

## STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ON THE USE OF SPOTIFY TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' PRONUNCIATION

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### Abstract

English is the language that predominates in the world than other language. In order to communicate on a worldwide level, especially for academic and commercial objectives. There is a need for learners to acquire communication skills. Thus, learners should have a good pronunciation. Spotify is one of the media they can choose to learn, especially to improve their Pronunciation. The objective of this research was to explore students' perception toward the use of Spotify application to improve students' pronunciation and find out which features in Spotify are the most essential in improving their pronunciation. This research used descriptive qualitative and data collected through semi-structured interviews with ten respondents. The participants from pronunciation practice class batch 2019 in university Muhammadiyah Prof. Dr. Hamka. The participants were selected using purposive sampling. The results revealed that the students agree Spotify is suitable for improving pronunciation. They explain that the features on Spotify can support their learning, especially the lyric and making playlist features. They said listening to the music and seeing the lyrics can be effective in their pronunciation and creating their own playlists can increase their interest in listening to English songs. This research was expected to give a modern application to improve pronunciation.

**Keywords:** *Students' perception, Pronunciation, Spotify Application*

### Introduction

Language is one of the crucial things in this globalization era. Language is a purely human and no intuitive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires through a system of voluntarily produced symbols (Sapir, 1921). English is the language that predominates in the world than other language (Ali & Hasanah, 2020;

Rahman et al., 2022). In order to communicate on a worldwide level, especially for academic and commercial objectives, English has been employed for a hugely significant purpose (Akbar, 2018). Realize or not, globalization's impact drives some regions to adopt English as a second language (Hasanah, 2022). As a result, many accents from different regions and English Pronunciation must be taken seriously, or else the meaning will be distorted.

Knowing many vocabularies is meaningless if speakers cannot pronounce those words correctly and no one can understand the words that people are trying to use (Nurullayevna, 2020). In addition, as stated by Pranoto and Supryogi (2019), Pronunciation is an inseparable part of speaking; inevitably, it is essential to understand the meanings exchanged (Suprayogi, 2019). Even when we speak English well, it will be challenging to understand us if we do not have appropriate pronunciation abilities (Nurhayati, 2019). From all the experts, we can conclude that when communicating and understanding the meaning with people with various accents, Pronunciation is crucial to learn.

Using application as a tool in the learning process provides excellent benefits for students, which will positively impact students (Asti Wahyuni, 2021). Learning by using application other than books is fun and not dry (Noviasmy et al., 2023). One of the media that can attract students' attention is music (Pratiwi, 2022). Music can be an excellent solution for learning English. As stated by Shuler (1991) that music can be a stimulus for learning, is a powerful learning reinforce. Also, can be an effective means of emotion and communication (P.Asmus, 2010) . In conclusion, study with music can make student more focus and enjoy at the same time.

The author's experience also confirms this while studying in the pronunciation practice class. The writer feels that there is a good improvement in students' pronunciation when the vocabulary is converted into audio. Spotify is one of the media they can choose to learn, especially to improve their Pronunciation.

Diah (2022) discovered that learning by using the Spotify app can improve students' Pronunciation. As a result, her research on English songs from the Spotify Application can help students improve their Pronunciation (Putri, 2022). Based on that

research, combining Spotify Application into the teaching and learning process increased students' Pronunciation. In addition, Nirma Paris, et. Al (2022) also discovered the students' English ability significantly improve regarding students study with application (Nirma Paris, 2022).

Therefore, many researchers have conducted similar studies in the same field to determine whether Spotify improves pronunciation skills, which will be discussed further in previous studies. In contrast, this research paper aims to learn about how students' opinions of using the Spotify application for Pronunciation and the features on Spotify can help improve their Pronunciation.

## **Method**

The study was conducted at Muhammadiyah Prof. Dr. Hamka University. The population was the students of pronunciation practice class batch 2019. The sample was 10 students from pronunciation practice class batch 2019. The study participants will be selected through a close and open-ended questionnaire via Google form. The participants must have experience often listening to English songs on Spotify and already pass the pronunciation practice class in the second semester

In this study, a questionnaire open-ended and interview will be the instrument to obtain qualitative data that could reveal the students' perception of the use of Spotify to improve their pronunciation and the features of Spotify that has essential roles in improving their pronunciation. The instrument was adopted by Anggun Hervi Rahmania and Berlianda Mandasari (2021). The questionnaire is divided into two sections closed and open-ended. The interview held with the form semi-structure to invite students to describe or comment based on the research focus.

The researcher has interviewed the students about their perception to the Spotify to improve their pronunciation and what features in Spotify are the most essential in improving the pronunciation. The interview will be held in *Zoom Meeting*. The researcher will ask four questions. First, what kind of increase do you feel since using the Spotify application? Second, why do you enjoy listening to English songs on Spotify? Third, what features in Spotify are the most essential in improving the

pronunciation? Fourth, what do you think of the Spotify app as an option to improve your pronunciation? The researcher will record the interview section.

In order to select the informants, the researcher used purposive sampling. The researcher divided the questionnaire into close and open-ended. There are nine items for the close-ended questionnaire. The research adopted the Likert Scale, which ranges from (1) Strongly Agree, (2) Agree, (3) Neutral, (4) Disagree, and (5) Strongly Disagree. There are four questions for the open-ended question.

After gaining the data, the researcher tabulates it to analyze descriptive. The researcher will select, simplifying, and abstracting the data. The researcher linked all the patterns found during each participant's interview and organized them into themes that interpreted the entire data based on the similarities of the variables. So, the studied conclusions can be agreed to be written as a report with an acceptable level of trust.

## **Results**

### *a. The Differences After Using the Spotify*

Based on the results of the interviews that have been conducted. Mostly respondents felt have a better improving in their English pronunciation skills. This can be seen from the answer of R10 and R5, they said after used Spotify they can increase their pronunciation. As R10 explain "My pronunciation is much better." And R5 explain "My ability to pronounce words in English are increase".

In addition, there were a few words that were challenging to pronounce at first. But after using the Spotify application the respondents were able to say them. As R3 explain, "Used to I do not know how to pronounce the word 'enchanted' but after listening to a song with that word no I know how to pronounce that word." In addition, some respondents felt an increase in vocabulary after using the Spotify. R2 revealed, after she use Spotify, she discovery an update vocabulary that she can use in daily life. As R2 explain "Spotify has really helped me in improving my English skills such as knowing how to pronounce English better, and knowing some update vocabulary that I can use in my daily life". She continued by saying that using Spotify improves

communication efficacy. As she explains "Spotify has really help me in improved sentence structure".

This is in line with R6. She felt there are so much new vocabulary and slang that she knows after use Spotify. As the result, her vocabulary is more varied than it used to be when she is speaking. As she explains "I had no idea what the phrase 'break a leg' meant before, but after listening to multiple podcasts on Spotify, I do. I still like to use the phrase to encourage people". However, R9 felt an increase in listening skills. She said that after frequently listening to English songs on Spotify, her hearing acuity in listening to English words had increased. As R9 explain "The improvement I feel is the ability to pronounce more clearly and quickly through songs. My listening ability in English has also improved, through songs I can train my listening acuity to English vocabulary"

#### *b. The Reason Using the Spotify*

After they mentioned their improvement after using Spotify, the researcher asking the reason they choose Spotify as application to improve their pronunciation. According to R7 answer, she said Spotify is easy to access from anywhere and she can make her favorite playlist. As R7 explain, "The Spotify feature is easy to use and can make favorite playlists, so it is easy to enjoy anywhere as long as the data is active." This is also supported by the answer from R2, she said using Spotify is very easy to use also the songs in Spotify are very update. As she explains "Spotify application is easy to use, the songs provided are also updated and complete". However, besides being easy to use R3 says choosing Spotify as a medium for practicing pronunciation is a good choice because there is a lyric feature. She use of the lyrics feature to hone his English skills. As she explained "The Spotify application can be said to be very easy and comfortable to use. In addition, with the lyrics feature when listening to songs, I can also become a learning medium to improve my English skills."

#### *c. The Students' Perception Using Spotify*

Then, the researcher asks the respondents' perception in choosing Spotify as a medium to increasing their pronunciation. In the researchers' investigation, the DOI 10.35905/inspiring.v6i2.6452

respondents' perception of choosing Spotify as a medium for improving their pronunciation was overwhelmingly positive. As R3 explain, "Spotify is one of the good and quite effective apps to improve my pronunciation. I feel with Spotify have high validity in pronunciation because it is straight from native." and as R1 explain, "Extremely well and appropriate for helping learners nowadays because Spotify is very famous among teenagers today".

The Spotify also makes the students have a fun experience in learning pronunciation. Especially, the songs in Spotify are very complete. As R8 explain, "Spotify is an excellent medium for learning English, especially for me who likes music. Having a very complete song and provided lyrics gives me a learning experience in a fun way". This also in line with the opinion R9. According to her, many teenagers more like learning with application because it is more fun and practice. Learning with application can improve her self-study because Spotify can be access in anywhere and everywhere. As she explains, "In my opinion, the use of Spotify in improving students' pronunciation skills is very good. Moreover, most teenagers now prefer learning through social media because it is much more practical and fun, so the process of seeking knowledge is not too overwhelming. Also, since I used Spotify, I always play one song and accidentally I can pronounce some difficult words, like 'Indescribable'"

*d. The essential features those roles in improving the pronunciation on Spotify.*

There are several features provided by Spotify. Starting from the completeness and always updating the latest songs, cheap subscriptions, availability of lyrics, and being able to create favorite playlists. The researchers wanted to know more about which features played the most important role in improving their pronunciation on Spotify.

Based on the interview, most of the respondents' answers the lyric feature is the most important feature in improving their pronunciation. They say, with lyric feature they can accomplish the vocabulary they previously could not pronounce to knowing how to pronounce it. Only listening the music is not enough to know how pronounce a vocabulary. As R9 explain, "Features lyrics on each song. After listening to a song, usually there are some words that are not clear to my hearing and I cannot

follow them, so when listening while reading the lyrics I can understand and follow the song better.”

In addition, R1 explain that the difference between the Spotify application with other applications is the lyrics feature. Which can highlight the word that been mentioned. As she describes “It is quite nice to have the lyrics feature. When the lyrics are being spoken, they are always highlighted in a distinct color. Because of that, I am able to pronounce the right word”.

The lyrics feature by Spotify is also very helpful for students to get experience learning pronounce directly from native. Also helps students know the writing of the words spoken by the native. As R8 explain, “Spotify has a lyrics feature which gives me direct access to see the word being spoken.”

However, on Spotify the playlist-making feature also supports student pronunciation. They claim that this feature allows them to drilling using the same songs and same vocabulary. As a result, their pronunciation of some words is therefore excellent. As R4 explain “The ability to create playlists is incredibly useful. Due to this, I use the same term accidentally more often than I would like to when listening to my favorite songs on my custom Spotify playlist.”

## **Discussion**

### *a. The Differences After Using the Spotify*

As stated in the findings above, it is revealed there are significant changes on their pronunciation. Pronunciation is how a language is spoken; the way in which a word is pronounced; the way a person says the words of a language (Andriyani, 2017). So, it is important to improve our pronunciation.

Following in the findings, most of respondents felt a significant change in their pronunciation after they use Spotify. This is in line with the research that is conducted by Haryadi and Aprianoto, which find out learning pronunciation with application, can help students to engage better pronunciation. Also, learning with application can increase the learners to do self-study (Haryadi S, 2021). It is more effective study with application.

It is declared, the respondents describe the increasing pronunciation in their daily live. Like the better sentence placement in conversation. The goal of pronunciation is when listeners can understand a speaker and enjoy listening to their English, they can say that they have an acceptable pronunciation (Gilakjani, 2016). It is shown, the respondents already get the goal of the pronunciation after they use Spotify.

Besides increasing pronunciation, the respondents felt an increase in their knowledge of vocabulary. Learning with Spotify help them to know more vocabularies that useful in daily life. To support the statement, according to Rimanuella and Caroline, in their research Spotify is music platform that the most chosen to improve vocabulary and the result Spotify got the highest medium that helps students to improve their vocabulary (Rimanuella Sabathiana Kelendonu, 2023). Thus, Spotify is a music platform that can really useful to increase English skill.

However, some respondents felt an increase in their listening skill. Listening is an important skill in practicing pronunciation (Berlinda Mandasari, 2018). By listening to people who are talking or sing, our hearing will be more sensitive to every word that is spoken. This situation is very likely to happen when we learn pronunciation. So, when we learn using music there are many skills that we can improve. As stated by Shuler (1991) that music can be a stimulus for learning and a powerful learning reinforce. Also, can be an effective means of emotion and communication (P.Asmus, 2010). In this research, music is really helpful to improving pronunciation, increasing vocabularies and listening skill more sensitive.

#### *b. The Reason Using the Spotify*

In addition, the completeness of Spotify's features is the reason why they chose Spotify as a medium to improve their English skills. One of the features that make students choose Spotify is that easy to access anywhere and anytime. This statement is in line with Spotify web, Spotify can always find the perfect music or podcast, whether driving, exercising, having fun, or just relaxing. (Spotify, 2023). With one term, the internet quota must always active. For the users to play music or podcast,



they must have a good connection (Li, 2022). It is clear, Spotify users can access from anywhere as long as the internet is active.

Also, on Spotify the students can make their own favorite playlist. Users can make their own playlist and control music activities such as pause, play, skip, select songs, to add songs to playlists (Prajnadipa, 2022). This feature can increase user satisfaction. Users can organize what they want to listen to every day, especially able to save important songs or podcasts that can enhance learning. In addition, Spotify provides a lyric feature that is automatically on when we play a song. Spotify offers free lyrics features without leaving the music platform (Li, 2022). This feature is one of the reasons students choose Spotify because they think this feature is more practical than other applications.

### *c. The Students' Perception Using Spotify*

Based on the findings, all the respondents are agreeing that Spotify is the right media to improve pronunciation. This is in line with Diah (2020) study. Her study shows the use of Spotify significantly improves students' pronunciation during the teaching and learning process (Putri, 2022). All the respondents have a fun experience in learning pronunciation with Spotify. One of the media that can attract students' attention is music (Pratiwi, 2022). Learning by using application other than books is fun and not dry. This can be proven by the increasing pronunciation that students get after learning using music from Spotify.

Furthermore, using Spotify to learning pronunciation is not overwhelming. Songs can be easily understood and imitated by students because students are unaware that they are learning through songs, they perceive them as a pleasant and enjoyable aspect of English training. (Džanić, 2016). Accidentally, song makes students drilling some challenging word. In short, the students feel they are more enjoy learning pronunciation with Spotify.

In addition, learning the pronunciation with Spotify can increase the validity of the word. When they select a song or podcast, the lyrics or transcript will automatically appear below it and it is free. Spotify as a music streaming service application has several features that provide convenience and comfort for its users, one of which is

open lyrics – where users can read the lyrics of the song, they are listening to (Prajnadipa, 2022). This is what they think can increase the validity of the pronunciation of the word, when they listen to a song or podcast, they can immediately see the word that is native spoken.

*d. The essential features those roles in improving the pronunciation on Spotify*

There is one feature that becomes essential feature in improving the pronunciation on Spotify. The opinions on the Spotify application to improve pronunciation is sourced by the students experienced using Spotify. Meanwhile, their improvement is mainly influenced by the feature of the Spotify.

Based on the findings above, the essential features those roles in improving the pronunciation on Spotify is lyric feature. According to Yola (2022) Spotify users are provide with automatic lyrics that are below the song. This feature allows users to read song lyrics directly without leaving the application (Prajnadipa, 2022). Only listening to the music is not enough to improve their pronunciation. Students can use this feature to immediately practice the word that is being spoken with native.

Based on the students' perception, perception refers on the personal mind (Mahendra, 2020). They can more understand and follow the song better when they listening while reading the lyric. It makes easier to know which vocabulary that have been spoken. This can also increase the validity of the vocabulary.

Moreover, some students explain that making own playlist can support repetition drilling the word. Users can make their own playlist and control music activities such as pause, play, skip, select songs, to add songs to playlists (Prajnadipa, 2022). Students might repeat their favorite song while accidentally repetition drilling a word so that they become used to speaking the word. According to Tice (2004) Drilling is the process of listening to a model, whether presented by the teacher, a tape, or another student, and repeating what is heard (Mardhiyah, 2019). As a result, their pronunciation of certain words is excellent.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, this research has explored the students' opinion of the Spotify application to improve their pronunciation and the essential features those roles in

improving the pronunciation on Spotify. The first research question is dealing with the students' opinion of the Spotify to improve their pronunciation, the result has shown that the students are agree that Spotify can improve their pronunciation. The students explain, since using Spotify their communication is much more effective.

In addition, based on the students' perception, the features that most roles in improving the pronunciation is lyric feature and creating their own playlist. With the lyrics feature students can better understand how a word is pronounced. Students can understand how a word is written and creating their own playlists can increase their interest in listening to English songs. Therefore, The Spotify can be the right medium for students in learning pronunciation.

This research is not perfect yet there were only a few participants in this study. A significant number of volunteers from diverse backgrounds should be included in future research. The researcher suggested conducting further research on a similar area, example motivation students' interest in learning English with the Spotify application.

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