

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

##### **2.1.1 Pronunciation Skill**

###### **2.1.1.1 Definition of Pronunciation Skill**

Speaking ability has attracted the attention of many scholars over the decades, and many definitions have been established. According to Richards (2008), oral activities in English classrooms should focus on enabling students to use and communicate in English (cited in Eyesus, 2015). Hybel, Richard, and Weaver (2001) describe speech as a process of sharing information, opinions and feelings.

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 serve to 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 their students' pronunciation skills. In fact, media pronunciation using computers and smartphones is widely used in the learning process. One of the mediums you can use to learn pronunciation is the Duolingo application.

According to Hornby (2008:352) Pronunciation means language or the way certain words or sounds are pronounced. Learning pronunciation is very important especially when it comes to speaking skills. Pronunciation is how people pronounce words. However, pronunciation is one of the most difficult aspects of learning English for many students. Students with good oral English pronunciation are more likely to be understood, even if they make mistakes in other ways. On the other hand, students with poor pronunciation have difficulty understanding even if their grammar is perfect. The main language problems faced by students are language problems, mother tongue use and barriers (Al Hosni, 2014:28).

Students cannot speak English because they lack the necessary vocabulary and grammatical structures. They also lack sentence construction skills, which forces them to use their native language. Students also become very embarrassed about making mistakes when speaking in front of their classmates and choose not to speak to avoid the situation. Getting students to speak English with correct pronunciation is not easy. It takes more time and a good strategy. You can influence your students' pronunciation with the English Pronunciation App (Duolingo App). English Pronunciation is the pronunciation of English words based on the Oxford or Longman dictionary pronunciation. Pronunciation is also the technique or process used to pronounce English words like a native speaker. Pronunciation is also one of the elements of English that must be mastered.

Mr. Yuzawa (2007:3) Pronunciation is foundational and contains things that anyone who wants to learn or is learning communicative English should understand and understand. In other words, mastering pronunciation involves the phonological system and the ability to

pronounce sounds in a way that the listener can understand their meaning. It is well known that English is not the same as Indonesian. The two languages differ in terms of pronunciation, spelling, intonation, etc. Differences in pronunciation between the two languages are also reflected in the pronunciation of vowels, consonants, and diphthongs. Aspects included in pronunciation skills are accuracy, fluency, intonation and intonation. There are a few things to keep in mind when learning pronunciation:

Correct pronunciation of the alphabet, correct pronunciation of vowels, consonants and diphthongs, as well as correct stress and intonation must be ensured.

According to Ali Mustadi (2013:35) The following aspects of pronunciation are assessed: spelling and pronunciation fluency, spelling accuracy, stress and intonation. Pronunciation can be very important when someone pronounces a word with a different meaning than what it actually means. Therefore, it is very important to learn and master the correct pronunciation from native speakers. Of course, by using media and learning methods that are easy for students to understand.

Barnes and Claire (2003:4) Suggest some principles for learning pronunciation. Start learning pronunciation early. This means that the correct usage of phonemes, consonants, vowels, intonation and word stress must first be learned. Next, we test whether students are using the correct pronunciation of words in simple conversations. We have carefully selected interesting topics to inspire students to communicate in English with correct pronunciation. Fourth, focus on practicing and imitating English pronunciation and using it in a wider range of conversations. Fifth: Beware of some pronunciations that are almost or even pronounced differently than they actually are. Here is an example of how to read "flower" and "flour". These two words have different spellings and meanings, but they sound almost the same. Attention should also be paid to the ability to understand the use of intonation, and due attention must be paid to the emphasis on pronunciation.

#### 2.1.1.2 Elements Pronunciation

Speaking is divided into four categories. Accuracy, fluency, pronunciation, and grammar are all important factors. the aspects that are assessed in pronunciation are fluency of spelling and pronunciation, accuracy of spelling pronunciation, stressing, and intonation.

## 1. Vowels

Vowels are vowel sounds used to pronounce a word. There are differences in Indonesian and English in using vowel sounds. In Indonesian, vowel sounds include a, I, u, e, and o. while the number of vowel sounds in English is 22 which are divided into 3 types, namely lax, tense, and diphthong.

### ➤ Lax

Lax is described as a vocal sound that has a gentle characteristic. Lax is not spoken loudly and with emphasis.

- **ʌ** cup /kʌp/
- **ɪ** sit /sɪt/
- **ɪ** happy /'hæpi/
- **ʊ** put /pʊt/
- **u** actual /'æktʃuəl/

### ➤ Tense

It means press, strong and also has a loud sound. When learning pronunciation, you must put a strong emphasis on the words you will use.

- **ɑ:** father /'fɑ:ðə(r)/
- **i:** see /si:/
- **u:** too /tu:/

## ➤ Diphthong

Diphthongs are often referred to as sound arcs. However, in the Oxford dictionary, diphthong is more of a combination of two vowel sounds. The combination of these two vowel sounds results in a glide or a curved sound when pronounced. When you find a vowel compound, then you have to say it in an arc.

- **eɪ** say /seɪ/
- **əʊ** go /gəʊ/
- **aɪ** my /maɪ/

## 2. Consonants

Consonants or consonants are letters other than vowels. Basically, when you learn to know pronunciation, then you have to know the types of consonant sounds which are divided into voice consonants and unvoiced consonants.

**Voiced Consonants**, when you sound the Voiced Consonant, one of the three limbs vibrates. (**z** – zoo /zu:/, **d** – Do /du:/).

## Unvoiced consonants

That is a consonant sound that cannot cause vibrations in the mouth when sounded. When you sound the Unvoiced Consonant, your lips, tongue and throat don't vibrate at all. (**k** – kick /kɪk/, **t** – two /tu:/).

## 3. Popsounds

Also known as a pop sound. In Arabic we are familiar with the term qolqolah, or sound reflection. It turns out that in

English, there are some sounds that need to be bounced at the end of words (p, k, t, tf, b, g, dan d).

- P  
cap/kæp/  
lap /læp/
- k  
leak /li:k/  
wick /wɪk/
- t  
got /gɒt/  
seat /si:t/
- tʃ  
watch /wɒtʃ/  
catch /kætʃ/
- b  
cab /kæb/  
lab /læb/
- g  
league /li:g/  
wig /wɪg/
- d  
god /gɒd/  
seed /si:d/
- dʒ  
wadge /wɒdʒ/  
cadge /kædʒ/

## 2. Final Sounds

Also called the final sound, or the last sound in a word. Try to guess, what is the sound of the word “like”? Is it e or is it k? The answer is of course k. so the last sound is k. While e is not the final sound, but the final writing. Then what are the benefits of learning the final sounds? By knowing the final sound, we know when a word is read long or short, and when the word is popped. Because the sound explosion occurs at the end of a word. The

discussion of sound explosions has been described in the popsounds material above. While the discussion of the short length of the sound in a word is closely related to the material of consonants and vowels. English vocabulary is read at length if the final sounds are in the form of tenses, diphthongs, and voiced consonants.

- See /si:/ (Tense Vowels)
- No /nəʊ/ (Diphthong)
- Mob /mɒb/ (Voiced consonant)
- Conversely, it is read short if the final sounds are lax and unvoiced consonants.
- Mop /mɒp/
- The /ðə/

### **2.1.1.3 The Function of Pronunciation Skill**

Make sure you have no mistakes in pronunciation of all English words. Learn how to pronounce English words and phrases correctly and accurately to avoid misunderstandings. Strengthen your English listening skills.

By learning pronunciation, you can easily master pronunciation, especially when it comes to communication. Poor pronunciation makes it difficult to understand what other people are trying to say. The main aspects considered in a pronunciation course are sound, stress and intonation.

## **2.1.2 Duolingo Application**

### **2.1.2.1 Definition of Duolingo application**

Duolingo is a vehicle for improving your students' English skills. Duolingo offers users "gamified" learning. The games in this application offer users benefits in learning the target language (Nushi & Eqbali, 2017). Technology plays an important role in education today. The four roles of technology in education are:

As part of the curriculum, as an educational delivery system, as a means of supporting education, and as a tool to enhance the overall learning process. (Raja & Nagasubramani, 2018) Game-based learning is a very popular technology trend that uses game elements. According to (Ibrahim, 2017), the advantages of using games in classroom learning are that games are student-centered (students are always focused), games enhance communication skills, and games add meaning to language use. It's about creating a context, and that games enhance literacy. It reduces learning anxiety, games integrate different language skills, games promote creativity and spontaneous use of language, games create collaborative learning environments, and games promote student participation.

Duolingo is a free language learning platform that can be accessed via the web ([duolingo.com](https://www.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. First, it features a skill tree consisting of multiple lessons that the user can progress to unlock the next skill. Each lesson contains 10-15 exercises of various types. Another Duolingo feature is a leaderboard that activates when users add friends to their list. Duolingo has a currency shop called Lingot, where users can purchase additional skills and bonuses such as freezing his Duo, an owl mascot, and customizing his appearance.

Duolingo also has a feature on the web called Duolingo for Schools that allows teachers to create virtual classrooms to view Duolingo curriculum content, monitor student progress, and assign classroom activities and homework assignments. Yes (Stringer, 2016). In this study, Duolingo is considered a language learning application with gamification features.

Duolingo is a free language learning application. According to Duolingo for School Guides (2016), "Duolingo is the world's largest online language learning platform. We use scientific knowledge and adaptive learning technology to make language learning more fun



and effective. Our app was awarded iPhone App of the Year 2013 by Apple and Best of the Best 2013 and 2014 by Google Play."

### **2.1.2.2 Duolingo application Benefits**

1) Increase Foreign Language Vocabulary

From this platform you can increase your vocabulary, your vocabulary will increase by at least five to ten words.

2) Improving Foreign Language Proficiency

Along with increasing your vocabulary, your level of foreign language skills will also increase, the intensity of learning will also increase as your abilities reach more advanced levels.

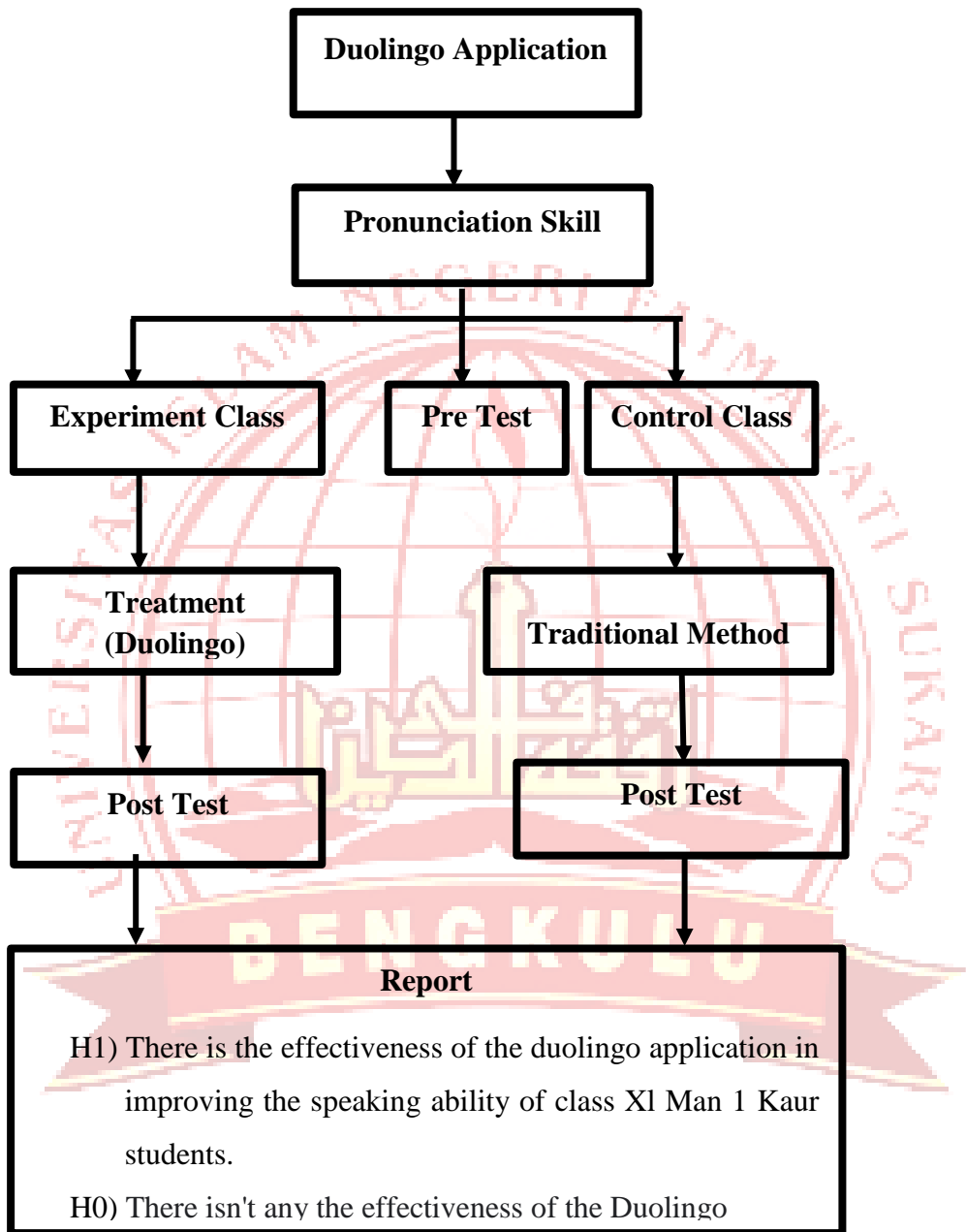
3) Effective English Learning Solutions

Android-based application that can improve English skills. Apart from speaking skills, Duolingo can also improve other skills, such as writing, reading, translating, listening to English.

4) Simplify the teacher's task in conveying information, knowledge, and skills that can overcome learning problems while at the same time helping teachers and students achieve learning objectives.

5) Technology presents learning applications that are able to facilitate students to learn independently and reflect on material that has been discussed at.

## 2.2 Theoretical Framework



Structure 2.1 Conceptual Frame Work

Learning the Duolingo application is very important as it provides many benefits such as learning English. However, many

students still don't know how effectively the Duolingo application can improve their English skills.

The Duolingo application is very popular among teenagers, students and the general public because it allows them to learn while playing. In this study, the authors investigated the effectiveness of her use of Duolingo in improving students' English proficiency. Speaking is one of the very important skills for a good communication process, but learning to speak requires the attention of an educator who teaches her skills in correct and proper speaking. Therefore, students must be interested in speaking classes in order to improve their speaking skills. In this case, teachers need to understand the effectiveness of the Duolingo application in improving their students' speaking skills.

### **2.3 Previous Studies**

Based on previous search results found by the author, the same title was not found, but the author was given a work with the same relevance as the title of the current search. These works include:

Prior studies relevant to the studies investigated by the researchers include:

1. Researchers by Elin Herlina<sup>1\*</sup>, Audi Yundayani<sup>2</sup>, Sari Astuti<sup>2</sup> (2021), entitled "Her use of Duolingo as a technology-based learning medium in improving students' speaking skills." In this study, learning English using technology media is considered a necessity for a change in online-based learning modes. Using Duolingo media is an alternative you can use when learning English. The purpose of this study is to investigate how students' speaking skills can be improved

through the use of Duolingo media. This study used a qualitative approach with a classroom action research design.

The study was conducted with 35 of her students at the State High School (SMAN) in Bekasi. Data obtained from observations, interviews and test results. The results of this study suggest that Duolingo media can help students improve their English speaking skills. The results showed that in Cycle I, 57.14% or 20 students achieved a score of 75 or above, which is the school's minimum completion standard (KKM). In the second cycle, 71.43% or 25 students rose to her 25th. In the third cycle, he again climbed 91.43%, with 32 students scoring above her KKM. Using Duolingo also increases students' confidence and motivation in speaking English. This shows that using Duolingo can be an alternative medium. The similarities and differences between this study and previous studies are that the relevance of this study is equally important in improving students' English skills through the use of the Duolingo application.

WRITTEN RESEARCH\_ Research by Elin Herlina<sup>1\*</sup>, Audi Yundayani<sup>2</sup>, Sari Astuti<sup>2</sup> entitled "Her Utilization of Duolingo as a Technology-Based Learning Media in Improving Students' Speaking Skills" (2021).

The technique used in this study is a qualitative approach using classroom action research (CAR). The studies considered by the authors were quantitative studies (quasi-experimental) and focused on students' pronunciation.

2. Journal by 1Putri Nasution, 2 Reni Rosianna Lumbangaol, 3Maricesaragih 4Lusianna Aritonang 5Nasa Gautama Silaen (2020) "Training on the use of Duolingo application in improving English skills in a group of children aged 12-15 in Bukit Legal Tourism Area". The aim is to improve the English skills of smart house children using Bukit Lawang.

The way the service is implemented is to provide listening and direct training to children aged 12-15 in a smart house with Bukit Lawang. The number of participants for this service is 25. When conducting this training, we directly train children on the correct use of the application. This training activity is divided into five parts: pre-test, exploration, details, review, and post-test activity. During the pre-test phase, the participant will work through questions related to evaluating her Duolingo application.

During the exploration phase, the resource owner brainstormed with the participants an evaluation based on her Duolingo application. After brainstorming, the resource owner performed elaboration work, specifically describing the material for creating an assessment tool based on her Duolingo application. During the confirmation phase, the trainees formed groups and were asked to discuss how to use the Duolingo application. In the next step, group representatives presented the results of their discussions to other groups. In the post-test phase, participants completed the questions in the training material, resulting in a 59.52% increase in post-test score and an average post-test score of 74.60 points higher than before. Since the average pre-test score is 44.40, we can conclude that this training results are significantly better.

The similarities and differences between this study and previous studies are that this study using the Duolingo application is related to improving English skills, and the difference is that the researchers focus on pronunciation.

3. The journal (2020) written by 1Putri Nasution, 2 Reni Rosianna Lumbangaol, 3Maricesaragih 4Lusianna Aritonang 5Nasa Gautama Silaen uses observational and direct methods, but the author's study is a quantitative study (quasi-experimental). 3. Rifdinal Journal Rifdinal1 1) MA in Postgraduate Studies in English Language Education, Jambi University, Jambi, Indonesia, titled "Effects of Using DUOLINGO in Learning Vocabulary English" (2021). The purpose of this study is to test the effectiveness of using Duolingo in learning English vocabulary.

This study used an experimental design between two groups, an experimental group and a control group. Sampling in this study is performed using a full sampling approach. Research results show that the use of Duolingo has a significant impact on vocabulary learning at Aliya Sukun Theological Seminary. Homogeneity test shows the sign. 0.736 higher than 0.05. An independent-samples t-test shows that equal variances are assumed to be significant. (two-sided) is  $0.035 < 0.05$ . The similarities and differences between this study and previous studies underscore the relevance of this study to both testing the efficacy of using Duolingo and using a quasi-experimental method. The purpose of this journal is to test the effectiveness of her use of Duolingo in learning English vocabulary. This study is about the effectiveness of her Duolingo application in improving English pronunciation skills.

#### **2.4 Hypothesis**

H1) There is the effectiveness of the duolingo application in improving the pronunciation of class XI Man 1 Kaur students.

H0) There isn't any the effectiveness of the Duolingo application in improving the pronunciation skills of class XI Man 1 Kaur students.

