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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Improving Listening Skills Through The Cake Application: A Creative Approach To Engaging Students

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Kata Kunci:
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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengevaluasi efektivitas penggunaan aplikasi Cake untuk meningkatkan kemampuan mendengarkan siswa kelas VII-1 di SMP Dharma Karya UT Pondok Cabe. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kuantitatif, dengan menggunakan desain pra-eksperimental yang terdiri dari pre-test dan post-test. Sampel terdiri dari 30 siswa dalam satu kelas. Tes digunakan sebagai alat pengumpulan data utama, dengan pre-test dan post-test sebagai instrumen penelitian. Data yang terkumpul dianalisis secara statistik dengan menggunakan metode uji-t sampel berpasangan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan aplikasi Cake untuk mengajarkan keterampilan mendengarkan secara efektif meningkatkan kemampuan mendengarkan siswa di kelas. Skor rata-rata pre-test adalah 64,27, sedangkan skor post-test adalah 86,00. Pada tingkat signifikansi 5%, hasil t-hitung sebesar 16,586 melebihi nilai t-tabel. Oleh karena itu, dapat disimpulkan bahwa terdapat perbedaan yang signifikan pada data pre-test dan post-test hasil belajar listening menggunakan aplikasi Cake.

Key Word:
Listening skills, Cake Application, Teaching.

Abstract

The study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of using the Cake application to improve the listening skills class of VII-1 students at SMP Dharma Karya UT Pondok Cabe. This research employs quantitative methods, utilizing a pre-experimental design comprising pre-tests and post-tests. The sample consists of 30 students in a single class. Tests were used as the primary data collection tool, with pre-tests and post-tests serving as the research instruments. The collected data were statistically analyzed using the paired sample t-test method. The study's results indicate that using the Cake application for teaching listening skills effectively improves students' listening abilities in the class. The average pre-test score was 64.27, while the post-test score was 86.00. At a 5% significance level, the t-count result of 16.586 exceeds the t-table value. Therefore, it can be inferred that there is a significant difference in the pre-test and post-test data for listening learning outcomes using the Cake application.

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a vital means of communication within society, closely tied to the social context. It is organized as units such as words, groups of words, clauses, and sentences, both orally and in writing. Language is essential in guiding learning activities for students. Learning English as a second language is important worldwide. Many countries include it in their school syllabus, and children start learning it at a young age. Abraham et al., (2022) English is a language that is learned and taught throughout the world. Because of this, the practice of teaching English varies and is unique across different geographical and cultural contexts. People who teach English around the world are not only native speakers of the language but also non-native speakers. The English language is more than just an international language, it is a global language. It is the most widely spoken language in various contexts around the world. This means that English is used in international communication involving people from two or more countries.

Listening skills and Vocabulary learning

The listening learning method is one of students' most important learning methods. In this modern era, media tools have become important verbal symbols to attract students' attention and help them understand the meaning of communication that cannot be conveyed only through written or spoken language. In this case, students also tend to have difficulties, especially in terms of listening. Because most students always think listening is difficult material, by not understanding it. Students become less interested in following the material, which is a reason why students have difficulty learning English in terms of listening. Alzamil (2021) stated

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Listening to English is essential for improving communication skills. It helps in acquiring vocabulary and comprehension skills but can be challenging as it requires concentration and a lack of hearing of the foreign speaker's pronunciation limited vocabulary hinders comprehension, making progress in the listening process difficult. Vocabulary is essential for communication in both first and second languages. It has been heavily studied in applied linguistics, significance, stating that communication is impossible without vocabulary, whereas communication can still occur partially without grammar.

Cake Application as Media in Learning

The Cake app is a useful tool for students to enhance their learning by utilizing technology. With this technology, students can not only learn in the classroom but can be carried out outside school hours. Many students study in class during school hours and study at home with private English teachers. Cake application can also attract students to be more creative and innovative, especially in the listening skills used by this application, students can also become more active physically and mentally. Therefore, the writer focuses on improving listening skills using the Cake application.

METHOD

This research used a quantitative method and a pre-experimental design. A design method that includes only one group that is given a Pre-test and Post-test without a control or comparison group. Chester, et al,. (2021) The type of research is designed to determine cause-effect relationships using only the experimental group, without a control group.

The research population is the students of SMP Dharma Karya UT Pd. Cabe with 87 students in the academic year 2023/2024. The sample was taken from one of the three classes in the population, specifically Class VII 1.

In collecting the data, the writer used the Pre-test and Post-test. In the Pre-test, the writer used multiple-choice. The treatment used the Cake Application to improve listening to students. The writer asked the students to download and explain how the Cake Application works. In the Post-test, the same as the pretest, the Post-test uses paper-based questions, but the format of the questions is different.

The data were analyzed using Social Science Statistics Package (SPSS) software. The first test was data description, which was conducted to determine the average value of the experimental class. The average pre-test score was 64.27 and the average post-test score was 86.00. The second test is data analysis, which consists of several parts such as the normality test, paired sample statistics, sample correlation, paired sample test, and effect size. The normality test indicated that the data was significant ($p > 0.05$). The standard deviation values for both tests were similar, suggesting significant data. The sample correlation was significant ($p < 0.05$). The effect size was high (7.370), indicating the effectiveness of using the Cake app. The paired samples test result was -16.586 with a significance of 0.01 (2-tailed).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The writer found that, based on the collected and analyzed data, the mean of the post-test was higher than that of the pre-test for both variables. This study confirmed that the Cake Application has affected students' listening skills and vocabulary learning. The results of the listening skill can be seen in Table 1.

Tabel 1. Paired Samples Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error mean
Pre-test	30	64.27	8.399	1.533
Post-test	30	86.00	6.103	1.114

The table above shows that the calculation of the paired sample statistical test shows that the mean score of students in the pre-test resulted in a standard deviation of 8.399, with a standard error of a mean of 1.533. On the other hand, the mean score of students in the post-test was 86.00, with a standard deviation of 6.103 and a standard error of a mean of 1.114. The standard deviation values of 8.399 (pre-test) and 6.103 (post-test) indicate that the data used in both tests are similar. In addition, the post-test standard deviation of 6.103 is lower than the pre-test standard deviation of 8.399, indicating that students made fewer errors in the post-test than in the pre-test. Therefore, it is shown that students' listening skills improved significantly.

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Tabel 2. Results of Paired samples test

		Paired Differences					t	df	Significance	
					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference					
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Lower	Upper			One-Sided p	Two-Sided p
Pair 1	Pre-test Post-test	-21.733	7.177	1.310	-24.413	-19.053	-16.586	29	<.001	<.001

The results of this study were found to be significant based on the t-test calculation mentioned earlier. The t-test result was -16.586, with a significance level of 0.01 (2-tailed), compared to a mean result of -21.733, with 29 degrees of freedom. The standard deviation was 7.177, the mean standard error was 1.310, and the lower interval was -24.413. The negative t-test result of -16.586 indicates that the pre-test mean score was lower than the post-test mean score. At a 5% level of significance, the t-calculation result of 16.586 was higher than the critical t-table value. It can be concluded that there is a significant difference in pre-test and post-test data for listening learning results using the cake application.

Table 3. Paired Samples Effect Sizes

					95% Confidence Interval	
			Standardizer	Point Estimate	Lower	Upper
Pair 1	Pretest-Posttest	Cohen's d	7.177	-3.028	-3.877	-2.169
		Hedges' correction	7.370	-2.949	-3.775	-2.221

The table above describes how the Cake App was used to teach listening materials in the experimental class. The effectiveness of this approach was evaluated using SPSS and the results showed a high effect size with a value of 7.370, as depicted.

The result of improving listening skills students Eka Putri & Siregar (2024), research has shown that the cake app effectively improves students' English listening skills. The learners reported significant improvements in vocabulary acquisition and listening comprehension. Despite some challenges, the students found the app interesting and useful. They suggested improving the audio quality and adding more features. Overall, the Cake App is a valuable resource for language learners, offering an innovative solution to improve English listening skills and support language learning.

CONCLUSION

In this study, pre-test and post-test instruments were used to collect data on students' listening skills. The data analysis showed a significant improvement in listening skills after using the Cake application as a learning media.

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