CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Speaking is one of the productive language skills necessary for exchanging information with others in the appropriate way for humans to communicate. Speech is a form of communication for expressing emotions, sensations and ideas to others (Harmer, 2008). Lado (1964) added that speaking is the ability to express oneself in life situations, or to report activities or situations that require the appropriate language, or to express ideas fluently. .

English is widely recognized as an international language. People from all backgrounds interact and communicate using English as their first and second language. English plays an important role in communication in our lives, be it technology, science, education, politics, or business. English is now an important subject at all levels of education in Indonesia. There are four English skills that must be mastered when learning English. The four skills of English are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills are interconnected. English is not only about empathy skills, but also some aspects like grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.

Pronunciation is a sub-skill of speaking and can be categorized as an important aspect of speaking. Kreidler (2004, p.5) explains that pronunciation is the way sounds are articulated by a speaker and these sounds are arranged in a system, a particular phonetic audio system.

Pronunciation is the production of sounds that help evoke meaning (Gilakjani, 2016:2). If you don't have good pronunciation, it's impossible to speak English well. Mispronunciation can lead to understanding. We have to be able to speak English properly so that others can understand it. Therefore, pronunciation plays an important role in communication. In fact, English pronunciation is considered a difficult subject for high school students because English pronunciation differs from that of their native language. Therefore, English teachers choose pronunciation learning media to improve .

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platforms for learning to speak English by listening to translator voices and grammar, and tasks for practicing pronunciation and listening (Bende, 2017). We use the platform application Duolingo as a medium to enable students anywhere to learn English in an effective, efficient and fun way. Garcia (2013) adds: Duolingo is also a free online language learning site with a mission to help users learn languages with learning exercises available through her web and applications. Duolingo has a variety of modern language learning techniques. This gives the impression that you are learning while you are learning, making it easier for students to understand, engage and enjoy learning. Duolingo offers many languages so language learners can choose the language they want to learn. B. English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Dutch and other languages.

Duolingo also provides data such as points earned, course overview trees, streaks, and time spent. Duolingo is easy to use due to its simple usage process and can be used by all ages. This means Duolingo is a more user-friendly, engaging and suitable medium for online education. (Krashen, 2014), this is his web-based Duolingo application that guides students step-by-step through a series of tasks that are largely translation-based. Most of the in-app activities are based on translation, dictation and pronunciation. It also incorporates several elements of gamification to engage and engage students (Handrianto & Rahman, 2018; Munday, 2016). White (2014) further states that Duolingo is an online learning program that allows people to take free language courses by translating.

According to Jaskova (2014), Duolingo is a free application (used on multiple platforms such as computers, mobile phones, etc.)

that offers courses in over 23 languages and has approximately 200 million registered users worldwide. increase. It was introduced in 2012 by Louis von Ahn and Severin Hacker at the University of Cambridge Mellon to help students learn and master any foreign or second language they wish to learn (Nushi & Eqbali, 2017). The purpose of Duolingo is to assist and assist students in language comprehension. Interactive and fun applications can motivate students to learn languages. Duolingo is the future of language learning. Provides easy access and multiple languages. Very useful for students who want to learn a new language. Mobile vocabulary learning apps like Duolingo offer a fun and entertaining way to explore languages. In such a case, you can also use functions such as "tests and quizzes" that allow you to review the previous unit. Duolingo has many features that help students learn languages quickly, including: B. Daily word lists, discussions with other users to share, and more immersion for more advanced students.

The author focuses on students' pronunciation when speaking English in an English class. The author appreciates the effectiveness of her English Duolingo application in improving students' English pronunciation. The purpose of this study was to determine the effectiveness of the English Duolingo application in improving students' English pronunciation in the classroom. The author first observed how students speak English during the process of teaching and learning in an English class.

1.2 Identification of the Study

Based on the above background, the author concludes that some students do not know that the English Duolingo application can improve their English pronunciation, thus solving their problem. This is because students do not have the latest technology to help the English Duolingo application. They improve their English pronunciation skills during class.

1.3 Limitation of the study

This study focuses on the effectiveness of the Duolingo application in improving the English pronunciation skills of class VII MTS 1 Kaur students. Meanwhile, the observation and research processes will only be carried out in the classroom for each English subject.

1.4 Research Question

The formulation of the problem in this research is formulation as follow:

"Is there a significant effect of implementing the Duolinggo application in improving students' English pronunciation skills at MTS 1 Kaur?"

1.5 Research Objective

The aim of this study is to provide a little more description to English language academics and others who need it. The purpose of this study are found in the context of research and presentation of the problem to determine the effectiveness of the Duolingo application in improving students' English pronunciation skills in learning at MTS 1 Kaur.

1.6 Significance of the Research

The results of this research are expected to provide the following effects and information.

1) theoretically

For example, an expert review of phonetic theory and a review of the theory and effectiveness of her Duolingo application in improving students' pronunciation skills.

2) Practical

In fact, the Duolingo application is very helpful in helping students improve their English pronunciation skills inside and outside the classroom, and it can also improve their reading, writing and listening skills.

3) Further research

This study is intended to serve as a resource or guide for those wishing to conduct research in the future, especially regarding teaching pronunciation skills and her use of Duolingo.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

1. Duolingo application

Duolingo is a free language learning platform that can be accessed via the web (duolingo.com) or as an app on your mobile device. It is a very popular language learning program, with approximately 300 million students and growing (Duolingo, 2019). Duolingo has some playful features that encourage learners to learn the language.

2. pronunciation ability

English Pronunciation is the pronunciation of English words based on the Oxford or Longman dictionary

pronunciation. Pronunciation is also the art or process of pronouncing English words like a native speaker. Pronunciation is also one of the elements of English that must be mastered.