



# Whatsapp in Language Teaching and Learning

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## Abstract

As English language is widely accepted around the globe, we use it for communication. In general people face problems in communicating. In 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies are changes our lives even in education. With the help of social media now it is easier to learn any language easily. With the help of Whatsapp learners can easily learn four skills with fun. Hence researcher did the analysis on the topic Whatsapp in language teaching and learning which aims to show that with the help of Whatsapp one can easily improve language.

**Keywords:** Whatsapp, web tools, language, learning, process of learning

## Introduction

English is a multi Lingua franca of the world. English Language Learning allows you to interface with others; it helps you to see things with different perspective with better understanding of other cultures. English is the official language of 53 countries and most spoken language around the world. In India it is the second official language after Hindi. Knowing and speaking more than two languages have many health benefits like minds get active later in life, it gives ability to remember and improves concentration.

The language had made it own place in the world. If you want to work with MNCs and want to achieve better in life English is the language that will help. Knowing and speaking the Language makes travelling easier and fun. It is the language of media and art.

In 21<sup>st</sup> century, we know that not only education but technology is changing our life. Everyone possesses smart phones nowadays and uses all social media platforms. It can be said that this is the generation of technology. We are so addicted to these social media platforms such as face book, Whatsapp, snap chat, twitter, instagram etc. They are made for connecting people however, nowadays people have started to use them in Language teaching and learning. They have good and positive impact on teachers and learners. One of social medias is Whatsapp which is nowadays more popular and accessed by people. Using Whatsapp we can learn language and can develop all the four skills LSRW.

Whatsapp messenger is a freeware, cross platform messaging and voice over IP (VOIP) service owned by face book. It allows users to send text messages and voice messages, make voice and video calls share images, documents and other media.

On 24 February 2009, the application was founded by Jan Koum and Brian Acton. This application runs on mobile devices, but it is also accessible from windows and Mac desktop computers as long as the user's mobile device remains connected to internet while they use desktop app. The service requires users to provide standard cellular mobile number for registering with service.

If the user wishes to download on windows or Mac desktop then user have to install Blue stack application.

## Web tools and its uses in language teaching and learning.

For second language learning and teaching there are many online web tools that can be used. In language learning and teaching web 2.0 is one of the most emerging technologies. It refers to collaboration, interactivity, information sharing and content creating through applications. Web 2.0 tools with their dynamic structure have the ability to change learner and teachers roles considerably. The responsibility of teacher is to try new tools to meet the needs of their learners. For enhancing language learning and teaching with the help of knowledgeable and skill full teachers, these tools open new window opportunities for learners.

As internet is inseparable part of many individuals, they use internet for fun, entertainment and language learning. Web is full of tools; number of them is increasing day by day. These tools have been considered to create an environment where learners take on more active roles and become more responsible for their own learning. It includes both social media and other web pages.

### Features of Whatsapp

According to Bere, Whatsapp messenger has the following collaborative features:

- Multimedia: it allows the user to exchange videos, text messages, images and voice notes.
- Group chat: it supports the interaction of up to 50 group members.
- Unlimited messaging: the number of messages you can share is unlimited. The application uses 3G\4G internet data plan or Wi-Fi to ensure continuous data transmissions across platforms.
- Cross platform engagements: interact ants with different devices (smart phones, Galaxy tablets) can message one another through various media (text messages, pictures, voice notes).
- Offline messaging: messages are saved automatically when the device is off or outside coverage area.
- No charges involved: for using Whatsapp there are no charges involved as it uses same internet data plan which is used for E-mail or web browsing.

### Whatsapp in language learning and teaching

One of the popular social media is Whatsapp where the individual can learn all the four skills with fun. I.e. listening, speaking, reading, writing (LSRW). With the help of Whatsapp features like audio messages learners can improve their speaking skills. Or with the help of auto correction they can learn new vocabulary, with the group discussion feature they can enhance their reading and writing skills, with the story feature one can easily get information about current events. While interacting with others one can enhance their writing skills.

In the field of second language learning, Whatsapp has become a powerful tool in development that can improve learner's language skills.

In a study, that involved South African students, Lawrence (2014) has used Whatsapp in order to introduce vocabulary items before reading texts to a group of five undergraduate learners of Africa. Over the course of seven weeks, the researchers sent messages to the group that introduced target words with translations and different types of media such as sound or image. Results showed that Whatsapp is an effective tool for providing outside the classroom opportunities to practice especially for week students.

### Review of related literature

The study is grounded in the tenets of the constructivist learning theory. According to constructivism, knowledge is actively constructed by the learners from within based on their previous and current knowledge (Burner, 1996). Learners are not seen as passive recipients but rather active constructors of knowledge. As such, learners should be provided with a learning environment where they can actively participate in the learning process. Vygotsky (1978) argues that such environment should foster interaction between learners and their peers as well as their instructor. Constructivists assert that the instructor should establish a learning environment where he/she acts as a facilitator rather than being the source of knowledge. In other words, the burden of learning should fall on students' shoulders. Vygotsky (1978) maintains that learners should be provided with tools to help build their knowledge. One of these tools is social networking applications such as Whatsapp which can be used as a medium to enhance the learning process. It can help create a learner-centered environment outside the classroom and create ample opportunities for collaboration between students and their peers.

### Rationale of the study

A rationale is the articulation of the reasons for using a particular literary work, film or teaching method. With the globalization, it becomes the requirement for the people to learn English language. There are various applications and web tools for language learning, Whatsapp is one of them.

Hence, the present study focuses on Whatsapp in language teaching and learning.

**Research Question**

Do you think Whatsapp can help us in language teaching and learning?

**Research objective**

To find out, Whatsapp as a tool for language teaching and learning

**Limitation of the study**

The study is limited only to B.A faculty of Arts student of Parul University

**Research methodology**

The present chapter deals with Research Methodology which covers Research Design, population and sampling of the study, tools of data collection, and Data Analysis and Interpretation. They are in following way:

**Research Design:**

The present Research is an Experimental Research. The Researcher has selected topic “Whatsapp in language learning and teaching” on B.A students. The students will be asked to fill a Questionnaire and on the basis of this information the data will be analyzed.

**Population and sample of the study:**

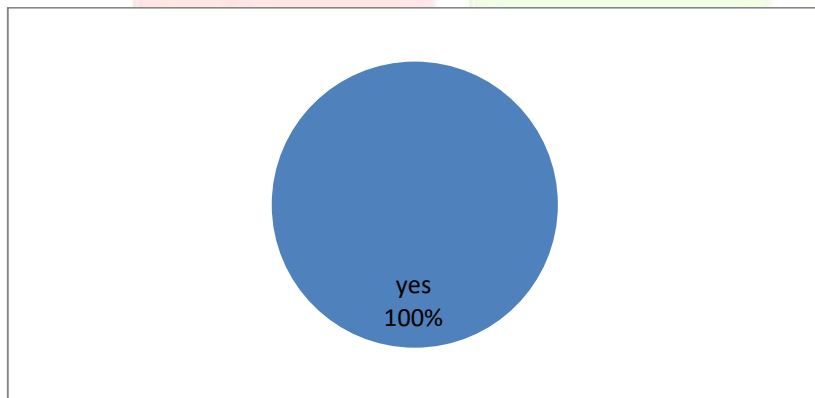
Participants of the study were the students of educational administration of the faculty of arts batch 2019/2020.

**Tools of data collection:**

Data will be collected using Questionnaire.

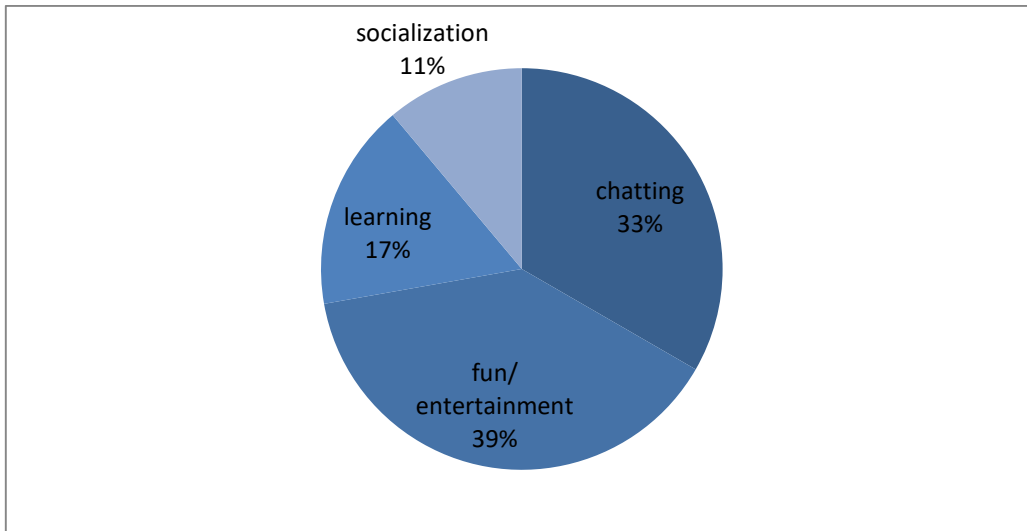
**Data analyze and interpretation**

Data will be analyzed using Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS) software.

**Data Analysis****Figure 11.1**

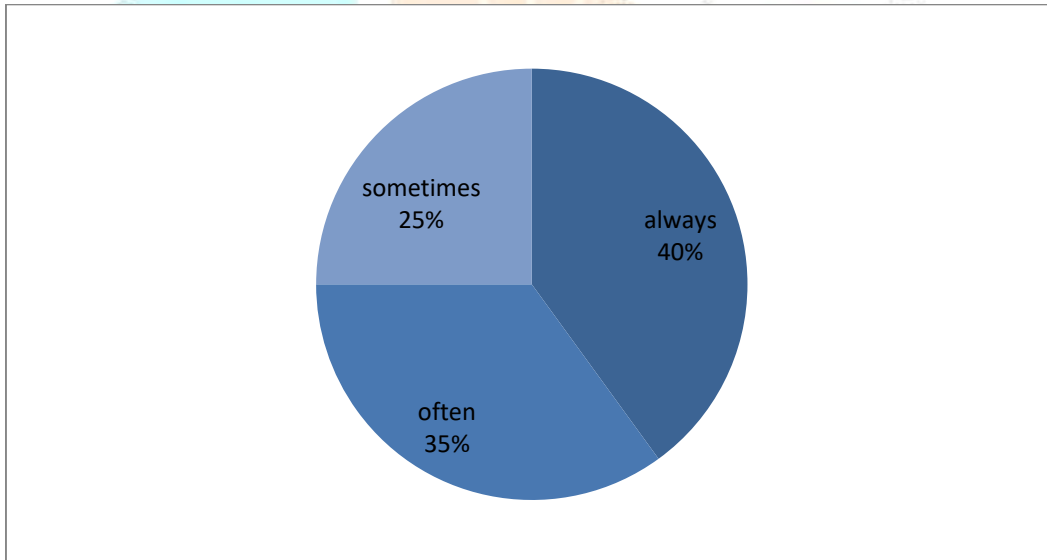
The above figure 11.1 indicates use of Whatsapp, out of 20 students all 20(100%) agreed that they use Whatsapp.

Figure 11.2



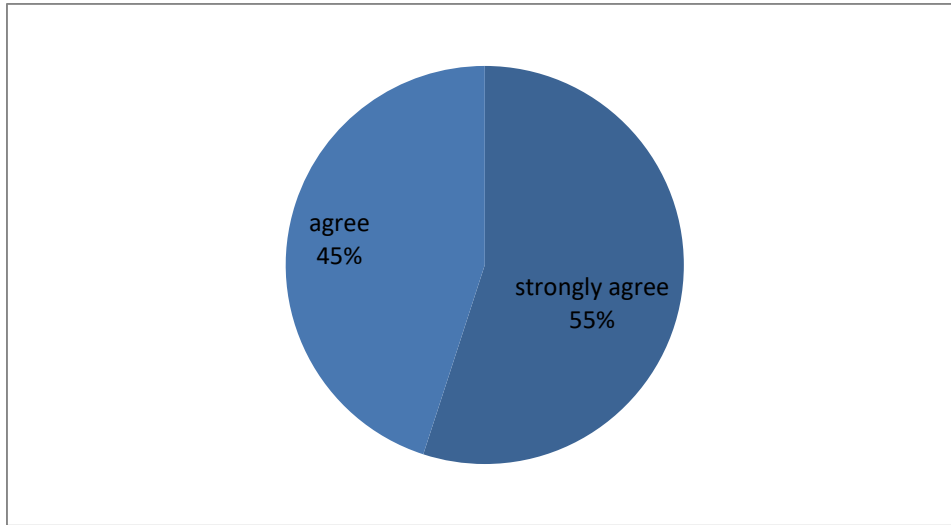
The above figure 11.2 indicates purposes for using Whatsapp, out of 20 students 30% for chatting 35% for fun/entertainment 15% for learning 10% for socialization and 10% for other purposes.

Figure 11.3



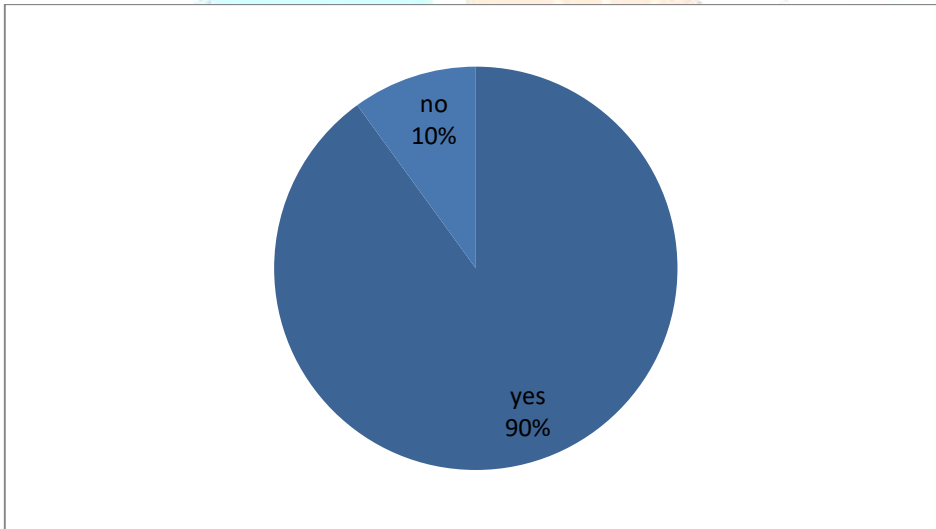
The above figure 11.3 indicates how often you use Whatsapp, out of 20 students 40% always 35% often 25% sometimes.

Figure 11.4



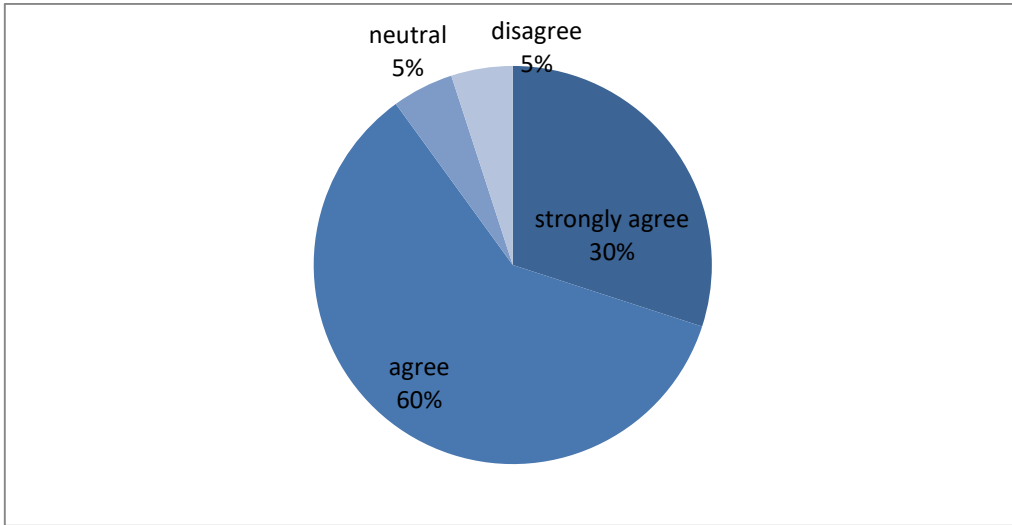
The above figure 11.4 indicates Whatsapp helps us to connect with teachers, friends, classmates and others fast and easy out of 20 students 55% strongly agree with this statement and 45% agrees.

Figure 11.5



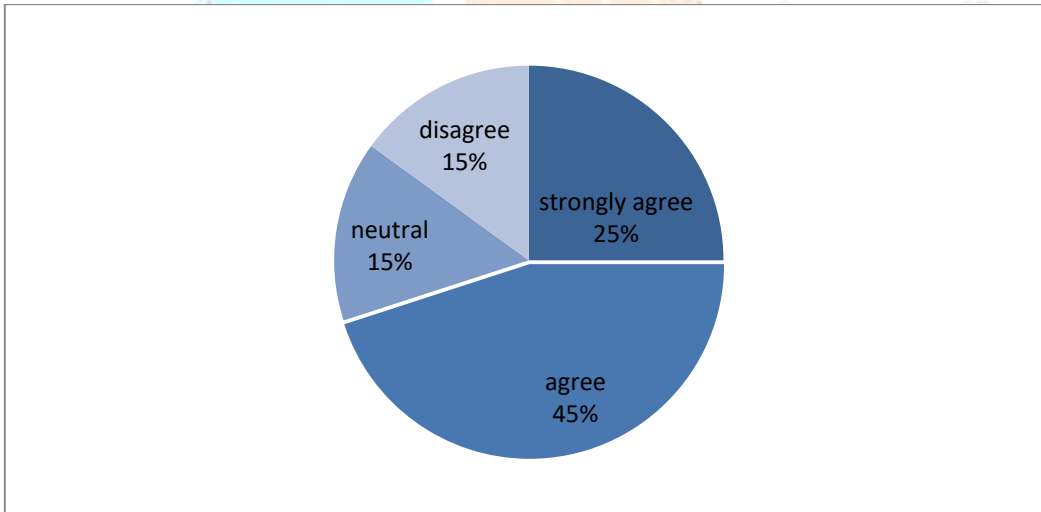
The above figure 11.5 indicates do you think Whatsapp can be used for language teaching and learning, out of 20 students 90% agree with it and 10% don't agree with it.

Figure 11.6



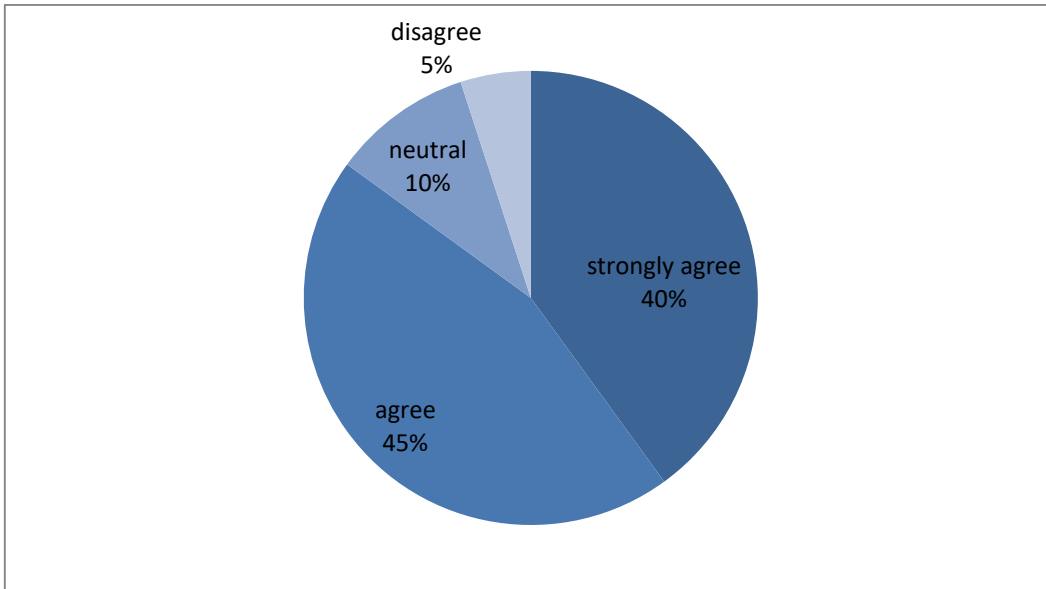
The above figure 11.6 indicates Whatsapp in enhancing vocabulary by autocorrecting them, out of 20 students 30% strongly agree, 60% agree, 5% neutral and 5% disagree

Figure 11.7



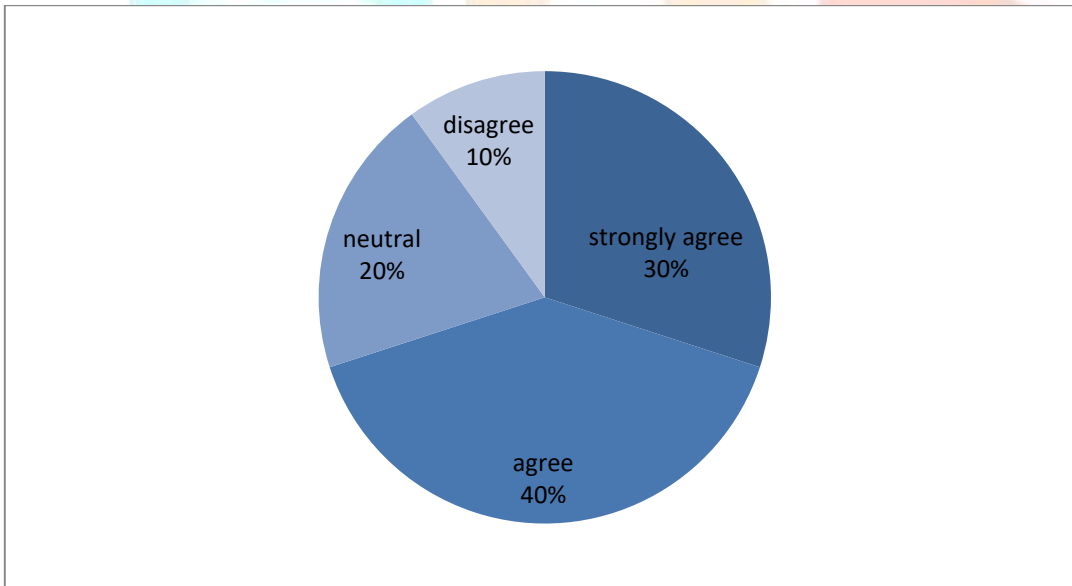
The above figure 11.7 indicates group discussion feature of Whatsapp that motivates learner to learn reading and writing skills. Out of 20 students 25% strongly agree 45% agree 15% neutral and 15% disagree.

Figure 11.8



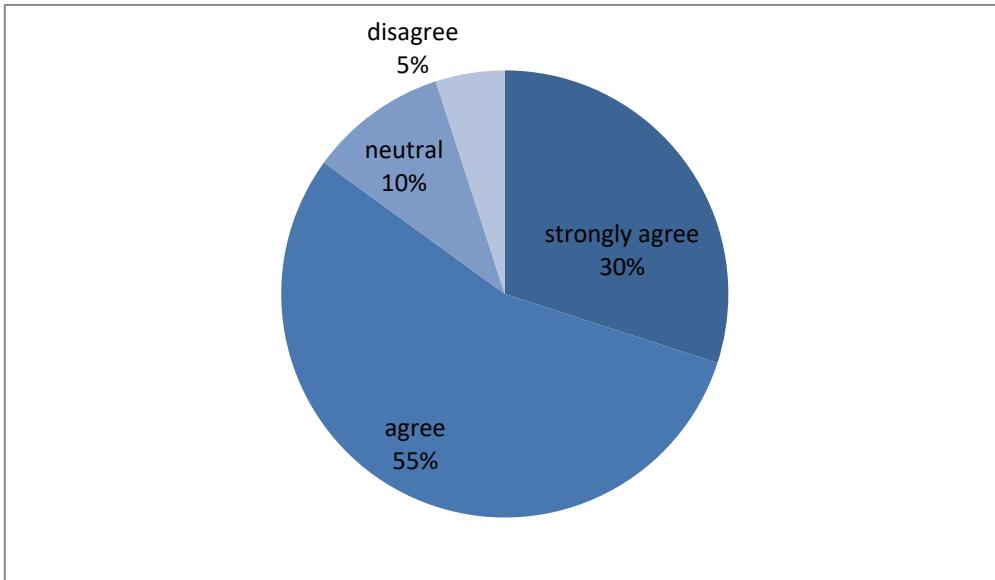
The above figure 11.8 indicates using audios in Whatsapp to enhance learners listening skills. Out of 20 students 40% strongly agree 45% agree 10% neutral 5% disagree with this statement/

Figure 11.9



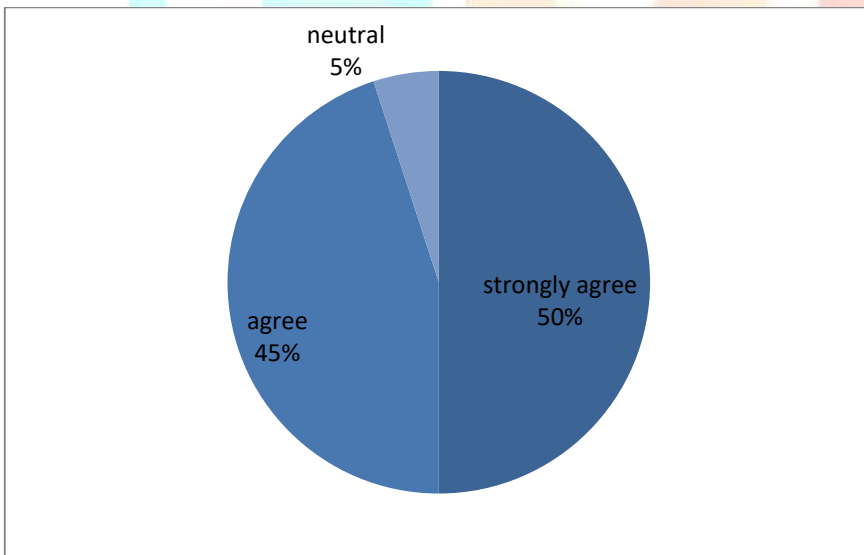
The above figure 11.9 indicates feature of voice recording in Whatsapp to enhance learners speaking skills. Out of 20 students 30% strongly agree 40% agree 20% neutral and 10% disagree with this statement.

Figure 11.10



The above figure 11.10 indicates story feature of Whatsapp which helps learners to get any information easily. Out of 20 students 30% strongly agree 55% agree 10% neutral and 5% disagree with this statement.

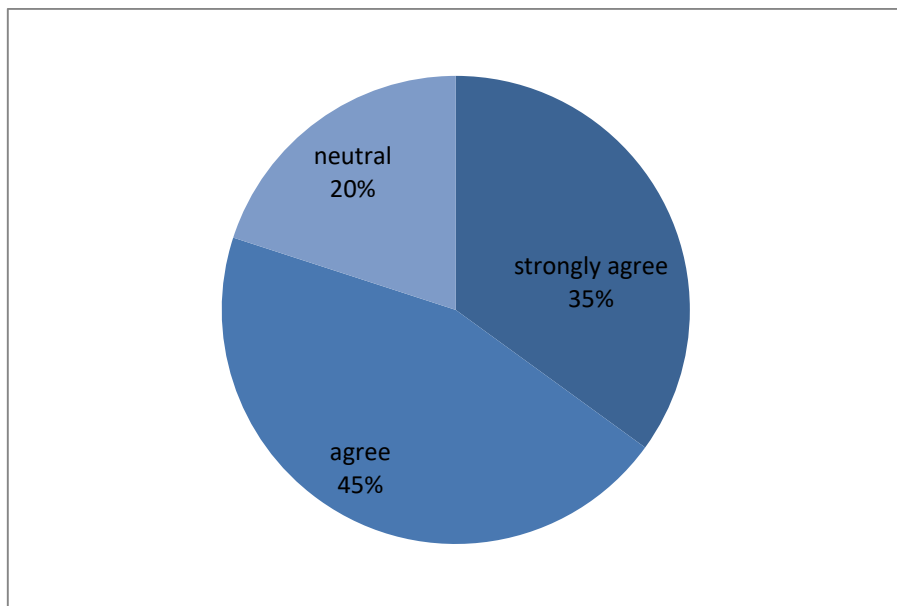
Figure 11.11



The above figure 11.11 indicates with the help of Whatsapp one can easily share documents and pdf and improve their reading skills. Out of 20 students 50% strongly agree 45% agree 5% neutral.



Figure 11.12



The above figure 11.12 indicates interacting through Whatsapp to enhance writing skills. Out of 20 students 35% strongly agree 45% agree 20% neutral.

### Conclusion

The analysis of data collected through a group of university students of educational administration clearly indicated uses of Whatsapp in language teaching and learning. As world becomes a global net village, we have to find out much more educative things through the virtual bridges. Among those bridges Whatsapp is one of the best bridges. High usages of smart phones and internet initiated growing use of Whatsapp for both teachers and learners, amalgamation of all features like messages (includes both personal and group), videos, photos, voice notes (includes calls) supports students learning anytime anywhere along with the help of teachers has made Whatsapp new emerging and convenient tool for both teachers and learners.

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