HELLO ENGLISH APPLICATION TO IMPROVE THE STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILLS

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ABSTRACT The context of this study is that students' ability to speak English is quite concerning, and students' interest in speaking English is quite low due to a lack of mastery of vocabulary, a fear of making mistakes in pronunciation, so they rarely practice it, and students become bored learning English, so their interest in English lessons decreases. The descriptive qualitative research methodologies are used in the research. The researcher chose 11 students using a purposive sampling technique, in which the sample was determined based on the selection of information sources rather than the number of participants. Techniques for gathering data include observation, interviews, and documentation. Data processing involves the reduction of data, the display of data, and the drawing/verification of conclusions. The study's findings are (1) students' perceptions of using the Hello English application revealed that as many as 98% of students believed the application could help improve students' speaking skills, (2) students used Technology progress very well by using it to learn, one of which was using the Hello English application, (3) the Hello English application was very efficient for teachers in helping teach speaking English in class. Based on research findings, Hello English application is very useful and effective in teaching and learning activities, owing to its easy and practical access on any device, as well as fun features for students that keep them interested in learning English in the future.

Keywords: Hello English application, Improve, Speaking skills, Technology.

INTRODUCTION

The advancement and growth of technology is accelerating in our day and age. According to Daulay (2021), advancement in the digital era is helpful to life since it allows people to readily obtain all required knowledge and connect with everyone on the earth. The ability of humans to create increasingly complex technology makes human actions easier and faster by allowing access to the internet network. Listening, reading, writing, and speaking are all important abilities in English. Speaking is one of the English skills that learners and students must understand in this research. Students with speaking abilities are expected to be able to interact with teachers, friends, and other members of the community in everyday situations. Grognet (2009), stated that speaking is one of the abilities that students must develop when studying English, and talking is a key communication technique.

Students at Madrasah Aliyah Swasta (MAS) PAB 1 Sampali had a limited capacity to speak English. This is due to a lack of known vocabulary, which causes difficulty while practicing speaking in English; however, this confusion can also be attributed to a lack of practice in ordinary life. The most crucial aspect of practicing speaking is vocabulary, since if students do not grasp a large amount of language, their sentences will be halted. The phrase was delayed because students were still thinking about what words to say and how they would be delivered in English. As a result, knowledge of language is essential for expressing thoughts and absorbing information from what others say (Seroja, 2021).

Based on some of the issues raised above, it is possible to assume that the cause of the decline in students' speaking skills is that the old approach utilized makes students less engaged. As a result, teachers must incorporate novel, innovative, and enjoyable activities to pique students' interest in speaking, such as employing material that students have never seen before. The Hello English application, that available on Google Play Store, App store, among others which has numerous features that make it simpler for students to learn English, particularly in developing speaking abilities, is one that students may utilize to solve this challenge.

Figure 1. Hello English Logo

Hello English is a unique English learning software that teaches language via fun games and situations. There are elements in this application such as the amount of conversation that students may study. Furthermore, when students try practicing speaking English skills, students can go directly to the training feature, then choose a conversation, and many conversation themes will appear for students to choose from. After selecting a theme, students will be given instructions for use, after which writing will appear that students will read, then students press the record button, the voices spoken by students will be recorded and corrected for wrong and correct mention of the words and sentences spoken.

Because students are linked with being sluggish and bored; this occurs due to a lack of motivation and a lack of interest in the teaching and learning process. Moreover, boring learning exercises make students tired and sluggish to practice English in their daily life. The researcher discovered that students become bored when they just practiced speaking English with books and subsequently read the dialogues they had learnt. As is well known, every student uses their imagination to escape boredom and sloth. As a result, a teacher must continue to hunt for new things that might shift students' perspectives on English learning from boring to joyful. Therefore, the Hello English application is highly recommended for improving students' speaking skills, with interesting features.

LITERATURE REVIEW
Speaking Skills

Speaking skills are actions that include communicating with people by utilizing appropriate and precise language. Speaking is one of the English talents, and there are three varieties of speaking: interactive, partially interactive, and non-interactive (Rao, 2019). About some of the difficulties, particularly while learning English, the following are some issues with speaking abilities in learning English (Daulay, 2021): (1) Utter quiet. Many students in the class are obsessed on attempting to explain their thoughts through spoken language because they are concerned about making mistakes, fear of judgment, and shame; (2) Nothing is left to say. Students are sometimes unable to consider before speaking; they lack motivation as a result of their negative thoughts about speaking English; (3) Inadequate or unequal involvement, students will have limited opportunity to speak; (4) The use of one's mother tongue. When students use their mother tongue, students find it simpler and appear more natural.

Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT)

According to Philip Clarkson and Ron Toomey (2001) that information, communication and technology (ICT) refers to all technologies that enable access to, collection of, manipulation of, and presentation or communication of information. This technology can include hardware such as computers and other devices, software applications, and connectivity such as access to the internet, local network infrastructure, video conferencing, and so on (Naciri, 2019). The mobile phone is one of the contemporary

technologies in use. Aside from being portable, mobile phones also provide simple capabilities for accessing anything via the internet, as well as programs that are easy to obtain, ranging from paid to free. Although premium programs provide more comprehensive functionality, free applications can still serve as valuable learning aids.

Hello English Applications

There are several apps available in technological media that we may access by just inputting keywords that match what we are looking for. The application offers numerous comprehensive features that can assist students and teachers in implementing learned content, ranging from commercial apps to free applications. As human intellect increases over time, so does the creation of educational applications for learning, such as apps for studying mathematics, science, arts, languages, and so on. According to Ali Zaki and Smitdev Community, an application is a component used to do data migration or other tasks such as document creations or database administration (Ali Zaki and Smitdev Community, as quoted in Huda & Priyatna, 2019).

"Hello English" is one of the application for learning English abilities that can be found and may be accessed for free using the own devices. This application has strong and full features for developing reading, writing, listening and speaking abilities. Users will discover 475 free lessons and 1000 lessons produced in the form of games in the Hello English application, as well as practice English pronunciation with voice recognition, comprehending vocabulary through news, video and audio about English material, assignments, and the ability to ask questions. In this game, users have a limited amount of time to perform tasks and are rewarded with money when they succeed. The coins gained will help the user's rating in their city (Hidayati, 2019).

RESEARCH METHOD

The research was conducted at MAS PAB 1 Sampali, located on Pasar Hitam Street Number 69, Sampali. Researcher utilize descriptive qualitative research to study data in a qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative data is gathered by describing or assessing the data gathered in the field (Sugiyono, 2010). There are three techniques in this research, namely observation, interviews, and documentation. Data sources were taken from 11 students from class X at MAS PAB 1 Sampali which were obtained by purposive sampling through data collection techniques, namely interviews and questionnaires as data support. Technique of data analysis in this study are data reduction (includes questionnaire and interviews), data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
Student's perceptions of using Hello English in speaking skills

Below are the results of the data from the questionnaire which was filled out by 11 students who were respondents, with a description: Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Not Agree (NA), and Strongly Disagree (SD).

Table 1: Students' perception on using Hello English Application

No.	Statement	SA	A	NA	SD
1.	Hello English provides a complete feature in learning English and helps on speaking English.	54.5%	45.5%	0%	0%
2.	Hello English is very effective in improving English speaking skills.	54.5%	45.5%	0%	0%
3.	Hello English application is very practical and helpful	54.5%	45.5%	0%	0%
4.	Hello English provides new English material to students.	54.5%	45.5%	0%	0%
5.	Students found a lot of new vocabulary through the Hello English application.	45.5%	54.5%	0%	0%
6.	Hello English helps students get used to speak English in	45.5%	54.5%	0%	0%

	everyday life.				
7.	Hello English helps students improve their pronunciation.	63.6%	36.4%	0%	0%
8.	Hello English is able to increase students' interest in speaking English.	36.4%	63.6%	0%	0%
9.	Learning to use the Hello English application is very fun and not boring.	36.4%	63.6%	0%	0%
10.	Hello English provides different games every day in its learning methods, so students are interested in learning while playing.	36.4%	54.5%	9.1%	0%
11.	Hello English application helps students overcome their anxiety of speaking English.	72.7%	18.2%	0%	9.1%
12.	Learning while playing using the Hello English application is more useful than playing games.	63.6%	36.4%	0%	0%
13.	Hello English application helps students speak English fluently.	63.6%	36.4%	0%	0%
14.	Hello English is very useful for beginners.	72.7%	27.3%	0%	0%
15.	Hello English is easily accessible on mobile phones and other devices.	72.7%	27.3%	0%	0%

From the data described above, it can be concluded that students' perceptions of the Hello English application amounted to 98% of students stating that the Hello English application can help improve English language skills, especially for beginners, through various methods and features contained in the application. And only 2% of students stated that these students were not interested in the Hello English application and were still afraid of speaking English. This happened due to several reasons, such as embarrassment, lack of confidence, and even fear of being ridiculed. Meutia, et al. (2020) also said that students are afraid of making mistakes, so they believe that they will get a bad response from their fellow students, such as ridiculing them if they make mistakes while speaking.

Students use of the Hello English application in speaking abilities
The data gathered by the researcher through interviews and questionnaires on students at MAS PAB 1 Sampali. According to student statements, the Hello English application is used as follows:
   a. Students improve speaking skills by adding new vocabulary.
When students are asked "Can the Hello English application add to students' vocabulary?", Student A responded, *"Hal baru yang saya dapatkan yaitu saya dapat kosa kata-kosa kata yang tidak pernah saya dengar"*. In English, "The new thing I learned was that I learned vocabulary that I had never heard of."

As for the response from student I, revealed *"Hal barunya yaitu bisa mencari kata-kata yang kita inginkan"*. Student J added, *"aplikasi ini mempermudah kita mempelajari kosa kata yang sulit".* In English, "The new thing is being able to search for the words we want." Student J added, "This application makes it easier for us to learn difficult vocabulary."
   b. Students practice speaking skills every day.
When students are asked "Can the Hello English application improve speaking skills?", Student A responded, *"Ya, fiturnya membantu untuk melatih kemampuan berbicara bahasa inggris".* In English,"Yes, the feature helps to practice English speaking skills".

As for the response from student C *"Hello English dapat bermanfaat untuk memacu kelancaran lisan dalam kecakapan-kecakapan khusus"*, student said. In English, "Hello English can be useful for encouraging oral fluency in specific skills". *"Ya, aplikasi ini sangat membantu saya untuk mengambangkan kemampuan dalam berbahasa Inggris"*, continued. In English, "Yes, this application really helps me to develop my English language skills".
   c. The games available in the Hello English application make students not feel bored and motivate students to improve their English speaking skills.

When students are asked, "what about the lessons presented in the Hello English application? ", Student B responded, *"Ya, sangat menyenangkan, adanya tata cara baca dan belajar bahasa inggris didalamnya"*. In English, "Yes, it's very fun, there are procedures for reading and learning English in it". As for the response from student F, *"Hal yang menyenangkan, karena terdapat latihan soal dan juga bisa melatih public speaking"*. In English, "This is fun, because there are practice questions and you can also practice public speaking". Meanwhile, student I argues, *"Ya, menyenangkan karena aplikasinya sangat mudah untuk diakses dan sangat menarik bagi pemula"*. In English, "Yes, it's fun because the application is very easy to access and very interesting for beginners" Dan juga siswa J menjawab, *"Penjelasannya sangat mudah dipahami dan banyak game yang seru"*. In English, "The explanations are very easy to understand and there are lots of fun games"

d. Students practice self-confidence so they are not afraid of being wrong in pronouncing English.

When students were asked "can the Helllo English application reduce the fear of speaking English?", Student F answered, *"Ya, sedikit mengurangi rasa takut saya, karena bisa melatih public speaking"*. In English, "Yes, it reduces my fear a little, because I can practice public speaking." Next student H said, *"Iya, saya tidak takut lagi dalam berbahasa inggris"*. In English, "Yes, I'm not afraid of speaking English anymore". Student A also said, *"Ya, sedikit mengurangi rasa takut saya dalam berbicara bahasa inggris"*. In English, "Yes, it has reduced my fear of speaking English a little."

e. The Hello English application makes students increase their interest in speaking English.

When students were questioned about their increased interest in speaking English as a result of using the Hello English app, students A, B, D, E, I, J, and K only answered *"Iyaa, tentu saja"*. In English, "Yes, tentu saja." And then, student C answered, *"Ya, karena dengan menggunakan aplikasi ini, dapat meningkatkan minat berbicara bahasa inggris"*. In English, "Yes, because by using this application, you can increase your interest in speaking English". But, student G said *"tidak minat"*, in English, "not interested". Meanwhile student F and H answered, *"mungkin iya"*. In English, "maybe yes".

After knowing that the Hello English application exists, students make good use of it through the features available in the application. This statement was reinforced by the answer of student A who said, *"Saya akan berlatih speaking, karena fiturnya itu kalau ada salah diberi tahu agar bisa diperbaiki"*, in English, "I will practice speaking, because the feature is that if there is a mistake, let me know so that it can be corrected". Furthermore, the application is used to practice every day to make it easier to practice speaking. This statement is supported by the answers of students D and E who said, *"Saya memanfaatkannya dengan cara belajar setiap hari menggunakan aplikasi Hello English agar lebih mudah"*, in English, "I take advantage of it by studying every day using the Hello English application to make it easier". Then, the Hello English application can be accessed anytime and anywhere, such as at leisure. This statement is in accordance with the answer of student J who said, *"caranya adalah menggunakan aplikasi tersebut kapan saja, dan bias juga di waktu luang"*, in English, "The way to do this is to use the application at any time, and also in your free time." From these statements, the researcher concludes that the Hello English application is very flexible to use.

The efficacy of the Hello English application for teacher in teaching speaking skills.

When the researcher interviewed the teacher, the teacher thought that this application was very helpful and added to the enthusiasm of students in learning English activities; initially, the students became sleepy easily because they only studied using books; however, the students became very excited and repeated the practice of speaking using the Hello English application. This program is ideal for teachers to use with their students in order to

improve their fluency in speaking English. Students practice speaking English every day, both during and outside of class. According to the teachers who teach, students' interest in English is growing, thus the learning process will be re-implemented in groups in the future to make it easier for teachers to teach. By dividing students into groups, one member of each group practices speaking English with the application, while other students listen carefully while paying attention to the corrections in the application, and after the correction appears, students will both know the incorrect and correct mention of the word, and this activity is repeated.

From the discussion that was exposed, it can be stated that the Hello English application is effective in improving students' English speaking skills, as well as having other positive influences. However, every advantage, of course, this application has disadvantages. As in the voice recording feature for speaking practice, when students say the wrong word, the correction on the feature shows it is correct, so the accuracy is slightly reduced. Behind it all, apart from being useful for students, the Hello English application is also useful for teachers and effective in teaching and learning activities. Then, because both teachers and students play a significant part in teaching and learning activities, they must be able to work well together so that teaching and learning activities can function smoothly.

CONCLUSION

Students' perceptions of the Hello English application are as follows: 98% of students believe that the Hello English application can help improve English language skills, particularly for beginners, through various methods and features contained in the application. Only 2% of students said they were uninterested in the Hello English application and were still hesitant to speak English. Students are highly adept at utilizing current technologies, such as the Hello English application, which is utilized for studying while playing. Increasing students' knowledge of vocabulary can assist students' practice speaking English in students' daily lives. Because the available features encourage students to use the Hello English application without becoming bored or discouraged, students can improve their speaking, correct pronunciation errors, no longer be afraid of making mistakes when speaking, and increase students' confidence and interest in speaking English. Hello English application is very useful for teachers to utilize because the features are quite comprehensive, making it easy for teachers to practice speaking English with students. The use of the Hello English application highly recommended for teachers has a favorable impact on student learning growth, enhancing interest and excitement in studying English.

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