

THE USE OF VOA (VOICE OF AMERICA) LEARNING ENGLISH TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILL

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Received: June 8, 2022 Revised: June 9, 2022 Accepted: August 12, 2022 Published: August 30, 2022</p> <p>Keywords: VOA (Voice of America) Learning English Pre-Experimental Speaking Skill</p>	<p>This research aimed to find out whether or not the use of VOA (Voice of America) Learning English improve the students' speaking skill in terms of accuracy and fluency at tenth grade students of SMK Negeri 1 Pinrang. The researcher used pre-experimental design with one group pre-test post-test design. The researcher conducted pre-test, treatment and post-test in the total of six meetings. The sample includes of 19 students from Class X OTKP 2 (Otomatisasi dan Tata Kelola Perkantoran). The speaking test was used as the research instrument. The study's findings revealed an improvement between pre-test and post-test. The mean score of post-test in accuracy (68.78) was higher than the mean score of pre-test (51.52). Thus, the improvement of students' accuracy was 33.50%. Moreover, the mean score of post-test in fluency (70.52) was higher than the mean score of pre-test (53.31). Thus, the improvement of students' fluency was 32.28%. Moreover, based on the data analysis, the t-test value of accuracy was higher than the t-table value (18.55>2.101) and the t-test value of fluency was also higher than t-table (19.55>2.101). It means the Null hypothesis (H_0) was rejected and Alternative Hypothesis (H_1) was accepted. Therefore, the researcher concluded that the use of VOA (Voice of America) Learning English can improve students' speaking skill at tenth grade students of SMK Negeri 1 Pinrang.</p> <p><i>This is an open access article under the CC BY-SA license.</i></p> 
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INTRODUCTION

English has a strong position among all of the languages in the world. As a global language, most countries consider English as important language to be learnt. This condition affected the educational system in many countries that have English as a compulsory subject at school. In Indonesia, English as a foreign language is learnt and tested at Indonesian schools and universities.

Speaking is one of the significant English skills to master in school, along with others skills. Speaking has a big role in someone's life because it has many purposes to inform, and entertain many people. Knowing how to speak well can develop someone's confidence and boost their chances to earn the trust and respects of others.

Sulastri (2018) stated the problems that the students usually face in learning speaking such as, inhibition, they have nothing to say and the use of mother tongue. Inhibition happens when the students are insecurities to speak, especially in foreign language; they are fear to make a mistake. When they have nothing to say, it will make them difficult to continue. While the use of mother tongue means the students feel hard to imitate the foreign accent.

The key to improve speaking skill is practice. The teacher needs interesting learning material in order to support the students to speak fluently. One of the teaching materials that the teacher can use is news report. Richards and Schmidt (2010) state that magazine, news report, also newspaper even advertisement and songs as material that contain more practical and origin examples of the material that someone find in textbook.

In general, numerous media are effective to teach speaking. According to Prabawati (2021), the media is a tool used to help teachers in the learning and teaching process. Media may also assist teachers in motivating learners to be excited to learn. Teachers must be more creative and innovative while using media from the internet to ensure that students do not become bored and that the subject given is effectively mastered.

Firmansyah (2022) said that using media to learn English that allows people simple access to its features, we can able to access it from its website or just download it to our phone from the app store for IOS and the play store if we use an android. It enables us to learn English for free.

Media is a tool that can be utilized to demonstrate teachings, serve the lesson in an engaging way, and awaken students' learning motivation and interest. Thus, the use of learning media is supposed to support teachers in making the lesson more exciting for students to follow and more evident (Anugrah, 2020)

Ramli (2020) stated audiovisual media are forms of media that includes sound components as well as picture components that can be seen, such as video tapes, various movies, slideshows, and so on.

YouTube as audio-visual media is a suitable platform or video sharing site in education and it appears to be appropriate in the language teacher's classroom as a motivating and inspirational platform to develop students' skills (Tamar, 2021)

Megawati (2021) said that YouTube is a webpage that offers a variety of videos, including TV clips, music, movies, instructive videos, video blogging, and other videos, and it allows us to post and publish our video with everyone.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher needs a media that motivate the students to speak well. The researcher used VOA video from YouTube Channel VOA (Voice of America) Learning English. A student who often hears the pronunciation of words with correct intonation automatically will influence the listening and speaking of that student. The advantage of the VOA Learning English included the speaking speed of the speaker is slower than the actual news in the television.

Therefore, the research chose SMK Negeri 1 Pinrang after communicate with the teacher at the school, the problems that usually the students faced were the lack of speaking, they were not brave to speak in front of their friends. Also, they did not have many vocabularies insight so that has made an effect on their ability in speaking. In syllabus of tenth grade, students will learn about news item text. So, the researcher chose news item text and it was suitable for students to use VOA video as their material

RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher employed a quantitative method, a pre-experimental design including pre-test and post-test. The study wants to discover if VOA (Voice of America) Learning English can help students enhance their speaking accuracy and fluency. Moreover, the analysis of pre-test and post-test scores would be influenced by the treatment outcome.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

1. The Improvement of the Students' Speaking Accuracy (Pronunciation)

Students were given a test to measure the levels of their speaking skill, particularly in the aspect of speaking accuracy in terms of pronunciation, in order to measure the students' speaking skill by employing media in the form of VOA (Voice of America) Learning English.

Table 1: Mean Score of Students' Speaking Accuracy

Indicator	Pre-Test Mean Score	Post-Test Mean Score	Improvement
Students Speaking Accuracy	51.52	68.78	33.50%

Table 1 indicates that students' speaking accuracy improved. The mean score in the pre-test before treatment was 51.52, while the overall mean score of students' speaking accuracy after treatment was 68.78. As a result, students' speaking abilities increased to 33.50 percent.

2. The Students' Percentage and Frequency in Speaking Accuracy (Pronunciation)

Table 2: The Students' Score in Accuracy

No	Category	Score	Pre-Test		Post-Test	
			Freq	%	Freq	%
1	Excellent	81-100	0	0%	5	26%
2	Good	61-80	5	26%	12	63%
3	Fairly Good	41-60	12	63%	2	11%
4	Fair	21-40	1	5%	0	0%
5	Poor	0-20	1	5%	0	0%
Total			19	100%	19	100%

Table 2 displays the percentage of speaking accuracy for 19 students. There were distinctions between the pre-test and post-test. In the pre-test, the majority of students scored in the fairly good (63%) and the least number of students scored in the fair and poor category (5%). There are 5 students that scored 26% in the good category. Furthermore, no students in the excellent category.

Otherwise, no students got fair and poor categories in the post-test. Most of them were in good category with percentage 63% and there are 5 students in excellent category with percentage 26%. There are 2 students in fairly good category with 11% rate percentage. The following graph represents the improvement.

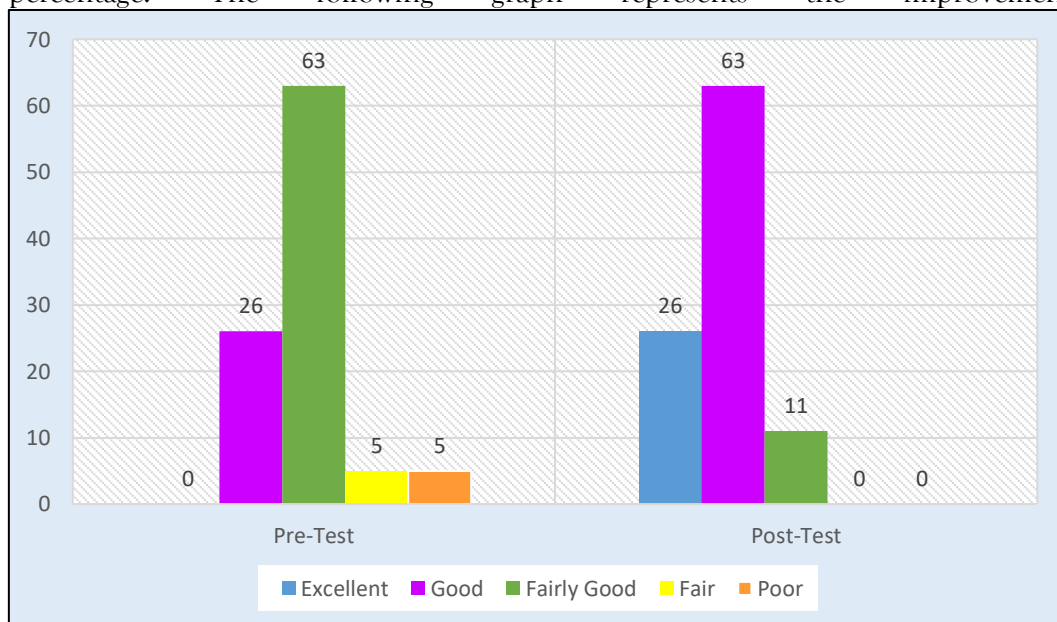


Figure 1: Students' Score Frequency in Speaking Accuracy

3. The Improvement of the Students' Speaking in Terms of Fluency

Table 3: The Students' Fluency (Smoothness) Mean Score

Indicator	Pre-Test Score	Post-Test Score	Improvement %
Students Speaking Skill in terms of Fluency	53.31	70.52	32.28%

Table 3 indicates that there was an improvement after using VOA (Voice of America) Learning English. Students' post-test score (70.52) is greater than their pre-test score (53.31) with 32.28 percent.

4. The Percentage and Frequency in Speaking Fluency

Table 4: Students' Score in Speaking Fluency

No	Category	Score	Pre-Test		Post-Test	
			Freq	%	Freq	%
1	Excellent	81-100	0	0%	6	32%
2	Good	61-80	5	26%	12	63%
3	Fairly Good	41-60	13	68%	1	5%
4	Fair	21-40	1	5%	0	0%
5	Poor	0-20	0	0%	0	0%
Total			19	100%	19	100%

Table 4 displays the percentage of students speaking fluency. In the pre-test, the majority of students scored in the fairly good (68%) and the least number of students scored in the fair category (5%). Meanwhile, 5 students were in the good category, with a rate of 26%. Furthermore, the excellent category had no students.

Moreover, the post-test results reveal that the majority of students scored in the good category (63%) and the least number of students scored in the fairly good category (5%). Furthermore, there were 6 students got excellent category (32%). Furthermore, no students were classified as fair or poor. The following graphs show the improvement.

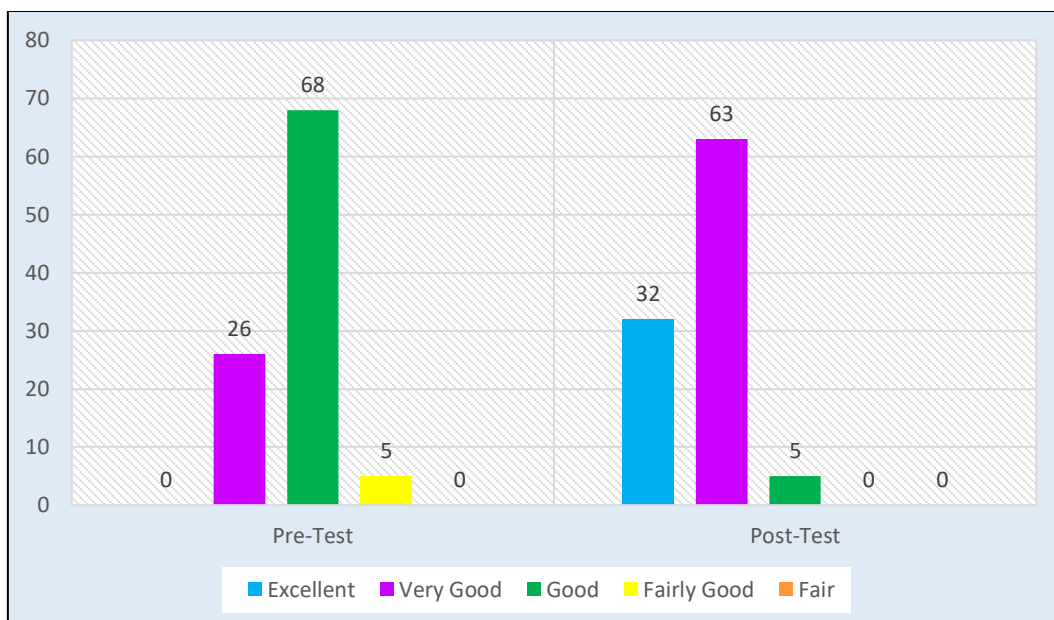


Figure 2: Students' Score Frequency in Speaking Fluency

The following diagram shows the improvement in students' speaking accuracy (pronunciation) and fluency (smoothness).

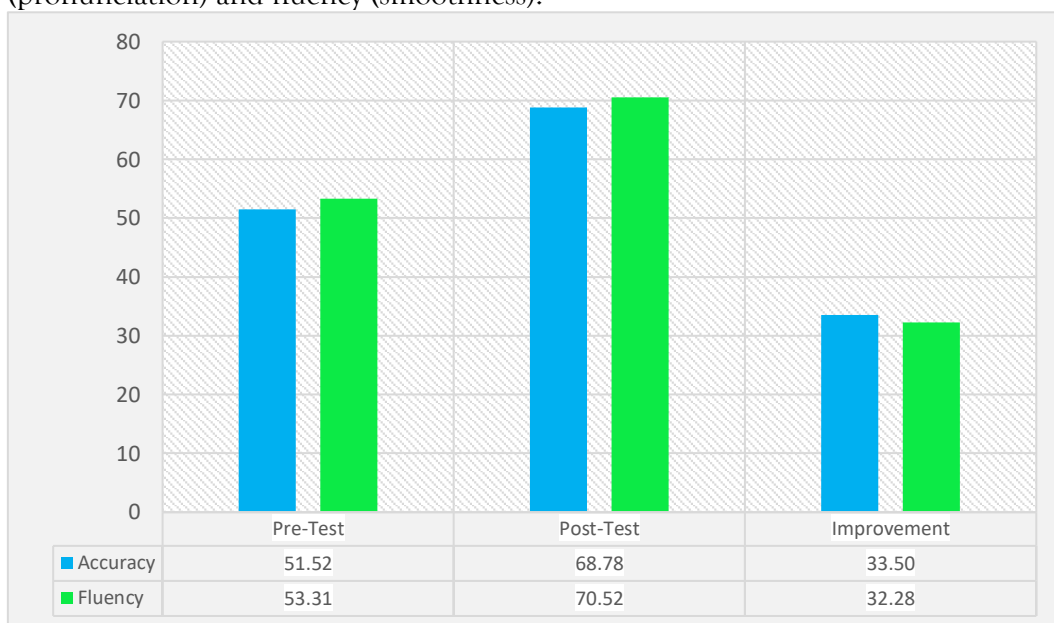


Figure 3 Improvement of Students' Speaking Accuracy and Fluency

Figure 3 showed that the mean score of accuracy in the pre-test was 51.52, while the post-test was 68.78, indicating 33.50 percent improvement. Furthermore, mean score of fluency in pre-test was 53.31, whereas the post-test was 70.52. Fluency improved by 32.28 percent. It signifies that the students' post-test scores were better than the pre-test. The improvement indicated that using VOA (Voice of America) Learning English material was successful to improve speaking accuracy and fluency.

Discussion

The purpose of this research was to know the speaking improvement by using VOA (Voice of America) Learning English. The findings revealed that the majority of students responded positively to the teaching process since the VOA video helped to improve students' speaking accuracy and fluency.

1. Students' Accuracy Improvement (Pronunciation)

The findings indicated that using Voice of America's Learning English program was helpful for improving students' speaking accuracy (pronunciation). The mean score of students' accuracy in pre-test was 51.52 (fairly good), and it improved to 68.78 (good) in the post-test.

Before giving the treatment, the students' pronunciation is low. Most of students have difficulties in saying a word. This happened because they were not familiar about many English words even the simple words. They also felt shy and worried if they would make a mistake. All of the students were also use mother tongue because it was easier for them.

The students were more attentive and excited to learn speaking after the treatment. It was shown by the students' performance on a daily basis. It occurred as a result of their practice and memorization of many words and their meanings. They learnt to imitate, practice, and review their accuracy after using material from VOA Learning English videos

This research has the same result with (Muzdalifah & Van FC, 2018) which the result indicated the use of VOA in learning process could improve students' speaking skill. Muzdalifah & Van FC stated that using VOA as alternative media can improve students accuracy (pronunciation) because VOA can help the students to hear speech from native speaker. VOA has interesting material and can attract students' attention in learning speaking.

This study is comparable with (Nadila, 2019) and the result indicated VOA Videos is an authentic media in form of audio-visual that can stimulate and challenge the students to practice their speaking. VOA Learning English video provides an opportunity to improve students' speaking accuracy by imitating the speaker in the video.

Using VOA Learning English as media is effective to improve students speaking performance in terms of accuracy (pronunciation). The students can practice their speaking by imitating the correct pronunciation from the native speaker. The benefit from VOA video includes speech transcript so they not only get the information but also learn to pronounce the words. They can watch it over and over again by downloading the video in their smartphone.

2. The Improvement of Students' Fluency in terms of Smoothness

The result of students' post-test in terms of fluency (smoothness) was better than the pre-test. The pre-test was 53.31 (*fairly good* score) and it became 70.52 (*good* score) in post-test. Most of them felts anxious to speak because of limited vocabulary. Based on the pre-test, a few of the students were doing skip whenever they do not know about the words and it influenced their speaking performance that has limited expression. Besides that, some students doing long pauses when they try to pronounce

a word that they did not know. So, in solving this problem the researcher used VOA (Voice of America) Learning English as alternative material to improve their fluency.

When using VOA video, the students know how to speak with good intonation. The video was played twice and the researcher asked them to imitate the way of the speaker speaking. Then the researcher corrected them and gave comments about their performance. They also given homework to watch the video at home and practicing their speaking performance. Their fluency performance improved after the third and last treatment. There were students who could speak with less pauses and good expression.

This study is comparable to (Risawati, 2020), whose research showed the VOA Learning English can improve students' speaking ability. It is recommended using VOA Learning English because it comes popular contents of each video and the speed of the speaker is slower than the general news anchor that is too fast to imitate. Most of the students passed the KKM and increased their speaking ability in terms of fluency (smoothness).

This research same with (Nurfitri, 2014) which the result has shown that video as material is appropriate to teach speaking especially in fluency (smoothness). The research shown that the students talked a lot and participated well. During the learning time, the students had more times to see the way native speaker deliver the news with wide range of expression

Using VOA (Voice of America) Learning English can give an improvement on students' fluency because it arouses students' enthusiasm with its interesting video reports. They can practice from many words to speak smoothly with little hesitancy or pauses.

CONCLUSION

The researcher came to the conclusion that using VOA Learning English improved students' accuracy (pronunciation) and fluency (smoothness). It can be seen from the mean score of students' pre-test in accuracy was 51.52 and post-test was 68.78 with 33.50% improvement. Furthermore, the accuracy's t-test value was greater than the t-table ($18.55 > 2.101$)

Also, the improvement of the students' fluency (smoothness) was 32.28%, the mean score of students' pre-test in fluency was 53.31 and after giving the treatment the post-test was 70.52 and the t-test value of fluency was higher than t-table ($19.55 > 2.101$). It means H_1 is accepted and H_0 is rejected. So, the use of VOA Learning English was effective to improve the students' speaking skills at the tenth grade of SMK Negeri 1 Pinrang.

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