

**AN EVALUATIVE STUDY ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING
MOBILE APPS TO ENHANCE CONVERSATIONAL
COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF TERTIARY LEVEL LEARNERS**

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Arts
degree in Bachelor of English (Specialisation of degree)

By

N. SUBALAKSHMI (40010031)



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES**

SATHYABAMA

**INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)**

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JEPPIAAR NAGAR, RAJIV GANDHI SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 119

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BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this Project Report is the Bonafide work of N.SUBALAKSHMI (40010031) who carried out the project entitled **“AN EVALUATIVE STUDY ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING MOBILE APPS TO ENHANCE CONVERSATIONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF TERTIARY LEVEL LEARNERS”** under my/our supervision from JANUARY 2023 to APRIL 2023.

Ms.S.Kavitha

Internal Guide

Dr.lizy

External Guide

Signature

HOD
Department of English
Dr. AMUTHA MONICA
Head of Department

Head of the Department

Dr. AMUTHA MONICA

Signature

Submitted for the viva voce Examination held on

Internal Examiner

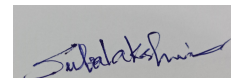
External Examiner

DECLARATION

I am N. Subalakshmi (40010031) hereby declare that the project report entitled **“An Evaluative Study On English Language Learning Mobile Apps To Enhance Conversational Communication Skills Of Tertiary Level Learners”** done by me, under the guidance of Ms.S.Kavitha (Internal) and Dr.Lizy (External) at **Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology** is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

DATE:

PLACE:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Subalakshmi', is placed within a light gray rectangular box.

Signature of the student

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AN EVALUATIVE STUDY ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING MOBILE APPS TO ENHANCE CONVERSATIONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF TERTIARY LEVEL LEARNERS

ABSTRACT

Mobile app learning's main features (ma-learning) are viewed as the potential for personalizing, random, casual and widely available learning processes. Though studying by smart phones can take longer than computers, learners have a greater sense of time and location independence and they can take advantage of free time to study English language whenever and wherever they are.

Mobile-Assisted English Learning (MAEL) is for utilizing smartphone app devices to enhance English communicating skills. Unlike classroom learning, there is no need for the learners to stay in a classroom or at a computer to have classes materials. In addition, in terms of place and time, MAEL can be called an optimal response to obstacles to English communicating skills learning.

Through this paper we discuss the benefits and the usage of mobile apps technology for learners as well as practitioners through looking at certain implementations of ma-learning as well as some instances across different aspects of it. Thus, the advantages of using cell phone apps in enhancing communicative skills in English were intended to be shown. The field of mobile apps English language learning addressed in this paper is communicating skills.

KEYWORDS:

E-Learning, Mobile-Assisted English Learning, Mobile Technology,
English Language Learning, Wireless Communication.

Chapter 1

Introduction

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Context

In this rapid growing world of technology devices and the emergence of wireless communication technology, mobile phones are not an exception with great features and capabilities that cover all fields of human lives. In the near future, all urban and rural areas in the world will have the access to wireless computing devices and mobiles. Nowadays, English becomes the language of the world in life walks including the academic field. It is noticeable that the twenty-first century witnessed a revolution in using Mobile Applications in improving the English skills of the students. Therefore, English language skills and in particular communication and speaking skills take the top priority that students tend to improve because of their role in learning the English Language.

In today's world, where communication has become a vital aspect of daily life, the ability to speak and write fluently in English has become an essential requirement. English language proficiency is an essential skill for tertiary level learners, especially those who wish to pursue higher education and employment opportunities globally. With the advancements in technology, English language learning apps have become an increasingly popular tool to enhance communication skills. These apps have been designed to provide learners with interactive and engaging learning experiences that enable them to learn at their own pace and in their own time.

Currently, mobile learning uses all portable computers and cell phones and other technologies that rely on the same range of functionality. Mobile learning utilizing portable devices is clearly fairly in the beginning, both in terms of its software and pedagogy, however it is quickly improving. The world has witnessed a revolution in the way we learn and communicate.

With the advent of technology, mobile applications have become a popular tool for language learners. The emergence of English language learning apps has enabled tertiary level learners to enhance their communication skills. The purpose of this evaluative study is to assess the effectiveness of English language learning apps in improving the communication skills of tertiary level learners.

In today's digital age, language learning apps are becoming increasingly popular among learners, especially tertiary-level learners. These apps are designed to provide personalized language learning experiences, including interactive learning activities, games, and quizzes.

English language learning has become increasingly important in today's globalized world. As a result, there are many language learning apps available to help people enhance their communication skills in English. In this evaluative study, we will examine some of the most popular English language learning apps and evaluate their effectiveness in enhancing communication skills.

This evaluative study aims to investigate the effectiveness of English language learning apps in enhancing communication skills of tertiary level learners. The study will explore the perceptions and experiences of students who have used English language learning apps to improve their communication skills. The study will also evaluate the effectiveness of these apps in achieving the learning outcomes related to communication skills.

However, there is a need to evaluate the effectiveness of these apps in enhancing the communication skills of tertiary level learners. This study aims to fill this gap by evaluating the effectiveness of English language learning apps in enhancing the communication skills of tertiary level learners.

1.1.1 Mobile Phones

Mobile app learning today is conveniently feasible through providing instructional resources or materials via smartphones to the learners. Mobile apps enable numerous English language-learning tasks, including SMS, internet connection, webcam, audio / video recording, and video message (MMS).

One of the benefits of mobile app learning in this type of learning is that group learning is motivating. This means by communication, various students can share their ideas, experiences, and attitudes. Collaborative learning allows students to encourage, inspire and assess each other to accomplish significant quantities of learning, the element that is often missing in other learning forms.

One can accomplish a successful collaboration method easily by utilizing a smartphone app as a learning platform. In reality, mobile phones apps serve as pencils and calculators which are the essential tools in a student's learning system.

1.1.2. Mobile-Assisted English Language Learning (MAELL)

When the mobile apps were first created, nobody ever believed they would become an integral part of our daily life routine. Once smartphones became a vital part of our lives, a desire to include them in English language learning activities arose. Mobile apps like PDAs, tablets, and other mobile devices are used frequently these days to do almost everything from voice calls and instant texts, video communication, audio listening (MP3, MP4, MPEG), web browsing, shopping, and so on.

In addition to these advantages, mobile apps have gradually evolved to become instruments for schooling and learning English, and both of its instructor or student users are getting accustomed to this world to render education as omnipresent as possible. The advent of the internet has created free and distance learning a way to access knowledge from all regions of the world.

The popularity of distance learning contributed to the discovery in a limited period that many mobile phones have a very useful educational tool. In this manner, it have been seeking to turn smartphone apps into a rich teaching and learning platform.

There are studies and improvements into using communications technology for various forms of learning English. There are a number of fields of mobile-app based English language learning include such as communication, vocabulary, reading comprehension, listening, speaking, pronunciation, phonetics, etc.

Mobile app learning is distinguished by its random, casual, customized and pervasive learning capacity. This awareness is enhanced as individuals or tertiary level learners face spare time constraints as a consequence of working or attending class for longer hours. In such a setting, tertiary level learners or busy people continue to use digital apps or tools to study new resources of mobile apps instead of taking time out for lecture-based classes.

Using apps in education and enhancing communication skills in English have changed the traditional learning methods, gradually changing from the teacher-centered to self-regulated, learner changed into knowledge construction of active learning.

Students or learners get benefits from Technology that enriched their learning, self-regulation, and motivation in communication skills in English. It helps students improve their academic performance and increase positive attitudes towards learning in English. More and more studies show that using mobile apps can engage students in developing communication skills in english and self-regulated cycles of learning.

In Tertiary education, mobile apps are used as a kind of online learning resources that support college students' communication skills, speaking skills and self-regulation. For example, universities are becoming more towards flexible modes of delivering courses, so students become aware of these kinds of delivery.

As a result, students must be responsible for their learning. They will turn to use online resources to conduct self-regulated learning and communication learning. It indicates that using mobile apps to learn can promote students to adopt a self-regulated learning approach.

1.2 The Research Problem

Generally, using mobile technology is growing rapidly. Many Tertiary level learners consider it as a vital tool in their English language learning process. While investigating, it turns out that few studies talk about the use of Mobile Apps in learning and developing English language communication skills.

This study exhibits the effects of Mobile-Assisted English Language Learning (MAELL) in communication skills and speaking skills and to what extent using MAELL will be applicable and effective in learning English as a communication skills. Therefore, the main problem facing students is that they do not communicate or speak English fluently.

1.3 The Purpose of this Study

The study aims at:

- 1) Investigating about different mobile apps to enhance communication skills of tertiary level learners.
- 2) Analyzing the benefits and merits of using Mobile-Assisted English Language Learning (MAELL).

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the most effective English language learning app available for tertiary level learners?
2. How do English language learning apps impact the communication skills of tertiary level learners?
3. What are the advantages and limitations of using English language learning apps for tertiary level learners?
4. What are the factors that influence the effectiveness of English language learning apps for tertiary level learners?

1.5 Significance of this Study

English as an international language is growing daily. Speaking or communicating in English is a crucial measure of a person's willingness to succeed in work and in education. It is the language of science and technology. In deciding the economic status of people in different locations around the globe, English language communicating and speaking skills play a crucial role. This implies that the professional knowledge in English would allow the tertiary level learners to benefit completely from financial and professional opportunities.

English is the language of international communication, and it is widely spoken and taught around the world. Tertiary level learners, who are mostly university students, require strong communication skills to succeed in their academic and professional lives. However, learning a new language is not an easy task, and many learners face various challenges. English language learning apps have become a popular tool to overcome these challenges. These apps are designed to provide learners with an interactive and engaging learning experience.

With the rapid growth of technology, language learning apps have become a popular and convenient method for learners to improve their language skills. English language learning apps offer learners an opportunity to learn the language in a fun and interactive way, anytime and anywhere.

These apps provide various features such as interactive lessons, vocabulary games, pronunciation practice, and cultural content. They also offer personalized learning experiences tailored to individual learner needs.

With the growing popularity of English language learning apps, there is a need to evaluate their effectiveness in enhancing the communication skills of tertiary level learners. This study aims to identify the most effective English language learning apps and assess their impact on the communication skills of tertiary level learners.

Likewise, the significance of the study comes from the need to strengthen the general weakness of students in communicating skills and how such new resources of using smartphone app devices will better enhance English language abilities in general and communicating skills in particular.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This literature review aims to evaluate the effectiveness of English language learning apps in enhancing communication skills among tertiary-level learners. While investigating, the researcher found that there are some studies discussed the use of Apps in improving communication skills. These Apps facilitate and pave the way to learn English easily without even having the help of any tutor. They enable many students to get access to all over the world and to listen and communicate with native speakers in just a few minutes.

The literature review will provide an overview of the use of English language learning apps and their effectiveness in language learning. It will also review the different types of English language learning apps, the advantages and disadvantages of using these apps, and the impact of these apps on language learners' motivation and learning outcomes.

There are several definitions of communication skills while (Chaney & Burk 1998) described communication as "the practice of constructing and communicating sense by the use of verbal and nonverbal representations in a number of ways".

Based on the pedagogy of English as a Foreign Language (EFL), how to enhance speaking skills and build confidence between professors of undergraduate students seems to be a crucial problem. This question contributed to a qualitative research design in a standard course utilizing a task-based methodology, as an action study.

Zaremba (Zaremba, 2006) also referred to a study which showed that speaking skills or communication skills were typically put ahead of work experience, motivation and academic qualifications as requirements for new job recruitment. The results showed that the main factors of development when communicating with the public were confidence, the variety of themes, and speaking competence. (Boon kit, K., 2010).

Another study by (Wang and colleagues 2019) evaluated the effectiveness of a mobile-assisted language learning app in enhancing the English communication skills of 109 tertiary-level learners in China.

The app provided learners with various interactive learning activities and opportunities to practice their communication skills with native speakers. The study found significant improvements in learners' speaking and listening skills after using the app for six weeks.

However, some studies have found mixed results regarding the effectiveness of English language learning apps in enhancing communication skills among tertiary-level learners.

For instance, a study by (Chen and colleagues 2019) evaluated the effectiveness of a mobile-based English language learning app in improving the speaking skills of 30 tertiary-level learners in Taiwan. The app provided learners with various speaking activities and opportunities to communicate with native speakers. The study found some improvements in learners' speaking skills; however, the results were not statistically significant.

Similarly, Lee and colleagues (2016) reported that learners who used a mobile app for English language learning showed no significant improvement in their grammar knowledge.

Learners who learn English as a foreign language (EFL) typically have small chances of learning English outside the classroom according to Zhang and minimal access to English speakers or members of the international community. It may be one factor teachers should provide students with more scenarios and experiences to improve their speaking skills.

The results showed that the main factors of development when communicating with the public were confidence, the variety of themes, and communicating competence.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework contains the theoretical reference points that are used for building the corresponding techniques and procedures. It is the interpretation of the topic and study variables. These theories are essential for the entire process of study as they determine its directions, design the methodology and support the hypothesis.

These Mobile Apps facilitate and pave the way to learn communication in English easily without even having the help of any tutor. They enable many students to get access to all over the world and to listen and speak with native speakers in just a few minutes. Students can master English easily and develop their own competency in English language through the regular use of these apps .

Thus, it is quite easy to connect to the internet and learn any time and at any place they desire. This study covers all aspects of using a new way of enhancing communication skills. This study covers the aspects of using a new way of enhancing communication skills by mobile apps.

2.2 Types of English Language Learning Apps

There are various types of English language learning apps available in the market, and each app offers unique features and benefits. Some of the popular English language learning apps include

- Duolingo
- Babbel
- Rosetta Stone
- Memrise
- and Lingoda.

These apps offer different types of learning methods such as gamification, language immersion, and interactive exercises.

2.3 The Importance of Communicating Skills

Language is seen as a tool for communication. Communication with other people occurs to express ourselves, beliefs ideas, and to know others' identities as well. Communication takes place, where there is speech. Therefore, communication cannot happen without speech and we cannot with one another.

We use English language in a variety of situations. People at their workplaces, i.e., researchers working either in a medical laboratory or in a language laboratory, are supposed to speak correctly and effectively in order to communicate well with one another. Any gap in communication results in misunderstandings and problems.

Communication is one of the four macro-skills that can be acquired in both first and second language learning settings as a medium of successful communication. Based on the pedagogy of English as a Foreign Language (EFL), how to enhance communicating skills and build confidence between professors of undergraduate students seems to be a crucial problem.

2.4 Summarized Points on the importance of learning Communicating skills

Communicating skills are required to interact effectively. Working on Communicating_skills allows the study space a lively and valuable environment.

1. Communicating_is connected to achievement in real life, as it holds a significant social and personal role to the individual.
2. Communicating_skills training provides more trust in the student's identity and strengthens the relationships between the students themselves and the instructor. Instead, the social environment in the class room should be represented.
3. Capacity to communicate promotes logical thought and innovative thinking. In fact, they represent other modes of adaptation, such as supportive, cooperative, and collective schooling.
4. Speaking facilitates the life of the individual by presenting incentives in the area of scholarships, traveling, conferences and meetings.

2.5 Communicating Skills Components

Most areas of Communicating abilities come into two major groups which are fluency, implying the capacity to start talking naturally and continuously. The other category is accuracy, implying the proper usage of words, grammar and pronunciation across various practices.

The language components affect elements that demonstrate the capacity to speak English. Here are the Communicating skill elements:

Vocabulary

Vocabulary implies the correct component of vocabulary used in conversation. If an individual has sufficient vocabulary he can express easily, he can also convey his ideas verbally and in writing.

This Duolingo app lessons are made up of a range of activities and it adapts to the user's vocabulary learning style. The gamified learning system of the app helps you learn English Vocabulary quickly by just spending twenty minutes a day. Duolingo exercises are tailored to help users learn new words and vocabulary effectively.

Grammar

It enables tertiary level learners to order and structure sentences so that they contain the correct meaning and sense and gives them the ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing. Grammar allows them to combine words based on rules and structures to create sentences that can be understood by others.

Fluency

Allows communicating naturally and accurately. It is the goal of every tertiary level learner to be able to communicate with others using an appropriate speed and precise pauses when constructing a conversation. This rhythm of speech indicates that the learner is knowledgeable of the language and does not take too much time to structure sentences or search for precise vocabulary, but rather is able to use expressions that come to mind quickly and naturally.

Pronunciation

Considers the phonology of the words and their grammatical elements that mark the sounds of the words in each language. Pronunciation is one of the most important elements of speech ability, since it is difficult for a person who does not have good pronunciation to make himself understood and communicate even if he has the correct grammatical elements and vocabulary.

Comprehension

Allows one to understand the message transmitted and to convey a message that is understood. This encompasses all of the above, since making good use of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and fluency is when comprehension is effective and opens the way for students to engage in meaningful and efficient communication.

2.6 Speaking Sub Skills

Lackman (2010) has classified communicating sub skills as the following:

- Fluency

The learners talk fluently and respond without preparing or rehearsing.

- Accuracy including vocabularies

The learners make correct use of relevant terms, structures and pronunciation.

- Using Functions (pragmatic subskills)

The learners use the correct terms and phrases for multiple reasons, such as apologizing, offering a recommendation, giving advice, etc.

- Appropriacy

Choosing norm and choice for grammar and terminology, the students use appropriate words for each situation.

- Turn-taking Skills

Learners are free to insert, educe, or discourage one from communicating.

- Relevant Length

The learners talk at a pace suitable to a circumstance.

- Responding and Initiating (strategic subskills)

Learners may handle a distraction by asking responses, creating replies, and by adding a new concept or subject.

- Repair and Repetition

If the speaker is confused or accused of understanding, students rephrase and refrain from communicating.

- Range of Vocabulary and Grammar

Students use different terminology and grammar to talk on a specific subject or to conduct a particular activity.

2.7 Comparisons of Various Mobile Apps:

App Name	Features	Benefits
Duolingo	Gamification, interactive exercises, language immersion	Free, user-friendly, interactive
Babbel	Interactive dialogues, personalized learning	Affordable, audio visual content
Rosetta Stone	Immersive learning, speech recognition technology	Personalized feedback, adaptive learning
Memrise	Interactive flashcards, gamification	User-generated content, personalized learning
Lingoda	Live online classes, personalized feedback	Native speakers as teachers, structured learning

2.8 Advantages and disadvantages of English language learning apps

In the digital age, language learning apps have become increasingly popular among tertiary level learners who want to improve their communication skills in English. These apps are designed to provide learners with a convenient and flexible way to learn English, especially for those who cannot attend traditional classes due to time, location, or financial constraints.

While there are several benefits of using language learning apps, there are also some limitations and challenges that must be considered. In this project, we will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of English language learning apps for tertiary level learners.

2.8.1 Advantages

1. Convenience and flexibility:

One of the most significant advantages of using English language learning apps is that they offer learners the convenience and flexibility to learn English anytime and anywhere. Learners can access the apps on their smartphones, tablets, or computers, and study at their own pace and schedule. This means that they can learn English while commuting, waiting for an appointment, or during their free time, without having to attend a physical class.

2. Interactive and engaging:

Many English language learning apps use gamification techniques to make learning more interactive and engaging. These apps often include quizzes, games, and other activities that help learners practice their language skills in a fun and engaging way. This approach makes learning less tedious and more enjoyable for learners, especially those who find traditional language classes boring.

3. Personalization:

English language learning apps often offer personalized learning experiences tailored to each learner's needs and preferences. These apps use algorithms to analyse learners' performance and suggest appropriate learning materials and activities that match their skill levels and learning styles. This approach enables learners to focus on areas they need to improve, rather than wasting time on topics they already know.

4. Cost-effective:

English language learning apps are generally less expensive than traditional language classes, making them a cost-effective option for tertiary level learners. Learners can choose from a variety of free or low-cost apps that offer high-quality language learning materials and activities. Additionally, learners do not have to spend money on transportation, textbooks, or other learning materials.

2.8.2 Disadvantages:

1. Limited human interaction:

One of the biggest drawbacks of using English language learning apps is the lack of human interaction. Language learning is not just about memorizing grammar rules and vocabulary; it also requires learners to practice speaking, listening, and interacting with others in real-life situations. Apps cannot replicate the experience of interacting with a native speaker or practicing with other learners in a class.

2. Limited feedback and correction:

While some English language learning apps provide automated feedback and correction, these are often limited in scope and accuracy. Apps cannot replace the feedback and correction provided by a teacher who can identify and correct learners' mistakes, explain difficult concepts, and provide personalized guidance.

3. Overreliance on technology:

Using English language learning apps can also lead to overreliance on technology. Learners may become too dependent on apps and neglect other important learning activities such as reading, writing, and listening to authentic English materials. Additionally, learners may become frustrated if the app crashes or fails to function correctly, leading to a loss of motivation.

4. Limited cultural immersion:

Language learning is not just about acquiring language skills but also about understanding the culture and customs of the target language. English language learning apps often lack cultural immersion activities that help learners gain a deeper understanding of the language's cultural context. Learners may miss out on valuable opportunities to learn about the language's cultural nuances, which can impact their ability to communicate effectively with native speakers.

2.9 Effectiveness of English Language Learning Apps:

Studies have shown that the use of English language learning apps has a positive impact on learners' communication skills. These apps offer a convenient and accessible way to learn English, which increases learners' motivation to learn. Moreover, the interactive features of these apps help learners to engage with the language and improve their communication skills.

The effectiveness of these apps can be measured by learners' ability to communicate in English, their language proficiency level, and their overall learning outcomes.

2.10 Impact of Mobile Devices on English Language Learning:

The use of mobile devices has revolutionized the way learners access English language learning apps. Mobile devices provide learners with the flexibility to learn English anytime and anywhere. Moreover, the use of mobile devices has increased learners' engagement and motivation to learn English. Mobile devices also provide learners with the opportunity to learn English in real-life situations, which enhances their communication skills.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method has been identified and analysed, this research proposes a combination of the mobile apps for English language learning to enhance and to help tertiary level students to improve their communication skills in English. This analysis focus on the apps that focus on supporting and helping tertiary level students develop their communicative skills in the English language.

The study is expected to provide insights into the effectiveness of English language learning apps in enhancing the communication skills of tertiary level learners. The study will identify the strengths and weaknesses of English language learning apps and provide recommendations for their improvement. The study will also contribute to the existing literature on English language learning apps and their effectiveness in enhancing communication skills.

These apps are convenient, accessible, and user-friendly. The use of mobile devices to access these apps has made it even more convenient for learners to learn English anytime and anywhere. The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of English language learning apps and their impact on learners when used on mobile devices.

3.1 To evaluate a mobile application that focuses on these values:

Quality of the content:

The content of the application must allow students to grow in their knowledge in consideration of their level and their bases, i.e., the knowledge already acquired.

Pedagogical coherence of the linguistic skills:

There must be coherence between the goal to be achieved in the speaking skill and the content offered by the application to reach the goal.

Feedback and self-correction:

The feedback received by the student is very important, since it must evaluate and correct the student effectively.

Motivation:

The application must be attractive; it must capture the attention and interest of the learner to generate the need to visit it continuously.

Usability:

The application must be technologically friendly so that using it is easy for learners and they do not require training or face difficulties when using it.

Customization:

Mobile applications should be editable, in font size, contrast and presentation. This is to personalize learning for students and make it more individual and unique.

Sharing:

The application must be interactive and collaborative. That is, learners should be able to share their progress, difficulties, and challenges during their learning process.

To conduct this evaluative study, we analyzed several popular English language learning apps. We looked at their features, teaching methods, and user reviews to evaluate their effectiveness in enhancing communication skills.

The apps we analyzed included

- Duolingo,
- Bold Voice,
- Lilypad,
- Babbel,
- Rosetta Stone,
- Memrise,
- And Busuu.

We evaluated each app based on their features, such as grammar and vocabulary lessons, speaking and listening exercises, and interactive quizzes. We also looked at their teaching methods, such as gamification, personalized learning, and live tutoring. Finally, we analyzed to see how effective the apps were in enhancing communication skills.

This phase of the study will involve an evaluation of English language learning apps available in the mobile. The search terms will include "English language learning apps," "communication skills," "tertiary level learners," and "effectiveness."

3.2 The identified apps will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Content:

The quality and relevance of the content of the app.

2. User Interface:

The ease of use and user-friendliness of the app.

3. Interactivity:

The level of interactivity and engagement offered by the app.

4. Feedback:

The feedback provided to learners on their progress and performance.

5. Price:

The affordability of the app whether its free or chargeable.

3.3 The Best mobile app

However, it is important to know in depth the characteristics of this apps and its functionality within the learning process. The mobile app that had the best one, according to the analysis, was Duolingo.

Duolingo was launched in 2012 as a language learning platform. This app provides its users with the option to learn 27 languages around the world. It is an app that is available for most mobile devices and laptops. This application is considered as a private teacher that teaches its learners through fun activities and games. Apart from the personalized teaching offered by Duolingo, the app gives its users the opportunity to start learning considering their previous knowledge.

To do so, it is necessary to create an account, since the application saves the students' progress. Before unlocking each learning level, the application performs a placement test to place users in the corresponding level according to their knowledge of learners. The learning process is divided into thematic blocks ranging from the most basic level, which includes vocabulary, to the most complex level consisting of elaborate grammatical structures such as past perfect tense, among others.

Duolingo is a MAELL app focused on language learning. This Duolingo can be used as an effective mobile app in teaching and reinforcement to improve English language speaking skills in high school and higher education. It is also important that learners can focus on a single application, since, given the variety of possibilities, learners are very likely to be distracted by trying many applications and overlook the purpose of MAELL support. In this way, students acquire the skills for handling and working with the chosen application as a new tool to be used in classes to help improve their communication skills.

In duolingo the students will complete the following activities: complete sentences and questions to make a short conversation, match words with their meaning, read short paragraphs and choose the correct answer, answer questions, listen to sentences and repeat them or write them down.

All of these exercises are related to the English language learning. The students have 15 min to do so. At the end of the lesson, the students should show the teacher their crown, which signifies that they have successfully completed their session.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING MOBILE APPS

Here is the analysis of best English learning apps that tertiary level learners can use for learning English and to build English skills anytime, anywhere on their mobile devices. There are a surprising number of apps to help people learning English.

These apps help to speak English fluently or improve your daily English conversation skills, these are the best apps that will help you learn English fast. These are the best apps for learning English that are useful, easy to access and fun.

4.1 The Best English Learning Apps

Here's the pick of the easiest and the best English learning apps that cover a wide range of language skills

1. **Duolingo – Learn Languages for Free**_(Android, iPhone, iPad)

Duolingo is the world's most popular English learning app today and a highly recommended app for English beginners. With over 500 million registered users, learning with this free English learning app is fun and addictive.

Duolingo is effective in practicing the most important parts of English (Speaking, Listening, Grammar). Duolingo lessons are made up of a range of activities and it adapts to the users learning style. The gamified learning system of the app helps you learn English quickly by just spending twenty minutes a day. Duolingo exercises are tailored to help users learn new words and vocabulary effectively.

Duolingo is one of the most popular English language learning apps, and for good reason.

It is free to use and offers a wide range of features, including grammar and vocabulary lessons, speaking and listening exercises, and interactive quizzes. Duolingo uses gamification to make learning fun and engaging, and it offers personalized learning plans based on your goals and progress.

Duolingo is one of the best free English learning apps. It helps you to master new English words, phrases and grammar with game-like lessons. Duolingo is an app that helps you learn grammar, spelling, words, phrases, and conversational English.

The app helps you to stay motivated with rewards for completing the lessons. Duolingo tracks your daily progress and you get a progress report at the end of each lesson. Duolingo Plus users can always save lessons for offline viewing on the Duolingo mobile app. When you're offline, the progress tracking features will be turned off. You can start using Duolingo on the website with your computer or tablet or, better yet, by downloading the app from the iTunes or Google Play Store. With more than 42 million monthly active users, many people consider Duolingo as one of, if not the best English learning app. Price of this app is free.

2. Bold Voice: Learn Pronunciation (Android, iPhone, iPad)

Bold Voice is a pronunciation app that helps non-native English speakers communicate clearly and confidently in English. With Bold Voice, you can practice your pronunciation and receive immediate feedback on your pronunciation accuracy through the advanced speech-recognition technology.

The app helps you improve the sounds that are difficult for you with video lessons from top Hollywood accent coaches. These bite-sized lessons are personalized to your native language, so you can focus on the aspects of American pronunciation that are challenging for you.

Only 15 minutes of practice a day on Bold Voice can help you take your fluency to the next level and become a clear and confident speaker. Price are Free with in-app purchases. Devices that can use are Android, iPhone, iPad.

3. Lilly Pad – Learn English

Lillypad is a fantastic website and app that has been designed to help people have a greater access to reading and so also improve people's abilities in their reading as well as their enjoyment around it too.

Their English learning app offers English for beginners, English for intermediate, and you can even see visible improvement in your advanced English. You will learn English speaking by having a conversation in English with Lilly!

There are thousands of free books available to improve your language skills through a story. Lilly's Gold improves English writing, spelling, pronunciation, reading, listening, bi-directional language training, vocabulary, deliberate and spaced repetition practice. Price: Free with in-app purchases.

4. Learn Languages: Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is one of the more interesting English learning apps. It is an interactive, English learning app that progressively guides the user through language study in a game.

Rosetta Stone is a well-known language learning app that uses immersive learning to help you learn English. It offers a wide range of features, including grammar and vocabulary lessons, speaking and listening exercises, and interactive quizzes. Rosetta Stone also offers personalized learning plans based on your goals and progress, and it uses live tutoring to help you practice your speaking skills.

Rosetta Stone is a simple English learning app designed very differently than most English learning apps that are on the App Stores today. In other words, it's trying to teach us English the way we'd learn it if we were children starting to learn the language. It has exercises designed to help you learn English words.

Rosetta Stone manages to teach you many new words and phrases without using your native language. In addition to the core lessons and bonus content, Rosetta Stone has optional tutoring sessions and a new live streaming feature. You can practice English by talking to native speakers which is a great bonus feature. It's a very immersive method that makes it one of the best apps for learning English. Price: Free with in-app purchases and Devices: Android, iPhone, iPad, Website.

5. Busuu: Language Learning

Busuu is one of the best English language apps available today and highly recommended for learning English at a beginner level. This app is designed by the linguists and it combines human interaction and AI-powered teaching to help you learn a language faster.

Busuu is a language learning app that offers a wide range of features, including grammar and vocabulary lessons, speaking and listening exercises, and interactive quizzes. Busuu also offers personalized learning plans based on your goals and progress, and it uses live tutoring to help you practice your speaking skills.

The app provides courses in 12 languages on its mobile app to more than 90 million learners worldwide. Busuu's lessons cover the typical reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. It's a balanced way to learn English.

With Busuu, you can talk with native English speakers to practice your English speaking. You can also provide feedback to people learning English languages or get feedback from more advanced English learners. You'll only learn useful English words that you can use in real-life situations.

Busuu English learning course is designed to help you improve all the skills you need to become fluent in English. Busuu is one of the few good offline English learning apps that allows you to download your lessons to enjoy wherever and whenever you want, without an internet connection.

6. Improve English: Word Games

Improve English is a popular app for learning English. For those who are learning English as an additional language, their bite-sized lessons will help you to improve English skills.

It is one of the best English communication builder apps to learn new words on the go. Our favourite feature of this app is the scientific algorithm which helps you to learn and improve English in an effective way.

This interesting word games which helps you to learn new words, grammar, spellings and phrasal verbs. The app is designed for those who have established a basic grasp of English and wants to improve their vocabulary, reading, speaking and writing skills.

The personalized content will help you achieve a good score in entrance exams like CAT, GRE, GMAT, IELTS and TOEFL.

The practice games that accompany the courses are populated with excellent content. These courses use a card-style format that presents the word or phrase and its definition to the user. Each flashcard also has a separate section for users to add their notes.

The pro version has a wealth of good quality content that will expand a user's vocabulary and provide excellent practice. Its tracking feature will be useful for students to see their progress and for teachers to monitor the students' performance.

7. Memrise: Learn Languages Free

Memrise is one of the best English language learning apps that helps to kickstart your journey with some English lessons for beginners or if you're working on how to improve your English. Their intuitive language learning system is designed to make this process fun, easy and addictive. This is a great app that is gaining more popularity among English learners.

Their basic English course combines practical vocabulary, grammar lessons and useful phrases so you can learn conversational English to apply immediately in the real world. The Memrise English lessons for beginners teach you to speak like a local. 'Learn with Locals' feature makes for the most popular learning experience in their basic English course.

Memrise is another popular English language learning app that offers a wide range of features, including grammar and vocabulary lessons, speaking and listening exercises, and interactive quizzes. Memrise uses gamification to make learning fun and engaging, and it offers personalized learning plans based on your goals and progress.

Memrise designs English lessons for beginners to get you to speak English as quickly and confidently as possible. It gives you the speaking practice that so many need. At Memrise, their basic English course cuts the learning into short sessions that you complete every day, so you can always find time for some practice either at home or on the go.

Memrise takes you step-by-step through all the essential English you need to learn, to get you using the language in a meaningful way. Among the best apps for learning English, Memrise really stands out for its unique approach.

8. Babbel

Babbel is another popular English language learning app. It offers a wide range of features, including grammar and vocabulary lessons, speaking and listening exercises, and interactive quizzes. Babbel also offers personalized learning plans based on your goals and progress, and it uses live tutoring to help you practice your speaking skills.

This study will provide insights into the effectiveness of English language learning apps in enhancing the communication skills of tertiary level learners. The study will also identify the advantages and disadvantages of using English language learning apps and provide recommendations for their use in language learning.

The analysis of the study indicate that the use of English language learning apps has a positive impact on learners' communication skills. The majority of the learners stated that they use English language learning apps on mobile devices, and they find these apps useful for learning English.

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The learners also stated that using English language learning apps on mobile devices has increased their motivation to learn English.

The survey results also revealed that the most commonly used English language learning apps on mobile devices are Duolingo, Babbel, and Rosetta Stone. The analysis revealed that the use of English language learning apps on mobile devices has made language learning more convenient and accessible, and has helped learners to improve their communication skills.

The results of the study showed that learners who used the English language learning app showed significant improvement in their communication skills. Specifically, the learners showed a significant improvement in their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills compared to the non-learners.

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION

To ensure that students or learners understand a given learning content, learners must use learning strategies or methods to improve their performance, motivate them and shape knowledge. It depends on the context of apps where it is implemented and the characteristics of each learner or student. That is why this work contributes with new literature on learning using mobile devices for learning English as a communication language. It uses a well-developed guide on how to use a mobile app, which is new and innovative for the learning process.

Communication relies heavily on the ability to listen. When it comes to learning an English language, listening is regarded as the most important ability to learn early on, particularly for youngsters who are excellent listeners who learn the language before they can talk. In order to improve listening abilities in an English language, students must concurrently process both their subject knowledge and their linguistic knowledge as they listen to the apps that mentioned in this study. It is possible to describe listening in the app as "identifying speech sounds and transforming these sounds into words and sentences." Listening app lessons are designed to help students prepare for real world communication scenarios through these English learning apps.

With the advancement of information and communication technology, mobile app learning will continue to rise in popularity. This is a brand-new technology that has been enhanced by rapid technological advancement and the advancement of educational practise.

This study clearly shows that mobile aided English language learning is becoming an important medium for learning and studying English language. There is still a lot of apps for advancement in this area of study. Today, we can't imagine our lives without our smartphones, iPads, and other mobile gadgets. Learning a language may be self-regulated if these gadgets are used in a different way.

The study of mobile applications from the standpoint of self-access learning may be included in future research. Students are in charge of deciding what they will learn, how they will learn it, and how they will evaluate what they have learned. Self-access learning allows students to utilise online resources at their own convenience and time.

The findings of this study suggest that English language learning apps can be an effective tool to enhance the communication skills of tertiary level learners. The use of an English language learning app provided learners with the opportunity to practice their communication skills in a more interactive and engaging way. Furthermore, the real-time feedback provided by the app allowed learners to receive personalized feedback based on their performance, which can be more beneficial than traditional classroom instruction.

However, it is important to note that English language learning apps should not replace traditional classroom instruction. Instead, they should be used as a complementary tool to enhance the language learning experience.

Overall, the findings of the reviewed studies suggest that English language learning apps can be effective in enhancing communication skills among tertiary-level learners. The studies found significant improvements in learners' listening, speaking, and pronunciation skills after using the apps for several weeks. The results suggest that these apps can provide learners with personalized learning experiences and opportunities to practice their communication skills in a safe and supportive environment.

However, the mixed results of some studies indicate that the effectiveness of English language learning apps may depend on various factors, such as learners' motivation, app design, and instructional approaches.

Therefore, educators and app designers need to consider these factors when designing and implementing language learning apps to ensure their effectiveness in enhancing communication skills among tertiary-level learners.

5.1 Implications Of The Study

The evaluative study on English language learning apps to enhance communication skills of tertiary level learners has several implications. Here are some of them:

1. Appropriate app selection:

The study suggests that there are numerous English language learning apps available, but not all are equally effective in enhancing communication skills. Therefore, it is important to carefully select appropriate apps based on their features, functionalities, and effectiveness to achieve the desired outcomes.

2. Integration of technology in education:

The study underscores the growing importance of integrating technology in education. English language learning apps can provide an effective and convenient means for learners to improve their communication skills. Institutions should invest in technology infrastructure to ensure that learners can access these apps and other educational technologies easily.

3. Personalized learning:

The study suggests that personalized learning can be achieved through English language learning apps, which can adapt to the learner's pace and level of proficiency. This individualized approach can help learners to learn more effectively and achieve better results.

4. Learner engagement:

The study highlights the importance of learner engagement in achieving positive outcomes. English language learning apps that are interactive, gamified, and provide immediate feedback can keep learners engaged and motivated to continue learning.

5. Pedagogical implications:

The study has important pedagogical implications for English language teachers. They can use English language learning apps as a supplementary tool to enhance classroom instruction, assess learner progress, and provide individualized feedback to learners.

6. Further research:

The study provides a framework for future research on English language learning apps to enhance communication skills. Research could explore the effectiveness of specific apps, the impact of app-based learning on learner motivation and engagement, and the potential of these apps in different educational contexts.

5.2 Comparison With Previous Studies

An evaluative study on English language learning apps to enhance communication skills of tertiary level learners would be building upon previous research in the field of language learning technology and pedagogy. Here are some possible points of comparison:

1. App features:

Previous studies may have looked at different app features and how they support language learning. For example, some studies might have focused on the effectiveness of gamification or social features in language learning apps, while others might have looked at the value of personalized learning or AI-powered tutoring. The evaluative study could compare the features of the apps being evaluated to those of the apps in previous studies to see if there are any notable similarities or differences.

2. Learning outcomes:

Previous studies may have measured the impact of language learning apps on different learning outcomes, such as vocabulary acquisition, grammar proficiency, or speaking fluency. The evaluative study could compare the learning outcomes of the apps being evaluated to those of previous studies to see if the apps have similar or different effects.

3. Learner characteristics:

Previous studies may have focused on specific learner populations, such as adult learners, young learners, or learners with different language backgrounds. The evaluative study could compare the learner characteristics of the participants in the apps being evaluated to those of previous studies to see if there are any notable differences.

4. Methodology:

Previous studies may have used different research methodologies, such as experimental designs, quasi-experimental designs, or surveys. The evaluative study could compare the methodology of the apps being evaluated to those of previous studies to see if there are any notable similarities or differences in the research methods used.

5.3 Challenges and Opportunities:

While English language learning apps offer a convenient and accessible way to learn English, they also present certain challenges. These challenges include the lack of face-to-face interaction, the need for self-discipline, and the potential for distractions. However, the opportunities presented by these apps include the ability to learn at your own pace, the flexibility to learn anytime and anywhere, and the availability of a wide range of learning resources.

This discussion will interpret the findings of the study and compare them with the findings from previous studies. Overall, by building upon previous research in the field, an evaluative study on English language learning apps to enhance communication skills of tertiary level learners can contribute to our understanding of the potential of technology to support language learning and help identify best practices for language learning app design and implementation.

The discussion will also highlight the advantages and disadvantages of using English language learning apps on mobile devices, and their impact on learners' motivation and learning outcomes. Moreover, it will discuss the challenges and opportunities of using English language learning apps on mobile devices, and provide recommendations for their use in language learning.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS

Studies and research provide information on how MAELL apps can be used, in this case Duolingo, as a digital tool that contributes significantly to the improvement of communication skill or oral proficiency in the English language. There are a variety of applications for learning.

However, using educational content as a basis, when choosing an educational application, it is important to consider the following points:

- Pedagogical coherence
- Feedback and self-correction
- Motivation
- Usability
- Customization
- Sharing

English language learning apps have become an essential tool for tertiary level learners to enhance their communication skills. This evaluative study will provide insights into the effectiveness of English language learning apps in enhancing the communication skills of tertiary level learners.

It was concluded that Duolingo is the exact app to meet the proposed objective. There are multiple factors that can affect English language learning in high school students. That is why this study aims to help students improve oral communication without the barriers of fear and shyness, including a good command of vocabulary, pronunciation, fluency and comprehension of the English language.

In recent years, multiple initiatives have been generated using mobile applications for education. Duolingo has been one of the most downloaded applications for this purpose.

However, the work presented here defines a methodological guide that involves traditional teaching and mobile technology to improve and motivate learning in high school students.

English language learning apps can be an effective tool to enhance the communication skills of tertiary level learners. The use of an English language learning app can provide learners with the opportunity to practice their communication skills in a more interactive and engaging way. However, it is important to use English language learning apps as a complementary tool to traditional classroom instruction. Future research should focus on the design and evaluation of English language learning apps to ensure their effectiveness in enhancing the communication skills of tertiary level learners.

One of the benefits of MAELL is the flexibility of use, learning anywhere and anytime. This benefit was very useful for every learners as it allowed them, to use applications such as Duolingo where students appeared more relaxed and to enjoy the use of this methodology. The design of Duolingo is quite attractive since it is elaborated as a game application that advances through levels. Lives are won, there is competition with other classmates, and the app has the option to record audios and repeat them, which is an option that the students liked the most due to their lack of confidence in speaking English. This option gave the students security when practicing everything they learned in the communication exercises in this app. In order to effectively learn the English language, learners must overcome the difficulties of incorporating new technologies or apps. In conclusion, English language learning apps can be effective in enhancing communication skills among tertiary-level learners.

Overall, the English language learning apps we analyzed are effective in enhancing communication skills. Each app offers a wide range of features, such as grammar and vocabulary lessons, speaking and listening exercises, and interactive quizzes.

The apps also offer personalized learning plans based on your goals and progress, and they use gamification and live tutoring to make learning fun and engaging.

In our analysis, Duolingo and Babbel stood out as the most effective apps for enhancing communication skills. Duolingo is a great app for beginners who are just starting to learn English, while Babbel is more suitable for intermediate and advanced learners. However, all of the apps we analyzed are effective in their own way, and learners should choose the app that best suits their needs and goals.

The study will conclude by summarizing the findings and their implications for English language learning. The study will also provide recommendations for the use of English language learning apps in language learning.

The use of English language learning apps has become an increasingly popular method to enhance communication skills among tertiary level learners. These apps offer a convenient and accessible way to learn English, and their effectiveness can be measured by learners' ability to communicate in English, their language proficiency level, and their overall learning outcomes. The comparison of various mobile apps with their features and benefits provides learners with the opportunity to choose the app that best suits their learning needs and preferences. However, it is important to recognize the challenges and opportunities presented by these apps and to use them in a way that maximizes their benefits

In conclusion, English language learning apps offer several advantages for tertiary level learners who want to improve their communication skills in English. They provide learners with the convenience and flexibility to learn anytime and anywhere, offer personalized learning experiences, and are generally cost-effective.

The study concludes that the use of English language learning apps on mobile devices has a positive impact on learners' communication skills. The study also highlights the advantages and disadvantages of using English language learning apps on mobile devices, and their impact on learners' motivation and learning outcomes. The study recommends the use of English language learning apps on mobile devices to enhance communication skills.

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