

THE USE OF POWTOON IN IMPROVING STUDENTS' ENGLISH SKILLS

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Abstrak: Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menjelaskan kegunaan PowToon untuk meningkatkan keterampilan berbahasa Inggris siswa. Perkembangan teknologi mempengaruhi pembelajaran termasuk media pembelajaran. Perkembangan teknologi merubah cara guru menyampaikan materi dikelas. Study ini menggunakan metode studi kepustakaan yang mengumpulkan data melalui jurnal, buku, and bahan sastra lainnya. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa PowToon adalah media yang bisa meningkatkan keterampilan Bahasa Inggris siswa. PowToon memiliki beberapa manfaata seperti huruf yang berwarna, animasi bergerak, kombinasi dari media visual and audio yang menarik, dan dapat membantu siswa dalam meningkatkan skill berbahasa Inggris mereka.

Kata Kunci: PowToon, Keterampilan Berbahasa Inggris, Media Pembelajaran

Abstract: *The aim of this study is to explain the use of PowToon in improving students' English skills. The technology has grown and impacted the learning including the learning media. It left the reverse in the way teacher delivers the material. Library research method was utilized to collect the data. The instruments of this research were journals, e-books, and library findings. The finding revealed that PowToon could enhance students' English skills. It also has a lot of benefits such as colorful fonts, moving animation, combination of visual and auditory, text and music that could help students in improving their English skills.*

Keywords: *PowToon, English Skills, Learning Media*

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Technology enhancement has impacted learning (Wekerle et al., 2020). It has also impacted how teachers deliver the material in today's learning. The presence of interactive videos, e-books, and learning apps is a sign of technology's effect on learning media (Mainake & McCrocklin, 2021). It promotes the role of media which has been important to be more powerful in learning. It happened since technology clears the barriers among students (Hirschman & Wood, 2018). Those barriers cover physical, geographical, and diversities among students. Therefore, the enhancement of technology has upgraded the media to be more excellent in terms of reaching students' needs (Guan et al., 2018).

Furthermore, ICT possesses some advantages if it is applied in learning. Yuliantini (2021) stated that there are some advantages of using ICT in learning. First, it is flexible and allows students to access the material anytime and anywhere. Second, ICT promoted collaborative skills. ICT provides students with various forms of learning. It could be through video chats, quizzes, and conferences that invite students to be more active in speaking out their judgment towards a particular topic. Third, ICT provides students with attractive and effective teaching and learning which could raise students' motivation in learning. Pun (2014) added that through ICT, the students could step up to wider knowledge sources and not be stuffed by the teacher's information. The students could access more material sources that will enrich their understanding of the material. Raja & Nagasubramani (2018) stated how ICT helps students to work faster on their tasks. Since everything is connected to the internet, the students could get the required information faster. The transfer of information has become more convenient and easier. It creates positive learning atmosphere for students.

On the other side, English is an international language whose speakers have spread all over the world. It has been spoken on international events in which people from various countries take participation. According to Syafitri et al., (2018), English is used in international business, commercial, political, social, and cultural events. Therefore, students must consider English mastery in their learning process. In line with how impactful media and the assistance of technology development, it is highly recommended for students to take advantage of media and technology in their English learning process.

PowToon as the result of technology enhancement could be a good media to develop English skills. It is a moving presentation that consists of manipulated living creatures, moving characters, and audio sources (Pais et al., 2017). It provides students with an attractive and colorful material presentation. Semaan & Ismail (2018) added that PowToon also could assist teachers in designing the material since it provides teachers with various templates and manipulated characters. The customizable fonts are various that make students be more motivated and interested. The combination of visual and audio will help students to reach their learning styles (Rao & Durga, 2018).

Previous researchers have shown PowToon as great medium to develop English skills. Heryanto & Rahayu (2021) conducted research focusing on listening skills. They utilized a qualitative research method to determine the influence of PowToon in teaching listening. Through the questionnaire, it was found that PowToon is effective to teach listening. PowToon had a very well influence on students' English skills. Moreover, Pais et al., (2017) conducted PowToon's research aimed at students' perception of PowToon among pedagogy programs students in Universitas Catalica de Maule in Chile. This research employed mixed method research to gain the data. The result of this research is that PowToon has a positive effect to raise students' motivation. Besides, PowToon also helps teachers to introduce ICT-based learning to students. Hari (2019) attempted to implement PowToon as media in teaching English. In elementary school students at the second-grade students. Further, the questionnaire and open-ended questions were used as the instrument to collect the data. The questionnaire resulted that PowToon could attract students' attention since the design is colorful and helps teachers in making the teaching to be effective. Furthermore, Yuliantini (2021) conducted research in explaining the use of PowToon in enhancing students' English skills. This research used the library research method by using journals and books as the instruments. The result of this research was that PowToon is a potential medium to enhance students' English skills. The review of journals and books has proven the features of PowToon that support PowToon to be a potential media: PowToon is easy to access; powtoon makes learning enjoyable; counter students' boringness; promotes all types of learning styles for students.

Based on previous researches, has shown that the combination of media and technology greatly affects students' English skills. Thus, PowToon as one of the forms is a potential media to improve students' English skills. Therefore, the objective of this study is to explain that the use of PowToon was potential to improve students' English skills through its benefits.

METODE PENELITIAN

This study utilized the library research method. Library research is a method that uses books, journals, articles, and library sources as the data (Sari & Asmendri, 2018). Kuhlathue (2002) divided the plots of data collection of library research method: 1) selecting topic; 2) information exploration; 3) scope of the study; 4) data sources collection; 5) preparation; 6) report writing. The instruments of this study were books and documents to collect the data to support the existing knowledge that PowToon

could be used as a media in enhancing students' English skills through its benefits. The theories were gained from various articles and previous research conducted by other researchers. The collected data was used to support the statement that PowToon could be used as a medium in improving students' English skills.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Many researchers have proven that PowToon is a potential media to improve students' English skills by its benefits. Swamy (2020) attempted on investigating the students' perception towards PowToon in classroom. He integrated PowToon with Problem Based Learning (PBL) in his classroom. Since he found students' problem in comprehending the concept of materials. Further, after the PowToon was implemented, the questionnaire was administered, There were 10 question items consisted of yes or no question. The result of this questionnaire that PowToon is a good media in learning process. It helps them to understand the concepts better, it could attract their interest, and could promote independent learning since they could store the video in their phone and watch it at home. PowToon also has increased students' classroom engagement and increase their creativity in developing learning strategies. Sutisna et al., (2019) conducted a research aiming at finding out students perception and challenges in learning and teaching process by using PowToon. It was a qualitative method which used classroom observation, questionnaire, and interview as the instruments of data collection. The data was further analyzed by gathering the data, coding, data comparison toward theory, interpreting the data, and reporting the data.

The result of this research was PowToon is an interesting media to be used in learning and teaching process. The students view PowToon to be a good media. The challenges of PowToon according to students was that the motion of the material and characters were disturbing and avoid them to concentrate at the material. Moreover, Adnyani et al. (2021) conducted research in the field of education and entertainment for young learners. This mixed-method research aimed on the investigation of the effectiveness of PowToon as learning media in fifth-grade students in EFL classroom. The result of quantitative data was PowToon showed significant difference compared to the class that was not taught by PowToon. PowToon increased student' comprehension and resulted the responses from students. The research show that the edutainment can be applied by primary EFL' teacher to enhance students' engagement as well as students' comprehension. Syafitri et al., (2018) attempted to use PowToon to teach speaking for students in Senior High School. The method used was mix method. The subject consisted of all the students from XI Science-4. This research was focused on students' pronunciation and students learning motivation. The Data was collected by convergent parallel design. They applied classroom action research method and the data were analyzed quantitatively and both qualitatively. The result has shown the effectiveness of Powtoon-Video through the increase on students' mean score after being taught by using Powtoon-Video.

According to the finding, it has found that PowToon is effective to be used as a media to improve students' English skills. First, PowToon can be used to teach any topic of interest. Second, the features of PowToon are interested and attractive. Third, PowToon is flexible and can be used anytime by students so that students could conduct independent learning.

Technology has impacted and elevated the role of media in learning process. Krohn (2003) stated that technology press some barriers among students. It could be seen from the reverse on the way teachers deliver their materials. The technology impacted the

media to be more effective and flexible (Girón-García, 2015). PowToon, as one of the result of this enhancements is believed to be a potential media to be used in improving students' English skills.

Syafitri et al., (2018) attempted to use Powtoon-Video to teach speaking for students in Senior High School. The method used was mix method. The subject consisted of all the students from XI Science-4. This research was focused on students' pronunciation and students learning motivation. The Data was collected by convergent parallel design. They applied classroom action research method and the data were analyzed quantitatively and both qualitatively. The result has shown the effectiveness of Powtoon-Video through the increase on students' mean score after being taught by using Powtoon. In this sense, speaking is an activity to produce meaningful sounds. It is important for students since speaking is an activity to share their thoughts and opinions orally. In English learning, students find it difficult since speaking requires a lot of English elements such as vocabularies, pronunciation, and grammar. Some students also face confidence problem in speaking as they are afraid in making mistakes. Therefore, in line with the previous research, PowToon could enhance students' speaking skills since they are motivated to learn how to pronoun the words, and also get curious about English. Besides, the features of PowToon that could load audio could be a solution for students to learn how to pronoun words in accompany by the animation. PowToon could be an integration of vocabulary and pronunciation that will help students in building their confidence in speaking.

Further, focusing on another language skills, Heryanto & Rahayu (2021) applied Powtoon-Video to teach listening to eighth grades students. The method was descriptive qualitative. The subject consisted of 25 students taught by using Powtoon-Video. The research object was to explain the influence of Powtoon-Video to students' listening skills. Data was collected through questionnaire. The analysis of data was done quantitatively. The result stated that all students shown positive feedback on the implementation of Powtoon-Video. In this context, the PowToon that allows teacher to load audio will be beneficial for students' listening skills. The pronunciation of the words with their meaning will leave greater understanding towards students. By using PowToon in listening, the students will be used to English pronunciation. Students also motivated to participate and even became active in classroom. Since PowToon has animation that makes them interested in listening learning.

Semaan (2018) conducted a research in which Powtoon-Video was applied to teach reading to the first secondary students. The method used was mix method. The subject consisted of nine students that belong to three different achieving levels in English. This research was focused on comprehension, engagement, and reading strategy. The data was collected through convergent parallel design. Data were analysed quantitatively and both qualitatively. The result stated the the presence of the effectiveness of Powtoon-Video in teaching reading. According to the three researches, they have shown the effectiveness of Powtoon to teach the language skills needed by the students. Reading is often viewed as a boring session for students. However, the presence of PowToon could be a solution for teacher to counter this. Since PowToon has colorful fonts, attractive moving slides and characters, could load sounds. It will be beneficial for students to enhance their reading through PowToon.

Saragih and Simanjuntak (2021) had attempted to investigate PowToon in writing. The research was aimed to improve students' difficulties in gathering ideas through sentences. This quantitative design resulted on the experimental group' mean scores that is higer than the control group. Further, they stated that PowToon helped students to gain the points or the important points in writing procedures. Since the

information is wrapped in concise and packed way, the students did not have to read all the material to get the material that they needed. Therefore, besides its attractiveness and flexibility, PowToon presents students with more simple explanation that could help them perform better in writing.

PowToon is a potential media to improve students' English skills. It is attractive, flexible, and more effective in delivering the material. Pais et al., (2017) stated that PowToon has features such as colorful fonts, animated characters, the combination of multimedia that will help students perform better in their learning.

CONCLUSION

This research aims on explaining the use of PowToon in improving students' English skills. The result of the research is that PowToon is potential media to be used in improving students' English skills. Since PowToon allows the combination of multimedias, attractive design and animated character including sounds, flexible, accessible, and also effective as learning media. Therefore, it is highly recommended for the teacher and students to use PowToon as learning media in improving the English skills.

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