

# The Use of U-Dicitionary to Improve Students' English Pronunciation in Narrative Story

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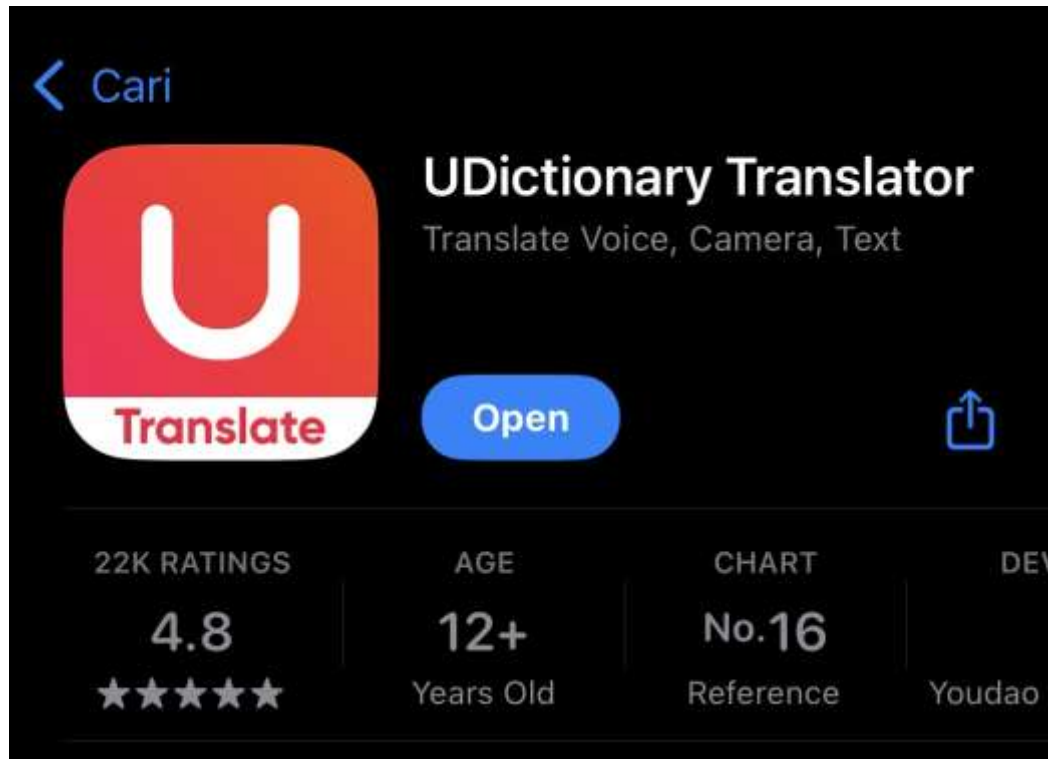
# Introduction

## Background of The Study

English pronunciation is still a challenge for students in Indonesia due to the difference in sound with their mother tongue and the lack of exposure from native speakers. Observations of 9th grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Tanggulangin showed that many students still had difficulty pronouncing English words and often pronounced them according to spelling. The U-Dictionary application has audio features and phonetic guides that can help students learn independently. However, there are not many studies that discuss the effectiveness of this application in learning pronunciation, especially on narrative story. Therefore, this study was conducted to answer this need.

# Introduction

- Media



# Research Gap

## Data collection Gap

Previous Research	This Research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The research conducted by Rahma and Mubarak (2021) used frozen cartoon films to improve the students' pronunciation ability.</li><li>• The research conducted by Wandu and Kareviati (2023) used English movie to improve students' pronunciation skills.</li><li>• The research conducted by Sultan and Tirtayasa (2024) used U-Dictionary application to improve student vocabulary.</li></ul>	<p>This research focuses on the use of U-Dictionary app as a tool to improve students' English pronunciation especially in the context of narrative story learning.</p>

# Research Question and Objective

- **Research Question**

Is there a significant effect of using U-Dictionary towards students' pronunciation?

- **Research Objective**

To examine the significant effect of using U-Dictionary on students' English pronunciation in narrative story learning.

# Methods

- **Design**

Using quantitative methods of pre-experimental design with one group pretest-posttest.

- **Participants**

24 ninth-grade students (SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Tanggulangin).

- **Instruments:**

1. Pre-Test (read a narrative story in the form of fable)
2. Treatment (using U-Dictionary to practice pronunciation with narrative story)
3. Post-Test (read a narrative story in the form of folktale)

- **Assessment**

Scoring was done based on a scale of 1-5 (Brown, 2004), then the number of words and sentences spoken correctly was multiplied by 5 to obtain a final score out of a total of 100.

- **Data Analysis**

Using paired sample t-test with SPSS version 22.

# Results

		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	-8.125	18.928	3.864	-16.118	-.132	-2.103	23	.047

- Pre-test: 50.00 | Post-test: 58.13  
→ The average score increased after treatment.
- The paired sample t-test using SPSS 22 showed a significance value of 0.047, which is lower than the commonly accepted significance level of 0.05. This indicates a statistically significant difference between students' pronunciation scores before and after using the U-Dictionary application. Therefore, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis ( $H_a$ ) is accepted. These results confirm that U-Dictionary had a positive and significant effect on students' English pronunciation in narrative story learning.

# Discussion

## Discussion

- These results are in line with TELL (Technology-Enhanced Language Learning) theory.
- Audio features and phonetic transcription make it easy for students to practice independently anywhere.
- U-Dictionary is more interactive than traditional methods.



# Conclusion

- **Conclusion**

Based on the results of data analysis, it can be concluded that the use of U-Dictionary app has a significant effect on improving students' pronunciation skills.

- **Recommendations**

1. Teachers are advised to use U-Dictionary as an additional media to teach pronunciation.
2. Students can practice pronunciation independently using the audio and phonetic features.
3. Future researchers can examine U-Dictionary for other skills such as listening and speaking.

# Documentation

