The Effectiveness of Ledp Application on Students' Listening Comprehension

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Abstract

This research was aimed to measure the effectiveness of Listen English Daily Practice (LEDP) application in the improvement of 8th graders' listening comprehension skills. There were 34 students comprised in one class involved as the sample of this study. This research used quantitative method with experimental approach and one-group pretest post-test design. In collecting the data, 20 multiple-choice questions in the pre-test and post-test were used as the instruments after the students were instructed to listen to conversation videos taken from YouTube. Data analysis of paired sample test was used in analyzing the data. That data analysis showed that the average score gained by the students in the post-test (82.20) was higher than the one in the pre-test (49.70). Besides, the calculation by using paired-sample test revealed that the standard error mean made by the students in the pre-test was 1.606 while in the post-test was 1.371. These findings showed that the errors made by the students in the post-test was smaller than in the pretest. The correlations between LEDP application as variable X and students' listening comprehension skills as variable Y computed through paired-sample correlations indicated significant value of 0.01 which was lower than 0.05 (Sig. 0.01<0.05); meaning that the two variables were correlated. Therefore, this research rejected H0 and accepted Ha. To conclude, LEDP was an effective application utilized in improving students' listening comprehension skills.

Keywords: LEDP application, listening comprehension, application as teaching media

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengukur efektivitas dari aplikasi Listen English Daily Practice (LEDP) pada peningkatan keterampilan pemahaman menyimak siswa kelas 8. Terdapat 34 orang siswa dalam 1 kelas yang dilibatkan sebagai sampel. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kuantitatif dengan pendekatan ekperimen dan disain one group pre-test post-test. Dalam mengumpulkan data, 20 pertanyaan pilihan berganda pada pre-test dan post-test digunakan sebagai instrument dengan terlebih dahulu meminta siswa untuk menyimak topik percakapan yang peneliti ambil dari YouTube. Analisa data statistic paired-sample test digunakan dalam menganalisa data. Hasil Analisa tersebut menunjukkan capaian nilai rerata siswa pada post-test (82,20) lebih tinggi daripada nilai rerata pre-test (49,70). Selain itu, perhitungan menggunakan paired-sample test menunjukkan bahwa standar rerata kesalahan pada pre-test asalah 1,606, sedangkan pada post-test adalah 1,371. Hal ini berarti kesalahan siswa pada post-test lebih rendah daripada pre-test. Korelasi antara LEDP sebagai variabel X dengan keterampilan pemahaman menyimak sebagai variabel Y yang dihitung melalui paired-sample correlations menunjukkan nilai signifikan 0,01 lebih rendah dari 0,05 (Sig. 0,01<0,05) yang berarti terdapat korelasi antara kedua variabel tersebut. Dengan demikian, hasil penelitian ini menolak H0 dan menerima Ha. Sebagai kesimpulan, LEDP merupakan aplikasi yang efektif dalam meningkatkan keterampilan pemahaman menyimak siswa.

Kata Kunci: *aplikasi LEDP, pemahaman menyinak, aplikasi sebagai media ajar*

1. Introduction

Listening skill is very important in foreign language learning because the key to learn a language is to receive language input (Gilakjani & Sabouri, 2016). The learners who have good listening skill will be easier to understand any comprehensible input to support the process of their language learning and the development of other language skills. Conversely, without having the ability to grasp sufficient understandable input, language acquisition will be hampered. In EFL classroom, many researchers believed that two most important skills are listening, then speaking (Bano, 2017). She further explained that this due to the fact in which the more the learners understand, the more confident they become to use the language, and this understanding can only be acquired by them through their ability to listen to input. Therefore, serious thoughts and study are needed to help second language learners dealt with complex nature of listening skills and difficulties (Kim, 2015; Macháčková, 2009).

Listening consists of auditory discrimination, aural grammar, selecting the necessary information, remembering it, and connecting it to the process between sound and meaning form (Morley, 1972 as cited in Gilakjani & Sabouri, 2016). Rost (2009) says that listening is an active mental ability. This ability helps us to understand the world around and is an important part of successful communication (as cited in Gilakjani & Sabouri, 2016). Gilakjani and Ahmadi (2011) state that listening includes listening to thoughts, feelings, and intentions and it requires active engagement, active listening, and active listening and intentions and this requires active engagement, effort, and practice. There are several different definitions of the term listening comprehension. Listening comprehension is the different the process of understanding spoken language. It includes knowing the sounds of an utterance, understanding the meaning of individual words, and understanding sentence syntax (Nadig, 2013 as cited in Gilakjani & Sabouri, 2016). According to Hamouda (2013), listening comprehension refers to the understanding of what has been heard by the listener and his ability to repeat the text despite the fact that the listener may repeat the sounds without real comprehension.

In accordance with this, Kim (2015) and Kurita (2021) further state that listening is a process that involves a deeper understanding of the meaning; it is not a simple word-by-word translation process. In listening, students are dealing with genuine conversations and real situations which require them to understand that actual speech. At this point, teacher's role to facilitate and provide the students with appropriate and effective ways of teaching is needed. According to Vega (2016), in order to foster and equip the learners to be successful in listening comprehension, teachers should update their teaching approaches and methodologies adjusted to the purpose of each subject discussion. This means that any strategy taken by the teachers should be adapted to current situations to make the learning more meaningful.

Shaping with this technological era, utilizing any application linked by the internet can be chosen by the teachers to support their listening classroom. As Vahdat & Eidipour (2016) opined that due to various issues in English classrooms including limited time, lack of proficient teachers, inadequate materials and sources, and learners' anxiety, building interesting learning atmosphere is one of suggested strategies to solve these problems. In responding to this idea, In Indonesia, plethora of prior studies have been focusing on the utilization of various application in listening comprehension classrooms, such as: the use of YouTube video (Qomariyah, 2021; Sondy & Mandasari, 2023; Audina, et.al., 2022; Yuyun & Simamora, 2021), Spotify application (Silvi & Nurjati, 2023); Dailymotion application (Emilia, et.al, 2023); Podcasts (Ningtias, 2021; Abdulrahman, et.al., 2018), DuoLingo and SPADA (Purwanto, et.al, 2022).

Among those numerous numbers of application, the one which discussed 'Listen English Daily Practice (LEDP) application was still scarce. Therefore, this research was aimed to explore the use of this application in teaching listening comprehension to the students, to fill the gap.

LEDP is a free downloaded application to practice listening skills. This application provides listening materials for every level; beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Most of the materials contain everyday topics and short stories with huge number of conversational and useful vocabulary hence the learners can practice every time they need to develop and improve their listening skills. This application benefits both students and the teachers in which the students can easily start their listening practice while the teachers can grasp their skills and knowledge to select the best ways to teach the students. Nurussyifa & Izzah (2022) reported on their experimental research findings that LEDP was not only an effective media to encourage 8th graders' motivation to study English, but also affected the improvement of their listening skills. In order to measure the effectiveness of this application, the researchers used two groups of 8 grade students as experimental and controlled group. It was proven that the class which did not use this application in their listening class did not perform as good as the experimental one.

Referring to the background above and the gap the researchers found from plethora of prior studies, this research was then guided by a research question: "Is Listening English Daily Practice an effective application to be utilized to improve students' listening comprehension skills?" Thus, the objective of this research was to scrutinize whether or not this LEDP application effective to be used by the teachers to improve listening comprehension skills of the students. The researchers hoped that the results of this study would contribute to the enrichment of English teachers' knowledge in terms of selecting and utilizing an up-to-date application in their listening classrooms.

2. Method

A quantitative study of experimental research approach with one group pre-test and post-test design was applied in this research. A quantitative method tests objective theories by examining the relationship between variables (Creswell, 2016). The administer of pre-test and post-test is intended to get the initial idea of research subjects' knowledge prior and after the treatment. The difference achievement gained by these research subjects in those two tests will determine how successful the experiment is. This research was conducted in odd semester, academic year of 2023/2024 at MTsN 1 Pamulang, South Tangerang. There was one class of 8th grade comprising by 34 students involved as the sample selected by cluster random sampling. Frey (2018) states that cluster sampling is used when all population elements are categorized into mutually groups called clusters. In this case, a total number of 11 classes of 8th graders at the school were considered as students' groups/clusters.

In collecting the data, both pre- and post-tests of listening comprehension were used as tools. In the pre-test, the students were given one dialogue taken from YouTube to listen and after the listening; they are required to answer 20 multiple choice questions related to the dialogue they had listened to. As well as in this pre-test, the students were also provided by one dialogue different from the pre-test to listen and instructed to ask 20 multiple choice questions about the dialogue source they had listened to. The experimental itself was held in 6 meetings after the pre-test. The researchers asked the students to firstly downloaded LEDP app on their smart-phone to get accessed to the application. The researchers explained about this app and how operationalize it in practicing their listening comprehension skills. The app also provided them with quiz related to the topic they had listened. After the students accomplished all the questions, they could check their scores directly from one of the features in this app. Based on the researchers' observation, the students were very excited and motivated practicing their listening comprehension skills and proud if they made progress from one quiz to another.

As it was described previously, this research was quantitative, then, in analyzing the data, statistical analysis was used. The procedures taken to analyze the data were as follows: 1) The 20 multiple choice questions in pre and post-tests valued 0.5 for one correct answer.

Hence the lowest score was 0 and the highest one was 100. Referring to this, at first, the researchers calculated each student's achievement in each test. 2) After getting all the scores, total score gained by all students in the pre-test and in the post-test was determined to get the average score in each of the test. 3) In order to determine whether or not there was difference achieved by the students in those tests, statistical hypotheses were formulated in which Ha stated that LEDP was an effective media utilized to improve students' listening comprehension skills; while H0 stated that this app was not effective to be used to improve students' listening comprehension skills. 4) Determining appropriate statistical formula to use, namely: paired sample-test. As Gerald (2018) opined that dependent sample t-test (paired sample t-test) is used to compare means of one group at two different times. 5) After the data of those two tests were calculated, compared, and analyzed, the results were used to determine which hypothesis was accepted and which one was rejected. 6) This decision was used as the conclusion to answer the research question.

Furthermore, to ensure a rigorous research design, a quantitative study with an experimental research approach, specifically employing a one-group pre-test and post-test design, was meticulously implemented. As espoused by Creswell (2016), the quantitative method was chosen to scrutinize objective theories by exploring the intricate relationship between variables. The administration of both pre-test and post-test aimed to gauge the research subjects' knowledge before and after the treatment, with the discrepancy in achievement between these two tests serving as a reliable measure of the experiment's success.

Conducted during the odd semester of the academic year 2023/2024 at MTsN 1 Pamulang, South Tangerang, the research involved a carefully selected sample of 34 students from the 8th grade, chosen through cluster random sampling. Aligning with Frey's (2018) insights, cluster sampling was considered apt when categorizing all population elements into clusters. In this instance, 11 classes of 8th graders at the school were deemed clusters.

Data collection was meticulous, utilizing both pre- and post-tests of listening comprehension. The pre-test required students to engage with a dialogue sourced from YouTube, responding to 20 multiple-choice questions related to the material. Additionally, a separate dialogue was provided for students to generate 20 multiple-choice questions, adding depth to their comprehension. The experiment spanned six sessions post the pre-test, during which students downloaded the LEDP app on their smartphones and received guidance on its usage for practicing listening comprehension. The app, with its quizzes on listened topics and score-checking features, not only facilitated skill improvement but also heightened students' enthusiasm and motivation.

Given the quantitative nature of the research, statistical analysis played a pivotal role in data interpretation. This encompassed calculating individual student achievements, determining average scores for each test, formulating and testing statistical hypotheses using the paired sample t-test, and ultimately deriving conclusions based on the analyzed results. This meticulous decision-making process served as the foundation for addressing the research question conclusively.

3. Results and Discussion

Based on the computation of pre-test and post-test score gained by the students, it was found that the students achieved higher score in the post-test or after the treatment. To make it clearer, 34 students' achievement in those two tests was as follows:

Table 1. Students Achievement in Pretest and Post-test

Description	Pre-test	Post-test
Total score	1690	2795
Average score (mean)	49.70	82.20
The highest score	70	100
The lowest score	30	65

After getting the data above, the analysis is processed to statistical calculation of paired sample test. Before coming to this step, normality test was taken as the requirement to use the formula in order to make sure that all the data were normally distributed. The formula of Kolmogorov-Smirnov was used by the researchers in this normality test in which the computation showed that the significant value (2-tailed) of pre-test was 0.072 and the post-test was 0.099. These two values were higher than 0.05. This was interpreted that both the data in the pre-test and post-test were normally distributed. Then, the paired-sample statistical test computation revealed that the mean score attained by the students in the pre-test resulted standard deviation of 9.369 with standard error mean of 1.606. Meanwhile, the students achieved a mean score of 82.20 in the post-test, with the standard deviation of 7.995 and standard error mean of 1.371. Standard deviations of 9.369 (pre-test) and 1.371 (post-test) meant that the data utilised in the pre-test and post-test were both similar. Furthermore, post-test standard error of 1.371 was lower than pre-test standard error of 1.606, meaning that the error made by the students in the post-test was lower than in the pre-test. As a result, it was assumed that students listening comprehension improved significantly after LEDP was used in listening comprehension class.

The analysis by using paired-sample correlation was used to see the correlation between the two variables; LEDP as variable X and students' listening comprehension as variable Y. Through the significance value of 0.001 was less than 0.05. (Sig. 0.01 < 0.05), it was reasonable to conclude that there was a substantial connection between learning with and without the LEDP Application in the process of teaching and learning listening comprehension. This means that there was an effect of LEDP towards students' listening comprehension skills.

Furthermore, the robustness of the relationship between LEDP as variable X and students' listening comprehension as variable Y was confirmed by the paired-sample correlation analysis, which yielded a significance value of 0.001 (Sig. 0.01 < 0.05). This result strengthened the conclusion that there was a significant and positive correlation between the application of LEDP and the enhancement of students' listening comprehension skills. The findings suggest that the integration of LEDP in the teaching and learning process played a pivotal role in fostering improved understanding and proficiency in listening comprehension among the students.

4. Conclusion

This experimental research was conducted in the purpose to measure the effectiveness of Listen English Daily Practice (LEDP) application to be utilized in listening comprehension class. The analysis of the data from main sources of pre-test and post-test revealed that after being taught by using this application, the students made improvement in terms of their listening comprehension, this was proven by the average score they reached in the post-test which was higher than the one in the pre-test. The errors made by the students after they had learnt by using LEDP application were lower compared to prior the treatment. There was also a correlation between LEDP as variable X and listening comprehension as variable Y in which paired-sample correlations revealed significance value of 0.01 as lower that 0.05 (Sig. 0.01<0.05). This means that there was a substantial correlation between learning with or without L EDP, or in other

words, LEDP affected students' listening comprehension skills. LEDP is recommend to be used as one of effective applications to improve students' listening comprehension skills.

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