presented descriptively.

The participant of this research is sixth semester of English Education Department UIN Saiu. There are 10 students that will be interviewed in this research which is from the 6th semester of English Education (6 TBI A and B). Therefore, to collect the data, the researcher used depth-interview some student. In the interview, there are 3 questions that relate to their experience after using English Sound Application. First question is do you use an application to help learn English especially in phonology and pronunciation? Second, what makes you enjoy to use English Sound Application? Third, do you feel any improvement and what kind of it?

**FINDINGS**

In investigating the student's perception toward English Sound Application to the learning of pronunciation, the researcher did an interview which was carried out with 10 students in 6th grade of English education department UIN Saiu. The interview was done by giving 3 main questions. Over all, most of them are users of that application. This can be seen from the student's answers related to the application that they used to help learn English phonology and pronunciation.
The Application that Used by Students to Learning English Phonology and Pronunciation

The eight of ten participants state that they are used English Sound Application to learning English Phonology and Pronunciation as seen in the following statements:

“I use English sound application for helping me on learn English especially in phonology and pronunciation”
“I used English sound application”
“I use some application that are ‘English Sound’ and ‘Audio Class’
“I’m using U-dictionary and English Sound Application”
“of course I used English Sound Application”
“In a short time, I tried to use English Sound Application”
“I’ve used it but not in frequently time”
“I prefer used this application in phonology class”

From those statements, it can be concluded that most student are the user of English Sound Application because it is one of the applications to help student learning phonology and pronunciation. then, some other students state that this application ineffective to be used because there is other application which more suitable, as stated below:

“I ever use that application, but I don’t really enjoy it”
“I actually used not a specific pp for phonology, such as google translate, article, movies because there is a lot of native speakers on it”

There is nothing wrong with their statement because it depends on themselves. However, only ourselves that know what we need, so not everyone must use that application.

Student’s Perception on Using English Sound Application

Based on the interview result, the researcher found that English Sound Application which was used by the students had an enjoyable and useful. It was in line with most student’s perception as following:

“I quite enjoy and it is very helpful when using the application. The part that I thought the most interesting is the complete explanation of each sound. In addition, the classification of each sound is neatly arranged. I can also immediately tell how a word is pronounced correctly”

“I enjoy it because it so easy to use and didn’t need complicated steps for searching the true pronouncation of words that I search. This application also give the step to pronounce the sounds so I think it very helpful for people that want to learn the true pronouncation.”

“Actually, it’s really enjoyable. It gains my curiosity to learn more and give me such interesting vibe to know the rule of how to pronounce vocabulary in right way”

“I enjoy using this app because there are various sounds in English that are equipped with symbols, pictures, examples, and training”
Even most of participants state that English Sound Application is enjoyable and recommended, but there still students that not feel the same. We can know that on the following statement:

“I’m not enjoying that apps, since it’s not interesting and make me more confused at all”

“I am not really enjoying even we can watch the learning video on it, but we should connect to the YouTube”

However, not everyone will enjoy and appropriate using this application because they have their own learning style and maybe they have more effective learning strategy.

**Student’s Perception of Improvement through English Sound Application**

Based on the interview, the researcher found that many improvements that students got from that app. As we know that most of participant feel enjoy using that app and because of it they got many improvements. It was in line with most student’s perception as following:

“Now I can pronounce some vocabularies according to the correct version. In addition, I am also more careful in emphasizing a vocabulary, because I realize that it greatly affects its meaning. I also find it easier to distinguish the pronunciation of words that are almost similar”

“My speaking is improved because of some tools that could correct our own sound that really help me to understand and know whether my speaking is well or not”

“I feel can improve my speaking especially on pronunciation”

“Really improve my knowledge about phonetic transcription and it’s sound”

“I think my pronouncing word more well and precise”

“I have better insight about how some vocabulary pronounce with unique and special technique, which like used by native speaker”

Based on the student’s perception, the using of English Sound Application is really helpful to the learning of phonology and pronunciation. From the participant, most of them state that they enjoy while using this app. Not only that, they also state that many improvements that they got from it. According to (Maiza, 2020) defines that pronunciation refers to the producing sound in order to make meaning. Pronunciation not only learn about spelling word to word, but also includes the intonation, stress, sound, etc. Then, this application has several tools that supporting learning of phonology such as phonetic transcription, symbols, sound, etc.
Based on the investigation, some participant state that they really need an application to help them learning English phonology and pronunciation. English students need a media that will help them easier through the learning process. One of the best media in digital era is utilize technology. According to (Haryadi & Aprianoto, 2020) technologically-based learning tool is very fits in teaching learning process to reach the goals. Moreover, this era is addicted to technology. Supported by (Cahyana, 2020), in this modern people are familiar with technology as a media in teaching learning because it makes easier and understandable.

According to (Sukma, 2016) state that technological advances that are increasingly advanced, many applications are created that make language learning easier. Most of the participant are the user of English Sound Application. They state that English Sound Application is enjoyable and useful to improve and learning English phonology and pronunciation. Mastering English phonology and pronunciation is really necessary in order to have a good speaking. According to (Purwanto, 2019) states that pronunciation is a key element of the learning of oral skills in a second language. Based on that, people who are good in pronunciation can be called as a good speaker. In fact, student can have a great speaking if they mastering pronunciation. Most of the participant said that English Sound Application is really help them to enhance their speaking skill especially in pronunciation and phonology and also really useful and effective to be applied in the learning process.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data, the researcher finds that most of the participant are the user of English Sound Application and admit that the application is effective to be apply on the learning of phonology and pronunciation. then, they state that the application is really enjoyable and useful. Many improvements they got when using those application especially in speaking pronunciation and phonology. Moreover, the researcher would like to give some suggestions. Firstly, for the teachers, the researcher expects that this research can be a reference for the teachers to choose an appropriate application to help in teaching English pronunciation. Secondly, for the students, they can have a recommended application to learn English phonology and pronunciation. Lastly, for the other researchers who are interested in this research topic, the researcher expects that the result of this research can be a good reference in the future.

REFERENCES


