

THE USE OF GOOGLE VOICE SEARCH IN IMPROVING THE STUDENTS' PRONUNCIATION ACCURACY

Fidaniar Tiarsiwi

shewe87@gmail.com

University of Muhammadiyah Prof. DR. HAMKA

Martriwati

martriwati_uhm@uhamka.ac.id

University of Muhammadiyah Prof. DR. HAMKA

ABSTRACT

The use of mobile technology for everyone is like a necessity in daily life. No one can ignore the impact of mobile technology especially from android mobile system that led the progression of technology today. However, this technology development can be utilized by language learners to increase and encourage them in mastering the English language use. They can utilize the application inside the android system in improving pronunciation accuracy. Furthermore, it can help teachers to teach their learners in using English language spoken. Everyone knows that learning pronunciation needs time to take some practices. The writer initiated the application of learning English pronunciation by using a default application inside android system. The application calls as Google Voice Search. It can be used as learning strategy to improve the accuracy for learner and to be aware about the mistake which has been made by them. This Google voice Search system can be used as self-evaluation in pronouncing English language. This study investigated the first semester students of English Department in Jakarta. The writer designed the study as learning strategy to help learners aware about their mistake in pronouncing English language. The use of android mobile phone is shown the progression of most 72% learners' pronunciation growing better and it improved learners' confidence in using English orally. They also stated that they really like this application because it led them to be more technology savvy. It can facilitate the learners in pronouncing English accurately when they use in spoken English.

Keywords: *Android, Application, Pronunciation, Google Search Voice*

INTRODUCTION

In this modern era, human utilize technology to help their works in doing anything. It is because technology gives facilitation what people want. Technology has been become as a tool to help human activity in a daily part of their life. People can use technology wherever and whenever they need. It is really helpful to make human doing a lot of things easier. Furthermore, today's, technology can be utilized for everyone not only for adults, but also children can utilize facilitation from technology. There are many advantages when people have technology to support their basic needs at home, at work, and at school. Technology or ICT is a necessity for language learning because it is not only to improve the effectiveness and quality of education, but its necessities also can enhance the ICT literacy for teacher and students as their skill in the era of rapidly changing and progressing technology (Hartoyo, 2009). Nowadays, people have a sophisticated technology in their hands. They can use and utilize a fantastic little device which is called as smartphone. It has many functions like a personal computer or laptop, but it is made in handy, thus, they can bring it everywhere. Like it is stated before, smartphone has many functions not only for making a call with other as the common phones, but also it can be used as a tool in learning language. It is because the progression of internet which facilitate to connect people around the world. Smartphone is supported with various applications that users can use in the range of purposes. Users can maximize the function of various applications for interacting each other using social media, making business, and learning language. Because of easiness in making smartphone's application, everyone can make their own application in various purposes and in the aim of progressive education as well.

Smartphone can be owned everyone because it is sold in competitive price in Android platform. The writer believes that most of students already have their personal smartphone. Unfortunately, students which have their personal smartphone cannot utilize it wisely. Most students use their personal device only for updating themselves in social media application, doing gaming or for having other fun activities. Actually, it can be used in the term of learning tool or media if they know how to use the gadget wisely. They can download the useful application in learning language through Playstore as a market application from Android platform. However, if they want to download good learning application, they have to spend some money to buy it online. Luckily, Google Inc. as Android platform vendor, they plant default software in search engine application which is known as Google Search. The application is used to search anything online. Furthermore, recently, they add some features in search engine application to Voice Search application.

According to Google, Voice search is a speech recognition technology that allows users to search by saying terms aloud rather than typing them into a search field. It means that the main function of this application is to search online by using different method in a speech in order to avoid misspelling the word. This application actually can be used for students in learning English.

They can make like self-study using this application when they want to speak or say something in English words. As we know that English is Foreign Language in Indonesia, so they still have a problem in pronouncing English word because of L1 influencing. It absolutely happened in the speaking class activities of university students in first semester. They still have lack in pronouncing English words when they have to speak in English. Although they are confident saying something in English if their pronunciation is still weak, it will distract the meaning or message what they want to convey.

Based on the explanation above, the writer initiated use Google Search Voice to students in making themselves to be aware about the pronunciation of English word they say. In short the students were given many chances to practice their pronunciation by using handy technology i.e Google Voice Search until they realized about their mistakes. Finally, they will improve their accuracy.

METHODOLOGY

This is a case study research. It investigated some participants in a single classroom as the sample subject of this research. In getting data, researcher used two methods, firstly by taking and recording their sentences, and secondly by asking participants about their own strategies in acquiring English in speaking especially with their pronunciation accuracy. This research is aimed to initiate and introduce a strategy in making them to be more aware using English words in the spoken context.

The researcher gave some extracts according to the syllabus on Pronunciation Practice to be read by the students. They had to record their pronunciation twice first is before researcher initiated the strategy using Google Voice Search and second is after researcher initiated the strategy. Moreover, researcher asked them by interviewing about how they felt after using the application to check their mistakes in pronouncing the words. Then, researcher analyzed the data and explained some cases that are found in that class.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Google Voice Search, an automatic speech recognition, provided ideas for enhancing students' pronunciation. According to the questionnaire distributed that 56% participants agreed and 36% participants strongly agreed Voice Google Search engaged students' outlook to vary their learning strategy. It was also expected to improve the quality of students' learning. There were 32% students who highly agreed and 52% who agreed that Voice Google Search would bring improvement in their learning quality. Furthermore, 48% participants strongly agreed and 40% participants agreed that Voice Google Search assisted them to evaluate their pronunciation. Voice Google Search might have led students to be more responsible in evaluating their progress. It could be indicated that 40 students who agreed and 36% participants who quite agreed that Voice Google Search could create responsibility of students to evaluate themselves. Hence, Voice Google Search was assumed to influence students in enhancing their pronunciation skills. There were 48% participants who agreed and 24% participants who strongly agreed with the statement. Students

also liked using Voice Google Search in their pronunciation class because it led them to be more technology savvy. Students preferred 'digital learning tools' to conventional ones. This statement was supported by 24% participants who strongly agreed and 56% participants who agreed that the features equipped in Voice Google Search was quite delighting. Therefore, 48% participants quite preferred to use digital learning tools' rather than conventional ones. Though Voice Google Search was easy to operate, could attract students to figure out their best way to check their pronunciation accuracy, Voice Google Search was a machine that was not fully satisfying. It needed upgrading. Students found that sometimes Voice Google Search did not show 100% accuracy. Students also needed to pronounce the words in quite places that were far away from any distractions.

In order to help learner aware about their speech in English, the writer initiated this application (GSV). Mostly, they already have smartphone with Android platform, so they can start using the application directly through their personal gadget. They do not have to download and install from Playstore because it is already planted inside as default search engine. It is easy to use the application where it is already in the home page screen. They just touch the search engine box to start the application then they press the microphone button and start to say something in English whether it is in the form of word, phrase, or even sentence. It will operate any commands of voices after it is pressed. However, in operating this application, it needs internet connection. If the internet connection is not on, it will not be working at all.

Furthermore, after the researcher initiated the learning strategies, it gave difference result with first recording. Around 5 participants are more aware about their pronunciation although some participants still have inaccuracy with their pronunciation. Perhaps, it is caused by some factors, for instance, internet connection (different provider and area will give different result in connection), difference device (it requires Android platform), and laziness (it is the most influencing factors to give them awareness by practicing a lot). Those factors will give big impact in the use of Google Search Voice application.

All in all, in utilizing the development of technology, the writer tries to initiate and introduce this application in helping EFL learners to have a good pronunciation in English. This application can be utilized as a strategy for them to increase their accuracy in pronunciation. Besides, this application absolutely has some advantages in supporting learning activities such as it is free of charge because it only needs an internet connection, it is available in every kinds of smartphone, and the most important is giving students awareness in using or pronouncing English language. However, this application still has weaknesses in supporting learning activities such as it needs internet connection, it needs higher level of Android system in jelly bean OS, and the last is sensitive with any noisy voice. With all the strength and weaknesses from this application, it can give big impact to development of education as well in Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

Basically, we know that pronunciation is an important aspect when we want to communicate using English. If someone does not have a good ability in pronunciation, it means that s/he will not be able to interact with another well because English is not the same with Bahasa Indonesia. Hence,

we will pronounce English words differently with the written form although some words pronounce exactly with the written. As we know in Bahasa Indonesia, mostly, the written is same with the pronunciation because Bahasa Indonesia is like a phonetic language (Soenjono, 2012). Therefore, by initiating and introducing this strategy, students will be more aware about their pronunciation when they want to speak out with someone. We have to know that technology can give big contribution in educational development, and this is only a little development of technology which we can be utilized in education area. It means that we have to follow the development of technology and we have to utilize it wisely in order to give more variation in teaching and give the change in education.

This study is far away from perfection, so the writer hopes that there will be more study about this case. Hence, this study only takes small participants and limited time. Hopefully, there will be more improvement related with this study, and the writer needs any suggestion to improve some weaknesses in this study.

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