

## ABSTRACT

**Manniar, Melta Putri (2025): The Use of Duolingo as a Digital Language Learning Tool in Improving Vocabulary Mastery: a Pre-Experimental Study at Elementary School Students.**

Vocabulary mastery plays a pivotal role in the overall development of English language skills, especially among young learners (EYL). However, traditional methods of vocabulary instruction often fail to meet the dynamic and engaging needs of elementary students. This study aims to investigate the effectiveness of Duolingo, a gamified digital language learning application, in enhancing vocabulary mastery among elementary school students.

The research addresses the integration of technology in EYL settings, particularly in alignment with Indonesia's Kurikulum Merdeka, which emphasizes student-centered learning and utilizes digital-based learning environments. Duolingo, as an engaging mobile application, offers individualized learning paths that could motivate and assist young learners. Its gamified features are expected to foster better vocabulary retention through repeated exposure and interaction.

This research employed a pre-experimental design using a one-group pre-test and post-test model. The participants consisted of 26 fifth-grade students at SDN Perumnas 1 Subang. Vocabulary tests were administered before and after the treatment to measure students' vocabulary mastery.

The findings revealed a significant improvement in students' vocabulary achievement. The mean score increased from 25.38 in the pre-test to 60.46 in the post-test. The N-Gain analysis indicated a moderate level of improvement, with a mean gain score of 0.4660.

In conclusion, Duolingo proves to be an effective digital learning application that supports vocabulary acquisition among young learners. Its interactive features, combined with flexible learning opportunities, align with the characteristics of EYL and current educational demands. The findings of this study provide valuable insights for educators seeking to integrate digital platforms into language instruction.

***Keywords: Vocabulary Mastery, Duolingo, Elementary School Students, EYL, Pre-Experimental Study.***