



NON-SPECIALIZED STUDENTS' BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES IN USING ELSA SPEAK APPLICATION FOR PRONUNCIATION LEARNING

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Abstract:

The noteworthy proliferation of English language applications, exemplified by advancements such as the Elsa Speak Application, specifically designed for the pedagogical aspects of English instruction, underscores this trend. This study seeks to scrutinize the benefits and difficulties that non-specialized students in the High-quality program at Can Tho University (CTU) have when they learn English pronunciation through the Elsa Speak Application. To conduct this examination, semi-structured interviews were undertaken with 10 participants. The findings reveal that these participants encountered specific advantages and challenges in effectively navigating and utilizing the application. In response to these identified challenges, a set of recommendations has been proffered to enhance the effectiveness of the Elsa Speak Application, with the overarching goal of optimizing English language learning outcomes for students enrolled in the High-quality program at CTU. This research contributes valuable insights into the nuanced experiences and challenges associated with the integration of AI-driven language learning tools within the educational landscape of Industry 4.0.

Keywords: Elsa Speak application, students' challenges, students' benefits, English Pronunciation learning, Can Tho University

1. Introduction

Mastering pronunciation is a fundamental skill essential for effective communication, and a lack of proper guidance can lead to reduced confidence and difficulties in understanding a foreign language. The effectiveness of English communication hinges significantly on pronunciation, playing a key role in expressing meaning, improving

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comprehension, instilling confidence, and creating a positive impression. English pronunciation also serves as a foundational skill for honing speaking and listening abilities.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of pronunciation, the necessity for practice and improvement becomes apparent. Modern technology has given rise to advanced pronunciation learning applications like Elsa Speak Application. Established in 2016 by Van Dinh Hong Vu and Xavier Anguera, Elsa Speak Application utilizes Artificial Intelligence and speech recognition to effectively enhance pronunciation. This application facilitates pronunciation exercises involving vocabulary, sentences, and paragraphs, offering instant feedback through audio recording technology. Elsa Speak Application's user-friendly interface accommodates learners of varying proficiency levels and includes tests aligned with international standards such as IELTS or TOEFL.

Numerous universities in Vietnam have acknowledged Elsa Speak Application's value in enhancing students' pronunciation skills. The positive perceptions of EFL learners towards Elsa Speak Application attest to its efficacy in cultivating enthusiasm for pronunciation improvement (Darsih et al., 2021). Perceptions assume a pivotal role in the language learning process, reflecting learners' attitudes toward educational programs. Favorable perceptions of Elsa Speak Application among EFL learners contribute to its integration and effectiveness in guiding language learning journeys. This research focuses on students enrolled in a High-quality program at CTU who utilize Elsa Speak Application in their English pronunciation course. The study aims to investigate students' challenges related to Elsa Speak Application utilization for English pronunciation, with the primary objective of refining pronunciation skills. The research addresses the following questions:

- 1) What advantages do students gain from utilizing the Elsa Speak Application for improving their English pronunciation?
- 2) What difficulties do students face when utilizing the Elsa Speak Application to enhance their English pronunciation skills?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Elsa Speak Application

Elsa Speak is a comprehensive language learning application that excels in five key areas: Content Design, Pedagogical Design, Assessment or Flexibility Design, Multimedia Design, and Automatic Speech Recognition Design. Each aspect contributes significantly to the effectiveness of pronunciation practice for learners.

2.2 Content Design

Elsa Speak Application offers a diverse and rich learning experience with concise and relevant lessons designed for real-life contexts. Regular updates cater to users' learning needs. Research studies, such as those by Silaen & Rangkuti (2022), Darsih et al. (2021), and Samad & Aminullah (2019), indicate positive perspectives from students. The

learning materials are generally considered complete and suitable for various proficiency levels, although some struggle with the British accent used in the application.

2.3 Pedagogical Design

The pedagogical design of Elsa Speak Application focuses on personalized teaching methods, analyzing individual competencies, and designing a tailored learning journey. Studies by Samad & Aminullah (2019), Silaen & Rangkuti (2022), and Darsih et al. (2021) consistently show that students find Elsa Speak Application's pedagogical approach effective. The use of phonetic symbols, transcriptions, and a game approach enhances engagement and progress in pronunciation.

2.4 Assessment or Flexibility Design

Elsa Speak Application provides automated evaluations of learners' progress, offering detailed feedback to help users identify and improve pronunciation aspects. While most students appreciate the assessment and flexibility features, there are concerns about internet usage and connectivity issues, as highlighted in studies by Silaen & Rangkuti (2022) and Darsih et al. (2021). Overall, the assessment tools contribute positively to learners' pronunciation improvement.

2.5 Multimedia Design

Elsa Speak Application employs multimedia materials, including animated diagrams, to create an engaging learning environment. Research by Samad & Aminullah (2019) and Silaen & Rangkuti (2022) consistently reveals positive perceptions regarding multimedia design. The application's complete library of words, IPA transcriptions, placement tests, and Automatic Speech Recognition enhance the overall learning experience.

2.6 Automatic Speech Recognition Design

The Automatic Speech Recognition Design of Elsa Speak Application utilizes advanced technology to analyze and evaluate learners' responses, helping them identify and improve pronunciation aspects. Studies by Samad & Aminullah (2019) and Kholis (2021) show that students have a positive perception of this feature. The immediate feedback and calibration options contribute to students' confidence and motivation in learning pronunciation.

In brief, Elsa Speak Application proves to be an effective, engaging, and user-friendly tool for English language learners, as supported by various research studies. The positive perspectives from students highlight the application's strengths in Content Design, Pedagogical Design, Assessment or Flexibility Design, Multimedia Design, and Automatic Speech Recognition Design. While some challenges, such as the difficulty with British accents and internet usage concerns, exist, the overall impact on learners' pronunciation skills is positive and encouraging.

2.7. Related Studies

Elsa Speak Application is an online English learning tool that has been gaining attention and development in recent years. With the combination of Artificial Intelligence and advanced voice technology, Elsa Speak Application offers users a unique and effective learning experience. With Elsa Speak Application, you can improve your pronunciation skills through lessons.

Hafizhah et al. (2023) conducted a study with the aim of finding out students' perceptions of Elsa Speak Application, which was a tool for teaching students how to pronounce words in English and providing phonetic transcriptions. It is intended to be seen from at least five different perspectives, including Content, Pedagogy, Assessment or Flexibility, Multimedia, and Automatic Speech Recognition Design. Some students said that it was sometimes annoying because of interruptions to signals or a poor internet connection. Furthermore, it lacks more conversational tasks and uses unclear terminology.

Another study conducted by Darsih et al. (2021) aimed to investigate students' voices regarding the use of a mobile application named Elsa Speak Application classes. This study employed a quantitative survey method to obtain data about students' voices or perspectives towards the use of Elsa Speak Application classes. The total questions on the questionnaire are 25 items, while there are 5 questions for each aspect, which aims to find out the EFL learners' perspective on using Elsa Speak Application in their pronunciation ability. In addition to all the benefits obtained from the Elsa Speak Application, some students had trouble because there was some level that was still locked and should be charged. The Elsa Speak Application's audio response is still not strong enough to filter out the noise from the outside, so users have to repeat their voices.

According to Becker (2019), Elsa Speak Application's basic interface is simple and provides the ability to navigate between topics and skills, levels, reports, and other features. However, when using Elsa Speak Application to learn pronunciation, users may encounter some difficulties. In fact, students must have a smartphone to download and install the application. Besides, they have to pay fees for the premium version of Elsa Speak Application. It has to be noted that Elsa Speak Application's premium version does not offer features that the free version does not; the only difference is the larger number of exercises the premium version includes. The application requires users to be connected to the internet to use it. Elsa Speak Application uses voice recognition technology to convert spoken language into text. However, the system may have difficulty with background noise or unclear pronunciation.

A study by Meri-Yilan et al. (2019) aimed to look at students' perspectives on learning language through two technology-based speech recognition programmes, Immerse Me and Elsa Speak Application. This study involved five Turkish participants, aged between 19 and 22, studying in the preparatory class in the Department of Interpretation and Translation at Agri Ibrahim Cecen University. The results shown in the Elsa Speak Application just focused on their pronunciation and correct use of stress

and indicate that the Elsa Speak Application only has a mobile program, no video, and no feedback about the assessment scores.

In conclusion, although there may be difficulties while using Elsa Speak Application to learn pronunciation skills, the advantages far outweigh the challenges. Learners can overcome these challenges and become more fluent English speakers with patience and confidence in their abilities, as well as regular practice employing this method of learning. Elsa Speak Application provides a structured and method framework for developing pronunciation abilities.

3. Material and Methods

The researchers conducted individual interviews with ten students to gather further insights into their advantages and challenges of using Elsa Speak Application. The objective of the interview was to investigate how students perceive learning English pronunciation on Elsa Speak Application. Ten students, evenly distributed between males and females, took part in interviews. Most of them had studied English for more than six years, with only three having less experience. All employed Elsa Speak Application for the Pronunciation in Practice course and most of them used it for less than 6 months. Interviews were administered with a strict adherence to ethical principles to guarantee confidentiality and anonymity. Ethical considerations were a top priority throughout the research process.

Table 3.1: Demographic Data of Participants for Interview

No.	Participants	Gender	Experience of English Learning (Years)	Experience of ESA learning (Months)	Length of interview
1.	Nam	Male	> 6	< 6	15 minutes
2.	Minh	Male	> 6	< 6	13 minutes
3.	Thu	Female	> 6	< 6	13 minutes
4.	An	Male	> 6	> 6	10 minutes
5.	Tien	Female	< 6	> 6	15 minutes
6.	Thanh	Female	> 6	> 6	15 minutes
7.	Anh	Male	> 6	> 6	13 minutes
8.	Hoa	Female	> 6	> 6	10 minutes
9.	Huong	Female	< 6	< 6	13 minutes
10.	Hung	Male	> 6	> 6	15 minutes

Ten students (Table 3.1) participated in online semi-interviews through Google Meet and recorded, lasting 12-15 minutes each. Conducted in Vietnamese due to the participants being English non-majored students, the interviews aimed to capture diverse ideas and opinions about Elsa Speak Application. While five questions were prepared in advance, the flexibility allowed additional exploration based on student responses. The questions were adapted from Martins et al.'s (2016) work on EFL/ESL pronunciation teaching software, ensuring quality through a pilot test with three non-majored English students.

Subsequently, interview data from the ten students were transcribed and organized into five themes on Microsoft Excel Office 2019. Detailed analysis of each student's answers within each theme was performed, and the interview results were presented, providing insights into students' perceptions and experiences with Elsa Speak Application in learning English pronunciation.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Students' perceptions towards the advantages of using Elsa Speak Application

4.1.1 Students' perceptions towards the advantages of the Content Design

Most of the participants agreed that the Content Design is good because it not only provides a variety of exercises to help the students distinguish between sounds or consonants, and vowels but also it provides a variety of exercises that support the students practice of intonation when speaking English.

One student shared her perceptions towards the Content Design:

"At first, I feel nervous when I study pronunciation because there is a variety of knowledge such as diphthongs, consonants, vowels, or ending sounds. However, Elsa Speak Application provides a variety of exercises with detailed instructions, which helps me deal with my difficulties in studying new knowledge." (Student 2)

Another student agreed that the Content Design is good for studying pronunciation on the Elsa Speak Application:

"To be honest, firstly, I used the Elsa Speak Application because it is an obligatory task in my pronunciation class. However, the more time I spend practicing on the Elsa Speak Application, the more motivation I have to learn and practice new vocabulary. The Elsa Speak Application has a large source of vocabulary in different topics." (Student 1)

One male student also agreed that the Content Design helps him feel more confident when communicating with other students:

"When I did not know about the Elsa Speak Application, I always found it difficult to check if I pronounced and stressed a word correctly or not. Also, it is hard for me to pronounce a new word until I know the Elsa Speak Application. It has detailed instructions on how to pronounce each sound, and it also provides many exercises about the syllabic constituent. Now, I feel more confident when I communicate with other students, which motivates me to study pronunciation on Elsa Speak Application more and more." (Student 9)

In conclusion, many students agreed that they get many advantages of the Content Design of the ESA. The students feel more confident when speaking English because they practice a lot on the ESA with a variety of exercises for each sound. Moreover, the Content

Design provides the students detailed instruction for each sound they pronounce incorrectly, so the students practice and improve pronunciation easily.

4.1.2 Students' perceptions towards the advantages of the Pedagogical Design

According to many students who were answering the interview, the Pedagogical Design plays a crucial role in supporting the students' practice of pronunciation, especially in distinguishing between ending sounds, vowels, or consonants.

Two students agreed that the Elsa Speak Application uses phonetic symbols to present and practice vowel and consonant sounds, which are easy for students to understand.

"After using Elsa Speak Application, I am inspired to study and practice more and more on it because it is useful in correct pronunciation and it provides activities on the production of the sounds, which helps me practice pronunciation more easily and effectively." (Student 5)

"In my point of view, studying pronunciation is difficult because I do not have someone who is willing to help me correct pronunciation whenever I study. The Elsa Speak Application supports me a lot in practicing pronunciation. Moreover, it uses phonetic transcriptions to present and practice rhythm, stress, and intonation which helps me speak English more fluently." (Student 7)

Another student also shared that she likes the Pedagogical Design of the Elsa Speak Application because the program has a variety of activities and exercises on the distinction of intonation patterns.

"I cannot remember which part of the sentence I should raise my intonation or which part of the sentence I should lower my intonation. Besides, it is difficult for me to practice because there are many intonation patterns. The Elsa Speak Application supports and helps me deal with my difficulties. The application has activities that allow me to practice intonation until I feel comfortable speaking English with suitable intonation." (Student 3)

It can be concluded that the Pedagogical Design of the Elsa Speak Application brings many benefits to the students while they practice pronunciation. To be more specific, the instructions for the application are clear and easy to understand. There are a variety of activities that work on the perceptions of rhythm, stress, and intonation, which motivates the students to practice pronunciation on the Elsa Speak Application more and more.

4.1.3 Students' perceptions towards the advantages of the Assessment or Flexibility

Many participants had positive attitudes towards the Assessment or Flexibility of the Elsa Speak Application. To be more specific, most of the participants are interested in the comments on the correct and incorrect answers, which help them recognize their errors and correct them.

There are three students who have similarities in their opinion towards the advantages of the Assessment or Flexibility of Elsa Speak Application.

"I feel interested in studying pronunciation on the Elsa Speak Application because it asks users to try again when they make an error. Also, it explains my errors, which helps me pay attention to these errors to practice more and more. The more I practice my errors, the fewer errors I make in the future." (Student 3)

"The Elsa Speak Application not only gives feedback on my error but also gives a notion so that the user may have the opportunity to redo the activity until they correct their error. The feedback is useful because I know which sounds I pronounce correctly and which sounds I pronounce incorrectly." (Student 6)

"I love studying pronunciation on Elsa Speak Application because it gives me feedback for each word or sentence that I pronounce. To be honest, it is hard for me to find a person who is willing to correct my errors, so Elsa Speak Application is one of the best applications to practice pronunciation. I can use the application whenever I have free time." (Student 10)

All in all, students agreed that Assessment or Flexibility of Elsa Speak Application is good not only for giving the students feedback but also it allowing students to correct their errors until they pronounce them correctly. Moreover, the Elsa Speak Application explains each error for the students to help them understand clearly their errors, so they can improve their pronunciation.

4.1.4 Students' perceptions towards the advantages of the Multimedia Design

Multimedia Design is one of the most important parts of the application because it affects the user's usage process. Some students shared that the Multimedia Design of the Elsa Speak Application is useful and easy to use, especially for someone who is using this application for the first time.

One student expressed her opinion towards the advantages of the Multimedia Design of Elsa Speak Application:

"Even though this is the first time I have used Elsa Speak Application; I feel it is easy to use. It has detailed instructions for me to choose the suitable level with my pronunciation and the symbols on the ESA are easily comprehensible. Besides, the Elsa Speak Application uses automatic speech recognition to record my voice, and it also uses animation to demonstrate the production of sounds while I speak." (Student 5)

Another student also had a positive perception towards the Multimedia Design of the Elsa Speak Application:

"I used the Elsa Speak Application for studying pronunciation for more than 4 months, and I like the multimedia design not only based on the installation, the animation, the images, the sounds but also the IPA transcription of the words. Moreover, the multimedia design supports and motivates me to practice pronunciation." (Student 2)

In conclusion, the participants showed a positive perspective towards Multimedia Design. The participants agreed that Multimedia Design of the Elsa Speak Application is useful both in the animation, images, sounds, and detailed instructions for the user to improve and correct their errors.

4.1.5 Students' perceptions towards the advantages of the Automatic Speech Recognition Design

Some students agreed that the Automatic Speech Recognition Design of the Elsa Speak Application is good because it supports the students in learning, correcting their errors and practicing pronunciation.

One student expressed his opinion towards the advantages of the Automatic Speech Recognition of the Elsa Speak Application:

"The Elsa Speak Application uses Automatic Speech Recognition to provide immediate feedback on my pronunciation. Therefore, I know which sounds that I pronounce correctly or incorrectly after I pronounce a word or a sentence. Moreover, the Elsa Speak Application provides me detailed feedback for each sound, such as consonant, vowel or diphthong." (Student 2)

Another student also had some similarities in her opinion on the Automatic Speech Recognition design:

"The Automatic Speech Recognition design is good. In my opinion, I feel more comfortable and motivated to learn pronunciation because the Elsa Speak Application provides detailed feedback that helps me improve my pronunciation. Moreover, it gives me instructions on how each sound is pronounced." (Student 8)

It can be concluded that Automatic Speech Recognition Design is highly effective in supporting students while they are practicing pronunciation. Most students had a positive perspective on Automatic Speech Recognition not only because of feedback but also because the students can recognize their errors and improve their pronunciation.

All in all, the students had a positive perspective on 5 aspects such as Content Design, Pedagogical Design, Flexibility or Assessment Design, Multimedia Design and Automatic Speech Recognition Design. Based on the interview data, it can be concluded

that there are many benefits the students get when using the Elsa Speak Application to study pronunciation. To be more specific, the Elsa Speak Application provides a variety of exercises to give students more chances to practice their pronunciation. Moreover, the students feel comfortable and interested in using the Elsa Speak Application because it uses Automatic Speech Recognition Design which gives them immediate feedback, and Flexibility or Assessment Design is easy to use.

4.2 Students' perceptions towards the disadvantages of the Content Design

Besides some positive attitudes about the Content Design. There are two students who expressed their attitudes towards the Content Design of the Elsa Speak Application:

"I agree that Elsa Speak Application supports me in practicing my pronunciation. However, sometimes many exercises were repeated, which made me feel uncomfortable. I had to do these exercises many times, so it was a waste of my time." (Student 1)

"I cannot deny that Elsa Speak Application motivated me to practice pronunciation for 4 months, and I also feel more confident and comfortable when speaking English with my classmates and my teacher. However, it is annoying that many exercises are repeated more than twice, so I have to spend more time to complete them again." (Student 10)

The students get many benefits when they use the Elsa Speak Application to improve their pronunciation. However, a minority of students shared that they had to face some difficulties while using the Elsa Speak Application. In other words, the students spent a lot of time completing the exercises that they were used to completing.

4.3 Students' perceptions towards the disadvantages of the Pedagogical design

Although the Elsa Speak Application provides a variety of exercises, sometimes there are some exercises that have no detailed instructions. Therefore, a minority of students feel uncomfortable while using and completing the exercises.

One student shared her uncomfortable feelings when she faced some problems on the Elsa Speak Application:

"I love practicing pronunciation on the Elsa Speak Application because it is convenient and useful with automatic speech recognition and immediate feedback. However, there were some exercises that had no detailed instructions, so I did not know which part of the assignment I needed to do." (Student 7)

Another student expressed that he faced some difficulties on the Pedagogical Design:

"I have used the Elsa Speak Application for more than 5 months and I had to face the problem that the exercises were repeated many times and there were no instructions for

these exercises. Therefore, I did not meet the requirement of the exercise to complete it."
(Student 10)

Many participants had a positive experience when using the Elsa Speak Application; however, a minority of them felt uncomfortable and disappointed when the exercises were repeated without detailed instructions.

4.4 Students' perceptions towards the disadvantages of the Multimedia Design

Many students agreed that the Multimedia Design of the Elsa Speak Application is good, but there are two students who expressed their perceptions on the Multimedia Design of the Elsa Speak Application when practicing pronunciation for a long time:

"I feel eye strain when I look at the screen for a long time because of the bright screens. It made me feel uncomfortable, and I lost my energy for practicing pronunciation." (Student 3)

Another student also shared her opinion about the Multimedia Design:

"I am interested in practicing my pronunciation on the Elsa Speak Application, so in my free time or weekends, I spend about 40 minutes to an hour practicing on the Elsa Speak Application. Nevertheless, the screen is too bright for me to focus on the lesson for a long time." (Student 5)

The Multimedia Design brings many benefits that supports the students while practicing their pronunciation, but the screen of the Elsa Speak Application is too bright, which leads to the participants feeling uncomfortable.

4.5 Students' perceptions towards the disadvantages of the Automatic Speech Recognition Design

The Automatic Speech Recognition Design plays an important role in supporting students to improve their pronunciation, but there are two students who expressed their view towards the disadvantages of the Automatic Speech Recognition Design.

One female student shared her opinion:

"I cannot deny the benefits of using Elsa Speak Application in improving my pronunciation. However, I feel uncomfortable when I have to repeat the words many times because the Automatic Speech Recognition cannot recognize my voice." (Student 4)

Another participant also expressed that she faced some problems with the Automatic Speech Recognition Design:

"Elsa Speak Application is a good application for learning to speak and to pronounce, but sometimes it takes me a long time to repeat some words because Automatic Speech Recognition cannot recognize my voice even though I pronounce clearly and well enough".
(Student 6)

In conclusion, besides the advantages of using the Elsa Speak Application, students also shared the difficulties they encountered in the process of using it. Some common problems that students sometimes face is that the Automatic Speech Recognition cannot recognize their voice, exercises are repeated many times or the screen is too bright to focus for a long time.

4.6 Students' suggestions for better application development

After spending time training pronunciation through Elsa Speak Application, students self-assessed their foreign language ability slightly positively ranging from 8.0 to 7.0 in a total score of 10. This showed that they felt more confident in their ability with the assistance of Elsa Speak Application. However, they also would like to improve certain points of Elsa Speak Application as well as enhance the quality of the application.

4.6.1 Students' suggestions for the Pedagogical Design improvement

Some students suggested that Pedagogical Design should be more flexible in providing some more features of interaction as well as contributing to encouraging students to practice pronunciation.

"I highly recommend that there should be an additional form of interaction with foreigners such as video calls, or some kind of online learnings, I think it is a great opportunity for learners to interact with foreigners and got used to obtaining native speakers' language skills. Besides, it is also necessary to improve the grading and speech recognition system of Elsa Speak Application." (Student 8)

Another student remarked:

"It is supposed to have a Vietnamese interpreter when learning new words, which is easier for learners to study conveniently and understand the meaning of words quickly."
(Student 4)

4.6.2 Students' suggestions for the Multimedia Design improvement

There were some students' suggestions for better application development and user needs. The interview results showed that most of the students wish to improve the Multimedia Design of Elsa Speak Application. To be more specific, they suggested that the application needed to be fixed in terms of the Elsa Speak Application's interface and fixed the problem of not showing the exercise. There were three students sharing that:

“In my opinion, the application interface should be improved, because the background color is too bright for us to see the content, causing eye strain for learners if they have focused on the screen for a long time, and the application needed to be improved the error of repeated exercises.” (Student 6)

It was also recorded that seven students were willing to recommend Elsa Speak Application to their friends and their acquaintances for enhancing pronunciation skills in communication.

The results showed that Elsa Speak Application has a positive effect on learners. It not only enhances their pronunciation skills but also assists in holding conversations through its precise pronunciation feature. These findings emphasize the importance of incorporating Elsa Speak Application into English learning, as it aids in improving pronunciation and designing adaptable E-learning resources and pronunciation exercises that cater to a wide range of abilities.

To answer the research questions, interviews were conducted, showing that students have a positive attitude towards learning pronunciation on the Elsa Speak Application. However, the results of the interviews showed that students still have difficulties using the Elsa Speak Application to learn English pronunciation. It is recorded that students encountered certain problems related to Internet connection, especially Elsa Speak Application consumed a lot of Internet data to download documents and required mobile devices to always be connected to the Internet to start the application. At the same time, they also found that the application still did not process the sound clearly; there was still noise during the recording process. It also showed that the Elsa Speak Application did not process the video image showing motion when speaking. The above results were statistically tested through descriptive tests, and the outcome showed that students lack motivation to study and maintain their pronunciation training. The findings of the interviews with students who expressed difficulty in learning English show the common problems that students often face when using the Elsa Speak Application to learn English pronunciation.

The results are consistent with those revealed in previous studies by Darsih et al. (2021), who conducted a study that revealed a limitation of Elsa Speak Application's audio response feature. The findings indicated that the application was not sufficiently effective in filtering out external noise, requiring users to repeat their voices for accurate assessment. Similarly, Meri-Yilan et al. (2019) found that Elsa Speak Application primarily focused on pronunciation and stress usage but lacked video capabilities and feedback on assessment scores. Furthermore, Hafizhah et al. (2023) reported that some students faced challenges with interruptions during their use of Elsa Speak Application, making it occasionally difficult to utilize effectively.

In conclusion, while Elsa Speak Application offers potential benefits for improving pronunciation skills through its technological features, there are also limitations to consider. Continuous improvements should be made based on user feedback to enhance

user experience and maximize the application's potential as an effective tool for pronunciation training.

5. Recommendations

The findings of the study propose several recommendations to improve the effectiveness of incorporating Elsa Speak Application into English pronunciation learning. Firstly, taking advantage of Elsa Speak Application's capability to monitor individual student progress, educators can utilize this feature to evaluate and supervise students' advancements in pronunciation skills. This facilitates a thorough comprehension of each student's strengths and weaknesses, enabling the implementation of personalized and efficient teaching approaches.

Furthermore, educators and the School of Foreign Languages can encourage activities associated with Elsa Speak Application, such as competitions or the organization of exchange sessions. These initiatives offer students opportunities to apply the skills acquired through Elsa Speak Application, fostering practical application and fortifying their pronunciation capabilities.

To nurture a positive learning atmosphere, instructors or the School of Foreign Languages can actively promote the exchange of experiences and feedback among students. Elsa Speak Application can function as a platform for communication and sharing progress, contributing not only to the enhancement of pronunciation skills but also to the cultivation of confidence and a collaborative spirit in the English learning journey.

Building on the revelations and discussions emanating from the research, it is evident that student perspectives on the application of Elsa Speak Application in pronunciation training are positive. A robust endorsement is provided for the incorporation of Elsa Speak Application into pronunciation education. Future research initiatives within this realm are urged to probe into the viewpoints of students with differing proficiency levels regarding the utilization of Elsa Speak Application. Specifically, an in-depth examination of the experiences and attitudes of learners at introductory, intermediate, and advanced stages could serve as a focal point for such investigations. This exploration aims to elucidate the suitability of Elsa Speak Application for learners at distinct junctures in their language development trajectory.

6. Conclusion

The research delves into students' viewpoints regarding the utilization of Elsa Speak Application in pronunciation classes, concentrating on Content, Pedagogical, Flexibility, Multimedia, and Automatic Speech Recognition dimensions. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the study utilizes a 43-item questionnaire and semi-structured interviews. Findings reveal favorable perceptions of Elsa Speak Application's Content Design, landed for its varied exercises encompassing vowels, stress, and diphthongs.

Pedagogical Design earns acclaim for precise instructions aiding vowel and consonant distinctions, rhythm, stress, and intonation exercises. Multimedia Design, encompassing installation, animation, images, and sounds, garners positive feedback, fostering student motivation in pronunciation practice. The Automatic Speech Recognition System is deemed advantageous for error correction with detailed sound guidance.

Despite an overall positive outlook, challenges surfaced. Some students expressed discomfort due to repetitive word repetitions stemming from Automatic Speech Recognition issues, and a minority reported eye strain from a bright screen. To conclude, the majority of non-English major students endorse Elsa Speak Application for enhancing pronunciation, highlighting its positive effects on vocabulary, feedback efficacy, and user-friendly interface. The study recommends integrating Elsa Speak Application into pronunciation practice, with students expressing a willingness to recommend it to others.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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