

## USING PORO ENGLISH APPLICATION TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' PRONUNCIATION LEARNING ENGLISH AT UPT SPF SMPN 35 MAKASSAR

Wa Bonti Kilwakit<sup>1</sup>, Hj.St. Haliah Batau<sup>2</sup>, Muliati<sup>3</sup>

<sup>123</sup>English Language Education Department, Bosowa University, Indonesia

### ABSTRACT

*The research explores android-based learning media and applies the learning technique to counter this issue. This study investigates the poro English application in teaching English pronunciation in the classroom. It aims to identify student's responses toward the application in learning English pronunciation in which students of ninth grade of SMP Negeri 35 Makassar. This study using a qualitative method to explore teaching and learning English pronunciation in the classroom using the poro english application. The data were collected in two main instruments: observation and interviews. The observation explored the process of applies the poro English application in teaching English pronunciation. While the interviews were administered to reveal the student's response. The result showed that poro English application in teaching English pronunciation could be applied in the classroom. In particular, most students responded positively to using the application in the learning activities. For example, they said that application really helped them to learn and made it easier for them to practice pronunciation.*

**Key Words:** *Pronunciation, poro English application, mobile learning responses,*

### INTRODUCTION

According to Hong & Yang (2017), pronunciation is an essential component of verbal ability that enables individuals to speak the target language, including English, more fluently. It assists the speaker with delivering sounds that pass significance on to make conceivable and straightforward correspondence. Proper pronunciation has previously been found to be the most important factor in interpersonal relationships. Proper pronunciation helps the other person understand what the speaker is saying and defines the speech's context. The supra-segmental characteristics that assist speakers in expressing the meaning of their speech include, to a particular extent, correct pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation. However, communication misunderstandings can result from poor pronunciation (Mentari Dwi Susanti, 2017).

Students today are more interested in using their phones than they are in learning new information. The majority of students use their phones for entertainment and communication. This demonstrates that effective learning strategies must be developed by educators in order for students to benefit from the use of smartphones in English instruction. Using Android-based technology to teach and practice English pronunciation is very interesting. In this day and age, technology is developing at an extraordinary rate. It has advanced and made human existence simpler all around, particularly concerning training. Besides, using innovation to further develop learning is one of the main parts of teaching (Pourhosein Gilakjani, 2018).

Changes in learning policies in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic affect challenging situations in teaching and learning activities. In learning pronunciation, teachers need to help students find the right method that can be applied anywhere. The use of cell phones in the classroom can help students in learning English pronunciation quickly. Teachers can use android-based mobile applications to help students learn. For example, using English Poro as an Android-based phone to help students learn English pronunciation by listening to and imitating native speakers' audio. This will help teachers in developing pronunciation learning media in the classroom (Assidiqi & Sumarni, 2020).

A brief interview with an English teacher at SMP Negeri 35 Makassar reveals that ninth-grade students still struggle with English pronunciation. When they use words like "introduce someone," "ask for help," and so on, they show their mistakes. Furthermore, a few issues with learning English in the homeroom have been distinguished, including an absence of language practice both inside and beyond school. taking into account the fact that they frequently speak their native Indonesian language. Except for a brief greeting, students rarely use English in their daily activities. Lack of time, teachers' motivation, resources, materials, and other educational facilities are some of the issues that cause pronunciation to be neglected in English classes. As a result, the goal of Poro English lessons is to aid teachers and students in learning and teaching English pronunciation Sofiyanti, Y. (2014).

## METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

The type of research used is a type of qualitative research defines descriptive research, namely research that uses the methods of describing and interpreting the state of the object according to what is obtained in the field. Implementation of the research did not carry out the control process and did not attempt to manipulate the research variable. The main purpose of descriptive research to systematically describe the fact and characteristics of the research object accurately. The design of this research is descriptive qualitative research. In terms of reality, qualitative research is the constructions or interpretation of understanding the data found in the field. Researchers do not only make visible objects as research targets, but qualitative research tries to penetrate behind what is seen by the five senses. In terms of the relationship between researchers and the object being studied, qualitative researchers act as instrument ( human instruments

) and the data collection techniques are participant observation and in – depth interviews, so researchers must interact with data sources so that they must know well the information. In terms of the relationship between variables, qualitative researchers see that the relationship between variables in the object under study is more interactive, that is, they influence each other so that it is not known which is the independent variable and which is the dependent variable. This is because qualitative research is holistic and emphasizes more on the process. In terms of generalization, qualitative researchers do not generalize, but emphasize the depth of information so that it reaches the level of meaning ( the data behind the visible ). The terms generalization in qualitative research is called transferability. The results of qualitative research can be transferred or applied elsewhere as long as the conditions in other place are not much different from the research place. In terms of value, qualitative researchers in collecting data there is an interaction between researchers and data sources. In this interaction, both researchers and data sources have different backgrounds, views, beliefs, values, interests, and perceptions, so that data collection, analysis, and report preparation will be bound by their respective values. This research was conducted at SMP Negeri 35 Makassar which is located on the main telegraph road no.1, Paccerakang, Biringkanaya District, Makassar city, South Sulawesi Province. This research was conducted during school hours at SMP Negeri 35. This research using population of students in the ninth grade of SMP Negeri 35 Makassar in 2022/2023 Academic Year consists of 243 students divided into nine classes, which each class consists of approximately 34 students. The researcher will took samples from class IX SMP Negeri 35 Makassar. They consists of 18 students. The focus of this research is the use of the Poro application to improve student’s in learning English pronunciation at SMP Negeri 35 Makaassar. In this research, data were collected using observations, interviews and documentation. Data analysis is a method used to process data sets or data sets to obtain information. This means that the analysis process is intended to obtain clear information. Analyzing the data can help the writer to explain what will be found in this research. The data validity of the data in this research use the triangulation is a method that most commonly used for increasing validity in qualitative research. In simple terms, tringulation can interpreted as a technique for checking the validity of research data by compare between sources, theories, and research methods/ technique.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Findings

The Findings of this research relate to the use of the Poro English application to improve students’ learning English at SMPN 35 Makassar. The population taken froms class IX students’ of SMPN 35 Makassar. The writer used observation, interviews, and documentation as a method for collecting data. The writer takes a sample of students who are interviewed consisting of eighteen students and the author prepare ten interview question in collecting data. In observing, the author only observes the daily activities of students in the classroom when learning is taking place.

The writer conducted interviews with class IX students about pronunciation in learning English based on the question above.

1. How do you feel about English in your school?
  - a) Not bad ( 5 )
  - b) Good enough ( 1 )
  - c) Interesting ( 6 )
  - d) Less attractive ( 3 )
  - e) Good ( 3 )
  - f) Very good ( 1 )
2. Do you have difficulties in teaching English in your school?
  - a) A little ( 1 )
  - b) Yes, because English is a foreign languages not everyone can understand ( 1 )
  - c) Less confident ( 3 )
  - d) Difficulty in vocabulary ( 1 )
  - e) Difficulty in pronunciation ( 7 )
  - f) Difficulty in grammar ( 1 )
  - g) Irrelavant learning method ( 1 )
  - h) Low confidence ( 2 )
  - i) Hard translate ( 1 )
  - j) Limited time for studying ( 1 )
3. Do you think pronunciation is important in English?
  - a) Important ( 12 )
  - b) Very important ( 6 )
4. Why do we learn pronunciation?
  - a) We learn pronunciation because it is an important thing is taking and understanding something in English. If we didn't learn or know how to pronounce something we would not understand what to say someone or what someone what say to us ( 1 )
  - b) To make students understand how to pronounce words in a foreign languages to avoid mistakes in speaking or reading ( 1 )
  - c) By studying pronunciation students will know to pronounce a word correctly ( 1 )
  - d) Whe learning to learn English we will learn to recognize the sounds made by the English teacher or other people ( 1 )
  - e) To make good impression ( 2 )
  - f) To increase self-confidence in learning English ( 5 )
  - g) Avoid misunderstanding ( 1 )
  - h) Helps to listen English well ( 2 )
  - i) Because in the wrong pronunciation, the meaning is wrong ( 1 )
  - j) Improving listening skill ( 1 )
  - k) Make it easier to learn English
  - l) To make it easier when talking to teacher or people who are proficient in English ( 2 )
  - m) Help to listen well ( 1 )

- n) For Improving pronunciation in learnig English ( 1 )
5. Do you think correct pronunciation is important in learning English?
- a) Very important ( 10 )
- b) Important ( 8 )
6. What is your response in learning English pronunciation?
- a) A little difficulty ( 6 )
- b) Difficulty ( 9 )
- c) Very difficulty ( 3 )
7. What do you think about poro application in learning English?
- a) Good ( 13 )
- b) Very helpful ( 5 )
8. What is your response in learning English pronunciation through the poro application?
- a) Very helpful ( 9 )
- b) Very good ( 3 )
- c) Good ( 4 )
- d) Really helps students ( 2 )
9. Apart from the poro application, what media do you use to learn English pronunciation?
- a) Dictionary ( 5 )
- b) Watching movie ( 3 )
- c) Use mobile phone ( 4 )
- d) Practice conversation with firend ( 1 )
- e) Listen to English podcast ( 1 )
- f) Train yourself in speaking English ( 1 )
- g) Read short story ( 1 )
- h) Reading book ( 2 )
10. How do you overcome your difficulties pronunciation in learning English?
- a) Have to learn English to look at the spelling of a languages to get information about the proper sequence of sounds. Or by reading books and opening a fairly complete English dictionary, so you understand how to pronounce a word ( 1 )
- b) Maybe by creating conversational dialogue vocabulary to practice with friends so that they can learn and improve pronunciation ( 1 )
- c) Listening music ( 4 )
- d) Learn vocabulary ( 5 )
- e) Watching movie with subtitle ( 2 )
- f) Reading English book ( 1 )
- g) Reading Grammar ( 1 )
- h) Watching youtube ( 2 )
- i) Reading dictionary ( 2 )
- j) Listen to native speaker speak and then the follow ( 1 )
11. How to improve your pronunciation in English?
- a) Watching movie or listening to music in English ( 3 )

- b) Speaking practice ( 3 )
  - c) Learn vocabulary ( 2 )
  - d) Improve vocabulary ( 2 )
  - e) Practice speaking English with friend ( 2 )
  - f) Reading dictionary ( 2 )
  - g) Speak in English ( 4 )
12. Do you think teachers need to apply application-based learning media in learning English, especially in pronunciation?
- a) Yes ( 18 )

## Discussion

Based on the result of participants activity pronunciation in the classroom, before using the poro English application is displayed that pronunciation of students in SMP Negeri 35 Makassar especially class IX is not good. Based on the findings, students before using the Poro application found that the pronunciation of the ninth grade students was not good because students did not know how to pronounce some words correctly. In students activities in using poro English application, some students have problems with pronunciation because some students still find it difficult to say a few words, for example greeting, saying good morning, and introducing himself. When the author has implemented the poro English application in learning English the author tries to increase or improve students pronunciation through the media.

Based on the interview data, the writer finds that; Most of the class IX students' at SMP Negeri 35 Makassar who were interviewed admitted to having difficulties in learning English, especially in pronunciation. However, not a few students' also feel interested in learning English at school where they think learning English at school is very interesting, this is evidenced by the student interview data above. The results of the study show that the application of poro English in teaching English pronunciation can be applied in class. In particular, most of the students responded positively to the use of the application in learning activities where they said the Poro English application really helped them in learning English. For example, they say that the Poro English application really helped them in learning English, especially improving or improving their pronunciation in practicing English pronunciation. Apart from using the Poro application, students' also use other media such as dictionaries, watching movies with English subtitles and listening to radio broadcasts and other English-based media to improve and improve pronunciation in learning English.

In the following, the writer conclude the results of the conclusions rather than student answers based on the interview above:

Item 1. Based on the questions at page 42 , most students think that the English language in their school is interesting. Because, English in an international language that most be learned, especially for students to hone skills and practice confidence in speaking English.

Item 2. Based on the questions at page 42, some students find difficult in pronunciation. Because, being wrong in pronouncing just one consonant or vowel in a word can make a meaning mistake.

Item 3. Based on the questions at page 43, students think that learning pronunciation is important in learning English. The importance of pronunciation in English is because mispronunciation of words in English can be fatal. Mispronunciation of just one consonant or vowel in a word can make a mistake in meaning.

Item 4. Based on question at page 43, some students said that learning pronunciation to increase self-confidence in learning English. Because, confidence is one of the traits that everyone needs to have. Sompne who is confident can do everything is well and without hesitation. For example, daring to appear in front of the class, and daring to ask the teacher if the material being taught is not fully understand.

Item 5. Based on on the question at page 44, Students say that pronunciation is very important because if you don't know how to pronounce a word correctly, it is likely that a misunderstanding will occur between the speaker and the other person.

Item 6. Based on the question at page 44, most Student responses in learning pronunciation is difficulty. The main obstacle that makes learning pronunciation difficult is the difference in pronunciation style, accent, and sound system between Indonesian and English.

Item 7. Based on the question at page 44, most students said that The Poro English application is good. Because, poro application provide many conversational themes as well as short stories equipped with audio from native speakers.

Item 8. Based on the question at page 44, most of students responded that the poro application was very helpful in learning pronunciation. Because, The poro application is equipped with voice messages as well as punctuation marks, provides a lot of material and conversation themes as well as short stories that are equipped with voices from native speakers that students can follow so that it can make it easier for students to learn pronunciation.

Item 9. Based on the question at page 44, In addition to the Poro application, students can learn pronunciation through dictionary. A dictionary a kind of reference book that explains the meaning of words. It function to help someone get to know new words. In addition to explaining the meaning ofr words, the dictionary also equipped with tenses, idioms and a list of therms that can make it easier for students to learn English.

Item 10. Based on the question at page 45, To overcome difficulties in learning pronunciation some students choose to learn vocabulary. Vocabulary is a collection of words or phrases that are usually arranged alphabetically so that students can easiliy learn pronunciation through these vocabulary.

Item 11. Based on the questtion at page 46, to improve pronunciation some students speaking in English. Because, speaking English can increase one's self-confidence.

Item 12. Based on the question at page 46, students agree that teacher need to apply application-based learning media in learning English, especially in pronunciation. That way students also don't feel bored with previous learning media such as English books and etc.

## CONCLUSION

Pronunciation is how to pronounce a vocabulary in English. Pronunciation is directly related to speaking. Based on the research on "Using Poro English application to improve students' pronunciation learning English" the writer can conclude that; learning English through the Poro English application is very helpful for students in learning English pronunciation because many students like the Poro application as a learning medium. In learning English, students follow several directions such as memorizing vocabulary, reading conversation with friends which aiming to improve students' pronunciation in learning English.

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# TEFL Overseas Journal

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Teaching English as a Foreign Language Journal

ISSN 2461-0240 (Print), 2828-9544 (Online)

Volume 11 Number 2 August 2023

Tomascheck, Fabian 2013. *''Word frequency, vowel length and vowel quality in speech production: An EMA study of the importance of experience''*. In *Interspeech*.

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