

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

English is an international language that is spoken in many places throughout the world. People from other countries and languages use it to communicate, learn about cultures, explore, discover, and obtain new knowledge for self-development, and attend international conferences, business, education, and others.

English is the most commonly spoken language in the world, with a greater proportion of non-native speakers than native speakers. This is because of its globalization and colonization histories, which have contributed to the language's ongoing empowerment.

Pronunciation is the production of sounds that we use to make meaning. It includes attention to the particular sounds of a language (segments), such as intonation, syllable, phrasing, stress, timing, rhythm how the voice is projected (voice quality) and attention to gestures and expressions that are closely related to the way we speak a language.

The attention trained on pronunciation in the last three decades is affecting not only the practice of language teaching but also language teaching research and theoretical discussions on language learning and use for communication in an interconnected world.

According to a previous study from Anggraini (2022), This ELSA Speak application is effective in getting students interested in language learning. In practice, students can become more involved in learning and motivated to use the ELSA Speak Application in pronunciation class. And also study from Nur Wahid Akhmad and Ahmad Munawir (2022), According to the questionnaire results, the percentage score of 82% is classified as Good. This indicates that students are interested in and positively perceive using the ELSA Speak Application.

The ELSA Speak app is especially helpful in resolving students' unfamiliarity with learning how to pronounce English words, which is an urgent

problem that requires quick attention. Learning vocabulary pronunciation and meaning is essential for students who want to speak English with a decent accent.

The enhancement of students' pronunciation skills can be related to the successful use of coherent devices in written language, which shape the readers' expectations in interpreting a text. Cohesive devices, such as conjunction, can play an important role in generating coherence in written language.

To summarize, the ELSA Speak application, when combined with other strategies such as reading aloud and shadowing, can greatly improve students' English speech skills. These techniques can be implemented into the curriculum to improve students' communication skills and prepare them for international academic exchange, business, and education.

The ELSA Speak application is an effective tool for improving eighth-grade students implemented at SMPN 1 BANGSRI. pronunciation of English words. The study showed that students' English pronunciation skills were considerably enhanced by the ELSA Speak Application, with a discernible improvement in students' pronunciation when using the Elsa Speak Application at SMPN 1 BANGSRI.

In SMPN 1 Bangsri, students learn through an independent curriculum. This case involves six language skills: listening, speaking, reading, viewing, and writing/presenting. The ultimate goal of language learning is to communicate and interact in English. Each skill has specific achievements.

In this strategies for improving students' pronunciation skills, the using of media teaching and learning, can be used in addition to the ELSA Speak app. A study at SMPN 1 BANGSRI discovered that implementation of ELSA Speak considerably improved students' English pronunciation, with a mean score in cycle 3 rise of around 23,32 compared to the pre-test score.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

According to the background of the study ,the researcher can formulated research question as follow :

1. How effective is the implementation of the ELSA Speak application in improving the English pronunciation skills of eighth-grade students in SMPN 1 Bangsri?
2. How is the response of eighth-grade students in SMPN 1 Bangsri toward the use ELSA Speak application?

1.3 Objective of the Research

1. The present study aimed at investigating student's improvement regarding English pronunciation skill using mobile application named ELSA App in eighth-grade students classroom of SMP N 1 Bangsri.
2. The present study is to know student's response while using ELSA Application can be used to measure effectiveness for student's improvement regarding English pronunciation skill in eighth-grade students classroom of SMP N 1 Bangsri.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The significance is to use the ELSA Speak application to help eighth-grade students improve their English pronunciation. This can be achieved by incorporating the application into the classroom curriculum. In Theoretically, the English Language Speech Assistant, or ELSA Speak app, makes it easier and faster for students to acquire pronunciation. This is very beneficial for delivering immediate corrections and feedback. Students demonstrate that when learning to articulate words.

Practically ELSA Speak can help students practice and improve our English speaking skills by correcting improper pronunciation and teaching students how to say it correctly. The students can practice our English abilities at any time and from any location. Practicing with ELSA Speak consistently can enhance students speaking ability in English. Providing students with access to the app, and guiding students through the process of using the app to practice and

improve their pronunciation skills, which will help students communicate more effectively and confidently in English.

1.5 Scope of the Research

The scope of this study is on English pronunciation skills. The researcher can analyze data on eighth-grade students' English pronunciation using ELSA Speak, including pre-and post-tests.

This study is limited to one eighth-grade class at SMP N 1 Bangsri. This study employed a formal situation setting where the actual teaching-learning process of English occurs. This study was conducted in an English class.

1.6 Operational of the Research

The researcher intended to use the ELSA Speak application to teach pronunciation, which included creating and structuring the lesson plan and teaching approach. The researcher then began using ELSA Speak Application in the teaching and learning activities. The observation was done gradually to understand the students' responses and development while utilizing it.

1. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is the process of producing understandable sounds to convey meaning for communication purposes. English pronunciation can be confusing due to the variety of vowels and consonants.

2. ELSA Speak application

ELSA is one of the top five English pronunciation apps (2023) stated by Hariharasudan. It can help students' improve their English pronunciation skills of eighth-grade student's in SMPN 1 Bangsri. It is available from both the AppStore and the Google Play store and has various features to improve students' pronunciation in a British accent through exercises that ask learners to pronounce a word, phrase, or sentence correctly.

3. The Eighth Grade Students of SMP N 1 Bangsri

Eighth-grade students at SMP N 1 Bangsri have a variety of characteristics and habits that influence their academic performance. pronunciation skills at SMP N 1 Bangsri and studies on various teaching methods and strategies at different schools suggest that these methods can improve students' pronunciation.