Students' Interest in Learning English Through Belajar Bahasa Inggris With Aco Application

Sukmawati Tono Palangngan & Eka Mulyaningsih
sukmawatitono@gmail.com
Universitas Muhammadiyah Palopo, Indonesia

Abstract

The objective of the research was to find out: (1) whether or not the students are interested in learning through Belajar Bahasa Inggris with ACO Application; (2) Students' perception in Learning English through *Belajar Bahasa Inggris with ACo Application*. The research was conducted by using mixed method design (Quan-qual) model. The research applied cluster random sampling by taking one class as the sample. The sample consists of 30 students of A3 Accounting Class of STIE Muhammadiyah Palopo. The data were collected through questionnaire and supported by interview. The result of the research showed that the students are interested in learning English through Belajar Bahasa Inggris with ACO Application. Furthermore, the students have positive perception toward the application and the most favourable menu in the application is "chat" and "talk."

Keywords: students Interest, smartphone-based Learn English, aco application

Introduction

English becomes essential to be studied in order to be able to communicate globally. According to Damayanti and Maharani, the foreign language especially English is really needed in the global era (2011). It can be used as a mea ns of learning in university or college. Beside it also can help the students in seizing job opportunity or help them to co ntinue their study into the next level such as magister or doctoral program.

English Teaching in Indonesia has been started since the Dutch colonial era. But it began to be taught in schools along with the publication of the decision of the Education and Culture minister of Indonesia in 1967. Although it has been included in the Indonesian education curriculum for

a long time and entered as one of the four mandatory subjects in the National Examination, the results have not been maximized in creating students with good English language skills. Many students still do not like or not interested in English and think learning English is difficult. This situation also occurs at Muhammadiyah University of Palopo. During teaching the English subject for around two years, the researcher found that most of the students have middle to low proficiency in English even though they have learnt English from elementary to high school level. They are less interested in learning English because they think English is difficult. Whereas, Rosmayasari (2010) stated that the new learning depends upon interest. It means that learning cannot occur unless the person is interested in learning. Syatir (2011) also stated that interest could give more motivation to the students to use their ability. It means, the students will work harder if they are strongly interested in doing something than if they are not interested.

Based on the problem above, the researcher decided to introduce a media that might be interesting for the students. Considering the global condition nowadays most of the students always connect to the internet by using their gadget and always bring it everywhere they go. So, the researcher thought to find out a media that might help the students to learn English via internet. As Zamari, et al (2012) states that internet has a lot of potential and plays important role in language learning.

Internet stands for interconnection network. It is a kind of ICT product that affects some aspect of human life, including education. It is explained that some research has proof that the use of internet has a positive impact on both learner and teacher (Noni, 2004). Internet can give the opportunity to the students or learners to do a self-learning to increase their knowledge, to do an interactive learning, and to increase their knowledge in research. Besides, it also gives the opportunity to the students to interact with other students around the world. A recent research also found that a Smartphone application has a positive effect in improving the students' listening skill (Tono, Mulyaningsih: 2018). Regarding on the reasons, the researchers interested in finding a new Smartphone application that can be used in learning English in general by doing a research under the title *"Students' Interest in Learning English through Belajar bahasa Inggris with ACo Application."*

Research Method

The research used Quan- Qual model which is known as the explanatory mixed method design where the quantitative data are collected first and more heavily weighted than the qualitative data (Gay, Mills, Airasian, 2006: 491). The quantitative approach was conducted by using questionnaire

which is consist of 20 items while the qualitative data was conducted by interview in forms of some open-minded questions related to their perceptions toward Belajar Bahasa Inggris with Aco Application.

The population was the students of Muhammadiyah University of Palopo. In order to decide the sample, the researchers used cluster random sampling by taking one class as the sample that was accounting class A3 of Muhammadiyah University of Palopo Academic year 2018/2019. In collecting the data, the researchers used two kinds of instruments namely questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire is used to know the students' interest in learning English through Belajar Bahasa Inggris with Aco Application, while the interview is used to find out the students' perception through the application.

Results

Students' Interest

Based on the research result through the questionnaire, the interest classification of the students can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. Students' Interest Classification

Interval	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
84-100	Very interested	1	36.67 %
67-83	Interested	1	63.33 %
50-66	Undecided	1	0 %
33-49	Uninterested	9	0 %
20-32	Very Uninterested	0	0 %
		0	
		0	
Total		**3 0**	**100 %**

The result indicates that 36.67 % of the students are "very interested", 63.33% students are "interested", 0% student "undecided", 0% student "uninterested", and 0% student "very uninterested." From 30 students, the total row score of the questionnaire is 2435. So the mean score is calculated as follow.

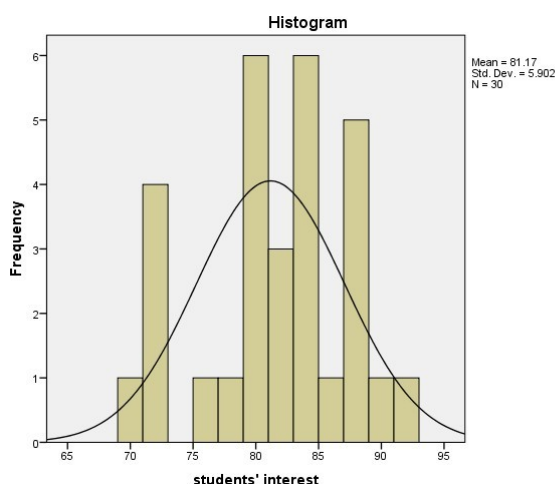$$\mathbb{C} \quad X = \frac{\Sigma X}{N} = \frac{2435}{30}$$

= 81.17

The calculation above shows that mean score of the students' interest in learning English through belajar bahasa inggris with Aco Application is 81.17. It indicates that the students interested in learning English through the application. The students' interest can also be simply explained by the histogram below:

Figure 1. Students' Interest

Students' Perception

Based on the interview that was held on the 26th of June, it was found that the students are enjoying in learning English through the application. They have a good perception toward the application because according to them the application is flexible and easy to use everywhere. They can access wherever and whenever they want. Beside the application provide various sub menu that can help them in improving their English skill in general. The most favourable menu in the application based on the students' opinion are "chat" and "talk" menu.

Conclusion and Limitations

The use of Belajar Bahasa Inggris with Aco Application is success in gaining the students' interest in learning English. It is showed from the mean score of the questionnaire (81, 17) that indicates that the students interested in learning English through the application. Furthermore, the students have positive perception toward the application and the most favourable menu in the application is "chat" and "talk" menu.

Considering the condition that most of the students nowadays have their own Smartphone, the researchers would like to suggest to all teachers or lecturers to recommend the Smartphone application as one of the supporting media to their students, so they can practice their English in interesting way, anytime and everywhere they want, not just in the class but also out of the class.

Acknowledgement

References

Damayanti, Maharani. (2011). Kebutuhan Penguasaan Bahasa Asing pada Mahasiswa Universitas Paramadina dalam Era Globalisasi. Masyarakat, Kebudayaan dan Politik. 24(3): 272-279/

Gay et al. (2006). *Education Research: Competencies for Analysis and Application.* Eight Edition. Colombus, Ohio: Pearson Education, Inc.

Noni, Nurdin. (2004). *Teknologi Informasi dan Komunikasi dalam Pendidikan*. Makassar: Badan Penerbit Universitas Negeri Makassar.

Rokhyati, Umi. 2013. Teaching English at Higher Education in Indonesia: Searching for Usefullness. *SELT Proceeding*. 1: 235-240.Rosmayasari. 2010. *The Interest of the First Year Students of SMP ISLAM DARUL HIKMAH MAKASSAR in Learning English Using Cartoon Films*. Makassar. Unpublish Thesis.

Suwarti. 2016. *Pemanfaatan Internet Sebagai Media Pembelajaran di SD Negeri 1 Sindurejo Kecamatan Toroh Kabupaten Grobogan*. Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. Published Thesis.

Syatir Fahrul. 2011. *The Students' Interest in Learning Vocabulary through a Series of Comic.* Makassar: Unpublished Thesis.

Tono P. Sukmawati., Mulyaningsih Eka. 2018. Listen English Full Audio Application as a Supporting Media in Improving Students' Listening Skill. *IDEAS: Journal of English Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature*. 6(2): 1-8.

Zamari et al. 2012. Students Perception of Using Online Learning Materials.

Procedia: Social and Behavioral Sciences. 67: 611-620.

Sukmawati Tono Palangngan, Eka Mulyaningsih
Students' Interest in Learning English Through Belajar Bahasa Inggris with Aco Application

92