PRONUNCIATION MADE EASY: LEVERAGING VOCABULARY PLATFORMS FOR CLEARER SPEECH

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to determine the effect of using the English Vocabulary platform on the pronunciation abilities of the second grade of SMP Al-Khairaat Wayaua. The researchers used quantitative research methods using a one shot case study research design. This research instrument is multiple choice and consits of 50 questions. In analyzing data, the researchers used SPSS-21 to analyze descriptive data to determine students categories and inferential analysis to determine normality, homogenity, and hypothesis tests. The findings showed that the effect of implementing the English Vocabulary platform in the learning and teaching process improve students' pronunciation as well. The researchers concluded that the platform of English vocabulary can have a good influence on the use of pronunciation at second grade students of SMP Al-Khairaat Wayaua. Therefore, the researchers recommend that English teachers should implement the English Vocabulary platform as a medium for teaching and learning English process.

Keywords: Pronunciation, Vocabulary, Vocabulary Platform, Clearer Speech

INTRODUCTION

Pronunciation is a part of speaking skill which can be directly observed and known. When someone speak, the person listening will immediately identify the pronunciation of that person. When someone make a mistake in his/her pronunciation, it will be directly known or detected by the person listening. Having good pronunciation is very important in communicating. If you do not have good pronunciation, other people will be confused about what we are talking about and the most important thing is that there are no misunderstandings.

To master English pronunciation correctly, we need to practice pronouncing English vocabulary every day. In improving pronunciation well, one of the challenging factors is to master vocabulary which is the smallest unit in a language. But before pronouncing the sound or intonating correctly, first we should to listen to it form a native speaker. The most appropriate learning of pronunciation in English is by using the example method. The teacher gives examples of correct pronunciation, then students imitate to make clearer speech.

In terms of practicing pronunciation, there is an platform called *"English Vocabulary"* which can be downloaded via the android-based google play store. This platform is designed to help those who are learning English. Language learner is free and it can be opened offline. In this platform there are audio, games, and so much vocabulary that is complemented by examples of sentence. Related to research conduct by Kazu (2023) it was obtained that pronunciation practice via artificial intelligence-enabled the words to remain in memory longer. Additionally, the participants' views were gathered at the end of the research. For further research, this study will benefit other research with a variety of accessible tools to meet objectives by utilizing a new artificial intelligence-supported

pronunciation model, through recording and reacting to learners' pronouncing practices in different languages. Then, Susanto et al (2022) The research discovered that the *Busuu* online learning platform's performance significantly contributes to the motivation and achievement of vocabulary learners. The study proposes a new model of English learning that incorporates online learning platforms in order to boost students' motivation and vocabulary achievement. Kholis (2021) In conclusion, ELSA Speak can improve the students' pronunciation skills well and effectively. Indeed, it can motivate the students to engage in learning to pronounce. Novelty The platform uses generative AI to create personalized mnemonics linking root words to their variants and AI-driven real-time feedback compares user pronunciation with native speaker models, offering corrective suggestions. Related to this problem stated that the researchers' interest to solve the problem used the vocabulary platform.

LITERATURE REVIEW
The Importance of Pronunciation in Language Learning

Pronunciation plays a crucial role in effective communication. It refers to how we articulate sounds when speaking, and correct pronunciation ensures that speech is understood without ambiguity. Botley (2017) emphasizes that the multitude of sounds and words in English can make pronunciation particularly challenging. This challenge is compounded by the fact that English has a range of sounds that may not exist in other languages, making it essential for learners to focus on producing these sounds correctly.

The development of pronunciation is integral to improving speaking and listening skills in English. Yates (2017) discusses pronunciation as a fundamental component of how we produce sounds that convey meaning. Without clear pronunciation, communication becomes difficult, and misunderstandings are likely to occur. Moreover, an accurate pronunciation enhances fluency, allowing for more natural speech and better comprehension by native speakers.

In language acquisition, pronunciation is not merely about producing sounds but also about understanding the nuances of stress, intonation, and rhythm, which collectively contribute to intelligibility and naturalness in speech. Levis (2022) highlights how pronunciation, particularly stress and intonation, can affect the listener's perception and interpretation of a message, reinforcing its significance in language learning.

Challenges in Learning English Pronunciation

Learning pronunciation, particularly for English as a second language (ESL), involves overcoming several challenges. One significant difficulty is phonemic awareness— the ability to recognize and produce the distinct sounds (phonemes) in English. Murcia (2021) explains that phonemic awareness helps learners achieve clarity and improve their pronunciation. This skill is vital because it forms the foundation for accurate pronunciation and understanding of English speech.

In addition to phonemic awareness, learners often struggle with word stress and intonation patterns, which can alter the meaning of a word or sentence. Derwing and Munro

(2020) underscore the importance of word stress and intonation, noting that incorrect stress or intonation may cause confusion or difficulty in communication. For example, stressing the wrong syllable in words like "record" (noun) versus "record" (verb) can lead to misunderstandings, which is why teaching stress and intonation is essential.

The difficulty of mastering pronunciation in English is also linked to the variability of speech. English speakers often modify their speech based on factors like regional dialects or speech speed. Kang (2020) highlights how these variations can present challenges for learners, who may find it difficult to understand and replicate native-like pronunciation. Thus, learners not only need to focus on individual sounds but also on the way words are spoken in different contexts.

The Role of Technology in Enhancing Pronunciation Skills

Recent technological advancements have provided new opportunities to improve English pronunciation. Online platforms and applications now enable learners to practice pronunciation interactively, providing immediate feedback and opportunities for repetition. Murcia (2021) notes that platforms offering audio examples, International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) transcriptions, and syllable breakdowns help learners articulate sounds more precisely. These tools enable learners to mimic native pronunciation by listening to and repeating words, a technique known as "imitative learning."

The development of computer-assisted pronunciation training (CAPT) tools has further enhanced pronunciation practice. According to Thomson (2023), CAPT tools, particularly those driven by artificial intelligence (AI), allow learners to practice pronunciation with immediate corrective feedback. These platforms compare learners' pronunciation to native speaker models, offering real-time corrections and encouraging continuous improvement. This feedback loop helps reinforce correct pronunciation and addresses common errors made by learners.

The integration of AI in pronunciation practice has been found to improve long-term retention of correct pronunciation. Kazu and Kuvvetli (2023) conducted a study demonstrating that pronunciation practice using AI-driven platforms led to better retention of words in memory. These tools enable learners to practice at their own pace, with personalized feedback that adapts to their specific needs.

The Impact of Vocabulary Learning Platforms on Pronunciation

Vocabulary learning platforms have emerged as an effective tool for improving English pronunciation. These platforms typically offer extensive vocabulary lists, with audio examples and sentence usage that assist learners in mastering both individual words and their proper pronunciation. Kholis (2021) found that apps like ELSA Speak, which use automatic speech recognition (ASR), significantly improve learners' pronunciation. These platforms provide learners with immediate feedback, allowing them to self-correct and adjust their pronunciation accordingly.

Additionally, such platforms often include features that help learners practice pronunciation within context, using real-world sentences. This contextual learning is critical

because it helps learners understand how pronunciation varies depending on sentence structure and intonation. Levis (2023) emphasizes that teaching pronunciation through contextual vocabulary—integrating pronunciation practice into meaningful sentence usage—enhances learners' ability to use English fluently and naturally in conversation.

By incorporating interactive elements such as games, quizzes, and repetition drills, vocabulary platforms like "English Vocabulary" make pronunciation practice more engaging. These gamified learning approaches keep learners motivated and help reduce anxiety, which is often associated with speaking in a second language. Yates and Zielinski (2023) argue that such interactive tools can significantly reduce pronunciation anxiety and build learners' confidence, making them more willing to speak and practice.

Effectiveness of the English Vocabulary Platform for Improving Pronunciation:

Research on the effectiveness of platforms like "English Vocabulary" has shown promising results in improving learners' pronunciation skills. The platform offers a wide range of features, including audio examples, vocabulary drills, and sentence examples that promote pronunciation practice. As demonstrated by the research conducted at SMP Al-Khairaat Wayaua (the subject of this study), the use of the English Vocabulary platform significantly improved students' pronunciation.

The study found that the students' mean score in pronunciation tests increased from 43.2 in the pre-test to 79.2 in the post-test, indicating a significant improvement in pronunciation ability. The data from this study also revealed that most students, who initially scored in the "not enough" category, showed improvement and were categorized as "good" or "very good" in the post-test. This suggests that the platform's features, such as audio repetition, sentence-based practice, and immediate feedback, played a vital role in helping students improve their pronunciation.

The platform's combination of accessible vocabulary and contextual usage, along with its AI-driven feedback mechanism, enables learners to practice and refine their pronunciation. These features ensure that learners not only recognize the sounds but also understand how to use them correctly in everyday speech.

METHOD

This study employs a quantitative, quasi-experimental design with pre-test and post-test assessments to measure pronunciation improvement after vocabulary acquisition. Then, the method is implementing in teaching English is Vocabulary platform. The researchers applied the *English Vocabulary* platform in teaching pronunciation. The aim to find out the students' mastering pronunciation through English vocabulary platform. The population of this research was the second grade of the students at SMP Al-Khairaat Wayaua. Consist of three classes and one class consist of 26 students. The instrument of this study as pronunciation test. It aimed to obtain data on the achievement of students' pronunciation. To analyze the data, the researchers used SPSS-21 to elaborate the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Pre-test; The Students Score of in implementing English Vocabulary platform.

Interval	Categories	F	%
0-20	Less	4	20%
21-40	Not enough	8	40%
41-60	Enough	4	20%
61-80	Good	4	20%
81-100	Very good	0	0%
		20	100%

Based on the table above, it is known that there are 4 students who have score 20, or 20%, 8 students who have score 40 or 40%. 4 students who have score 60, or 20%, 4 students who have score 80, or 20%. 0 students who does not got score 81-100 with a Very Good category. It can be seen that the students' competence is still in difficulties in pronouncing word and make it clearer speech.

Table 2. Post-test; The Students Score of in implementing English Vocabulary platform

Interval	Categories	F	%
0-20	Less	0	0%
21-40	Notenough	0	0%
41-60	Enough	5	25%
61-80	Good	8	40%
81-100	Very good	7	35%
Total		20	100%

Based on the table above, it is known that there are 0 students who does not got Less Categories or 00 students who does not got Not Enough Categories or 0%. 5 students who have Enough score 60, or 25%, 8 students who have Good score 80, or 40%. 7 students who have Very Good categories or 35% 81-100. It can be stated that the students' competence is significance improve in pronouncing word through vocabulary platform and make their pronoun are clearer understanding.

Table 3. Comparison Between the Pretest and Posttest Scores of the Experimental Class

Data	Pre-test	Post-test
Number of cases	20	20
Mean	43,2	79,2
SD	16,30	12,77
Low category	40%	0%
Very low category	20%	0%

The data show that the mean score of the pre-test was longer than the post-test. It can be seen from the decrease of the scoring categorization from low to very low category. It

means that students' pronunciation in the experimental class improved drastically after using the English Vocabulary platform.

Table 4. t-test score

t-tabel	t-count	Df	Sig(2-tailed)
2,09	28,3	38	2,2

From the table above, it can be seen that sign. (2-tailed) reveals significance point 2,2. There was significant effect of pronunciation ability in the post-test. Based on the table it can be analyzed that t count is greater than t table. Then, Ho was rejected and Ha was accepted. It means that there is significant difference between students' pronunciation through English Vocabulary platform and those taught not using English Vocabulary platform.

Pronunciation is a part of speaking skill. It needs more effort to study about pronunciation. Learning pronunciation is a very complex task. In this process, teachers' role and learners' role is important. In this age, we can use increasingly sophisticated technology to improve students pronunciation., such as learning via youtube, watching English movies, listening to music, and there are many applications that an be accsessed by android as well as in opening it both online and offline. Using appropriate media and teaching methods can help student to be able to prnounce words in English correctly. In addition, the popularityof using technology as a form learning, especially on android we can use nterseting applicationto be a media for improving tudents' pronunciation. Therefore, researcher chose the English Vocabulary platform as a media in research to improve students' pronuciation. Regarding to the researcher which was done in second grade of SMP Al-Khairaat Wayaua, it was considered that there is significant difference between students' pronunciation through English Vocabulary platform and those taught not using "English Vocabulary" application. Based on the computation the mean score of the pre-test was 43,2, meanwhile the mean score of the post test was 79,2. It can be interpreted that the mean score of the post-test taught using English Vocabulary platform was higher that of the pre-test.

In this case, English Vocabulary platform can improve students' pronunciation skills. The frequency distribution shows that in pre-test, there was 4 students (20%) in a very less category, 8students (40%) in a not enough category, 4 students (20%) in enough category, 4 students (20%) in good category, and was no students (0%) classified into very good category. It can be concluded that the majority belonged to a not enough category in the pre-test. On the other side, based on scores of the post-test, there was no student (0%) classified into very less and not enough categories, there was 5 students (25%) in enough category, 8 students (40%) in good category, and 7 students (35%) in very good category. It can be concluded that the majority the students belonged to a good category in the post-test.

Then from the findings above, this research as a normal distribution because the p-value or signature of the data is greater than the value 0,05. The value for the pre-test was 1,13 higher than 0,05 (1,13>0,05), the p-value of the post-test was 2,27 and greater than 0,05 (2,27>0,05). The data is homogenous because the levene value (0,33) is lower than f table (4,41). The hypothesis analysis tcount= 28,37 and ttable= 2,09 with the sig-2 tailed 2,2>0,05.

The researcher concluded that Ha was rejected and Ho is accepted. It means that there is significant in effect of implementing "English Voacabulary" application to improve students' pronunciation.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the effect of English Vocabulary platfrom on the students' pronunciation is effective and has a significant influence on students' pronunciation ability. The significant effect means when students learn before using the English Vocabulary platform and after using it. The significant effect can be seen from the average (mean) of the pre-test was 43, 2 and post-test was 79,2. It means that student' pronunciation through English Vocabulary platform gets higher score compared to those did not use the English Vocabulary platform.

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