

Chapter One

Introduction

The first chapter presents a discussion of various aspects of this research and explain some of the sections that be presented in this chapter. The first part of the introduction deals with the context. The context in question is to explain all the curiosity of the researcher about students' perceptions of using an application called Elsa Speak to practice good and correct pronunciation based on the norms that each local and international society has codified. This chapter also contains questions that guided the research. In addition, there is also the aim to describe the research targeted by some participants who use Elsa Speak to practice pronunciation when using English. There is also a delimitation in this chapter where there are limits to the problem and solutions to the problem. The research meanings in this study also provide benefits and positive impacts for students, educators, and researchers in the future, and the last part of chapter one is the organization of the chapter, where the researcher explains chapters one to five and includes the parts contained in each chapter.

Background of the Research

With the development of an increasingly advanced era, the language has become something that continues to receive attention, especially English, which is an international language. The basis of the English language is to speak, which is the basis and also receives a lot of attention in observation, analysis, and related aspects.

According to Xiaoyan, et al. (2023) communication tools and social media have enabled people to interact fluidly across national, cultural, and linguistic boundaries in ways that would have been difficult if not impossible in the past. In virtual organizations, teams of people from across the globe now work together on common problems, each bringing their own perspective and expertise. That world Englishes no longer has to be coerced like its native speakers because world Englishes has already developed its distinctive pronunciation under sociolinguistic conditions that can affect the development of any language.

Speakers strive to make their speech appropriate and effective for a variety of other users, while maintaining their own ethnic, national, regional, and personal identity.

With English as an international language, not all countries speak it, which is why many countries are actively studying it to communicate and travel abroad. There are many English teaching aids available in the present time that can help someone speak English. Many platforms are available to facilitate using an English support app. Learning English will appear to be both easy and difficult, but what makes it difficult is the way we can pronounce it according to native speakers, because a clear sound will facilitate communication and eliminate misunderstandings. Pronunciation is a basic skill that is very important in developing speaking, listening, and speaking English skills. This is because the ability to distinguish phonemes in English will help them (learners) understand more quickly what they hear (Arashnia, 2016).

By learning pronunciation, you will know how to pronounce a word correctly (Cakmak, 2019). Butler (1997), in his argument, for example, as lexicographer, claims that 'there are currently two powerful forces at work in localized' or 'new' English. The first is an external pressure, specifically the spread of American English throughout the English-speaking world, which Butler considers to be equivalent to world English because 'this force offers vocabulary that is common in international English and is frequently broadcast by media around the world.' (Butler, 1997: 107).

This is what is meant by correct pronunciation today: some people no longer have problems with pronunciation according to the original; everyone is free to speak English using the accent they have, like the British and American accents, even if the words spoken have the same meaning to support communication. The other dynamic, at the level of world Englishes, is "the purely local—the wellspring of local culture and a sense of identity"

(Bolton, K. (2006), p. 109), because each country has a local accent that is unique and different to maintain their identity, even if they can speak English, but that does not eliminate the country's distinctive accent.

Since children are taught the most fundamental English through pronunciation or listening, retaining the original accent in each area is crucial. The ability to identify and distinguish sounds is a basic skill in English that every learner must possess, especially in speaking and listening material. To support English language fluency, there is an app called Elsa Speak to help reinforce the pronunciation to be learned for English vocabulary or phrases. In this study, researcher discussed how the Elsa Speak application works and students' perceptions of using the application as a way to facilitate English learning. The aim of learning pronunciation is for English learners to be able to pronounce a word with a native accent but in a simple way so that language learners can pronounce the word accurately enough so that other people can understand it more easily. Most people who still use Elsa Speak are students looking for vocabulary or practicing English sentences and paragraphs with accurate pronunciation. They also practice because they are curious about the features offered by Elsa Speak and how accurate their English has improved, and there are students learning how to use Elsa Speak in order to become very good communicators. This application's typical student use is quite beneficial and results in progress. This is because perfect accents are very difficult for non-native language learners (Begum, 2016).

Using the Elsa Speak application is an intriguing experience, especially for those who are unfamiliar with Elsa Speak. Students from one of Yogyakarta's private Islamic universities who were introduced in class by their teachers were ecstatic because it turned out that most of the students were unaware of the Elsa Speak application, which could help them recite vocabulary and even more powerful sentences that amazed students.

With an application called Elsa Speak, it helps them to see good and correct pronunciation, to become more confident, and to feel free to pronounce the vocabulary, which is finally converted into a sentence and many more cool features that be used by students to practice with variations provided in a form that can be learned. Students are no longer confused about what to learn when using this application. It can record and then correct pronunciation; what they do and how accurate they are priceless. During learning, students continue to use this application to apply their learning, but unfortunately, it runs out. Students of the private Islamic University of Yogyakarta only use learning materials for modern applications when necessary.

Research on the use of Elsa Speak has been studied by many scholars such as Samad & Ismail (2020) his research entitled ELSA speak application as a supporting media in enhancing students' pronunciation skills and Samad (2019) with his research entitled Applying ELSA Speak software in the pronunciation class: Students' perception, however, the ones focusing on the features of Elsa Speak and the difficulties during the use of Elsa Speak at this department has not been reviewed yet.

The goal of this study on student perceptions of using the Elsa Speak app to practice pronunciation is to determine the benefits of the Elsa Speak app for students practicing English pronunciation as well as the strategies students use to practice English pronunciation using this app. This study is significant because it discovered many benefits and strategies that became references or ideas that others could develop or use.

Identification of the Problem

The researcher conducted the first interview with several students from English Education Department in Yogyakarta particularly in the teaching of English. From interviews conducted with several students, the researcher found that so far, there are still those who do not really master the spoken vocabulary, and they tend not to be sure of saying it. Then the

researchers asked how to use an app for English pronunciation, namely Elsa Speak English, and they were helped by the app, and they sometimes used the app to check the accuracy. Therefore, this problem must be pursued and overcome so that students who still lack confidence, have difficulty speaking, and are not attuned to native speakers can use Elsa Speak English in practice and become a solution. This research can help students deepen their English pronunciation and improve their English.

Delimitation of the Research

After initial interviews with several English Language Education students in Yogyakarta, this research will focus on English Education students' class of 2021 and their perceptions of knowing and using the Elsa Speak application to confirm to find out the correct pronunciation in the spoken vocabulary, and also learn to be confident when you want to speak English to many people with Elsa who speaks English. This study also looks at the Department of English Education in Yogyakarta, where the participants are English language education students, especially 6th semester students. This study will investigate the benefits of the Elsa Speak application for students and the strategies they use.

Research Question

Based on the context, the researcher has two questions:

1. What are the benefits of using the Elsa Speak app for students of the English Language Education Department in terms of practicing pronunciation?
2. What are the strategies used by students of the English Language Education when using the Elsa Speak application to practice pronunciation?

The Objective of the Research

The aim of this research is as follows:

1. To discover the benefits of using the Elsa Speak application for pronunciation for the English Language Education Department students.

2. To reveal what strategies used by the English Language Education Department students when using the Elsa Speak application to practice pronunciation

The Significance of the Research

The important thing in this research is that the research results provide positive benefits and contributions for students, teachers, and other researchers. The explanation is available below:

Students. This study will be beneficial to students in a variety of ways. Students can study with confidence, develop an interest in learning English, and overcome difficulties with vocabulary and pronunciation in English. and can develop their own learning strategy to make it easier.

Teachers. Teachers benefit greatly from knowing this research in the digital age with increasingly sophisticated technology; teachers can also use sophisticated media; the use of Elsa Speak English is very useful for teachers to teach students and make the learning environment interesting. Teachers can use Elsa Speak application to teach students and make the learning environment more interesting. Elsa Speak application is one of the alternative teachers who can teach students how to pronounce words.

Future Researchers. For other researchers, this research will be useful for future researchers; they can use similar research and explore more widely with amazing ideas later.

The Organization of the Chapter

Background, research identification, problem definition, research questions, research objectives, and the importance of research are all covered in the first chapter. The second chapter includes a literature review with explanations of pronunciation, MALL, Elsa Speak definition, Elsa Speak features, Elsa Speak benefits, and learning strategies for using the Elsa Speak application. The methodology is covered in Chapter Three. This chapter describes the

researcher's plans. The third chapter of this study will go over research instruments, research participants, research parameters, and data collection methods used by researchers, while the final chapter will go over data analysis methods. Chapter Four contains a discussion of the results and the data that has been collected or obtained from the research, and the data that has been collected is further processed in the data analysis. Chapter Five contains conclusions and suggestions. In this chapter, all that has been compiled and obtained through research will be concluded, and suggestions are recommendations or contributions involved in research.