Lola Apk in Junior High School Speaking Class: Students' Point of View

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Abstract

This study intends to examine how junior high school students see the use of the Lola Speak application to enhance their English-speaking abilities. Students' subjective experiences were investigated using a qualitative approach and a case study methodology. Semi-structured interviews and questionnaires were used to gather information from 24 first-graders at a Medan junior high school. Ten closed-ended statements that assessed the application's usefulness, simplicity of use, and effect on students' confidence in their ability to speak English made up the questionnaire. The majority of pupils gave the application positive feedback, according to the data. Up to 66.7% of students concurred that the application's speaking practice feature enhanced their ability to communicate, and 58.3% said that using it increased their confidence when speaking English. The application was also thought to be engaging, user-friendly, and capable of boosting motivation for learning. Some students, however, claimed that in order to better accommodate different learning styles, more features were required and that there were technical limitations. The study's findings emphasize how critical it is to create application-based learning tools that are more flexible and sensitive to user requirements.

Keywords: *English-Speaking skills; Lola Application; Students' Point of View*

Introduction

Without a question, the lola speak apk is a technological advancement that has greatly influenced language learning, particularly when it comes to using English as a second language. This influence continues to have an impact on language instruction today (Izadpanah, 2024; Zheltukhina et al., 2023; Rahmati et al., 2021; Coleman, 2009). The Lola Speak apk has digital language learning features that also allow for customized and flexible learning paths that accommodate different needs and preferences (Dizon, 2023; Bostock, 2020).

In this case of learning English as a foreign language, it has been proven that the use of technology including the Lola apk can increase academic motivation, communication effectiveness, and learning achievement through interactive learning environments (Jovanović & Chiong, 2014; Stepp-Greany, 2002). Collaborative online projects, video conferencing, and virtual classes all support the growth of language proficiency in real-world communication situations. Additionally, by making language learning more flexible and accessible, the incorporation of digital technologies can have a good effect on academic motivation for its users (Mirzapour Kouhdasht, 2023; Dvora´kova´ et al., 2021).

Lola speak apk can also access materials at their own pace, get immediate feedback, and monitor their progress, learners can feel accomplished and inspired to keep on with their language learning. Thus, the use of lola speak apk in language teaching has changed the way students communicate and learn new languages, especially when learning English as a second language. Lola Apk also has digital features that have significantly improved student motivation, academic performance, and communication skills by providing an interactive, adaptable, and customized learning experience.

These technologies' ongoing development promises to improve language learning even further, making it more efficient and accessible for a wide range of learners worldwide (Chaniago & HZ, 2024). The development of language abilities is greatly enhanced when technology is used in English language instruction. Students' educational experiences are enhanced by the availability of interactive software, dare platforms, and a variety of learning tools. In addition to offering rich and varied educational materials, technology also produces an immersive and captivating learning environment (Lord & Ashworth, 2016; Jalkanen, 2015; Wu et al., 2021).

Technology enhances students' educational experiences by making learning more accessible and engaging through the use of digital platforms, interactive software, and a wide range of learning aids. In addition to providing a wide range of in-depth instructional content, these digital resources also produce an engaging, dynamic atmosphere that draws in students. The software is well-known for assisting users in becoming more proficient speakers of the target language (Lord & Ashworth, 2016), Thousands of people around the world have used it extensively to improve their language skills due to its dynamic approach (Bajorek, 2017).

Technology makes learning more engaging and fun for pupils by using real-world simulations and multimedia techniques. Applications like Hello English, Duolingo, and others are among the various kinds that can support educators in the teaching and learning process. However, one case that will be explored in this paper is Nasuro Fahratin. The name LOLA SPEAKS, which was discovered by Wise port Ltd. in 2022, is often regarded as a cheerful and simple name that is associated with ease and affection in many cultures.

As such, it is appropriate for applications that seek to make language learning less daunting and more approachable. On the Play store, this app has been downloaded 100,000 times (Wiseport Ltd, 2022). Lola Speak is one of the almost popular language learning applications that offers comprehensive English courses in improving students' speaking (Fahratin, 2024).

According to the researcher's findings thus far, junior high school pupils encounter a number of difficulties when learning to communicate in English in the classroom. The majority of kids are hesitant or fearful when communicating in English. Their conversation may become less fluid and clear as a result of this anxiety. As a result, a limited vocabulary may also hinder their ability to communicate concepts or messages in a clear and suitable manner. Additionally, students may find it challenging to comprehend accents or dialects in the target language, particularly if they are more used to hearing or knowing distinct dialect variations.

Lack of motivation is another issue; students' willingness to participate fully in speaking activities may be impacted by their lack of enthusiasm or interest in the target language. Lack of comprehension of sentence structure: a poor grasp of the target language's sentence structure might hinder the development of proper and insightful grammar in speech. The largest issue among all of the aforementioned difficulties is that students are hesitant and fearful to speak in front of an audience. Consequently, it may be difficult for individuals to overcome their fear of public speaking. As though speaking is a talent that calls for pupils to pay closer attention to their audience (Hz & Daulay, 2021).

One of the human communication skills that enables people to successfully express their ideas, feelings, and thoughts is speaking. Speaking also plays a significant part in many facets of life and is a very active form of communication. Speaking is the most important skill for learning a second or foreign language, claims (Rao, 2019). Speaking is the most crucial of the four language abilities, according to (Ur, 1996), since those who are proficient in a language are referred to as speakers of that language.

Speaking is one of the most difficult abilities that language learners need to acquire, according to (Moreno-Bueno et al., 2006). Of the four English language abilities, speaking is seen as being the most crucial. The primary goal of teaching English is to equip pupils with the skills necessary to communicate effectively and

correctly in the language, claim (Davies & Pearse, 2000). However, it appears that a lack of knowledge in this area hinders language learners' ability to communicate effectively and coherently. It takes years for students to become fluent in the language. They have trouble communicating when this is required of them in real time. There is a lot of drive to overcome this.

For that reasons, there are some applications that can be used to help the speaking learning process, such as: Elsa speak and Progos. One of that is Lola Speak app. Lola Speak seeks to enhance users' English proficiency with an emphasis on fluency, clarity, and appropriate intonation, which will benefit their lives and jobs. According to (Fitri et al., 2022), incorporating instructional video into a lesson may pique students' interest and motivate them to study.

Talking to Lola can help student practice their conversational skills on a variety of topics. You can respond to questions that Lola's software asks you as part of your regular routine, like chatting online, which is a great opportunity to practice your conversational skills, something you don't always get to do when learning English pronunciation. Lola Speak records every aspect of your English pronunciation, including stress and intonation, which can help you sound more natural when you speak with consistent practice and time. The topics discussed in the chats are pertinent and can be helpful in your daily life.

Numerous researches have previously examined how well technology-based media might enhance speaking abilities. The first study looked at how mobile phones and other technology-based media can be used to teach speaking in the classroom (Fahratin, 2024; Akhmad & Munawir, 2022; Karim et al., 2023). At least 3 the analysis's conclusions demonstrated that, in order to facilitate teachers' communication and aid students' comprehension of the material, technology-based media, including cell phones, should be utilized to teach speaking in intercultural education. The statistics showed a considerable difference in the two groups' speaking abilities. Students who used Lola Speak shown more progress in their speaking abilities than those who did not, therefore the findings of earlier studies are highly ambiguous and include information about participants, hypotheses, and less-than-satisfactory research.

Although numerous studies have demonstrated the benefits of employing technology in language learning, including the Lola Speaks program, there are still gaps that demand additional investigation. Most prior large-scale research, such as

those conducted by Nasuro Fahratin (2024), have focused on the effectiveness of technology in boosting students' overall speaking skills. However, these studies frequently lack information into how specific features of programs like Lola Speak actually contribute to the improvement of specific parts of speaking abilities, such as pronunciation, intonation, or student confidence.

This study aims to fill this gap by investigating specific features of Lola Speaks, investigating junior high school students' perceptions of the application, researching its contribution to cross- cultural learning, and assessing its impact on students' motivation and confidence in public speaking. This study is expected to shed new light on the efficacy of technology-based apps in teaching speaking skills at the secondary education level.

Methods

This study investigated the use of the Lola Speak App for English language acquisition among junior high school students, using a qualitative approach to capture their subjective experiences. This approach helps to gather in-depth insights using a variety of data collection methods, including interviews and questionnaires, which allows for a comprehensive understanding of the research subject. The qualitative case study method, as proposed by Yin et al. (2018), is appropriate for examining complex phenomena in their natural settings, allowing for a thorough understanding of the topic.

Significant real-world issues can be studied, practitioners can be involved, procedures can be learned and altered, and a large data set that clarifies independent and dependent variables can be obtained through qualitative research (Kozleski, 2017). Ten male and fourteen females first- graders at a Medan junior high school, the class was picked by applying specified criteria and selective sampling processes 1) The Lola Talk application can be easily installed on the Play Store and can be easily used on the participants' smartphones. 2) The selected participants have taken several tests such as introducing themselves in front of the class using English. 3) Students use this app for a period of 2 weeks if the researcher feels that the participants have difficulty in speaking English. Interviews and questionnaires were the tools utilized to gather data.

The survey included of closed-ended questions. This survey specifically seeks to ascertain how students feel about utilizing the Lola Speak app as a tool to hone their speaking abilities. In addition to extensive semi-structured interviews that offered insights into students' perceptions, difficulties, and recommendations for improvement, data collection included a modified questionnaire with ten agree/disagree statements evaluating the application's use, self-reported speaking skill improvement, and overall satisfaction. Strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree were the five categories into which the responses were divided. Data from the questionnaires and interviews were carefully examined and

interpreted using content analysis approaches (Gomm, 2008). Following the gathering of participant data, the data were evaluated and converted into a

descriptive format. Important phrases, concepts, and themes were identified by applying open coding and repeatedly reading the verbatim transcriptions of the interviews (Gibbs, 2020). In order to create bigger themes that encapsulate students' opinions on using the Lola Speak Application to enhance their English-speaking abilities, these codes were further grouped according to connections and similarities (Fahratin, N. 2022). Rich insights into students' experiences are provided by this meticulous analysis, which advances our knowledge of how the app supports English language development.

Results

Student Perceptions of Using Lola Speak on English Speaking Ability

The purpose of this study is to find out how junior high school first-graders feel about using the Lola Speak app to improve their English-speaking abilities. Using a qualitative case study methodology and data content analysis, researchers collected data by interviewing three participants and distributing questionnaires to twenty-four students. Researchers used three questions to interview three respondents who were selected based on their program proficiency. The results of ten student questionnaire statements about using the Lola Speak application are shown in the table below.

Table 1: Students' opinions about the Lola Speak app for improving

their English-speaking abilities

No	Questionnaire Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Lola speak apk is easy to use even for new users!	58,3%	16,7%	16,7%	4,2%	4,2%
2	The apk display is attractive and supports learning!	54,2%	29,2%	4,2%	4,2%	8,3%
3	The material provided is in accordance with the needs of junior high school students!	58,3%	25%	8,3%	0%	8,3%
4	The speaking practice feature helps improve speaking skills!	66,7%	16,7%	8,3%	4,2%	4,2%
5	The pronunciation in the application is clear and easy to understand!	58,3%	20,8%	12,5%	4,2%	4,2%
6	The topics in the app are interesting and relevant for students!	45,8%	33,3%	12,5%	4,2%	4,2%
7	Lola speak makes learning English more fun!	58,3%	25%	8,3%	4,2%	4,2%
8	After using the app, I am more confident speaking English!	58,3%	20,8%	16,7%	4,2%	0%
9	This application can be used without any technical issues like	54,2%	8,3%	20,8%	8,3%	8,3%
10	I will recommend this app to me friends!	70,8%	16,7%	8,3%	4,2%	0%

These findings are broken down into five categories based on student responses and scores: strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree. The data derived as a proportion of all student responses about using the Lola program to improve English speaking abilities is displayed in Table 1.

Based on the information gathered by the researcher, "Lola Apk In Junior High School Speaking Class: Students' Point of View," the Lola Speak application is used to help first-graders in junior high school speak English more fluently. The majority

of students responded well to using the Lola Speak program to improve their English-speaking abilities, according to the study's findings. 58.3% of students said they strongly agreed and 16.7% said they agreed that this program was easy to use in the initial questionnaire, while 8.4% disagreed and 16.7% said they were neutral. 16.7% of students agreed and 66.7% strongly agreed that this application improved their speaking abilities in the second survey.

However, the statement was disagreed with by 8.4% and neutral by 8.3%. In contrast, the majority of students stated that utilizing Lola Speak made learning English more enjoyable in the previous survey. Although 58.3% strongly agreed with this statement, 25% agreed that using this apk was a lot of fun, 8.3% were indifferent, 4.2% disagreed that using this application was a lot of fun, and 4.2% strongly disagreed that using this apk was extremely easy.

So, it can be concluded, 58.3% of students strongly agree with the statement that Lola Speak is very easy to use for new users. This is one of the majority of students' opinions that support. Second, there are 66.7% of respondents who strongly agree with the statement that Lola Speak has elements that help us speak English better. Third, there are 58.3% of students who strongly agree with statement no. 7 because I often use the Lola Speak application, and lola speak is very fun to use and I can recommend the Lola Speak apk to my friends and family because it is very user-friendly and includes features such as games.

Students also largely gave positive opinions about the advantages of using the Lola Speak app, including advances in vocabulary, confidence, and engaging content all important components of language acquisition. The app's potential to have a positive impact on all facets of language development is highlighted by the identification of an improved overall learning experience. Notwithstanding these encouraging patterns, a few comments highlighted how critical it is to acknowledge students' varied learning preferences and needs.

This raises the possibility that in order to accommodate different individual learning styles, the application may need to be modified or new features added. Furthermore, the request to fix issues with price satisfaction and learning enjoyment highlights how important user-centered considerations are to maximize the effectiveness of the software. All things considered, these results highlight how dynamic language learning is and how educational technology can continue to advance with focused improvements and more empirical research.

The Lola Apk's feature helps improve Speaking Skill

After the researcher dared to ask the participants about how the Lola Speak apk can improve students' English-speaking skills, the responses from the participants were very easy for the researcher to understand from various perspectives.

Respondent 1:

> *"I think this application is very interesting because it has features and materials that are very easy to learn and very easy to understand, and this application can also improve our English Speaking." –Respondent 1*

Lola Speak application is clear and easy to understand

The second respondent's response to the researcher's question about how the Lola Speak app significantly varied speaking practice was as follows:

Respondents 2:

> *"Initially I was confused in using the Lola Speak apk because of the many rules made by the Lola Speak application, such as every time I register with a new nickname, this apk limits the age of the user, such as having to be a maximum of 14 years old and above, but after I finished with that problem I felt that this apk was very interesting to learn because this apk is like a game and we are invited to talk like a video call and finally this apk is very exciting to fill our free time"-Respondent 2*

Through the Lola Speak Apk I Can Frequently Speak English In Public with Confidence and Without Worrying About Making A Mistake.

This is given to the question of how Lola Speak apk can improve our English speaking and how Lola Speak apk can make its users confident in speaking English in public, as stated by; Respondent 3:

> *"This Lola application really helps me in speaking English and thanks to this application I dare to speak in public without fear of making mistakes, because in my spare time I often practice speaking English using this application. This application also has age-appropriate materials and this*

application also has complete features and materials that are in accordance with the materials taught in school and this apk has a reminder for the practice schedule."-Respondent 3

Discussion

Expert researchers have clarified that, when used in the context of learning English as a foreign language, digital technology has been shown to enhance interactive learning environments, boost learner motivation, and enhance academic motivation, communication effectiveness, and learning achievement (Jovanovic´ & Chiong, 2014). This finding is further supported by research conducted by Mr. Nasuro Fahratin (2024), they discovered that Lola Speak users expressed a high degree of enjoyment when using the application, appreciated the interactive process of learning a new language, and displayed significant increases in their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

Additionally, the researchers discovered that Mr. Nasuro Fahratin's study from 2024 indicated that the Lola Speak application was a successful learning tool for expanding kids' vocabulary. The Lola Speak app can be considered effective for a number of reasons, including: a very engaging practice approach that promotes language acquisition without the need to translate words or phrases. This mimic the natural process of acquiring English as a second language (Song et al., 2023). Using an audio-visual approach, this application combines visual and aural components to assist users in organizing or comprehending words that contain sounds and images.

The Lola Speak learning system employs automatic and adaptive repetition, and this all- encompassing method enhances vocabulary retention and intelligent repetition. The lola speak apk offers a variety of content, such as games, exercises, and real-life scenarios. While learned information is repeated less frequently, difficult material is repeated more frequently. This variety aids in the development of language proficiency in various settings and allows for flexibility in terms of time and location. The LolaSpeak digital platform allows users to study at any time and from any location, providing a great deal of freedom.

Moreover, the usage of educational media in the classroom can pique students' interest and motivate them to learn, claim Fitri et al. (2022). One of the AI- powered programs available for improving fluency in speaking and learning

English is Lola Speak, which transforms lives and jobs. AI technology that can communicate with users is what Lola employs. Lola Speak listens to students as they speak words, sentences, or conversations in order to identify true pronunciation issues and offer immediate feedback along with detailed instructions on how to correct them. The Lola Speak app's benefits include the ability to enhance speech clarity and fluency by promoting proper intonation and pronunciation clarity.

Additionally, study by Abugohar et al. (2020) shows that teachers use smartphone apps to help kids learn to talk. The results of two data gathering methods show that students perceive these applications to be highly helpful in increasing their speaking fluency, and teachers are encouraged to use them as teaching tools. The programs are intended to help teachers, develop oral lessons, and boost interest in the subject. Most educators agree that smartphone apps are a great way to teach general speaking abilities.

So, in a previous study by Nasuroh Fahratin (2024), students were able to improve their understanding of proper English pronunciation by using the Lola Speak application, which offers a variety of lesson modes that allow students to learn the correct responses and gain knowledge from their mistakes. The Lola Speak app helps students become self-directed learners by motivating them to adhere to pronunciation guidelines. While practicing alone in the application, they attempt to say it without getting sidetracked by their environment.

It became evident as the researcher went through these detailed answers that people thought using Lola Speak was more beneficial than merely honing abilities. In order to offer a holistic language learning experience, the program combined interactive elements with structured courses, creating an entertaining journey. Implementation is essential for enhancing speaking skills and promoting broader language proficiency, which includes vocabulary, pronunciation, and general linguistic confidence, according to these results, which are in line with the developmental stage of first-grade junior high school participants. The fact that Lola Speak gradually develops grammatical comprehension without placing an excessive amount of emphasis on specific grammar rules is significant (Nasuroh Fahratin., 2024). This reflects the natural development of grammatical comprehension in children through frequent exposure to their mother tongue.

Furthermore, the study's findings support the claim made by Ataeifar et al. (2019) that application design, user motivation, and language proficiency levels can all influence how well English language apps work to help bilingual speakers improve their English. The conclusion is that the feature sets of various applications vary (Elmahdi et al., 2018; Yin et al., 2018). From the standpoint of the pupils, the Lola Speak program can, in fact, help them become more proficient in English, particularly when it comes to speaking this language.

All things considered; the application has been shown to increase students' motivation for learning English.

Because they can practice anytime, anywhere, this software helps students feel more comfortable speaking in front of an audience. Even though there are still certain issues, like a lack of researchers to gather data and a lack of personalized materials, this study demonstrates that the app is a useful and entertaining learning tool for junior high school students to improve their speaking, listening, writing, and reading abilities. As a result, more investigation is advised to examine the adaptive learning characteristics and the application's capacity to facilitate intercultural communication.

Another thing that Lola Speak emphasizes is pronunciation. By recording their pronunciation, users can use the app's speech recognition features to compare it to that of a native speaker. They also get real-time feedback on their word pronunciation, which helps them spot and correct improper pronunciation.

Conclusion

This study shows that the Lola Speak application provides positive energy to improve students' English-speaking skills for the first grade of junior high school. The majority of students stated that this application is easy to use, fun, and able to improve their confidence and pronunciation skills. The interactive features and gamification approach in the application are also considered to be able to increase students' motivation and engagement in learning and This study also encourages further use of technology in education, especially in language learning, and suggests that application developers pay attention to user needs to be more adaptive and inclusive. Further studies are also recommended to explore more in the effectiveness of such applications in broader and more diverse contexts.

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