

Busuu Application: Does It Improve Students' Listening Skills in Junior High School?

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Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a rise in online learning facilities in Indonesia, with mobile devices becoming essential for students to learn English. The Busuu Application, designed to improve English listening skills, offers interactive lessons, vocabulary exercises, and listening exercises. It provides formative and summative tests for vocabulary, grammar, reading, and listening, with multiple-choice and dictation examinations for reliability. Busuu integrates the target language with relevant topics and subjects, allowing users to choose topics based on their learning goals. The research aims to explore the influence of the Busuu Application on improving students' listening skills in teaching and learning activities in the classroom, as the scope of English language competency under the 2013 Curriculum for English subjects in MTs grade VIII B includes language action competencies.

Research Problem

Is there any effect of using the Busuu application on improving students' listening skills in teaching and learning activities in the classroom?

Method

This study employed a one-group pre-experimental quantitative approach with a pre-test and post-test design to investigate the effectiveness of a listening test administered using the Busuu application. The research involved 18 students from class VIII B at MTs Anwarul Maliki Sukorejo, selected for its suitability and ease of accessing data. The researchers used the saturation sampling technique, which involves the entire population or all elements within a population, without random sampling. The pre-test and post-test were assessed manually, with a weight per question of 20. The validation involved collecting pre-test data from the observed sample, administering an intervention, and collecting post-test data to ensure consistency. Data analysis was conducted using the T-test, with paired T-tests used. The findings were compared to see if the treatment might increase students' learning and listening skills. The study aimed to identify changes or differences between the pre-test and post-test results.

Result

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Pre-Test Post-Test	-30.00000	23.63945	5.57187	-41.75562	-18.24438	-5.384	17	.000

The study focuses on eighth-grade students' listening skills using the Busuu program. The study involves three stages: pre-test, treatment, and post-test. The pre-test and post-test assessments show an average difference in pre-test and post-test scores before and after treatment. The correlation between pre-test and post-test scores is 0.439, indicating a strong positive relationship. The paired sample correlation table shows a statistical value of 5.384, indicating a substantial rise in listening skills. The significance value (2-tailed) is 0.000, which is smaller than alpha 0.05. The study rejects the null hypothesis (H0) and accepts the alternative hypothesis (H1), indicating a significant difference in listening skills between pre-test and post-test scores. This indicates that there is a significant improvement in students' English listening skills before and after treatment with the Busuu application.

Discussion

The Busuu application has been found to significantly improve students' English listening skills, as demonstrated by the significant difference in listening skills between pre-test and post-test results. The application's interactive nature allows students to listen anytime and anywhere, providing flexibility and a comfortable learning environment. However, other factors can also influence students' listening skills. Some students had difficulty listening to English before the treatment, but after using the Busuu app, they were enthusiastic and eager to complete their learning. The app provides a fun, interesting, and useful learning experience, with easy-to-use and aesthetic appearance, navigation, and design.

Busuu's success in improving English listening skills is linked to students' motivation and consistent use. Teachers' support and guidance are crucial for successful implementation. Other factors like speakers, tasks, and environment also influence listening skills. Busuu's audio material enhances students' understanding of English accents and intonations. Further research is needed to identify factors influencing learning outcomes and longitudinal studies to understand the long-term effects of Busuu in English language learning.

Findings of the Research

Busuu, an application for improving English listening skills among junior high students, has shown significant improvement in listening skills. The study, focusing on VIII B students at MTs Anwarul Maliki, found that the application not only enhances listening skills but also promotes confidence, comfort, and increased concentration levels. The application's interactive aspect and pleasant learning environment make it an ideal tool for students in the digital age, fostering confidence, concentration, and a positive attitude towards learning.

Research Benefits

Shows that the Busuu app can be used as an effective learning tool to improve junior high school students' listening skills. However, it should be noted that the effectiveness of using this app may vary depending on the specific context and conditions of each student and class. So it can be a reference for further research

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