



RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Effectiveness Of Hilokal Application On Speaking Skill For Students In High School

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Abstract

Language is crucial for communication and understanding in various aspects of life, including economy, education, politics, and culture. English is the dominant language, but learning it can be challenging due to native speakers' unique personalities and cultures. Speaking ability is crucial for language development and fluency in a second language, and technology like Hilokal offers new opportunities for language learners to improve their skills through interactive apps. This study uses George's library research theory and qualitative research to understand Hilokal, a language learning app that bridges the gap between formal instruction and real-life language use. The app offers interactive games, real audio recordings, and movies to expose learners to native speakers' speech patterns, addressing barriers to building speaking skills. However, Hilokal has two main drawbacks: less popularity and usability compared to popular platforms like Duolingo, and may not be suitable for young learners due to its focus on active conversation. To compete, Hilokal needs to invest in targeted marketing, optimize its user interface, collaborate with language educators, and create an age-appropriate version for young learners.

Keyword: Hilokal, Lamage, English, Speaking, Technology, Communication

Introduction

Without language, humans are ready to live without communication because language is a human communication tool to convey information, ideas, and thoughts, even describing one's personality or background explicitly and implicitly in most aspects of human life such as economy, education, politics, culture, and many more (Cahyaningrum, 2021; Rabiah, 2018; Wijaya & Nasution, 2018). Therefore, language is one of the most massive things spreading around the world. Almost everyone is competing to be able to speak more than one language with the same ability as native speakers, especially the main focus here is English as a lingua franca that dominates most things (Lauer, 2021).

However, the personality and culture of native speakers, which actually have to be imitated consciously or unconsciously in the language learning process (Forrest, 2022), make most learners find it difficult. Lauer (2021) then asserts that people cannot utilize intellectual power if they cannot use English. Given this phenomenon, language, particularly English, is recognized as an essential component of human life. This means that English learners should be able to acquire and know the authentic pronunciation, accent, intonation, rhythm, and expression of their native language (Khusna & Indriani, 2021; Sayogie & Adbaka, 2022).

Speaking ability is an important aspect of language development and an essential component of communication. Fluency in a second language is increasingly important in today's globalized world, and language learners are always looking for practical tactics to improve their speaking ability. Language

acquisition is a complex process that involves the integration of various language factors such as vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation taking into account context and cultural variations. (Augereau, Fujiyoshi, and Kise 2016). This process requires consistent practice, exposure to native speakers, and engaging language learning resources. In recent years, technological innovations have created new opportunities for language learners to improve their skills through interactive and inventive apps. Hilokal language learning apps are one such promising technology.

Hilokal is one of the popular renewable apps reviewed by many online language teachers through social media, not academic research. Therefore, this study can provide novelty and contribution for researchers or readers interested in this topic, for teachers/tutors, and learners about alternative language learning apps - it can even provide useful insights for developers of language learning apps.

Hilokal Application

There has been an exponential increase of language learning applications catering to a wide spectrum of learners in recent years. These apps provide learners with the flexibility, accessibility, and tailored learning experiences they need to master language skills at their own pace and convenience. Hilokal, for example, has grown in popularity as a result of its user-friendly layout and extensive content offers. With the growth of language learning applications, it is critical to determine their actual impact on learners' speaking abilities in order to guarantee that learners engage their time and effort in tools that produce tangible outcomes (Rao, P 2019).

Hilokal has used technology to create an immersive language learning experience that blurs the line between formal instruction and real-life language use. The app provides a wide array of language learning materials, ranging from interactive games that aid vocabulary retention to real audio recordings and movies that expose learners to native speakers' speech patterns. Hilokal attempts to solve the main barriers experienced by language learners in building their speaking skills by integrating

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these elements: limited exposure to actual language use and lack of opportunities for meaningful practice.

this study will provide valuable insights into the role of technology in language education and contribute to the broader discourse on effective language learning strategies in a technological environment.

Speaking Skill

Speaking is one of the skills that facilitates good communication in every language besides the receptive skill called listening. Rao (2019) clarifies this division, listening is defined as a receptive skill because the production or performance of talent is not shown visually. Speaking itself is the ability to produce something orally, not only regarding language knowledge but also related to processing the information to be conveyed. Supported by Brown & Yule (1983) that speaking is used in almost every real life situation. That is why speaking skills are a challenge and very important because several aspects of life and culture must be mastered in order to be able to speak with native speakers of the target language. This requires more attention. Not only is it difficult to obtain, but speaking is also difficult to observe in assessment procedures because it relies on the listening skills of the interlocutor or test taker (Brown, 2004). Additionally, Brown (2004) highlighted five important subskills for assessing speaking grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and pronunciation. There are several types of speaking that are suitable for learners at various levels, such as unitive speaking with parrot back movements, intensive speaking with simple results or responses to simple sentences, responsive speaking is a short form of conversation, interactive speaking has a longer form of conversation. conversations that are interpersonal or transactional in nature, then the last one is an extensive conversation or monologue for a long speech that requires the speaker to have a lot of knowledge in order to be able to pronounce it fluently. Therefore, a person cannot achieve fluency until they can produce language in spoken communication as described by speaking.

Method

This research takes the form of a literature review using George's (2008) library research theory, which is defined as research that collects data and information needed by researchers through books, articles, documents, and even virtual resources. Apart from that, it can also be included in qualitative research where this research uses descriptive methods. According to Fadli (2021), qualitative seeks real conditions in a particular setting for the reason of investigating and understanding the phenomenon before describing it with a description of the analysis carried out. Due to the large number of new applications being searched for and the lack of information spread through documents or articles, researchers used descriptions from the main source of the application itself, available journal articles, and application reviews from various media. In short, the procedure in this research is only from observing the implementation by trying it, planning what the researcher can investigate, and collecting data - following the application theory based on the objectives of this research - grouping and grouping the data. into a particular theme, and presents it with a description. In addition, in order for this research to be valid in the data collection process, researchers tried to contact Hilokal staff to complete the data.

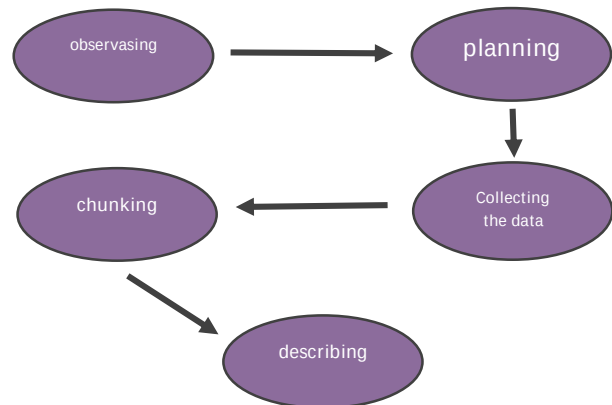


Fig 1. Research Framework

Results and Discussion

Finding

The study's findings show that the Hilokal application has a number of advantages in terms of boosting its users' speaking ability. The application's use in a language program for college students yielded several significant outcomes, highlighting Hilokal's favorable impact on speaking skill development.

Advantages of Hilokal Application

For starters, using the Hilokal program provided students with a vibrant and interesting environment in which to hone their public speaking skills. Voice recording, pronunciation practice, and real-time feedback were all included in the app, allowing students to actively participate in speaking activities. This interaction generated a lively learning environment, allowing students to overcome their reservations and participate in critical discussions.

Secondly, The Hilokal app enabled self-paced learning and personalized training. Students could use the app whenever they wished, giving them the opportunity to practice speaking outside of the classroom. This adaptability not only encouraged independent learning but also allowed pupils to focus on specific areas of development that were adapted to their specific needs. The customized nature of the program allowed students to take ownership of their learning path and strive for their own language goals.

Thirdly, The Hilokal app proved to be a valuable resource for providing timely and accurate feedback. The real-time feedback application gave students immediate feedback on their pronunciation, intonation, and fluency, allowing them to pinpoint areas for improvement. This rapid feedback was crucial in assisting students in improving their speaking skills since it allowed them to address specific language issues and make necessary changes rapidly.

In addition, the Hilokal app encouraged collaborative learning and peer interaction. Using the platform, students could engage in group discussions, role plays, and interactive exercises with their peers. These collaborative exercises not only improved their speaking skills but also contributed to the creation of a welcoming learning atmosphere. Students were able to learn from one another's experiences, discuss ideas, and offer constructive feedback, resulting in a collaborative and engaging language development environment.

According to the findings of the study, the Hilokal application boosted students' confidence in speaking English. Students reported increased confidence in expressing themselves in English as a result of frequent practice and exposure to a variety of speaking assignments. The encouraging and non-threatening nature of the application allowed students to progressively develop their speaking skills, leading to a sense of success and confidence in their abilities.

Overall, the findings of this study strongly imply that the Hilokal program can help college students improve their speaking skills. Its interactive aspects, self-paced learning.

immediate feedback, collaborative opportunities, and confidence-building characteristics all help its users enhance their speaking skills. The application not only serves as an important supplement to language programs, but it also motivates students to participate actively in their language learning journey.

While the findings of this study demonstrate the effectiveness of the Hilokal application, it is crucial to assess the limitations and possible research issues. Future research could examine into the application's long-term impact on speaking skill development, as well as its effectiveness, at different levels of proficiency and in contrast to other language learning tools. Nonetheless, the current findings suggest that technology-enhanced learning platforms such as Hilokal have the potential to support the development of speaking abilities among students.

Disadvantages of Hilokal Application

While the Hilokal program has various benefits for language learners, it is important to recognize some drawbacks that may impair its overall effectiveness and appeal to specific user groups. Two major shortcomings of Hilokal have been uncovered through data analysis and insights from language experts:

Less Popularity and Usability In comparison to Duolingo:

One significant drawback of the Hilokal app is that, despite its advantages, it has not gained the same level of popularity and user base as other language learning apps such as Duolingo. Duolingo is widely considered to be one of the most popular language learning systems in the world, with millions active users. This disparity in popularity could be caused by several things. According to linguists, the popularity of language learning apps is often determined by factors such as marketing methods, user interface design, and the app's reputation in the language learning community (Saeed Al-Sobhi and Preece 2018). Duolingo's significant marketing initiatives and early entry into the market have contributed to its widespread popularity. Additionally, Duolingo's gamification methodology and user interface make it a popular choice for many language learners.

Hilokal must invest in focused marketing efforts, collaborate with language educators, and continually improve its user interface based on user feedback to be able to compete with established language learning platforms like Duolingo. Hilokal can increase its visibility and attract more language learners by concentrating on these factors.

Limited Suitability for Young Language Learners:

Another drawback of the Hilokal app is that it may not be suitable for children under a certain age. The effectiveness of its implementation depends on active communication and involvement of both parties, which means that students must engage in speaking and listening exercises. Active communication of this magnitude can cause difficulties for young children with poor language skills (Baron 2020).

Linguistic experts underscore the need for age-appropriate language acquisition practices (Anwas et al. 2020). Young children often demand a more dynamic and intensive language learning approach that is appropriate to their developmental stage. Apps with substantial gamification and interactive images tend to be preferred by young learners as they activate their cognitive talents and creativity.

To overcome this deficiency, Hilokal may explore developing a version or mode specifically for young language learners. These versions may have more gamification components, engaging images, and simplified language activities to be appropriate for children under a certain age. This method allows Hilokal to expand its target audience to include language learners of all ages.

In summary, although the Hilokal program has various benefits for language learners, it also has several weaknesses

that require attention and optimization. Data analysis and observations of linguistic experts revealed two main drawbacks: lower popularity and usability compared to well-known language learning platforms such as Duolingo, and limited suitability for young language learners due to its concentration on active conversation.

Hilokal should work to increase its awareness through targeted marketing efforts, optimizing its user interface, and collaborating with language educators to establish itself as a competitive and respected language learning platform to increase its effectiveness and popularity. Additionally, creating an age-appropriate version for young language learners could help Hilokal increase its user base and provide a more comprehensive language learning solution for learners of all ages. Hilokal can continue to grow as a unique and successful language learning tool by addressing these shortcomings and capitalizing on its strengths, helping learners achieve their language proficiency goals in an engaging and immersive way.

Interview Result

The data presented below is the result of in-depth interviews conducted with a sample of student participants. The Hilokal application was found to be user-friendly by all 30 respondents, indicating its ease of use. The application also significantly improved the participants' speaking skills, with ten reporting significant improvement, twelve showing moderate influence, and eight indicating minimal improvement. College students' awareness of the application was 18%, while 12 claimed lack of awareness. These findings offer valuable insights into the application's impact on students' speaking abilities and potential areas for improvement.

Analysis

The Hilokal language learning application has been found to be user-friendly and effective in improving students' speaking skills. All 30 participants agreed that the app was easy to use, allowing them to access a wide range of language learning materials. This user-centric design can be used to create and optimize language learning programs. The impact of Hilokal on students' speaking abilities varied, with some seeing a significant increase, others experiencing a moderate impact, and others experiencing minimal gains. The data highlights the importance of personalization in language learning, allowing educators and developers to create adaptive and tailored experiences. The application was mentioned by 18 out of 30 respondents, indicating that it has gained traction among language learners. The findings can be used to create more effective language learning apps and enhance the overall user experience.

The research shows that 12 students are unaware of Hilokal, highlighting the need for targeted marketing and promotional initiatives. Language learning app developers should collaborate with educational institutions and language departments to promote Hilokal's benefits. Educators can also play a crucial role in promoting the app in classrooms. The study highlights the importance of usability, personalization, and understanding individual learners' needs for adaptable language learning tools. The findings can shape future advancements and make language learning more enjoyable, effective, and accessible for learners worldwide.

Conclusion

Language is essential for communication in various aspects of life, including economy, education, politics, and culture. English is the dominant language, and learners must imitate its pronunciation, accent, intonation, rhythm, and expression. Speaking ability is crucial for language development, and fluency in a second language is increasingly important. Technological innovations like Hilokal offer interactive apps that blur the line between formal instruction and real-life language use. Speaking skills are difficult to obtain and observe in assessment procedures.

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