

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF USING DUOLINGO APPLICATION AS A MEDIA IN LEARNING VOCABULARY

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ABSTRAK

Pada abad ke-21, proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran berkaitan erat dengan penggunaan gamifikasi. Banyak guru bahasa Inggris menggunakan gamifikasi sebagai media untuk membantu mereka dalam mengajar. Bagi guru, penggunaan gamifikasi dalam proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran dapat membuat siswa bersenang-senang dan belajar yang menarik. Untuk beberapa siswa, gamification mungkin bermanfaat bagi mereka dalam mempelajari bahasa Inggris. Oleh karena itu, peneliti ingin mengetahui persepsi siswa atas penggunaan aplikasi Duolingo sebagai media pembelajaran kosakata. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan kuesioner dan wawancara untuk mengetahui persepsi siswa. Penelitian ini dilakukan di satu SMP di Bogor. Peserta 30 siswa dari kelas dua memberikan persepsi positif tentang aplikasi Duolingo. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar siswa lebih suka belajar kosakata bahasa Inggris menggunakan aplikasi Duolingo sebagai media. Ada beberapa keuntungan yang dapat diambil dari penggunaan aplikasi Duolingo sebagai media belajar kosakata bahasa Inggris, seperti mereka mudah untuk memahami materi, mereka lebih bersemangat dan termotivasi dalam belajar kosakata bahasa Inggris, Duolingo dapat menghilangkan kebosanan dalam belajar dan juga mendorong mereka dari ide baru dalam belajar.

Kata kunci: Kosakata, belajar kosakata, aplikasi Duolingo

ABSTRACT

In the 21st century, the process of teaching and learning is closely related to the use of gamification. Many English teachers are using gamification as a media to help them in teaching. For the teacher, the use of gamification in teaching and learning process can make the students have fun and interesting learning. For some students, the gamification might be helpful for them in learning English. Therefore, the researcher wants to find out students' perceptions of using Duolingo application as a media in learning vocabulary. In this research, the researcher used questionnaire and interview to find out students' perceptions. This research was conducted in one junior high school in Bogor. The participants are 30 students from the second grade give positive perceptions about Duolingo application. The result of this research shows that most of students preferred learning English vocabulary using Duolingo application as a media. There are some advantages that can be taken from the use of Duolingo application as a media in learning English vocabulary, such as they are easy to understand the material, they were more excited and motivated in learning English vocabulary, Duolingo can eliminate boredom in learning and also encourage them of new idea in learning.

Keywords: Vocabulary, learning vocabulary, duolingo application

INTRODUCTION

The teaching and learning of English vocabulary has a very essential role in enabling Indonesian students to master English as their foreign language. English vocabulary mastery, in fact has become a big problem for most Indonesian students. If one does not have sufficient number of vocabulary, he will not be able to communicate with his surroundings. However, improving fluency in vocabulary is not easy. It was found that there were

many students who had very limited mastery of vocabulary. The teacher must select suitable method that can encourage students to develop their vocabulary. This is line with Larsen and Freeman (2002), the teacher should be already have a suitable method for it; provide the media, teaching technique, and strategy because they want their students to be able to use the target language communicatively. The concept of learning in this era has been related to the rapid development of technology, the emerging

and developing of technology and its application to teaching comes into full play in education (Jaelani, 2020). In order, to engage students' interest in learning vocabulary, many English teachers develop the teaching method using technology and media which have been common in this era such as using duolingo application, because duolingo is one of media that can be used in learning vocabulary.

As described in duolingo for school guide book (2016), duolingo is the world's largest online language learning platform. To ease the process of learning English language, the English learners who want to learn English with practical and fun applications might use Duolingo to practice English.

The researcher saw the students interested in using this application in learning. Therefore, the researcher wants to find out the students' perceptions of the use of duolingo application and selects this topic about "Students' Perceptions of Using Duolingo Application as a Media in Learning Vocabulary".

LITERATURE REVIEW

Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of the language aspects which should be learn. Learning vocabulary is important because people can speak, write, listen, moreover, people have to know vocabulary first. It means that in learning vocabulary, people need to know and understand the meaning of vocabulary and how to use vocabulary in context. According to Richard and Renandya (2002) vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis of how well learners speak, listen, read, and write.

Teaching Vocabulary

According to Thornbury (2002) teaching words are a fundamental aspect of learning a language as languages based on words. It means teaching vocabulary is the first activity that has to do by the teachers before the teachers teach the students four language skills in English language learning; speaking, writing, reading, and listening. By knowing more vocabulary, students will be easy to learn that four language skills.

Media

According to Danesi (2009) "media is the various forms, devices, and systems that make up mass communications considered

as a whole, including newspapers, magazines, radio stations, television channels, and website".

Gamification

The concept of Gamification is basically new, and according to Reiners and Wood (2015) "Gamification is a word that has become synonymous with rewards. Most gamification systems focus on adding points, levels, leaderboards, achievements, or badges to a realworld setting in order to entice people to engage with the real world to earn these rewards.

Duolingo

Duolingo is a free language-learning application. According to Duolingo for school guide book (2016) "Duolingo is the world's largest online language learning platform. We use science and adaptive learning techniques to make the language learning experience more fun and effective, and we're completely free. Our apps were recognized as Apple's iPhone App of the Year of 2013 as well as Google Play's Best of the Best of 2013 and 2014."

METHOD

This research used qualitative research design. To complete this research, the researcher adopted case study method. The participants of this study were the second year students in one junior high school in Bogor. 30 students were invited to be the participants of this research. The instrument used for gathering information were the questionnaire and interview. The questionnaires were in closed-ended item questions form. Specifically, the questionnaires are to find out the students' perception of using duolingo application as a media in learning vocabulary. The data were submitted through five alternative point of Likert Scale questionnaires survey. The five alternative points were *Strongly Disagree*, *Disagree*, *Neutral*, *Agree*, and *Strongly Agree*. The questionnaire consist of seventeen questions, 1-5 about The effective tool for learning vocabulary, 6-9 are about the disadvantages of Duolingo, 10-11 are about students' interest, 12-15 are about the advantages of Duolingo and 16-17 about students' motivation. Furthermore, the interview in order to get more informations from the students about the students'

perception of using duolingo application as a media in learning vocabulary.

Data Analysis

After collecting data from the participants, they were analyzed and changed into descriptive data. The questionnaire items with the related content were grouped together and percentage was calculated for them. Then, the data from the questionnaire were triangulated from the interview data.

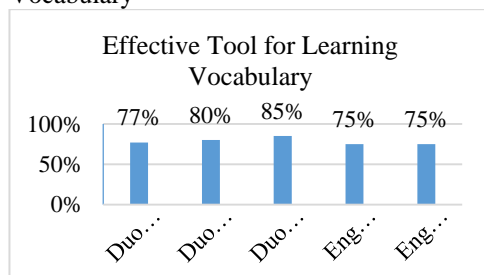
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of the study will be explained in this chapter. There are five aspects of students' perceptions of using Duolingo application as a media in learning vocabulary such as effective tool for learning vocabulary, students' interest on duolingo application in learning vocabulary, students' motivation on learning vocabulary, the advantages of Duolingo, and the disadvantages of Duolingo as described below.

1. Effective Tool for Learning Vocabulary

In this part there were five statements. The result of the data would be described below.

Chart 1. Effective Tool for Learning Vocabulary



Based on the chart above, the participants agreed that Duolingo as an effective tool for providing vocabulary in learning English. As it was indicated by the questionnaire result which mentioned that 77% of the participants said agreed to the first statement above that Duolingo was easy to use in learning English. In the statement number 2, 80% the participants agreed that Duolingo was easy to use in learning English vocabulary. In the statement number 3, showed 85% the students agreed that Duolingo can be accessed anywhere and anytime to learn English. Another statement was number 4, 75% the participants agreed that English vocabulary questions in

duolingo were interesting. Furthermore, in the statement number 5 showed that 75% the participants agreed that English vocabulary questions in Duolingo were easy to understand. It means that the students' perceptions were positive. The questionnaire result above were also supported by statements from interview result:

"Yes, because this duolingo application can be used anywhere and anytime, so I easily understanding and learning English vocabulary."

"Iya, karena aplikasi duolingo ini bisa di gunakan di manapun dan kapanpun, jadi saya mudah dalam memahami dan mempelajari kosakata bahasa inggris." P2

"Yes, because English vocabulary material in Duolingo is easy to understand."

"Iya, karena soal-soal kosakata bahasa inggris di dalam duolingo mudah di mengerti." P5

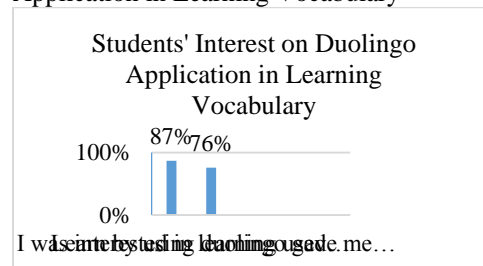
*P = Participant

From the interview result above, the students said that Duolingo as an effective tool for providing vocabulary in learning English, and from five out of five participants agree that duolingo helped them to understand English vocabulary material.

2. Students' Interest on Duolingo Application in Learning Vocabulary

In this part there were two statements. The result of the data would be described below.

Chart 2. Students' Interest on Duolingo Application in Learning Vocabulary



As can be seen above, the students agreed that learning English by using Duolingo application was interested. The result of the statement number 10, showed that 87% participants agreed that they were interested in learning by using duolingo because made them easier for understand the meaning of English vocabulary well. Another statement is number 11, 76% participants agreed that learning by using

duolingo gives them opportunity to be more active in learning. It means that the students' perceptions were positive.

The questionnaire result above were also supported by statements from interview result:

"Yes, because duolingo application can improve my English, before I could not, now I became able."

"Iya, karena aplikasi duolingo ini bisa meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa inggris saya yang tadinya tidak bisa menjadi bisa."

P2

"Yes, because duolingo application helped me to speak English regularly."

"Iya, karena aplikasi duolingo ini membantu saya terbiasa berbicara bahasa inggris."

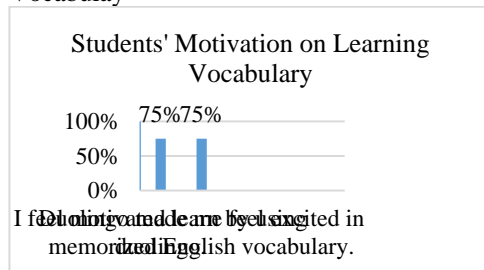
P3

*P = Participant

From the result above, the students said that learning English by using Duolingo application was interested, and from five out of five participants agreed that learned by using duolingo gave them opportunity to be more active in learning.

3. Students' Motivation on Learning Vocabulary

In this part there were two statements. The result of the data would be described below. Chart 3. Students' Motivation on Learning Vocabulary



As can be seen above, the students agreed that duolingo can motivated them in learning English. The result of the statement number 16, showed 75% students agreed that they feel motivated learn by using duolingo. The result of the statement number 17, showed that 75% students agreed that duolingo made them feel excited in memorized English vocabulary. It means that students' perceptions were positive.

The questionnaire result above were also supported by statements from interview result:

"Yes, because my desire to learn English was increasing because of duolingo application."

"Iya, karena keinginan saya belajar bahasa inggris menjadi lebih meningkat karena adanya aplikasi duolingo."

P3

"Yes, because this application was fun and did not saturate me."

"Iya, karena aplikasi ini menyenangkan dan tidak membuat saya jenuh."

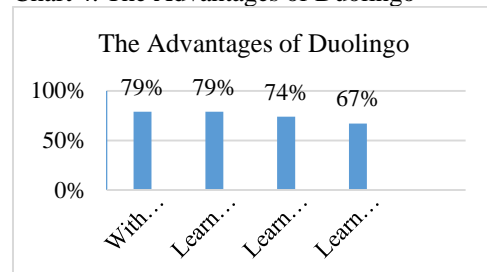
P5

*P = Participant

From the result above, the students said that duolingo could motivate them in learning English, and from five out of five participants agreed that after used duolingo application, they became more excited and motivated to learn English vocabulary.

4. The Advantages of Duolingo

In this part there were four statements. The result of the data would be described below. Chart 4. The Advantages of Duolingo



As can be seen above, the students agreed that duolingo can motivated them in learning English. The result of the statement number 16, showed 75% students agreed that they feel more motivated to learn by using duolingo. The result of the statement number 17, showed that 75% students agreed that duolingo made them more excited in memorizing English vocabulary. It means that students' perceptions were positive.

The questionnaire result above were also supported by statements from interview result:

"Yes, because duolingo helped me improved my English."

"Iya, karena duolingo membantu saya memperlancar bahasa inggris saya."

P1

"Yes, because this application helped me added little by little my vocabulary."

"Iya, karena aplikasi ini membantu saya menambah sedikit demi sedikit kosakata saya." P5

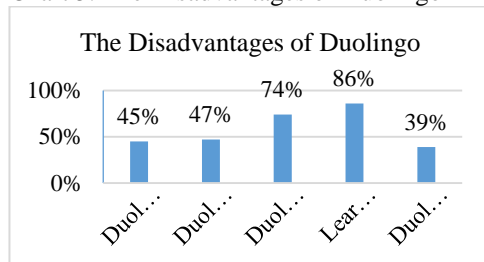
*P = Participant

From the result above, the students said that duolingo has the advantages for learning English, and five out of five participants agreed that learn using duolingo allowed them to apply their English skill in their daily life.

5. The Disadvantages of Duolingo

In this part there were four statements. The result of the data would be described below.

Chart 5. The Disadvantages of Duolingo



From the chart above, the participants disagreed on most of the statements of the weaknesses of Duolingo but in one statement most of the participants agreed. As it was indicated by the questionnaire result which mentioned that 45% of the participants disagreed to the statement number 6 above that Duolingo was boring in English learning. It means that Dulingo application was not boring. In the statement number 7, 47% of them disagreed that Duolingo was less useful for learning in the class. It means that this application was useful for learning in the class. Statement number 8 was slightly different from another statement that 86% participants strongly agreed for this statement that Duolingo was difficult to use if there was no internet connection. It means that the students have difficulty and cannot learn by using duolingo if there was no internet connection. In the statement number 9, 39% the students disagreed that Duolingo made them difficult in learning English vocabulary. It means that duolingo did not make them difficult in learning English vocabulary. The result of all statements showed that the students'

perceptions were positive in some statements and negative in one statement.

The questionnaire result above were also supported by statements from interview result:

"No, duolingo was useful for me because this application helped me to know my mistake when I learned vocabulary."

"Tidak, duolingo bermanfaat untuk saya karena aplikasi ini membantu saya mengetahui kesalahan saya ketika belajar kosakata." P2

"Yes, duolingo application is difficult to use if there is no internet connection."

"Iya, aplikasi duolingo sulit digunakan jika tidak ada koneksi internet." P3

*P = Participant

From the result above, the students said that the weaknesses of duolingo has negative and positive effect for them in learning English vocabulary, and from five out of five participants disagreed and the other one agreed that duolingo was difficult to use and less useful for learning in the classroom.

DISCUSSION

1. Effective Tool for Learning Vocabulary

From the result, the researcher found some perceptions in mediating of Duolingo as an effective tool to providing vocabulary in learning English. The participants have a perception that they felt Duolingo was easy to use in learning English and it can be used anywhere and anytime, so they easily understanding and learning English vocabulary. This perception was supported by Muddin (2018) stated that Duolingo can be accessed anywhere and everywhere, so teachers are not difficult to implement it in indoor learning or outdoor learning.

2. Students' Interest on Duolingo Application in Learning Vocabulary

From the result, the researcher found some perception from the participants that they feel interested in learning by using duolingo because it was easy to use and give them opportunity to be more active in learning English vocabulary. This perception was supported by Wijaya, Yufriзал, & Kadaryanto (2015) showed that the students

felt more enjoy and more interesting with the game, they were more active than before after using Duolingo.

3. *Students' Motivation on Learning Vocabulary*

From the result, the researcher found from five out of five participants have a perception that they felt duolingo made them excited and motivated during learning process. This perception was supported by Munday (2015) stated that Duolingo incorporates some gamification aspect in learning with, it can motivate and engage learners in learning with duolingo.

4. *The Advantages of Duolingo*

From the result, the researcher found the perception from the participants that they felt positive in using Duolingo because they can learnt English vocabulary using the application at home easily, so it made them better in understanding the material. This perception was supported by Muddin (2018) argued that Duolingo can create a homework so besides learning in classroom, Duolingo also can support to make students practice to improve their vocabulary with Duolingo at their home.

5. *The Disadvantages of Duolingo*

From the result, the researcher found some perceptions from the participants that they felt positive in using Duolingo in learning process. furthermore, the researcher found some perceptions that most of them said that they felt Duolingo was difficult to use when there was no internet connection. This perception was supported by Muddin (2018) argued that Duolingo is an online media learning, so it is hard to implement in classroom if there is no internet connection.

CONCLUSION

This research aimed to describe the students' perception of using duolingo application as a media in learning vocabulary. Based on the result and discussions in chapter IV, it can be concluded that Duolingo is one of the effective media in learning vocabulary. It is considerably interesting for students as they showed positive perception toward this media. Duolingo is easy to use in learning English and it can be used anywhere and anytime, so they easily understanding and learning English vocabulary. They feel interested in learning by using duolingo

because it is easy to use and give them opportunity to be more active in learning English vocabulary. Duolingo makes them excited and motivated during learning process. They can learn English vocabulary by using the application at home easily, so it makes them better in understanding the material. The other side, this application still have the weakness as the perceptions showed negative result that most of the participants feels Duolingo is difficult to use when there is no internet connection.

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APPENDICES

Questionnaire

ANGKET UNTUK PESERTA DIDIK TERHADAP PEMBELAJARAN DENGAN MENGUNAKAN DUOLINGO

Nama:

Kelas:

Petunjuk Pengisian

1. Bacalah semua pernyataan dengan teliti dan cermat
2. Pilih satu kriteria yang sesuai dengan pendapat anda, dengan cara memberi tanda (√) pada salah satu kriteria skor.
3. Keterangan kriteria skor:
STS : Sangat Tidak Setuju
TS : Tidak Setuju
BS : Biasa Saja
S : Setuju
SS : Sangat Setuju

No.	Pernyataan	STS	TS	BS	S	SS
1.	Duolingo mudah di gunakan dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris.					
2.	Duolingo mudah digunakan untuk mempelajari kosakata Bahasa Inggris.					
3.	Duolingo bisa di akses dimanapun dan kapanpun untuk mempelajari Bahasa Inggris.					
4.	Soal-soal kosakata Bahasa Inggris dalam Duolingo menarik.					
5.	Soal-soal kosakata Bahasa Inggris dalam Duolingo Mudah dipahami.					
6.	Duolingo dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris membosankan.					
7.	Duolingo kurang bermanfaat untuk belajar di dalam kelas.					
8.	Duolingo sulit di gunakan jika tidak ada koneksi internet.					
9.	Duolingo mempersulit saya dalam mempelajari kosakata Bahasa Inggris.					
10.	Saya tertarik belajar menggunakan Duolingo karena memudahkan saya memahami arti kosakata Bahasa Inggris dengan baik.					
11.	Belajar menggunakan Duolingo memberi kesempatan untuk saya lebih aktif dalam belajar.					
12.	Dengan Duolingo saya dapat mempelajari kosakata Bahasa Inggris di rumah dengan mudah.					
13.	Belajar menggunakan Duolingo membuat saya menghafal kosakata baru.					
14.	Belajar menggunakan Duolingo membuat saya lebih dalam memahami materi pembelajaran.					
15.	Belajar menggunakan Duolingo membuat saya bisa menerapkan keterampilan saya berbahasa inggris dalam kehidupan sehari-hari.					
16.	Saya merasa lebih termotivasi belajar dengan menggunakan Duolingo.					
17.	Duolingo membuat saya lebih bersemangat dalam menghafal kosakata Bahasa Inggris.					

Interview

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

NAMA:

KELAS:

1. *Apakah menurutmu aplikasi Duolingo dapat membantu kamu dalam memahami materi kosakata bahasa inggris? Kenapa?*
2. *Apakah kamu merasa aplikasi Duolingo sulit digunakan atau kurang bermanfaat untuk belajar di dalam kelas? Kenapa?*
3. *Selama proses mempelajari kosakata Bahasa Inggris, apakah aplikasi Duolingo cukup membantu kamu untuk lebih aktif dalam belajar? Kenapa?*
4. *Setelah menggunakan aplikasi Duolingo, apakah kamu bisa menerapkan keterampilan berbahasa Inggris kamu dalam kehidupan sehari-hari? Kenapa?*
5. *Setelah menggunakan aplikasi duolingo, apakah kamu menjadi lebih bersemangat dan termotivasi untuk mempelajari kosakata Bahasa Inggris? Kenapa?*