

# **THE EFFECT OF ELSA SPEAK APPLICATION ON STUDENTS' SPEAKING ABILITY**

(An experiment study at twelfth grade students of MIA-1  
SMA N 2 PLUS Panyabungan in the Academic Year of 2023/2024)

*SKRIPSI*

Submitted to the English Language Education Study Program in a  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Strata I  
(Bachelor of Education) in English Language Education



By

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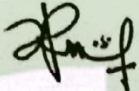
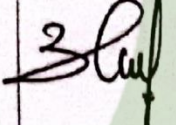
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## ENDORSEMENT SHEET

This Skripsi entitled "The Effect of ELSA Speak Application on Students' Speaking Ability" written by Nurul Indah Nasution, Student Registration Number 19130027, Department of English Language Education, has been examined and defended in front of the Board of Skripsi examiners on Monday, October 9th, 2023. The skripsi has been accepted and declared to have fulfilled one of the requirements for the degree of "S Pd" (Bachelor of Education) in English language Education.

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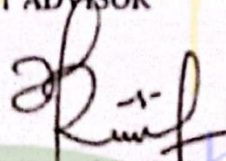
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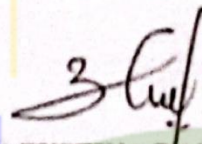
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## ABSTRACT

**Nurul Indah Nasution. 2023.** *The Effect of ELSA Speak Application on Students' Speaking Ability at Twelfth Grade of MIA-1 SMA N 2 PLUS Panyabungan (Supervised by Resdilla Pratiwi, M.Hum and Lia Agustina Damanik, M.Hum).*

This study aims at finding out whether the ELSA Speak application significantly affects students' speaking abilities. This study was conducted using an experimental design. The population of this study was twelfth grade students of SMA N 2 PLUS Panyabungan. The total sample was 60 students. Two classes were chosen as the samples. The twelfth grade students of MIA-1 are the experiment class, and the twelfth grade students of MIA-2 are the control class. The experiment class was taught using the ELSA Speak application, while the control class was taught using the role-play method. The instruments used in this study were the pre-test and post-test of the oral test. The data were analysed using a t-test. The result of computing the t-test obviously showed that t-observed is higher than t-table ( $2,37 > 1,67$ ) with the degree of freedom 66 ( $df = N-2$ ) at the level of significance 0,05 one tail test. It showed that the application of the ELSA Speak application had a significant effect on students speaking abilities. The objective of this study was to identify the effect and the significancy degree of ELSA SPEAK application on the students' speaking ability at SMA N 2 PLUS Panyabungan. The research conducted experimental method which took twelfth grade students of MIA-1 as the experiment class and twelfth grade students of MIA-2 as the control class. each class consisted of 33 students.

Key Words : *Speaking Ablity, ELSA Speak application, Learning Media*

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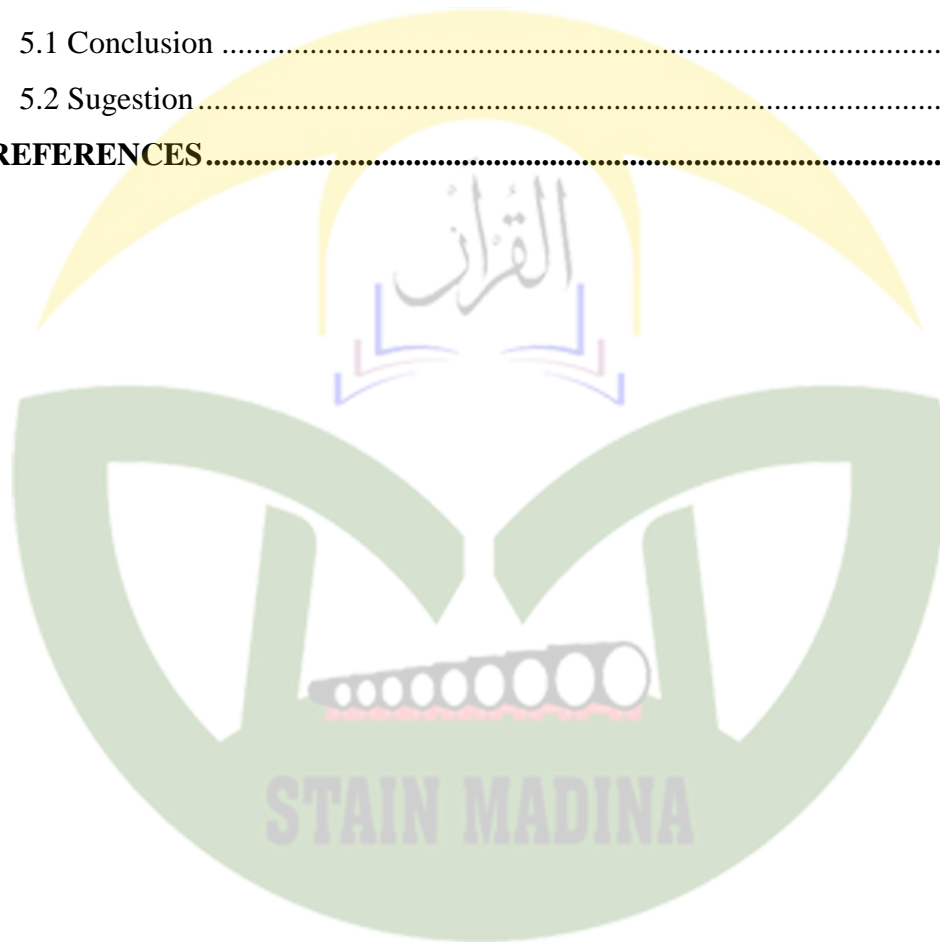
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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is a way to get and change information, skills, techniques, beliefs, points of view, and ways of doing things. A lot of people need to improve their cognitive, linguistic, and communication skills, which they can do in a variety of ways. People require language to communicate because they cannot know what one another is thinking. (Delahunty and Garvey in Yustika Fatma Ilyasa, 2021) states that language is a means to connect the mind even when sounds, letters, signatures, or tactile symbols (such as Braille) cannot be seen, heard, or touched by the. Effective communication requires an awareness and understanding of the relationship between language and its user mind (Yustika Fatma Ilyasa 2021).

As a way for people to talk to each other, the English language is important in business, science, economics, technology, and many other areas of life. According to Fatiha et al., "as a global language, everyone should have superior English language abilities." In Indonesia, English is a foreign language that people must learn for many reasons, including their education mind (Yustika Fatma Ilyasa 2021). This is one of the reasons why effective communication requires understanding and appreciation of the relationship between language and the people who use it.

English has become a global language that is widely recognized around the world since it serves as a medium of communication between native speakers and non-native speakers. English is the third most spoken language in the world. It is used a lot in business, education, and international relations. Additionally, it is taught and spoken in more than 118 different nations. Additionally, computers, aviation, diplomacy, and tourists all use it. It is the language spoken on the internet, in the media, and last but not least in international contact. In the globalized world of today, communication is crucial for success in all fields. Language is used as a means of communication. Without a language, flawless communication between individuals is unattainable. Moreover, people cannot achieve their aims and objectives if they are unable to communicate effectively. Therefore, a common language is required to communicate with people from all over the world. As English is considered the international language and is spoken on every continent, it serves as a means of communication between individuals from various regions, states, nations, and continents.

If students know how important English is, they will be able to reach all of their goals, whether they are personal or professional.. It is also the second language that is spoken most extensively in the world. Two billion people will be learning English globally, according to the British Council's prediction in the year 2020. The English language is widely used as a way to communicate around the world and is considered essential in many fields, especially in the academic world.

Speaking ability can lead to good situations and interesting conversations in a given language. This ability shows how good someone is at the skill mentioned and can be seen as a sign of success (Fauziati 2010). Speaking is an essential skill for English language learners. There are a number of things that influence students' speaking abilities. Some of them are lack of self-confidence and unattractive learning media. Many students are interested in learning speaking but are not confident enough to speak up in front of the class. Additionally, the use of monotonous media contributes to the students perception that speaking and learning are boring. The learning process is not limited to the classroom (Ismail 2019). It can also be done online. Due to the fact that practically all students are active internet users, it is simple for them to study through engaging media. In this case, the researcher employs the ELSA Speak application as a learning medium that can attract the student's attention and make them feel at ease when learning speaking.

Effective communication requires students to possess proficient speaking skills. Even though it's important to be able to speak English well, students often have trouble with this part of learning the language. Shen and Chiu's (2019) research shows that students have a lot of trouble finding the right words to say in English. Some of the problems were psychological, like feeling anxious, being afraid of making mistakes, or not having enough self-confidence. As the most fundamental type of face-to-face communication, speaking has a crucial social function in human existence. In other words, speaking is an essential skill for language acquisition, but it is difficult to acquire and instruct. Speaking is the hardest part of teaching and learning

English because it requires knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and a linguistic component. Due to the difficulty of teaching speaking, teachers frequently encounter difficulties. There are a number of variables that could cause difficulties in teaching English to students. A teacher who is inventive will always have solutions for resolving issues. Especially when teachers must instruct students who are just beginning to acquire a foreign language, it will be challenging for students to comprehend sentences and issues that contain complicated verbal topics or tough conversations.

Mobile application usage has become a requirement in modern society. Mobile technology is altering how we live and is beginning to alter how we learn. To make learning available at any time and place, it can be created in a variety of ways: people can use mobile devices to access educational tools, connect with others, and create content outside of the classroom (Tamhane 2015). Mobile learning also includes attempts to promote broad educational priorities, such as effective school system administration and improved school-to-home connectivity. Vu Van created the English Learning Speech Assistant (ELSA) application in 2015, with headquarters in San Francisco, United States. It employs artificial intelligence (AI) and speech recognition to assist in enhancing and perfecting English pronunciation (Pilar 2013) The ELSA Speak app is an example of motivational and fun learning software. The ELSA Speak application gives students access to places where they can share their language and speaking skills, thereby boosting their confidence. For instance, when students utter particular words or sentences, the ELSA Speak system analyzes them and provides corrective feedback, such as speaking

scores that may be difficult to attain. Also, the Elsa Speak program is thought to be good enough to be used as a virtual coach.

In this way, the researcher has found several studies that are relevant to this investigation. Several past research results have to do with teaching speaking with "ELSA Speak" or app-based learning. The differences are in the research method, the scope of the research, and the level of the students. Using classroom action research and other methodologies, multiple investigations were undertaken. Here is a description of a few of the findings from prior studies on this topic:

The first study was done by Maria Lidya Gelu (2020) and was called "The Benefit of Using Elsa Speak in Role Play Class of SMA Negeri 9 Yogyakarta." In conclusion, the research indicates that the "ELSA Speak" program had favorable effects on students, such as increasing their pronunciation and their motivation to speak English. The researcher also concluded that "ELSA Speak" can be a simple, motivating, and quick method for learning pronunciation. "ELSA Speak" can therefore be utilized as one of the media tools for learning pronunciation. The second, in 2020, Poppy Sofia did a study named "Toward "ELSA Speak" Application in Learning English Pronunciation: Potentials and Pitfalls." The researcher said that using mobile technology to learn a language would let people learn outside of the classroom and make the English learning program shorter. Lastly, the data indicate that ELSA has assisted students in enhancing their English-speaking skills. The third study, Endang Darsih (2018) did a research study titled "Using ELSA Application in Speaking Classes: Students' Voices." In conclusion, "ELSA



"Speak" can successfully and effectively enhance the pronunciation skills of students. Absolutely, it can inspire students to practice their pronunciation. The fourth research is "Applying "ELSA Speak" Software in the Pronunciation Class: Students' Perspective." It was done by Ita Sarmita Samad of STKIP Muhammadiyah Enrekang and came out in 2019. Based on what was found in the research and what was said about it, it is clear that the students have a very positive view of using the "ELSA Speak" program in pronunciation class. Thus, this program is recommended for pronunciation practice. The fifth study is titled "Using Elsa Speak Application to Improve Speaking Abilities at UPT SPF SMPN 17 Makassar." Belinda Lesmana, from Bosowa University's English Language Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, led the study in 2022. Based on what was found in the research, we can conclude that the ELSA Speak application can improve the speaking abilities of middle school students. The pre-test and post-test scores for these ELSA Speaking Apps were used to determine whether or not the student's speaking English ability improved. We can see that through the more user-friendly and accessible ELSA Speak apps, middle school students can easily learn English on their mobile devices.

Based on prior studies, the researcher focuses on speaking ability. The study conducted in SMA N 2 PLUS Panyabungan at the twelfth grade students of MIA-1. The researcher conducted interviews as preliminary data for this research on what teachers found in teaching speaking. The conclusion of the interview is that there are some students who less self-confidence to speak in front of the class because of the different writing and pronunciation of

English. Some students also have trouble arranging sentences and think grammar is difficult. So many students are afraid to make mistakes when speaking. It makes students less active in speaking class. It happens because the students Every time a student or teacher tries to learn something in the classroom, they run into problems or situations that do not help them learn. For example, the students have to deal with teaching methods that make them bored and stuck to the reading conversation text. Students need interesting learning materials so that students and teachers can learn as much as possible and get students excited about learning, especially when it comes to pronunciation and speaking ability. This study will investigate how the ELSA Speak application works on the speaking ability of students.

### **1.2 Problems Identification**

Based on the description above, researcher found several issues such as: Students are less self-confidence because pronunciation and grammar, also less media learning to learn speaking ability. Many things that slow down the process of learning a language make it hard for students to speak. Learning English demands a medium that is more interesting and enjoyable.

### **1.3 Scope and Limitation**

There are numerous considerations involved in the media of speaking learning process. This study focuses on the effect of ELSA Speak application on the speaking ability of students. This study's objective is to restrict its scope to the twelfth grade students of MIA-1 at SMA N 2 Plus Panyabungan. This is one of the English classes that has a high interest in learning English. However, students lack confidence in pronunciation and grammar, as well as

a lack of media to develop their speaking ability. This class consists of 33 students, 21 girls, and 12 boys.

#### **1.4 Formulation of the Study**

After all the above explanations, this research question as follows:

1. Is the effect of ELSA Speak application significant to the students' speaking ability?
2. How is the significancy of ELSA Speak application on students speaking ability?

#### **1.5 The Objective of the Study**

Based on the explanation given previously, it can be determined that the objective of this study are :

1. To investigate the effect of the ELSA Speak application on students' speaking ability.
2. To find the significancy degree of ELSA Speak application on students' speaking ability.

#### **1.6 Significance of the Research**

The research result is expected to be able to give some benefits for :

1. For researcher, the results of this study can be used to find out the effect of ELSA Speak app usage on the speaking ability of students .
2. For academic, the results of this study can be used to improve the media of students' speaking ability.

3. For students, the research can be used as additional reference for the new innovation to make English speaking learning easier and funnier.

4. For further researchers, the findings of this study are intended to serve as a reference for the future researcher in determining the difficulties encountered while teaching speaking skill.

### **1.7 Defenition of Operational Variable**

The term "variable" is frequently employed in the realm of research to identify and establish variables during the process of developing a research project. Variable commonly referred to as the pre-future criterion is of primary interest in this study, which seeks to ascertain the relationships and impacts among various variables (Creswell 2014). The variables that have been identified are classified into two categories: independent variables and dependent variables.

a. The independent variable

Independent variable refers to a variable that is manipulated or altered in scientific experiments in order to examine its impact on a dependent variable. Independent variable as a variable that represents a stimulus, input, or condition that is measured, manipulated, or selected in a research study (Abiodun-Oyebanj 2017). The ELSA Speak application was employed as the independent variable in this study.

b. The dependent variable

Dependent variable refers to a variable that is tested and measured in a scientific experiment. The dependent variable, also known as the response variable or output, is observed and measured in order to assess the impact of

the independent variable (Abiodun-Oyebanj 2017). The term "variable" refers to a symbol or placeholder that represents a value in mathematical or The variable under investigation in this research study is speaking Ability.

