

ABSTRACT

Mulyadi. (2024): Investigating the Impact of the Duolingo Application on Students' English Speaking Skills (A Case Study of Seventh-Grade Junior High School Students at Permatha Tutoring Center). a Paper. English Education Department, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.

The ability to speak English fluently is crucial for effective communication, and technology can significantly aid in developing this skill. This research aimed to investigate (1) the implementation of Duolingo in learning English speaking skills such as gamification strategy, interactive exercises, and user-interesting design, (2) students' perceptions of using Duolingo, and (3) the benefits and challenges of Duolingo according to students. This research used a qualitative case study design involving first-grade junior high school students at Permatha Tutoring Center. Data were collected through observations, interviews, and questionnaires.

The findings indicated that (1) Duolingo was effectively implemented in learning activities to improve speaking skills, (2) students had positive perceptions of Duolingo, acknowledging that features such as pronunciation correction and interactive exercises were excellent for improving their speaking abilities, and (3) students showed significant improvement in their speaking skills, with better fluency, more accurate pronunciation, and higher confidence in speaking English. Despite the challenges, they remained motivated to learn English through Duolingo.

In conclusion, Duolingo was an effective tool for improving English speaking skills among students. The application provided an engaging and supportive environment for practicing speaking, making it recommended as a strategy for language educators and students.

Keywords: Duolingo application, English speaking skills, language learning, educational technology