THE USE OF AWABE'S ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION APPLICATION IN TEACHING SPEAKING

(A Pre-Experimental Research on the 8th Grade Students of SMP Negeri 25 Pontianak in Academic Year 2023/2024)

A THESIS

Jurisdiction Responsibility by:

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
LANGUAGE AND ART EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY
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Submitted to fulfill one of the requirements for thesis examination in the English Language Education Study Program, Language and Arts Education Department, Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Universitas Tanjungpura Pontianak

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Pontianak, January 2024

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ABSTRACT

This research explored the utilization of Awabe's English pronunciation application in teaching speaking to eighth-grade students at the junior high school level. The objective of this research was to investigate the effectiveness of Awabe's English pronunciation application in teaching speaking, especially pronunciation. This research employed a pre-experimental study with a one-group pre-test and post-test design. The target population comprised 98 eighth-grade students at SMP N 25 Pontianak during the academic year 2023/2024. While the sample, consists of 30 students from class 8C, which was selected using cluster random sampling. Data collection utilized measurement techniques, employing a pronunciation test as the data collection tool. The data revealed a mean score of 54.47 for the pre-test and 68.60 for the post-test. The t-test calculation demonstrated 30.286, with an effect size of 0.969 categorized as moderate, led to the rejection of the null hypothesis. Consequently, it is recommended to use Awabe's English pronunciation application in teaching speaking, particularly pronunciation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ..... **i**

ABSTRACT ..... **iii**

LIST OF APPENDICES ..... **vi**

LIST OF TABLES ..... **vii**

LIST OF FIGURES ..... **viii**

CHAPTER 1 ..... **1**

1.1 Background 1

1.2 Research Questions 3

1.3 Research Purpose 3

1.4 Research Significance 3

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Research 4

1.6 Research Variable and Research Hypothesis. 4

1.6.1 Research Variables. 4

1.6.2 Research Hypothesis. 5

1.7 Terminology 5

1.7.1 Awabe's English Pronunciation Application 5

1.7.2 Pronunciation 5

1.7.3 Teaching Speaking 5

CHAPTER 2 ..... **6**

2.1 Speaking 6

2.1.1 Definition and Importance of Speaking. 6

2.1.2 Component of Speaking Skills. 7

2.1.3 Teaching Speaking. 9

2.2 Pronunciation 10

2.2.1 Definition and Importance of Pronunciation in Language Learning. 10

2.2.2 The Elements of Pronunciation 11

2.2.3 The Role of Technology in Pronunciation Learning. 17

2.3 Retelling Story. 19

2.3.1 Retelling story concept. 19

2.3.2 Techniques and Methods of Retelling Story. 20

2.4 The Awabe's English Pronunciation Application 22
2.4.1 Functions of the Awabe's English Pronunciation Application 22
2.4.2 Specific features for pronunciation learning. 23

CHAPTER 3 25

3.1 Research Design 25

3.2 Research Setting 28
3.2.1 Population 28
3.2.2 Sample 29

3.3 Technique and Tools of Data Collection 29

3.4 Validity and reliability. 30
3.4.1 Validity 30
3.4.2 Reliability 31

3.5 Data Analysis 31

CHAPTER 4 36

4.1 Research findings 36
4.1.1 Analysis of Pre-test and Post-test results 36
4.1.2 Hypothesis testing 44

4.2 Discussion 45

CHAPTER V 48

5.1 Conclusion 48

5.2 Suggestion 48

REFERENCES 50

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 56

Pronunciation test 56

Appendix 2 58

The Awabe's English Pronunciation Application 58

Appendix 3 59

Modul Pembelajaran 59

Appendix 4 68

The result of students' pre-test and post-test score..... 68

Appendix 5 71

The material of narrative text 71

Appendix 6 74

Student worksheets for treatment 1 74

Appendix 7 79

Documentation..... 79

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1 One Group Pre-test and Post-test 26

Table 3.2 Population 29

Table 3.3 Scoring Rubric 32

Table 3.4 Criteria of students' score 32

Table 3.5 Student's score of the pre-test and post-test 33

Table 4.3 Difference score between the pre-test and post-test 40

Table 4.5 Standard Deviation 41

Table 4.6 Tests of Normality 42

Table 4.7 Paired Samples Test 43

Table 4.1 The data of students' pre-test score 68

Table 4.2 The data of students' post-test score 69

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3.1 The Range of Effect Size 34

Figure 4.1 Histogram of pre-test score result 37

Figure 4.2 Histogram of post-test score result 40

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the background, research questions, purpose, significance, scope and limitations, research variables, hypotheses, and key terminology for a clear understanding of the contextual framework guiding the research.

1.1 Background

Pronunciation is an important aspect of speaking skills. Pronunciation plays an important role in speaking because when someone speaks it shows everything and other people understand it based on how someone pronounces the words (Yudar et al., 2020). Pronunciation is one of the basic skills that students must master to be able to communicate successfully in English. According to Berry (2021), pronunciation is an important part of oral communication. Therefore, a lack of correct pronunciation can lead to poor verbal communication. Because when communicating, people speak their minds and listen clearly. Pronunciation is the first thing to pay attention to when communicating. Poor pronunciation can lead to misunderstandings or communication breakdowns.

Based on the Merdeka curriculum, speaking is taught in grade 8 at junior high school. The syllabus requires students to participate in a presentation retelling the story. Pronunciation is one of the elements that is assessed from the rubric of the assessment. Good speaking skills are highly expected of students, but practically there is still a shortage of teaching tools to teach speaking. The researcher gathered information regarding students' English-speaking skills based on an in-depth interview with an English teacher at SMP N 25 Pontianak. One challenge students face is correctly pronouncing difficult English words they are unfamiliar with, leading to mispronunciations. In addition, with a lack of teaching tools, teachers find it hard to increase students` attention and motivation to learn

pronunciation. For this reason, it is necessary to use teaching tools that can provide more exercises for students to pronounce English words. Moreover, it can increase students' attention and motivation when learning to speak English, one of the teaching tools is Awabe's English pronunciation application.

As part of a technology tool, Awabe's English pronunciation application aims to help teachers and students learn and teach English pronunciation (Yoshida, 2018). Awabe's English Pronunciation app is an app for teaching English pronunciation. This application can be used to teach English pronunciation by providing oral and written examples and makes use of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) for a clear demonstration. This application can engage resources for mastering crucial pronunciation elements such as vowels, consonants, and word stress (Goodale & Yang, 2019). The Awabe's English Pronunciation application provides a variety of exercises to practice pronunciation, strengthen word and phonetic transcription knowledge, and help distinguish similar-sounding words to improve learning. This application is an indispensable tool for junior high school students seeking to improve their English pronunciation. Furthermore, Awabe's English Pronunciation application can help teachers teach students how to pronounce English words properly.

Several previous studies have discussed the problem of using applications to teach pronunciation. First, Rahmania and Mandasari (2021) examine student perceptions of the JOOX application (a music streaming platform that provides lyrics) to improve student pronunciation. The survey found that students find it helpful to learn pronunciation through the JOOX application as it helps them learn independently and become more confident in speaking English. Wongsuriya (2020) studied the effect of using the 'Pronunciation Power 2' mobile learning application to improve students' pronunciation. The study found that students who used the app significantly improved their English pronunciation skills compared to those who didn't use the app. In the study conducted by Fouz-González (2020), the focus was

on investigating the effectiveness of the English File Pronunciation (EFP) app in improving pronunciation skills. The study results demonstrated that the EFP app is beneficial in assisting English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners to enhance their production of challenging pronunciation features.

A similarity between the three previous related studies is the use of technology to teach pronunciation such as mobile learning applications. However, the type of application used sets the previous study apart from this research. In this research, the researcher used Awabe's English Pronunciation application to teach speaking, especially pronunciation. Moreover, what made this research different from previous studies was the methodology that was used. The focus of this research is to find out whether the use of Awabe's English Pronunciation Application is effective for use in teaching speaking to eighth-grade junior high school students. Based on the description, the researcher used a pre-experimental design to maximize this research.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background above, this research is designed to answer the following questions:

1. Does the use of Awabe's English Pronunciation application affect the students' pronunciation significantly?
2. If it does, how effectively does the use of Awabe's English Pronunciation application affect the students' pronunciation?

1.3 Research Purpose

This research aims to investigate the effect of Awabe's English Pronunciation application as a tool for teaching speaking among eighth-grade students.

1.4 Research Significance

For this research, there are several expectations from the researcher at the end of this research.

a. For the students

The results of this research can be used as a reference in learning to speak English.

b. For the teacher

The results of this research can help teachers to teach speaking, especially for teachers who want to use Awabe's English Pronunciation application.

c. For the researchers

The researcher hopes that this research will serve as useful and informative input for other researchers to conduct future research, especially for those at Universitas Tanjungpura and future researchers interested in this research.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Research

Based on the background, this research covered the use of Awabe's English Pronunciation application in teaching speaking to junior high school students. This research aims to evaluate the impact of Awabe's English Pronunciation Application on specific segmental features of pronunciation among eighth-grade students at SMP N 25 Pontianak. The focus will be on vowel, consonant sounds, and syllable assessing how the application contributes to the accurate production of these segmental elements.

1.6 Research Variable and Research Hypothesis.

The following are the research variables and research hypothesis:

1.6.1 Research Variables.

There are two research variables, as follows:

a. The independent variable (X) of this research is Awabe's English Pronunciation application.
b. This research's dependent variable (O_1&O_2) is the students' pronunciation.

1.6.2 Research Hypothesis.

The hypothesis of the research is as follows:

a. The null hypothesis (H_0): There is no significant effect of Awabe's English pronunciation application on students' pronunciation.
b. The alternative hypothesis (Ha): Awabe's English pronunciation application has a significant effect on students' pronunciation.

1.7 Terminology

To avoid misunderstandings about the term used in this thesis, the writer intends to present the term.

1.7.1 Awabe's English Pronunciation Application

Awabe's English Pronunciation application is a mobile learning tool accessible through smartphones and tablets, that offers written examples, oral pronunciation, and video guidance for practice to improve English pronunciation.

1.7.2 Pronunciation

In the context of this research, it refers to the precise articulation and accurate production of segmental features, including vowels, consonants, and syllable in spoken English.

1.7.3 Teaching Speaking

Teaching speaking involves the pedagogical process of instructing individuals in the development and improvement of their oral communication skills with focus on segmental features like vowels, consonants, and syllable.