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Education Article

ENHANCING STUDENTS' PRONUNCIATION BY USING THE SPOTIFY APP

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ABSTRACT

English is becoming more and more important as the world moves forward. It is common knowledge that pronunciation is one of the most important aspects of English. So the purpose of research using qualitative methods by distributing questionnaires is to prove that Spotify can be a learning medium that helps improve pronunciation skills. The results of this study are in line with previous studies, namely the presence of Spotify adds motivation and enthusiasm for learning for students to finally find an improvement in pronunciation through the auditory aspect and new vocabulary that is easily stored in memory because it is presented through music and lyrics that are easily accessible. It can be concluded that Spotify is worth considering as one of the learning media with easy and fun usage so that the learning process continues to develop with good results to help improve pronunciation as one of the most important aspects of English communication.

INTRODUCTION

Living in an increasingly advanced era, language is a means of communication that does not only move in one zone but is a means of connecting between worlds. The provision that English becomes an international language makes the position of English very important and even needed for various aspects of life. Since English is one of the globally recognized languages, everyone in the world should use it when speaking with foreigners.

As cited in (Ali & Hashanah, 2020; Rahman et al., 2022) the language that is most widely spoken worldwide is English. Not only that, English is very important because, in this increasingly advanced era, English is used as more assessment to fulfill a requirement such as work, exams in school, and many other things to increase self value.

English has been used to communicate on a global level, especially for academic and commercial purposes (Akbar, 2018). Even the impact of globalization encourages people in some countries to use English as a second language (Hashanah, 2022) In Indonesia itself, English is still a foreign language so it requires deepening learning it both orally and in

writing to improve English language skills. And these methods such as listening, speaking, reading, or writing (Febriantini et al., 2021; Kardiansyah & Qodriani, 2018; Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019). In another opinion, English language skills consist of speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills which are important to master to eventually improve English language skills at the next level (Hastomo, 2016).

The ability is divided into many intertwined branches. However, this research will focus on speaking skills, namely on the topic of pronunciation. In speaking ability, pronunciation becomes the most important role as language is used as a communication tool to deliver a message well. Pronunciation helps provide a good understanding of the meaning of a sentence which involves how the word is voiced to finally reach the listener's ears with the correct meaning (Hornby et al., 2000). English has been used to communicate on a global level, especially for academic and commercial purposes (Akbar, 2018). As a result, many different accents and pronunciations of English must be paid great attention to because otherwise, the meaning will change (Ilyas & Kaniadewi, 2023).

According to Frankel (1984), there are two stages in learning word pronunciation. The first is the receptive or list stage, where we listen to the language to distinguish important sounds and patterns. This means that the first step we have to do to learn the pronunciation of a word is to listen to the language; we can do this by listening to music, movies, or talk shows; (2) the productive/speech stage, where we can try to pronounce the words we heard earlier after we listened to the language.

A variety of accents from regions spread across Indonesia is something that makes pronunciation in English a difficulty that needs improvement. According to Suprayogi & Pranoto (2020), the difference in the characteristics of English phonology with Indonesian phonology which is quite significant is the cause of the difficulty in pronouncing English properly and correctly. may experience difficulties in pronouncing words in English, this is due to the characteristics of English phonology which are different from Indonesian phonology. This causes students who learn English to find it difficult and affects their motivation to improve their English skills (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019; Pratiwi & Ayu, 2020).

The definition of Pronunciation, according to Aufa (2017), is the activity of pronouncing a word to become a sentence; a way of pronouncing words that is common and can be accepted and understood by the interlocutor, as well as a graphical representation of a word using phonetic symbols that need to be learned. Pronunciation is a topic that must be explored because of the difficulty of pronunciation that is different from the native language (Vallauri, 2020). The importance of learning pronunciation is because good pronunciation will help increase confidence and correct understanding between communications (Alsadae & Sase, 2022; Laide, 2018).

According to (Ahmad, 2018) found from his research there are errors and difficulties in English pronunciation based on vowel sounds. In addition, many students still do not realize that proper pronunciation in English phonetics and phonology is the key to successful communication (Simon et al., 2018). Meanwhile, according to Umaternate

(2018). which explains that the cause of pronunciation difficulties in phonology is due to the various types of sound aspects in English.

Pronunciation is important because according to the statement conveyed by (Nurullayevna, 2020) mastery of vocabulary becomes useless if the pronunciation in voicing these words is not with good and correct pronunciation. Similarly, as stated by Pranoto and Supryogi (2019), in improving speaking skills, correct pronunciation is an inseparable part of understanding a sentence and conversation. With confusing pronunciation, it will lead to misunderstanding in communication (Nurhayati, 2019). From all the opinions and research that the experts have done before, the investigator suggests that learning good and correct speech is an important basis and a key measure of success in communicating in English and improving his ability to speak English.

However, along with the times, technology creators create various innovations that can be utilized as learning media. Handayani (2016, p. 323) argues that the use of media that is utilized properly and wisely provides many significant influences and impacts in improving a goal or achievement in the learning process. Researchers took one of the most talked about applications in the current era, widely known as Spotify as a tool or media that can be a new motivation for English learners to feel excitement while learning through various features that are very accessible and seem to facilitate and make learning activities feel fun such as songs, audio podcasts or video podcasts. However, this research will focus more on the music features that are closest to students to help improve pronunciation.

Despite having a straightforward logo, the platform is frequently utilized since its customers no longer need a lot of capacity. Ultimately, the music is accessed through streaming, providing limitless song access. Marshall (2015) claims that Spotify is one of the top music streaming services available right now. Users can continue to use Spotify without a subscription with restricted functions, even though there is a premium service with all capabilities (Mäntymäki et al., 2020).

In Indonesia, Spotify occupies 47% of the music streaming market and has received much appreciation for its unlimited access to music (Karyono et al., 2019; Netti & Irwansyah, 2018). This is in line with what Marshall (2015) said, that in today's modern era, the music streaming application that is being loved by many people with unlimited music access is Spotify. Especially with the selection of premium packages that spoil users with more features, or even those that are not premium are still very capable of being enjoyed (Mäntymäki et al., 2020). Spotify has become famous with the majority of large-scale usage being used by millennials with an age range of 18 to 34 years (Aisy, 2021).

Spotify is becoming a media with a more effective impact in line with technological developments (Putri, 2022). The highly innovative features available on Spotify can increase learning motivation because Spotify can be a fun and easily accessible media (Alfa, 2020; Efendi, 2021; Kuriniawan, 2017; Samad et al., 2017; Tanjung & Silvyani, 2021). By looking at the current digital era, smartphones have become something that cannot be separated from everyone's activities. Therefore, Spotify strongly supports the younger generation to easily access music online (Netti & Irwansyah, 2018). With easy access and streaming that can be done anywhere, Spotify is a medium that does not limit the learning process to anywhere and anytime (Susilowati et al., 2020).

The study used students in the first semester of the English language education program at the University of North Sumatra Islamic as a target population, as they would undertake studies that would later focus on the teaching of pronunciation. The author distributed a questionnaire to students to study the impact of the media that we chose, namely Spotify, in helping them improve their pronunciation so that it has an impact on improving the English language. As for the results obtained from this survey, it will prove

that Spotify as a learning medium helps improve pronunciation skills, so the results of this research can be a fun way to motivate and help the learning process so that improving pronunciation

This research continues with previous research, as well as completing and supplementing research with the same basic problem, but with different frequencies, and with different methods and data processing. Purba, et al. (2023) have researched and proved that the use of Spotify has an impact and influence in improving pronunciation with the availability of unlimited music features, so that pronunciation can evolve and intonation patterns are improved. The same thing has been done by Ilyas & Kaniadewi (2023), who proved in their research that the Spotify app can improve pronunciation significantly by making Spotify a learning medium as well as motivation and enthusiasm because it feels fun. As a result, the results obtained from this will prove and continue previously interrelated research

This research can be beneficial to universities and students who can give feedback that the power of multimedia applications especially Spotify can be a learning medium for teachers or students in improving pronunciation and giving motivation as well as enthusiasm because Spotify is a medium that helps the learning process by providing a good atmosphere and unlimited and easy access.

METHOD

According to Creswell (2012), samples are selected respondents who meet the requirements for making statements and help researchers in collecting data. As far as researchers use samples or populations as targets to obtain relevant research results, this is consistent with the opinion expressed by Merriam (2009, p. 13) that qualitative methods produce legitimate interpretations based on experiences, opinions, or effects that have been felt.

The population of this study is 15 active students who have been confirmed as active users of Spotify's English study program at the Tarbiyah and Teacher Training Faculty which is part of the Islamic State University of North Sumatra. Data collection with questionnaires dissemination was conducted for 5 days starting from December 4, 2023, to December 8, 2023.

The researchers chose to use qualitative methods by distributing questionnaires that also leverage the advances in Google Forms technology to make it easier for respondents to adjust the flexibility of time and place during questionnaire filling as well as making it easy for researchers to monitor data movements for structured processing. The questionnaire was divided into 2 parts:

1. Multiple-choice: contains questions that reveal how respondents interact with Spotify to be processed and linked to research topics.
2. A free statement: containing habits during use, impact as well and tips that respondents recommend to readers to use Spotify as a learning medium in raising pronunciation to a better level.

The survey contained 10 double-choice questions and 3 confirmation questions that revealed the linkage of the respondents' use of Spotify in support of this study which is presented with paragraphs to finally provide information to readers. The multiple questions that we asked the respondents were as follows:

1. How often do you consume Spotify in a week?
2. Does the use of spotify help you to become more confident and motivated to improve your pronunciation skills?

3. While listening to English-language songs on Spotify you feel your pronunciation ability has improved?
4. What kind of English-language music do you think has a major influence on improving your listening skills in English?
5. Who are the singers you recommend to help improve the pronunciation? And why did you choose it?
6. When listening to music on Spotify, do you always read the lyrics to help you enhance your pronunciation skills?
7. Does the lyric feature in Spotify help you improve your pronunciation capabilities?
8. How do you use the method when listening to English songs on Spotify to help improve your pronunciation skills?
9. Do you recommend Spotify as a medium to help improve pronunciation?
10. What do you think is the most difficult aspect of pronunciation?

The confirmatory questions we ask in this research are:

1. How do you use Spotify to help improve your pronunciation skills?
2. What impact did you feel during using Spotify in improving Pronunciation?
3. If you have felt the good impact of using Spotify in improving Pronunciation, what are some tips that you recommend to finally improve Pronunciation?

The presentation of the data we get will be displayed in a different form. The data result of the multiple choice question will be loaded in the table, while the free question will be loaded and presented in paragraph form. The data found will be processed, researched, and examined to eventually become evidence references related to the topic that we chose namely improving students' pronunciation by using the Spotify app to reach the purpose of this research the influence and impact of Spotify in improving pronunciation.

With the data we collected and processed through respondent statements, it cannot be generalized to other populations. This research is entirely to continue previous research and bring new colors as well as new information to the advances of science and technology.

The researchers also used other sources derived from documents such as books, scientific journal articles, and previous findings relevant to the topics and purposes of the research as supplementary and supportive to make the findings more in-depth and accurate. It is based on the statement made by Creswell, J, W. (2007) that research with qualitative methods is continuous until sufficient and relevant data is processed and information is produced with accurate, tested data, which also has an impact on both scientific and technological progress.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings reveal an interesting statement about the habits of English majors in using Spotify. The data generated will prove how Spotify helps them improve their Pronunciation, and added with how to use the media namely Spotify as a tool to increase learning motivation and a more intensive learning process.

Data collection was carried out by ensuring that 15 respondents were active students of the English study program and regularly used Spotify with different frequencies. It was found that 9 people stated that they used Spotify every day in their activities, while the other 6 people only used Spotify a few times a week. The confirmation question stated that all the students were eligible to be respondents in this study.

Table 1. Result of the interview

NO.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1.	How often do you use Spotify in a week??	60% of respondents stated that they use Spotify every day, while 40% of others only use Spotify a few days a week.
2.	Does using Spotify help you get motivated to improve your Pronunciation?	100% of the respondents stated that they felt motivated to learn pronunciation by using Spotify.
3.	While listening to English songs on Spotify, did you feel that your Pronunciation skills have improved?	60% of respondents felt that their pronunciation skills were greatly improved by using Spotify, while 40% of others felt that it was moderately helpful.
4.	What genres of English music do you think have the greatest impact on improving your Pronunciation?	73% of respondents chose the pop genre as the music they listen to most often, while 13% others chose R&B, and 14% others chose other genres.
5.	Do you always read the lyrics when listening to music on Spotify?	73% of respondents stated that they always read the lyrics when listening to music, while 27% only sometimes.
6.	Does the lyric feature on Spotify help you improve your pronunciation?	73% of respondents confirmed that the lyrics feature helped them improve their pronunciation, while 27% needed other learning media.
7.	What methods do you use when listening to English songs on Spotify to help improve Pronunciation?	67% out of 15 respondents chose the method of listening to music while reading the lyrics, also following the singer's pronunciation. The other 33% stated that it is enough to focus on the pronunciation of difficult words and find out how to pronounce them and the meaning of each word.
8.	What do you think is the most difficult aspect of learning Pronunciation?	60% chose the word Stress as the most difficult part of learning pronunciation, 20% chose consonants, and 20% chose vowels.
9.	Would you recommend Spotify as a medium to improve your Pronunciation?	100% of respondents responded that Spotify is highly recommended as a medium for improving Pronunciation.
10.	Which singer do you recommend to help improve the pronunciation? And why did you choose them?	The respondents gave mixed statements. However, the researchers concluded that Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande, and Justin Bieber are the most recommended singers.

From the results obtained through the table, it can be explained that in the first question, 9 people stated that they use Spotify every day while the other 6 people only use it a few days a week. And it can be seen that all respondents admit that with Spotify they feel helped in improving pronunciation. And 9 people felt that their pronunciation skills were greatly improved during the use of Spotify, and the other 6 people were moderately helped.

Spotify's most striking feature is the lyrics feature. It was found that 11 people admitted that they always read the lyrics while listening to music, while the other 4 people only sometimes read the lyrics. The lyrics feature is also very helpful, as evidenced by the research results with 11 respondents stating that the availability of the lyrics feature is a reference for their learning. This is because good pronunciation will be accompanied by grammar and writing that is understood first.

The selection of music features was the most dominant in the use of the respondents with 11 people choosing pop genre as the type of music that helped them improve their pronunciation skills, while 2 people preferred R&B, and the other 2 people chose other genres. The results of the data that researchers get are that music is still the feature chosen to be a medium in improving English language skills. This is in line with the opinion of Susanto & Watik, (2021) who state that technological advances, especially in the music field, make students get new ways or methods to be motivated to learn and explore a science. The music genres that the respondents chose are very diverse, as well as their favorite singers. However, the three names that often appear in the answers are Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande, and Justin Bieber. They said that the three singers were very impactful in improving and improving their pronunciation, because the vocabulary still sounded familiar, as well as the understandable pronunciation.

The methods used by the respondents were quite different with 10 people always singing and reciting the lyrics out loud following the singer's pronunciation, while the other 5 people chose to read and take notes on unfamiliar words to find out the meaning. The methods used by the respondents were different, with one person always singing and reciting the lyrics in a loud voice following the singer's pronunciation, while the other five chose to read and take notes on unfamiliar words to find out their meaning. It was found that respondents make Spotify a part of their daily activities. This helps them achieve the goal of learning pronunciation, which is being able to understand the speaker and enjoy listening to their English, as well as voicing a word that the other person can understand (Gilakjani, 2016).

However, all respondents highly recommended Spotify as a medium that can help improve pronunciation skills. The results of the data obtained prove that the use of Spotify helps students improve pronunciation. This is in line with research conducted by Haryadi and Aprianoto, who found that fun media such as music can help students improve good pronunciation, especially with media that is easily accessible (Haryadi S, 2021). Makasoe et al. (2022) agreed that the use of music as a medium in education, especially in the study of foreign languages, was an appropriate choice because pronunciation as an important aspect could be enhanced through voice. Iqbal (2018) also revealed that English-language songs enhance English language skills with a natural approach as students make listening to music a daily activity that is inseparable from everyday life.

In line with the purpose of this study is to improve and improve pronunciation because of how important it is to increase pronunciation ability to make confidence in communication felt (Mulatsih, 2015), as well as to reduce misunderstanding in conversation that causes the loss of the true meaning to be conveyed in conversation (Nurullayevna, 2020). (Cakir & Baytar, 2014), the researchers gave some statements obtained from respondents to give readers insight into the impact and how it is

recommended to use Spotify so it can help improve pronunciation capabilities. In addition, the respondents' habits in using Spotify also varied. Individual usage and individual methods make Spotify a unique medium. Respondents stated that reading the lyrics while singing along helped improve their pronunciation. Others stated that just by making a habit of listening to the music and repeating it regularly, pronunciation would improve.

1. Impact of Improving Pronunciation Through Spotify In Daily Life

Based on the data obtained from respondents, all 15 respondents highly recommend the use of Spotify in helping to improve pronunciation skills. And the impact that respondents have felt while using Spotify we summarize to hopefully be new knowledge for readers, including:

- a. Able to get acquainted with new vocabulary that was initially unfamiliar
- b. Better understand the meaning of each sentence that has been heard
- c. Make English language skills more fluent
- d. It is easier to communicate in English because some vocabulary has been recorded in memory
- e. Improve spelling skills that have a big influence on communication

These statements are based on the impact of using Spotify as a fun learning media, with different frequencies and ways according to the results of the data that we have described.

2. Recommended Ways to Utilize Spotify as A Medium for Pronunciation Improvement

The use of Spotify has a significant impact. It is the researcher's concern to share how to utilize Spotify to finally be able to help improve the ability of pronunciation. Through the responses given by the respondents, the researcher found several recommended ways to get results aimed at improving pronunciations, including:

- a. Listening to songs with favorite genres to get excited and motivated to learn
- b. Say the lyrics or sing along in a voice that matches how the singer says the words.
- c. Repeating the lyrics of the song to make the vocabulary well stored in memory
- d. Utilizing the lyrics as a learning reference by reciting well and finding out the meaning
- e. Routine a schedule to focus more on listening to songs, not just for leisure.
- f. Listening to songs by adjusting the vocabulary level and increasing the level according to one's ability.

In addition to improved pronunciation, knowledge, and increased vocabulary were the impacts that respondents felt during their use of Spotify. Supported by the lyrics feature adds a more significant improvement. This is in line with the statement of Rimanuella and Caroline, in their research that Spotify is indeed very good for use as a medium with the latest technology and unlimited access to help students achieve learning goals and improve their pronunciation and even English language skills (Rimanuella Sabathiana Kelendonu, 2023). Thus, Spotify deserves to be recognized as a platform that can have a good impact on improving pronunciation.

Spotify also has a playlist feature, which can help them choose songs to suit their level and ability in learning pronunciation. On Spotify, playlists help students to put music listening situations under their control by being able to choose, play, return music before and after, or add and reduce music they choose according to their needs or preferences. (Prajnadipa, 2022). Of course this feature is increasingly supporting that Spotify is capable of becoming a learning medium due to the availability of very unique features. Not until

that, another advantage is that Spotify provides lyrics while playing music (Li, 2022) It is very supportive for students to get easy access and learning media so it improves pronunciation ability.

On the other hand, some respondents stated that Spotify also plays an important role in improving listening skills. Listening is an ability that greatly supports improving pronunciation skills (Berlinda Mandasari, 2018). By listening, pronunciation skills will also definitely improve because they will know how to pronounce well and correctly. And in line with the results of the data we get that music becomes a medium that connects by listening to finally convey meaning. As stated by Shuler (1991) music is not only pitched verses but can mediate listening and pronunciation learning that can be improved. In addition, music's melody makes it a medium that conveys feelings that make the learning process enjoyable (P. Asmus, 2010). In this study, music greatly influences how Pronunciation can improve through Spotify. Besides, it's supported by ease of access that can be done anywhere, anytime, as long as internet access is running. (Li, 2022). It makes Spotify a medium that facilitates the learning process with a visible impact.

The impact felt by the students is a good improvement in their English language skills, which is in line with Yulianto's statement (2017) that the use of media containing audio gives increased influence in English, as voice signals will enter and be recorded in memory. Not only that, according to the data shown, that pronunciation has continuity in the ability to speak. It also makes Spotify the right media choice. This supports the findings acquired by Mayalisa, et al. (2023) that songs have a good influence on making speech skills improve. According to Yola (2022), the existence of lyrical features makes students interested in reading new words and remembering them, thus enabling students' pronunciation skills to be improved. Reading lyrics while listening makes students as if talking to a native speaker which will affect their pronunciation ability to become better (Prajnadipa, 2022).

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that all respondents agreed that Spotify deserves to be a medium capable of helping improve pronunciation. This is in line with Diah's study (2020), which showed significant results through Spotify to improve the process of learning pronunciation (Princess, 2022). Respondents acknowledged that with Spotify, their learning process feels fun through easy access to music. (Pratiwi, 2022). Referring to the research conducted by Iyas & Kaniadewi (2023) that connects the results of this research that the existence of connections is equally produced data that proves that Spotify can be a pleasant learning medium by still providing a fairly good improvement through listening to music and various features with easy access in Spotify.

In addition, the availability and ease of access obtained on Spotify is a benchmark that Spotify deserves to be used as a medium such as lyrical features. It can introduce students to a variety of new vocabulary and provide a container for students to improve their pronunciation. The results of this study are also in line with ancient research, by Purba, et al (2023) that generated data that Spotify was able to help improve pronunciation by becoming a medium that feels enjoyable due to past access and features that are very advanced and close to students in everyday life.

CONCLUSION

As for the findings that have been presented, all respondents gave statements that Spotify is highly recommended as a medium that can help improve pronunciation quite significantly with the various methods used by each respondent. In addition, the features available on Spotify make this application the best choice that supports learning goals,

especially the lyrics feature in music with a frequency that can be adjusted to yourself. With the results obtained, the researcher reads that the frequency and method of using Spotify are aspects that greatly affect the success of Spotify as a medium that helps improve pronunciation skills through different methods, namely through listening, reading lyrics, and making repetition as part of routine activities during the learning process.

So in outline, the research concluded that Spotify can be a medium for improving pronunciation through the aspects of listening and new vocabulary aimed at a repeated learning process. The ease of unlimited access adds to Spotify's plus points where pronunciation improvement is in line with the effort and how consistency is embedded in each individual. Therefore, Spotify is worth considering as one of the learning media with easy and fun usage so that the learning process continues to grow with good results to help improve pronunciation as one of the most important aspects of English communication.

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