

USING DUOLINGO APPS TO IMPROVE ENGLISH READING COMPREHENSION OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITAS BORNEO TARAKAN

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ABSTRACT

Learning English is matter of learning language components and language skills. Reading is the most difficult learning that plays important role in mastering English Language. Learning reading is quite challenging. It needs various techniques and applications. The transformation of English language learning is mostly affected by technological advances. The development of English Language Teaching (ELT) resources, Duolingo participates to transform method of English language learning on smartphone. The engineering students of Universitas Borneo Tarakan tend to use their smartphones in daily life that's why it is beneficial to turn this habit into extensive learning. The aim of this study is to find out the impact of Duolingo in ELT as extensive learning. Pre-experimental design with pre-test and post-test was used in this research. The researcher involved 15 students as sample with 2 months practicing duolingo apps with 20 xp on each day intensity of practice. The researcher used to read tests as pre-test and post-test and questionnaire to see students' perception. According to the pre-test and post-test score results, there was massive improvement on students score. Based on questionnaire results, Students also felt that Duolingo is useful apps to use every day to learn English. It can be concluded that Duolingo can be the helpful to improve students' reading comprehension.

Keywords: Duolingo, Reading Comprehension, English Language Learning

INTRODUCTION

Reading skill is a vital cognitive ability for students, that supports academic achievement and continuously involvement in most areas of life (Hulme & Margaret, 2011). Reading skill is a multifaceted mental capability that includes both language component (vocabulary and grammar), and cognitive skills with metacognition capability to control minds and also high order thinking level like inferencing from the passage (Capodieci, Cornoldi, Doerr, Bertolo, & Carretti, 2020) . Lately, as a result of the deployment of technology in education, reading text at university as well as office is now transforming to digital reading platforms (smartphones, e-books, e-magazine, e-journal, and of course internet). This affects the way students read and learn about reading skills.

There are new accessible technology-based English language learning ways. One of them is easily accessed and installed at Smartphone (Portnoff, Gustafson,

Rollinson, & Bicknell, 2020). It is Duolingo. (Paula, 2016) states that Duolingo is number language learning apps on the market. It is very simple and useful. Therefore, the researcher aims to find out the impact of Duolingo apps on engineering students at Universitas Borneo Tarakan. The apps are a free access applications on Playstore. The website stated (Duolingo, 2021), “Duolingo builds a world with free education and no language barriers. Users are able to learn languages for free while simultaneously translating web”.

There are many languages to learn in Duolingo. English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Dutch, and so on are accessible to choose. The apps has teacher’s forum to communicate about the subjects or topics to learn in the apps. It could gauge students’ achievement and enthusiasm with playful display. Duolingo gives data such as points, tree topics, the streak and time. Duolingo is plentiful and simple for rookie users to use the apps in learning language. The apps aim to welcome all individuals ages like children to adults. (Munday, 2015) stated that Duolingo is likely to be favorite media due to its simplicity and excitement. It is also so much fascinating for students therefore the apps is possibly integrated in extensive language learning. (Yusda, Nanda, Pratiwi, & Haninun, 2020) did the research to 10th grade students at SMA Yadika Bandar Lampung. It was found that Duolingo can improve student’s vocabulary mastery and and make them motivated in learning English. (Ajisoko, 2020) also did a research to find out the use of Duolingo in improving vocabulary, the result conveys that Duolingo improved student’s vocabulary and preferred to learn at home after they studied at campus.

The researcher aims to figure out the impact of Duolingo to students’ reading comprehension at engineering students of Universitas Borneo Tarakan. The study also wants to see students perception after they used Duolingo as their language learning apps extensively.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used pre-experimental design. The design does not need control group (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The researcher used only one group to analyze using pre-test and post-test. There were fifteen engineering students from third semester of 2021/2022 academic year of Universitas Borneo Tarakan that

participated. The students exercised Duolingo at least 20 XP for each day only on weekdays for two months as extensive learning at home. Students' reading comprehension were tested before they play Duolingo.

The researcher used two instruments. The tests discover the effect of Duolingo on students reading comprehension and questionnaire explores students' perception after using the apps. The tests are reading comprehension tests. The reading comprehension test contains twenty questions. The purpose of the test is to obtain students' comprehension level before the treatment. After two months of treatment, post-test was conducted. The purpose of this test is to obtain the students' reading comprehension after using Duolingo. The post-test contains twenty questions. The researcher then combined both tests to see the effect of Duolingo in enhancing students' reading comprehension. The researcher used questionnaire to perceive students' perception after using Duolingo as their extensive learning apps. The study used likert scale type for questionnaire in order to collate and analyse the answers easily (Nunan, 2013). There are 12 questions on the questionnaire.

FINDINGS

Pre-test and Post-test

The students reading comprehensions were measured using pre-test and post-test. The kind of questions is similar. The result of both tests is on the following table:

Table.Pre-test and Post-test Result

No	Students	Pre test Score	Post test Score
1	GB	70	75
2	AN	65	75
3	LT	65	80
4	SE	55	75
5	JT	55	65
6	SH	70	75
7	GA	65	90
8	KR	65	80
9	LH	55	70
10	MI	65	80

11	SS	45	65
12	JP	55	70
13	TM	45	80
14	CP	50	80
15	KH	60	80

According to the result, the top score of Pre-Test is 70 and the lowest score is 45. Two students obtained 70. However, most of students were still under the minimal standard. The mean score was counted to see the result of pre-test. The mean is 59. The result stated that most of the students' score was still low.

According to scores, the top score of post test is 90 and the least score was 65. One student obtained 90 score. Fortunately, most of the students are beyond the minimum score with the mean score 76.

According to the of students' score of both tests, there is immense improvement of students' average score. After the calculation using T-test with SPSS application it was found that the noteworthy improvement is 0.609.

Questionnaire

The researcher used questionnaire to obtain data about students' perception after using Duolingo apps. Twelve statements were stated on the questionnaire. The results can be seen on the following chart.

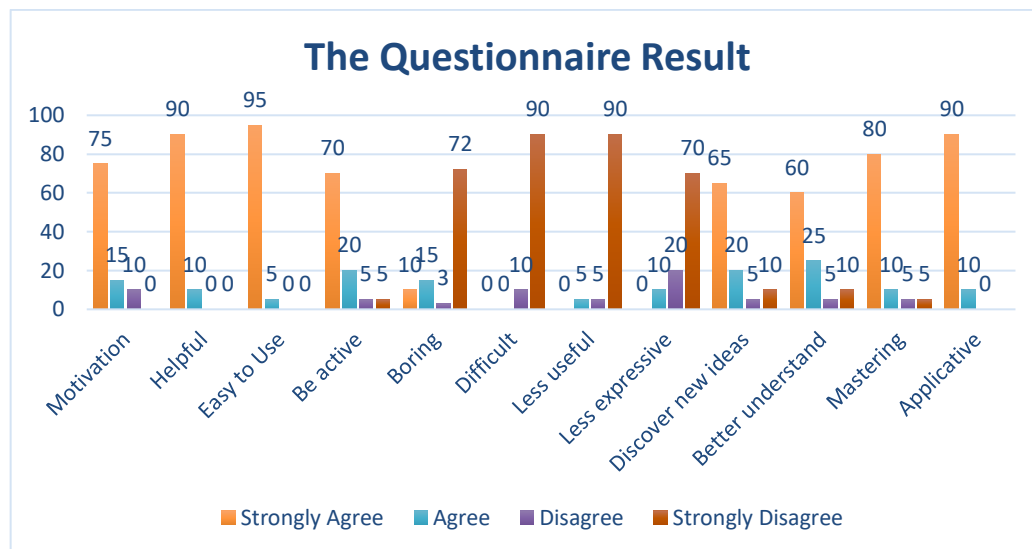


Chart. The Questionnaire Result

The result from questionnaire exposed positive perspective from students. Students felt motivated in learning and more skillful because the interest of learning increases. They also felt the apps is easy to understand the material. The apps is providing students to learn by themselves equally and to decrease dullness. The apps provides information to learn and facilitates students in improving other aspects of English.

CONCLUSION

The combination of technology and english language learning is inevitable. Students can access a lot of information through their smartphones. Teachers should convert their teaching method with recent technology. Duolingo can be the solution to use in English language teaching and learning .

Duolingo is a useful apps to learn English. It is greatly exciting for students as they showed admirable responses for this apps, having an opportunity to all learners to get a fair turn in practicing material, Duolingo make students motivated and avoid boredom in learning.

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