The Use of Cake Mobile Application in Learning English Speaking Skills for Young Learners

Mokhamad Azis Aji Abdilah[1]

[1]Fakultas Ilmu Tarbiyah, UIN Raden Mas Said Surakarta, Indonesia

azisaji.abdilah@staff.uinsaid.ac.id [1]

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate how the Cake Mobile Application might be used as a tool for improving English-speaking skills. The cake mobile application is a smartphone-based application created specifically to make learning English easier. The Cake mobile application has features for learning English to students, such as voice recognition and speech recognition. This study included a review of the literature. A literature study is a method for gathering data that involves researching books, articles, documents, and reports related to problems resolved. The results show that the cake mobile app has many benefits for learning speaking skills, especially for young learners. It can be a way to help young learners get better at speaking in front of others and get their attention. Several suggestions can be made based on the research findings to improve the English language proficiency of young learners through the use of the Cake mobile app: (1) stressing the importance of learning through authentic language use and real-life scenarios to enhance speaking proficiency in real-world situations; (2) integrating speech recognition and AI-driven feedback mechanisms to provide prompt and accurate speaking proficiency assessments; and (3) regularly reviewing and updating app content to ensure that it is relevant and effective in achieving learning goals.

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menyelidiki bagaimana Aplikasi Seluler Cake dapat digunakan sebagai alat untuk meningkatkan kemampuan berbahasa Inggris. Aplikasi mobile Cake adalah aplikasi berbasis smartphone yang dibuat khusus untuk mempermudah pembelajaran bahasa Inggris. Aplikasi mobile Cake memiliki fitur-fitur untuk belajar bahasa Inggris kepada siswa, seperti pengenalan suara dan pengenalan ucapan. Penelitian ini termasuk studi literatur. Studi literatur adalah metode pengumpulan data yang dilakukan dengan cara meneliti buku-buku, artikel, dokumen, dan laporan-laporan yang berhubungan dengan permasalahan yang diselesaikan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa aplikasi mobile cake memiliki banyak manfaat untuk mempelajari keterampilan berbicara, terutama untuk pelajar muda. Aplikasi ini dapat menjadi cara untuk membantu pelajar muda menjadi lebih baik dalam berbicara di depan orang lain dan mendapatkan perhatian mereka. Beberapa saran dapat dibuat berdasarkan temuan penelitian untuk meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa Inggris pelajar muda melalui penggunaan aplikasi seluler Cake: (1) menekankan pentingnya belajar melalui penggunaan bahasa yang otentik dan skenario kehidupan nyata untuk meningkatkan kemahiran berbicara dalam situasi dunia nyata; (2) mengintegrasikan pengenalan suara dan mekanisme umpan balik yang digerakkan oleh kecerdasan buatan (AI) untuk memberikan penilaian kemahiran berbicara yang cepat dan akurat; dan (3) secara teratur meninjau dan memperbarui konten aplikasi untuk memastikan bahwa aplikasi tersebut relevan dan efektif dalam mencapai tujuan pembelajaran.

Keywords:

Cake Mobile Application, Improving English Speaking-Skills, Young Learners

Corresponding Author:

Mokhamad Azis Aji Abdilah
Fakultas Ilmu Tarbiyah
UIN Raden Mas Said Surakarta
E-mail: azisaji.abdilah@staff.uinsaid.ac.id

1. PENDAHULUAN

Speaking skills are a vital part of communicating effectively in a language. In our more interconnected world, communicating clearly and confidently in a second language, like English, is crucial for success on the personal, academic, and professional levels. Proficiency in oral communication encompasses not only the accurate use of syntax and vocabulary but also the capacity to participate in dialogues, articulate thoughts, and react suitably in many situations. It might not be easy to develop these abilities in conventional classroom settings since they need constant practice and contact.

The ability to speak is the most crucial component of learning a foreign or second language. Speaking is vital for acquiring a foreign or second language among the four essential language abilities (Rao, 2019). Speaking ability, according to a prior study, is the capacity to convey ideas, intentions, emotions, and feelings to others using spoken language in a way that is understandable and effectively communicated (Amira & Amri, 2022). Stated differently, speech plays a major role in one's capacity for interpersonal communication. According to earlier research, speaking is the most difficult skill since speakers must pay attention to their companions to comprehend spoken language and reply in the target language. During this process, students face major challenges related to psychological (e.g., uneasiness, reluctance, and anxiety), linguistic (e.g., vocabulary deficiency and grammatical errors), social (e.g., fear of making mistakes and receiving criticism), and environmental (mostly traditional teaching techniques) (Benlaghrissi & Ouahidi, 2024).

Speaking is a difficult skill for many foreign language learners to acquire. The children need the media to help them in English-speaking classrooms. It is preferable to learn English using technology or an app since it enhances our language abilities (Hwang et al., 2024). Since speaking requires fluency, speaking is one of the hardest skills for a foreign language learner to acquire. Speaking is a talent that involves vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, intonation, and communicative abilities, according to earlier research (Phung & Le, 2024). Early English language acquisition has several advantages for young learners that can affect their personal and professional lives in the long run. Improved scholastic chances, greater professional options, richer cultural experiences, and notable cognitive development are some of these advantages. In addition, early acquisition of good English-speaking abilities can benefit young learners greatly in terms of social and academic outcomes.

Young learners who want to learn how to speak English must take a comprehensive strategy that takes into account their interests and developmental needs. To guarantee that the materials are understandable and applicable to everyday life, effective language teaching should include basic vocabulary and grammar. Encouraging learners to practice speaking without fear of making mistakes requires a supportive and low-anxiety setting. The previous study found that young learners' English language development is positively impacted by their interactions with English-speaking classmates (Piker & Rex, 2008). The linguistic and academic contexts that young English learners are exposed to are greatly shaped by peer social network characteristics, which in turn affects the language competency of these learners. The previous study (Al-dalawi et al., 2023) discovered that friendships have a substantial impact on language learning motivation by offering opportunities for language practice and emotional support.

Based on the existing literature, several important variables and techniques can be taken into consideration to improve the English-speaking abilities of young learners. First and foremost, to make practice in everyday situations simpler, it is essential to choose and create English-speaking materials for young learners that provide basic vocabulary and grammar (Mandaria et al., 2022). Studies have indicated that speaking ability is greatly impacted by vocabulary knowledge, especially for learners at a lower proficiency level (Koizumi & In'nami, 2013). Second, it's critical to look into psychological aspects that influence speaking performance, comprehend the hurdles and tactics used by learners, and offer suggestions on how to get better at speaking (Alrasheedi, 2020). Additionally, developing one's speaking abilities in English fosters confidence and communication skills in young learners. It takes effective communication to share ideas, take part in conversations, and work with others. Fluent English speakers are more likely to participate in class activities, ask questions, and ask for assistance when necessary. Their language proficiency is enhanced by their active engagement, which also raises their self-esteem and fosters a good attitude toward learning. Through the

provision of interactive and engaging platforms for English practice, mobile applications play a significant part in this process, helping young learners to improve their language proficiency.

With their profound impact on communication, employment, and education, mobile applications have become an indispensable aspect of contemporary life. Mobile applications provide creative solutions in several fields, including education, as a result of the quick progress of technology. Education is made more accessible and individualized by these apps, which provide users the freedom to learn whenever and wherever they choose. Mobile apps are becoming an effective tool to supplement and improve conventional teaching approaches in the field of language acquisition. They provide intriguing and interactive features that accommodate various learning requirements and styles. Language learning has been revolutionized by mobile applications, which provide learners with easily accessible and convenient venues to enhance their language proficiency while on the go. For English language learners, there are a plethora of mobile applications that accommodate varying learning styles and ability levels (Risnazarovna, 2024). Cake Mobile Application is one well-known tool for learning languages on mobile devices.

The Cake Mobile Application is a smartphone-based application created specially to make learning English easier. The Cake is one such app that, according to (Momeni, 2022), is a promising location where language learners can learn the language through real English movies. To create an interesting and productive learning environment, it makes use of a range of interactive elements, including practice exercises, quizzes, and video clips. With its emphasis on everyday conversational English, the app helps users become more fluent, confident speakers by using real-world examples and circumstances. The Cake Mobile Application increases the fun and accessibility of language practice for learners of all skill levels by utilizing gamified learning strategies and multimedia content.

Thus, the purpose of this study is to investigate how the cake mobile application might be used as a tool for improving English speaking. Two research questions directed this study to accomplish the purpose. This study focuses on learning speaking skills using the Cake mobile application. The Cake mobile application is one of the viewpoints that is believed to positively affect young learners' motivation and excitement for learning English as well as their ability to speak the language. The purpose of the study is to investigate the possibility of using the Cake Mobile Application for speech recognition.

To improve their speaking skills both inside and outside of the classroom, it also suggests that students download the Cake Mobile App to their phones. The cake is meant to help pupils become more fluent in English in a delightful way.

2. METHOD

In this study, a review of the literature was done. An approach to gathering data that involves examining books, literature, records, and reports related to problems resolved is called a literature study (Baškarada, 2014). This article's facts and information came from a journal, online forums, books, and other sources. To provide a theoretical foundation for a study, one way to gather data is through literature studies, which involve searching books, newspapers, journals, and other types of literature. A literature review is an in-depth synopsis and evaluation of the academic publications and research that have already been done on a certain subject. A more or less systematic approach to gathering and summarizing previous research is called a literature review (Ilankumaran & Deepa, 2018). An analysis of existing research, theories, and methods for developing spoken English competency is part of a literature review on the subject of English language learning.

This article will cover a few topics. The Cake Mobile Application's features are covered in the first one. Journal articles that are available online will explain the features of the Cake Mobile App. Moreover, the usage of the Cake Mobile Application to learn speaking skills was investigated for the second issue. The analysis of this problem is done using all pertinent journals. The researcher additionally examines certain relevant materials that might be used to clarify these concerns to obtain a clearer explanation.

3. RESULT AND DISSCUSION
3.1 RESULT
1. The Features of the Cake Mobile Application

Cake is an innovative and interesting language-learning application designed to assist users in mastering the art of speaking English. With its many interactive features, the app aims to make learning English enjoyable and productive. To learn genuine conversational English, users can access a large library of video clips from popular media, practice speaking in real-life circumstances, and receive immediate feedback on their pronunciation. Cake offers a full platform for increasing English fluency, complete with individualized learning routes, daily speaking challenges, and AI-driven corrections. Cake's dynamic style and user-friendly layout make it a great tool for anyone wishing to improve their English-speaking abilities, regardless of experience level.

For users of iOS and Android smartphones, this application can be downloaded from the App Store or Play Store. Indonesian and English are among the 14 languages that are supported by this app. The user is prompted to choose their preferred language when downloading the Cake application. If we choose to use it, we may then log in using our Google or Facebook accounts. To help users save data, sign in with a Google or Facebook account. Under the Education area is where the Cake app falls.

The researcher found that English speech, speaking themes, and English idioms taken from YouTube are available in the Cake app on Google Play. After seeing the channel's video, say the crucial phrase. There is a key phrase in every video. When you examine the subject, see how well the word speaks. To verify the pronunciation, use AI speech recognition. All you have to do is record your voice and get feedback right away. With the help of these tools, you can practice speaking by acting out a conversation with a native speaker. It is advised to have conversations with native speakers. Take notes while you record yourself speaking in turn, sentence by sentence. It sums up the amount of time spent using Cake to learn English. It's free. Take pleasure in learning without any expenses.

Using the videos in this application, users can also study proper English. To assist people, in learning English quickly and for free, entertaining, short videos of actual English conversations are added daily. People can enhance their English in just a few minutes a day by learning authentic English expressions that have been carefully selected from YouTube and seeing similar phrases all in one location. Using discussions with native speakers as a model, the Cake Mobile Application helps users improve their speech abilities. Pronunciation can be verified using AI speech recognition technology. To get immediate feedback, all we have to do is record our voice. Without any intrusive adverts, Cake is a free app.

You have to register before using this app. You can log in with your Google or Facebook account, or you can use guest mode, which doesn't require registration but just lets you access the free episodes (ideas for practicing speaking). Click the microphone button at the bottom of the app and choose your desired level to start the speaking course. Next, pay 10 coins for each episode or topic you choose to learn. You will get 30 coins upon registration, which you can spend to access the speaking course episodes.

2. The Use of Cake Application to Learn Speaking Skills

Cake is a cutting-edge language learning tool that uses fun and interactive techniques to improve users' English-speaking abilities. Cake's use of real-world circumstances as practice is one of its best aspects. students can get involved in normal conversations, such as placing an order at a restaurant or talking with friends about their hobbies. By assisting students in applying their information in real-world scenarios, this contextual practice improves the relevance and efficiency of the learning process. Furthermore, the application offers immediate feedback on pronunciation and fluency, allowing users to recognize and fix errors in real time. Making this quick adjustment is essential to become a confident and accurate speaker.

An essential component of the app's instructional methodology is its extensive collection of video clips from well-known films, TV series, and YouTube channels. Students are exposed to slang, idioms, and a range of dialects in real-world conversational English through these films. Students can get better at pronouncing words correctly and comprehending genuine speech patterns by imitating these exchanges. Cake's speaking challenges, which are posted every day, help to reinforce learning through regular practice. The progressively harder challenges are meant to help individuals gain confidence and progressively enhance their speaking abilities. Learning a language becomes less of a chore and more of a fun pastime because of the captivating content that keeps students interested and motivated.

Cake further customizes the educational process by developing customized learning pathways that take into account the objectives and competence levels of each learner. Students may improve their pronunciation and sentence structure by using the app's AI-driven corrections, which provide them with accurate feedback. By focusing on areas that require improvement, this individualized method makes sure students are making the most of their study time. Cake also emphasizes vocabulary expansion through contextual learning, assisting users in acquiring new terms and comprehending acceptable usage in speech. Cake provides an all-inclusive platform that is appropriate for both novice and proficient English speakers, by merging these characteristics.

3.2 DISCUSSION

Cake is a state-of-the-art language-learning application that uses interactive and entertaining techniques to help students improve their English-speaking abilities. The program provides a thorough and engaging language learning experience by utilizing real-life scenarios, popular media video clips, and tailored learning paths. The cake program has a recording feature that users can listen to, and the prior study found that it is entertaining (Siti Maryam Suryani et al., 2021). Using this feature, students can record their voice while they practice speaking English, which they can then listen back and compare to recordings they made earlier or with native speakers. This enhances the learning process and promotes self-evaluation and development. It also makes learning more dynamic and interesting. Pronunciation, fluency, and confidence can all be improved, and students can monitor their development over time. Cake's other features, when paired with its recording

capability, create a pleasant and engaging learning environment that encourages students to practice frequently and improve their speaking abilities.

There are several ways to help students learn English, especially when it comes to speaking (Hwang et al., 2024). The Cake Mobile Application, which has features for teaching English to students, can be a way to help students get better at speaking in front of others and get their attention. The students would do well to use the Cake mobile application as a teaching tool for speaking practice because it helps with speaking skill improvement. Cake offers a vast collection of hand-picked YouTube videos (Al-Jarf, 2022). Each movie on the Cake application has been intended to be as easy for students to grasp as possible, which sets them apart from the other films that students encountered on the platform. For example, the audio quality of the taught sentence is astonishing, the transcription is superb, and there is emphasis.

Through gamified learning experiences, real-world conversation practice, and video courses, this app provides interactive and interesting content. Cake maintains students' motivation and interest by combining regular practice difficulties with individual learning pathways. Moreover, students can improve their speaking skills by using speech recognition technology, which offers immediate feedback on pronunciation. A cooperative and encouraging learning atmosphere is promoted via the application's community features, which let students interact with one another.

This topic has been the subject of numerous investigations in the past. A prior study found that pupils had trouble communicating in class (Alisha et al., n.d.). These difficulties may make them less likely to practice speaking and engage in conversation. The study also discovered that pronunciation and intonation are common areas of difficulty for pupils, which has an impact on their capacity for successful communication. Another study highlights the second problem, which is that young learners may use technology for study purposes and to help teachers and students with their educational tasks (Jawas, 2019). The Cake mobile app appears to have been an engaging and interactive tool for young learners, as evidenced by the results (DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE MOBILE APP FOR IMPROVING ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS, 2023). Furthermore, speaking English became easier for young learners in the context of the testing. According to a different study, the Cake Application can make studying enjoyable, boost students' confidence and speaking abilities, and increase motivation (Siti Maryam Suryani et al., 2021).

The Cake mobile app has many benefits for learning speaking skills, especially for young learners. Students can first hear real speech from native speakers by accessing a wide range of carefully selected YouTube videos. Natural pronunciation, intonation, and conversational nuances are taught to pupils through this experience, which is helpful because these aspects are sometimes absent from standard textbooks. Furthermore, by allowing users to practice speaking and receive immediate corrections, Cake's interactive features—such as voice recognition and real-time feedback—allow users to improve their fluency and pronunciation. With the help of the app's organized courses and themed playlists, students can more easily and manageably concentrate on particular areas of speaking, including colloquial expressions or conversational phrases.

Nevertheless, there are certain drawbacks to using the Cake application to hone your speaking abilities. A notable disadvantage is that the app might not give as detailed or nuanced of tailored feedback as a teacher or tutor in person. While speech recognition technology is capable of identifying pronunciation faults, it may not pick up on more nuanced flaws in tone or context that a human teacher would notice. Furthermore, because YouTube videos are so widely used, there is a risk that the content's appropriateness and quality will vary, exposing users to improper or informal language use. Lastly, students may not acquire the skills needed to successfully negotiate erratic speaking circumstances if they do not participate in the engaging, natural exchanges that occur in real-life talks.

Innovative approaches to language acquisition can be developed with the help of the research findings. Technologies for education can be used in different learning situations by adapting or adopting existing approaches. It is important to support the usage of teaching strategies that can inspire students to participate more fully in the learning process if studies demonstrate that using this application boosts learning motivation. However, there are limits to this research, and there may be restrictions on the accessibility, availability of devices, or technical capabilities of technology applications. This may have an impact on the generalizability of study findings to communities facing technical challenges.

4. CONCLUSION

In learning a second language, speaking is very important when it comes to English. But for a variety of reasons, speaking is a difficult talent to master. Early learning of English-speaking skills can be very beneficial for young learners. Proper resources, knowledge of psychological elements, and interesting platforms are necessary to help young learners become more proficient speakers.

One such tool for improving English-speaking abilities is the Cake mobile application. The software is designed for smartphones and provides video snippets, practice questions, tests, and AI-powered corrections.

The usefulness of the Cake Mobile Application in enhancing speaking skills and its potential for voice recognition are examined in this study.

The Cake Mobile Application's cutting-edge features (such as its vast video clip library, speaking challenges, and AI-driven corrections) are highlighted in the literature study. The interactive elements of the software, such as speech recognition, and real-time feedback, give learners a dynamic and interesting learning experience.

Several suggestions can be made based on the research findings to improve the English-speaking abilities of young learners through the use of the Cake Mobile Application: (1). Daily Practice Promotion: To promote continual progress, utilize the app regularly. It offers daily speaking challenges and interactive exercises. (2). Encouragement of Mistakes and Experimentation in Language Acquisition: Establish a classroom climate that fosters experimentation and mistakes among students.

A thorough analysis of the results points to several strategies for making the most of mobile applications for language learning, including (1) stressing the importance of learning through authentic language use and real-life scenarios to enhance speaking proficiency in real-world situations; (2) integrating speech recognition and AI-driven feedback mechanisms to provide prompt and accurate speaking proficiency assessments; and (3) regularly reviewing and updating app content to ensure that it is relevant and effective in achieving learning goals.

In conclusion, the Cake Mobile Application shows great promise as a tool to enhance English language proficiency. However, because it offers less feedback than a teacher or tutor, it should be utilized in addition to more conventional language learning strategies.

REFERENCES

Al-dalawi, V., Omar, F. R., Mahmood, M. A., & Mustafa, A. A. (2023). Friends' Impact on Learners' Motivation to Learn the English Language. Koya University Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 6(1), 160–169. https://doi.org/10.14500/kujhss.v6n1y2023.pp160-169

Alisha, F., Safitri, N., Santoso, I., & Siliwangi, I. (n.d.). STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING EFL.

Al-Jarf, R. (2022). Journal of English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics YouTube Videos as a Resource for Self-Regulated Pronunciation Practice in EFL Distance Learning Environments. https://doi.org/10.32996/jeltal

Alrasheedi, S. (2020). Investigation of Factors Influencing Speaking Performance of Saudi EFL Learners. Arab World English Journal, 11(4), 66–77. https://doi.org/10.24093/awej/vol11no4.5

Amira, F., & Amri, Z. (2022). Students' Speaking Ability on YouTube Video Project in Online Class during Covid19 Pandemic at Universitas Asahan.

Baškarada, S. (2014). Qualitative Case Study Guidelines. In The Qualitative Report (Vol. 19).http://ssrn.com/abstract=2559424http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR19/baskarada24.pdf

Benlaghrissi, H., & Ouahidi, L. M. (2024). The impact of mobile-assisted project-based learning on developing EFL students' speaking skills. Smart Learning Environments, 11(1). https://doi.org/10.1186/s40561-024-00303-y

DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE MOBILE APP FOR IMPROVING ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS. (2023, June 23). https://doi.org/10.36315/2023v1end079

Hwang, G. J., Rahimi, M., & Fathi, J. (2024). Enhancing EFL learners' speaking skills, foreign language enjoyment, and language-specific grit utilising the affordances of a MALL app: A microgenetic perspective. Computers & Education, 214, 105015. https://doi.org/10.1016/J.COMPEDU.2024.105015

Ilankumaran, M., & Deepa, P. (2018). Teaching Literature Enhances Communication Skills-a Study with Special Emphasis on Poetry. In International Journal of Engineering & Technology (Vol. 7, Issue 3). www.sciencepubco.com/index.php/IJET

Jawas, U. (2019). Writing anxiety among Indonesian EFL students: Factors and strategies. International Journal of Instruction, 12(4), 733–746. https://doi.org/10.29333/iji.2019.12447a

Koizumi, R., & In'nami, Y. (2013). Vocabulary Knowledge and Speaking Proficiency among Second Language Learners from Novice to Intermediate Levels. Journal of Language Teaching and Research, 4(5). https://doi.org/10.4304/jltr.4.5.900-913

Mandaria, R. N., Karani, E., & Bungai, J. (2022). Teachers' Perception Towards Local Content-Based English Materials of Speaking Skill for Young Learners. EBONY: Journal of English Language Teaching, Linguistics, and Literature, 2(1), 72–82. https://doi.org/10.37304/ebony.v2i1.4045

Momeni, A. (2022). Journal of Research in Techno-based Language Education Vo2. 1(2). https://www.thesaurus.com/

Phung, D. H., & Le, N. V. A. (2024). A STUDY ON THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY SENIOR STUDENTS OF ENGLISH IN WRITING ESSAY TASK 2. European Journal of English Language Teaching, 9(1). https://doi.org/10.46827/EJEL.V9I1.5316

Piker, R. A., & Rex, L. A. (2008). Influences of Teacher–Child Social Interactions on English Language Development in a Head Start Classroom. Early Childhood Education Journal, 36(2), 187–193. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-008-0267-y

Rao, P. S. (2019). THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING SKILLS IN ENGLISH CLASSROOMS. www.acielj.com

Risnazarovna, J. M. (2024). EURASIAN JOURNAL OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN LEARNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10803097

Siti Maryam Suryani, A., Nurinsani, C., Indra Purnama, G., Luqmanul Hakim, I., & Khoerun Nisa, L. (2021). The implementation of cake application for speaking english in online learning. Conference.Upgris.Ac.IdASM Suryani, C Nurinsani, GI Purnama, IL Hakim, LK NisaUndergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, 2021•conference.Upgris.Ac.Id. https://conference.upgris.ac.id/index.php/allure/article/view/2030