

IMPROVING STUDENTS' PRONUNCIATION THROUGH THE "SAY IT" APPLICATION AT SMA NEGERI 8 MAKASSAR

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Article Info Received: November 11, 2023) Revised: May 11, 2024 Accepted: August 21, 2024 Published: June 30, 2025 Keywords: Pronunciation, Say It, English Language Teaching	Abstract The purpose of this research was to figure out how to assist youngsters pronounce words properly using the "Say It" app at SMA Negeri 8 Makassar. A pre-experimental design and quantitative research approach were employed in this investigation. To collect study data, pre-test, treatment, and post-test techniques were employed. The proper pronunciation of twenty words from the pre- and post-tests is required. According to study results, utilizing the "Say It" app enhanced students' pronunciation dramatically. Prior to therapy, the average score was 70.3, and after treatment, the average score was 90.3, suggesting a 28.44% increase in percentage. This suggests that the kids' pronunciation has improved. How to cite: Revananda, A., Nunung Anugrawati, N. A., & Ariana, A. (2025). Improving Students' Pronunciation Through the "Say It" Application at SMA Negeri 8 Makassar: SMA Negeri 8 Makassar. Journal of Computer Interaction in Education, 8(1), 40-46. https://doi.org/10.56983/jcie.v8i1.1112
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INTRODUCTION

English is the most commonly spoken language in the world. As a consequence, English is a language for everyone. Many people all across the globe speak it as their first or second language. Many countries' global political and economic progress is also dependent on their capacity to acquire scientific and technical information. One of the most important requirements for job hopefuls is English fluency. English is taught as a foreign language in all Indonesian schools. It has been taught at all levels of educational institutions.

According to the author's findings, the schools chosen for the study comprised pupils whose English proficiency was already strong but needed development, notably in the area of pronunciation throughout English language learning. According to one of the teachers, "In English lessons at this school, students still need to improve their English learning such as speaking and also if possible they should improve their pronunciation even more". Students used smartphones in addition to conventional classroom education, which will allow them to

access the internet and the instructor's courses more easily. As a result, the majority of students expect to be able to communicate in English throughout the teaching and learning process. They want more media, particularly television.

Phona Ltd. developed and published the iOS and Android apps *Say It* is English Speaking. For appropriate word pronunciation, Oxford University Press data is used. Standard English has 44 pronunciation sounds. A limited vocabulary (140 in British and American English) covers these sounds and may be downloaded for free.. However, access to bigger word banks is only available to individual purchasers through subscriptions or license agreements with businesses. It is possible for users to record audio of themselves pronouncing specific words. They will be able to assess how well they performed in relation to a "typical" pronunciation by using interactive representations of the audio recording. Users are better able to discern distinctions because of features like individual phoneme audio, stress indicators, and syllable splits.

Teachers want to be creative and able to make their lessons exciting and enjoyable in order to the learners have the capacity to converse clearly in a foreign language. The learners therefore feel encouraged and eager to learn. The study's author believes that using the "Say It" apps as a teaching tool would increase students' engagement and help them grasp English pronunciation more than just having them listen to their professors talk.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Abdis (2019), there was a significant difference between the pre- and post-test scores, and there were more students. Based on data study, students' pronunciation can be improved with the Busuu application. This is because the results of the before and after tests differ, with the post test having a higher score. That suggests a change. The average pre-test score of 50 to 75 on the post-test indicates this.

Anugrah (2019) asserts that Text-to-Speech has a significant effect on students' word pronunciation skills. Before therapy, the average score was 49.33; after treatment, the average score increased by 59.47% to 78.67. This suggests that students' pronunciation is improving.

The study found that Tamar (2021) pupils' pronunciation skills increased by 24.65%, from a pre-test score of 5.5 to a post-test level of 7.3. To determine how well students can

pronounce words in terms of syllable and word stress, five words are analysed. The enhancement The first word has 4%, the second has 20%, the third has 29%, the fourth has 14%, and the last word has 114% of the total syllable count. Word stress increased by 4% for the first word, 6% for the second, 25% for the third, 200% for the fourth, and 1100% for the last word. It was reported that using YouTube videos as educational resources has become more successful.

Muamar, 2022 Using the English Language Speech Assistant (ELSA) program improved students' pronunciation, according to the study's findings. The average pre-test score indicated that this was because the students were utilizing the English Language Speech Assistant (ELSA) software in the classroom to acquire and improve their pronunciation abilities.

The related results above indicate that this study and the others use the same technique to improve pronunciation, one of the English language abilities. Unlike previous studies, this one contains different variables and a broader focus, with a special focus on vowels, especially in word diphthong.

METHODS

In the context of instructional research, an approach is a way of gathering data that forms the basis for meaning, forecasting, drawing conclusions, and providing an explanation. Using a method that was quantitative in nature, the researcher examined the data in this study. The researcher used pre- and post-tests in a pre-experimental study design to assess students' pronouncing abilities. In addition, the researcher used evaluations from the most recent session to determine how well the students were using the "Say It" app.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research conducted at SMA Negeri 8 Makassar shows that utilizing the say it application greatly improves students' pronunciation ability. The study's data, which are shown below, demonstrate this.

Table 2. Mean score of pre-test and post-test

Kind of Test	Mean Score	Improvement
Pre-Test	70.3	28.44 %
Post-Test	90.3	

The students' mean pre-test score was 70.3, and their mean post-test score was 90.3, as shown in the accompanying table. An analysis showed that pupils' pronunciation has improved by 28.44% after using the "Say It" program in the classroom.

Pre-Test

In order to determine if using the "Say It" application will enhance students' pronunciation, the researcher employed a pre-experimental study with eleventh grade students at SMA Negeri 8 Makassar during the academic year 2023–2024. The following might contain the pre-test result:

Table 3. The Result Frequency of pre-test

No.	Classification	Score	Pre-Test	
			F	%
1.	Excellent	96-100	0	0%
2.	Very Good	86-95	0	0%
3.	Good	76-85	5	17%
4.	Fairly Poor	66-75	20	67 %
5.	Fair	56-65	4	13%
6.	Poor	36-55	1	3%
7.	Very Poor	0-35	0	0%

Total	30	100%
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Based on the proportion of students who took the pre-test, Table 3 showed that 0% of students scored in the Excellent Category (96–100) or the Very Good Category (86–95) for pronunciation. Out of the pupils, five (17%) scored in the Good Category (76–85). Twenty pupils, or 67% of the total, scored in the pretty bad range (66–75). There were also 4 pupils (13%) in the Fair group (56–65). Three percent of the students were in the Poor category. Furthermore, not a single pupil was placed in the Very Poor Category. As a result, it might be said that the pronunciation pre-test for pupils was inadequately classified.

Treatment

The pupils are given pronunciation resources beforehand. After then, go over the functions of the "say it" software and how to use it with them. After that, they are given a demonstration of how to use the "say it" app. Pupils try pronouncing the words they hear using the "Say It" app.

Post-test

The result of pre-test could be present in the following:

Table 4 The Result Frequency of post-test

No.	Classification	Score	Post-Test	
			F	%
1.	Excellent	96-100	0	0%
2.	Very Good	86-95	29	97%
3.	Good	76-85	1	3%
4.	Fairly Poor	66-75	0	0%
5.	Fair	56-65	0	0%
6.	Poor	36-55	0	0%
7.	Very Poor	0-35	0	0%
Total			30	100%

Table 4 Is post-test The statistic shows that 29 out of 30 students (97%) had pronunciation scores in the Very Good Category (86–95). Three percent of the students fell into the Good Category (76–85). It follows that the pupils' post-test pronunciation was rated as very excellent.

Test of Significance Testing and Hypothesis

The researcher discovered that there was an improvement in the pronunciation of the pupils based on the t-test findings. This indicates that there are significant variations in the pre-test scores obtained before and after the "say it" application was used in the classroom to facilitate learning. This is due to the fact that using the "say it" application in the classroom helps children learn and practice pronouncing a few phrases, which may expand their vocabulary and new experiences. These results indicate that there has been an increase in class XI MIPA III students at SMAN 8 Makassar

CONCLUSION

Students in class XI MIPA SMA Negeri 8 Makassar's pre- and post-test results show that there has been an increase in the usage of the say it application for English language abilities. When it comes to student pronunciation, this growth is very noticeable. This was proven by the average post-test score of 90.3, which climbed from the pre-test score of 70.3. Therefore, the "Say It" method may be used to progressively enhance students' pronunciation skills.

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