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Vocabulary Enrichment for Students of Indonesian for Foreign Speakers (BIPA) Through the Enuma School Application

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses the potential application of Enuma School as a tool to aid in the enrichment of Indonesian vocabulary for BIPA (Bahasa Indonesia untuk Penutur Asing) learners. Using a qualitative approach, the study analyzes the interactive features and contextual content offered by the application. The analysis results indicate that Enuma School can serve as an effective alternative digital application for developing Indonesian vocabulary, enhancing BIPA students' motivation to learn through educational games, supporting independent learning, and fostering digital literacy. However, challenges such as integration with the BIPA curriculum, training for educators, evaluating the effectiveness of the application's use, and addressing technology accessibility gaps need to be considered. This study suggests that educational institutions consider using this application as part of their BIPA learning strategy to achieve better outcomes in mastering Indonesian vocabulary.

INTRODUCTION

Good vocabulary mastery is one of the important aspects in language learning, including in the context of learning Indonesian language for foreigners. The foreigners who learn Indonesia language is said as BIPA students/learners. BIPA is abbreviation of Bahasa Indonesia bagi Penutur Asing (later term BIPA is used). A rich vocabulary allows students to communicate more effectively and understand the material being taught. In an effort to improve language skills, educational technology has become one of the promising solutions. One application that can be used is Enuma School, which is specifically designed for early childhood. It offers an innovative approach to language learning through interactive games and activities.

Enuma School is a digital app that provides thousands of learning activities, books and educational videos designed to help children learn Indonesian, Math and English. With more than 1,000 learning modules and 300 e-books, the app provides materials that are in line with the national curriculum as well as Pancasila values and local culture (Eko, 2022). In the context of BIPA learning, this app can be an effective alternative to increase Indonesian vocabulary among foreign learners.

The importance of using technology in education has been widely recognized. According to Thornbury (2021), technology can enrich students' learning experience by providing access to wider resources and enabling more interactive learning. The Enuma School app not only provides learning content but also uses game-based learning methods that make learning fun. This is particularly important for children, as they tend to be more engaged when learning through games (Sulaiman et al., 2023).

The app is also designed to support independent learning. Natasha Santoso from Enuma Indonesia stated that the app allows children to learn at their own pace (Santoso, 2022). With this approach, children can develop their vocabulary gradually, starting from simple words to more complex words. This process is in line with constructivist learning theory, where students construct their own knowledge through direct experience (Piaget, 2019).

Enuma School also focuses on developing digital literacy among children. In today's digital era, reading and writing skills are not only limited to printed texts but also include the ability to understand information in digital formats (Hasbi, 2022). By giving access to children to use this app, they not only learn the language but also develop digital literacy skills that are crucial in the modern world.

In addition, the Enuma School app has been shown to be effective in improving student learning outcomes. Trials of the app showed that children's average learning gains increased by between 5 and 7 percent after using the app for three months (Sulaiman et al., 2023). This suggests that the learning methods implemented in this app can help prevent learning loss in early grade students.

The Enuma School app also has great potential in reaching children across Indonesia. With a goal to provide free literacy to 10 million Indonesian children, the app can be accessed free of charge and without advertising (Adrian, 2022). This is an important step in addressing the education gap in remote areas and providing equal learning opportunities for all children.

In the context of BIPA, the use of apps like Enuma School can help foreign learners understand Indonesian vocabulary in a fun and interactive way. Through various activities and games, learners can practice new vocabulary in a relevant and interesting context. This is in line with language learning principles that emphasize the importance of context in vocabulary acquisition (Nation, 2020).

Thus, this study aims to explore how the Enuma School application can be used as a tool in the development of Indonesian vocabulary for BIPA learners. Through a qualitative approach, this study will analyze the effectiveness of the app in improving students' vocabulary comprehension and learning experience.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative-descriptive approach, which aims to analyze the features available in the Learn Indonesian application. This method was chosen because it allows the researcher to gain an in-depth understanding of the learning elements contained in the app, as well as how they contribute to vocabulary development for BIPA learners.

Data was collected through direct exploration of the Enuma School app. This exploration process included analyzing various features of the app, such as vocabulary introduction, use of images and audio, and interactive exercises. The researcher observed the way the app presents learning materials and the user's interaction with the app. The researcher also noted the ease of access and navigation in the app, as well as the effectiveness of the features in supporting the learning process.

Once the data was collected, the analysis was conducted by categorizing the information based on predetermined criteria. Each feature was evaluated based on its effectiveness in supporting vocabulary learning for BIPA learners. The findings of this analysis are then compiled in narrative form to comprehensively describe the research results.

DISCUSSION

The Enuma School application offers various features designed to support language learning, especially in the context of Indonesian vocabulary development for Indonesian Language Learners for Foreign Speakers (BIPA). The results of the analysis show that this application has several key elements that can be utilized to improve the language skills of BIPA learners. The following are some analysis results obtained from observation and literature study.

a) Interactive Features and Educational Games

One of the main advantages of the Enuma School app is the use of interactive features and educational games. Activities such as quizzes, puzzles, and word games not only

make the learning process fun but also increase students' motivation to learn. According to research by Sulaiman et al. (2023), game-based learning can increase students' engagement and help them remember new vocabulary better compared to traditional methods. Thus, this app encourages BIPA learners to actively participate in the learning process.

b) Diverse and Contextual Content

Enuma School app provides diverse content, ranging from illustrated stories to educational videos relevant to daily life. This content not only helps students understand new vocabulary but also provides the necessary context for the use of those words in sentences. This is in line with language learning theory which states that vocabulary should be taught in context to make it easier to understand and remember (Nation, 2020). By providing contextual content, the app helps BIPA learners to relate new vocabulary to their daily experiences.

c) Self-Learning and Personalization

The self-learning feature in the Enuma School app allows students to learn according to their own pace and learning style. The app provides immediate feedback to users, so they can know their progress in real-time. According to Santoso (2022), a personalized approach to learning is essential because each student has different needs and abilities. By giving BIPA learners the opportunity to learn independently, this app encourages them to take responsibility for their own learning process.

d) Digital Literacy Development

In today's digital era, digital literacy skills are becoming increasingly important. The Enuma School app not only focuses on language acquisition but also on developing digital literacy skills. By using this app, students learn how to interact with technology effectively, which is an essential skill in the modern world (Hasbi, 2022). These skills will greatly benefit BIPA learners when they communicate in digital contexts in the future.

The Enuma School application also has several advantages, namely:

a) Child-Friendly User Interface

The application interface is specially designed to be easily navigated by children. With an attractive and interactive visual display, children can easily select the activities or content they want to learn.

b) Learning Modules

The app has various learning modules structured based on the national curriculum. Each module contains a series of activities related to a particular theme, so that children can learn comprehensively.

c) Assessment and Feedback System

Upon completion of an activity, learners receive feedback on their results, including an assessment of the skills they have learned. This helps them understand which areas need improvement.

d) Customization Features and Learning Stages

Users can customize their learning experience by choosing activities according to their own interests and ability levels. This provides flexibility in the centered learning process for BIPA Learners. It also includes learning stages that learners have to go through in each series.

e) Engaging Games

Learning is presented in various forms of fun learning activities such as sentence notes, word boards, bird phonics, complete the letters, bubble bursting, match the characters, alphabet puzzle, sound train, word detective, word machine, crossword, and others.

f) Cultural Value-Based Content

The content in the application does not only focus on academics but also integrates the values of Pancasila and Indonesian culture, so that children not only learn the language but also understand their own culture (Eko, 2022).

The use of Enuma School app as a tool in BIPA learning has great potential to improve the mastery of Indonesian vocabulary among foreign learners. However, there are several aspects that need further consideration to maximize the effectiveness of this application.

a) Integration with BIPA Curriculum

One of the main challenges in the use of educational technology is its integration with the existing curriculum. To ensure that the Enuma School app can be used effectively in the BIPA context, it is important for educators to integrate the app's content with existing teaching materials. This can be done by designing classroom activities that include the use of the app as an additional tool, so that students can have a more holistic learning experience.

b) Training for Educators

For successful use of the Enuma School app, it is important that educators receive training on how to effectively utilize this technology in their teaching. Such training could include how to integrate the app into lesson plans as well as strategies to motivate students to use the app independently outside of class hours. According to Thornbury (2021), educators who are skilled in using educational technology can create a more interactive and engaging learning environment for students.

c) Evaluation and Feedback

Although the Enuma School app offers various interesting features, an evaluation of its effectiveness in improving Indonesian vocabulary for BIPA learners needs to be conducted regularly. Gathering feedback from users-both students and educators-can provide valuable insights into which aspects of the app are most useful as well as areas that need improvement. This is in line with the principles of formative evaluation in education, where feedback is used to improve the learning process (Eko, 2022).

d) Accessibility and the Digital Divide

While the Enuma School app is designed to reach children across Indonesia at no cost, there are still challenges related to technology accessibility in remote or less developed areas. The digital divide may hinder some students' ability to utilize the app to its full potential. Therefore, efforts need to be made to ensure that all BIPA learners have access to the necessary technological devices as well as a stable internet connection.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the Enuma School app offers an innovative and engaging approach to learning Indonesian for Foreign Language Learners (BIPA). By utilizing technology and game-based learning methods, the app not only improves students' vocabulary but also

builds digital literacy skills. Despite challenges in integration with the curriculum, educator training, effectiveness evaluation, and technology accessibility, the potential of this app to support language learning is great. Therefore, it is recommended that educational institutions and curriculum developers consider the use of the Enuma School app as part of the BIPA learning strategy. With the right support, this app can be an effective tool in improving Indonesian language proficiency among foreign learners, as well as contributing to the development of more inclusive and quality language education in Indonesia.

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