

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Education is essentially one of the necessities in human life, because education can improve the quality of human resources in order to achieve an advanced and prosperous life. As stated in Law No. 20 of 2003 article 1 paragraph 1 concerning the National Education System, namely education is a conscious and regulated effort to create a learning environment and educational experience with the intention that students can effectively increase their ability to have knowledge in religion, calm, strength, noble character, and other abilities without help from other people, society, nation and state. Technological improvements are currently growing and have provide many benefits to humans. An example of the development of technology in the field of communication is Smartphone.¹

Currently, social media is an active tool used for teaching and learning purposes², especially in the world of education during a pandemic as it is today. In online-based learning, it automatically requires media as a means of teaching and learning. Teachers must use interesting media so that students will be interested in the learning process in the classroom.

¹ Yolandha Saviraningsih, "*Pengembangan media pembelajaran dasar elektronika berbasis android*", (Unpublished Thesis, Universitas Tirtayasa Serang, 2022)

² The University of Arizona Global Campus (<https://www.uagc.edu/blog/using-social-media-as-a-learning-tool>)

Online media, such as Duolingo which teaches five elements in the learning process speaking, reading, writing, listening and also Pronunciation. Media like this should be seen as a very important educational technology. One of the advantages of using the internet is to promote active learning where students are not passive recipients of knowledge. In this era of pandemic learning is not only through books. but it can also be via the internet like this Duolingo web.

Pronunciation is one of the most important skills in EFL classes. Because mispronunciation can change the meaning of a word, knowing how to articulate and state a sound or phrase in English is critical. Researchers, teachers, and students learning English as a second language or as a foreign language are focusing more on pronunciation, as well as other abilities like spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and other fundamental skills. Pronunciation instruction is essential in EFL/ESL classes.³

One of the most important requirements for language proficiency is that learners understand how to pronounce the language. One of the most important requirements for language proficiency is pronunciation be understood by the language students. In order to increase their efficiency when teaching pronunciation, EFL/ESL instructors are thought to need to be prepared with a variety of subjects and materials. Pronunciation is the

process of speaking a language or sound. Good pronunciation is required to make the speaker talk more fluently and easily understood. Students are expected to be able to pronounce text or language with proper pronunciation in the context of the language. Non-native pupils, on the other hand, typically have difficulties pronouncing English because it is not their first or second language. To overcome the major challenge of second language pronunciation, they must get adjusted to shifting the conceptual patterns of their first language that they have had since childhood.⁴

Many students improve their pronunciation skills by using phonetic transcription found in dictionaries, yet this method is ineffective since pupils do not know how to interpret the phonetic transcription. One of the characteristics of speaking ability is pronunciation. Students, particularly those from Indonesia, face difficulties with pronunciation because English is not their first language. Pronunciation is concerned with appropriately producing a word's utterance as it is often used and as a word or language is typically spoken.⁵

⁴ Abbas Gilakjani, Seyedeh Ahmadi, and Mohammad Ahmadi, 'Why Is Pronunciation So Difficult to Learn?', *English Language Teaching*, 4.3 (2011), 74–83 <<https://doi.org/10.5539/elt.v4n3p74>>.

⁵ Suci Maharani, 'The Effectiveness of Audio-Visual Aids', February, 2017, 96–102.

According to Harmer, there are problems in pronunciations, they are:

1) what student hear, 2) what student can say and 3) intonation problem.⁶

Based on the study conducted by the researcher at five grade students as SDN IV Cilegon, the problem that students faced was their lack of attention to the lesson, which affected their pronunciation, as they had difficulty pronouncing English words and were still confused to read with a good pronunciation. After learning about the students' difficulties with pronunciation, the researcher should assist them in resolving their issues.

Using an effective strategy in teaching and studying English is one way to assist students. There are numerous approaches and techniques for efficiently teaching English. In the Duolingo application is one of the alternate ways that can be used. As a result, it is predicted that by employing this strategy, students will be able to pay greater attention to the lesson and will not become bored as readily in any language classroom.

B. Identification of the problem

Based on the background and problem identification above:

1. The students' lack of attention to lessons that affect their pronunciation, as they have difficulty saying English words.
2. The students are still confused to read with good pronunciation.

⁶ Harmer, J. *The Practice of English Language Teaching, Fourth Edition*. (Harlow: Pearson Longman, 2007)

C. Statement of the problem

Based on the background of the study above the statement of the problem is:

1. How is students pronunciation before the implementation of using Duolingo Application ?
2. How is the effectiveness of Duolingo Application in improving students' English pronunciation at SDN IV Cilegon?

D. The aims of the Study

The objective of the study is to know whether the Duolingo application effective to improve students' English pronunciation at The Five grade of SDN Cilegon IV.

E. Significances of research

From the results of research and development of this product, it is hoped that it can provide benefits for several parties involved, including:

1. For Researchers

The results of this study are expected to provide experience or add broad knowledge and insights for researchers for the upcoming learning process.

2. For Users

The results of this study are expected to add variations to the learning media in the English learning process using the duolingo application.

3. For other researchers

The results of this study are expected to provide information about the application learning media called duolingo in English for young students and can provide other references in a more relaxed, unsaturated, and more enjoyable way of learning and is very suitable for online learning in the millennial era.

4. For Institutions

The results of this study are expected to be used as a reference for increasing the number of new learning media that can be used in teaching and learning activities so as to improve the quality of school education.

F. Organization of The Paper

The organization of the paper are as follows:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

In the first chapter, the section contains background of the research, identification of the problems, statement of the problems, The aims of the Study, significance of the research, and organization of paper.

CHAPTER II: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In the second chapter, the section contains theoretical studies that will discuss the exposure of theories, relationships between variables and hypotheses related to the research that will be done, namely explaining pronunciation, and Duolingo Application.

CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHOD

In the third chapter, the research methods section will explain about the research methodology used based on the main problem point to achieve the desired results and goals. In this chapter researchers will elaborate on the place and time of research, research methods, data collection instrument, data collection techniques, data analysis techniques, population and sample.

CHAPTER IV: RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the fourth chapter, the discussion section of research results that will explain the findings of the research that has been done and the results of analysis of data processing that has been done include research location, data description, data analysis, discussion and interpretation.

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In the fifth chapter, the results and recommendations this section covers the findings of study based on the analysis of data that was processed and discussed in the preceding section, as well as recommendations for future research.