The Significance Of Using The BBC Learning English App To Enhance Pronunciation In English Speaking

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Abstract:

The main focus of this paper is to find out the significant effect of the BBC Learning English app on enhancing the learner's language skills, especially speaking skills. BBC Learning English application is an English learning app used to help English pronunciation to enrich learners speaking ability. Learning English speaking through mobile apps is an easy task for learners. It encourages self-learning. Learners can understand the contents from anywhere and anytime. They can download the series and learn in offline mode, also. Learners expressed an interest in receiving instruction in good pronunciation. Some students didn't pay any attention to accents while speaking. The researcher noticed that the speaker's articulation was unfamiliar, So the researcher started guidance with the basic sound patterns using mobile apps. BBC Learning English provides audio and video lessons for learners. The researcher used an experimental method and used a speaking test as the instrument. In collecting data, the researcher recorded the voice of the learners. The recordings were held in two parts – pre-test and post-test. The sample of this research is conducted on tertiary level or undergraduate students of BCA (Bachelor of Computer Application). The researcher asked the students to read a paragraph in the pre-test and post-test. The researcher observed the learner's pronunciation of voiceless consonants and how they pronounced words in the pre-test and post-test. This Broadcast learning English makes the students more confident.

Keywords: BBC Learning English App, Speaking, Pronunciation, Self-learning, voiceless consonants.

1. Introduction:

Speaking is one of the most laborious skills to develop. Pronunciation is part of speaking. To pronounce words, people must speak. Speaking is the ability to combine words and phrases in the right sequence to form sentences. It includes politeness, the use of appropriate language for the situation, and the capacity to communicate with people by pronouncing words correctly and in a clear, succinct manner. Speaking focuses more on when, where, and how to say words together and expresses individual thoughts. On the other side, pronunciation is to distinguish different words that sound similar and use the correct phoneme to make a clear word for the situation. Pronunciation is the ability to articulate the right sound with the correct speaking pattern, pitch, and tone. So, pronunciation focuses more on how to articulate words. Speaking is closely related to pronunciation.

To master pronunciation in speaking, the research uses the application (App) as a tool in teaching and learning English. An App is a helpful tool for teachers and learners. The app can increase student activity in the classroom, thus students don't feel bored teaching and learning process. Apps can be used personally or in groups based on the interest of the learner. Many Apps are used in the teaching and learning process. These Apps are available and open on various devices.

Mobile applications are very popular nowadays. People are using mobiles instead of computers. Mobile is portable and comfortable for everyone. After the Covid-19 pandemic, various educational sectors invented online learning. If the individual has mobile data, he/she can communicate from anywhere within seconds. Our society demands speed at every step. Students select mobile apps for their learning easy. There are different mobile apps to enhance the students speaking with the correct pronunciation. In this research the researcher has taken only one app - BBC Learning English app is one of the best apps and old broadcast for English learners. It is the best way to learn a language individually, but it needs proper practice to improve learning abilities.

BBC Learning English app provides different programs to enhance one's knowledge. It helps the learners to update themselves in an amazing and fun way. Without using the text, the learner can watch and listen to each program to improve their practice. The learner can download the program and practice it without the internet. It provides practice tests, and quizzes to test their abilities. The app will remember the scores, so the learner can keep trying until they get the result they want. The audio lesson is playing even if the screen is turned off. The main feature of this app includes the lesson available first on this app, even before the website. It provides new lessons daily. Notifications are helpful to the learners to continue their learning. Easy to find out programs and share your favorite programs on the social network.

BBC Learning English App is available for free download. It has been offering English to the global audience as a part of the BBC world service since 1943. It is created by an elite team of producers, writers, and ELT professionals who create award-winning material that engages and entertains our learners while also helping them improve their speaking.

The main highlights of the BBC Learning English app are to get regular updates, timely lessons, transcripts, and quizzes. It helps learners to learn many aspects of English grammar and pronunciation. Daily practice session includes everyday English, business English, learning with news, and learning with drama. Language skills session provides pronunciation grammar and vocabulary. Other category includes English for teacher and teaching children.

2. Learning Objectives:

➢ Ask the learners about their proficiency levels in different aspects of speaking.

➢ Enquire about the practice of learning sounds with the help of the BBC Learning English App.

➢ Observes to know the perceptions of students on pronunciation.

➢ Make the learners grab good employment opportunities with good interaction.

3. Methodology:

The researcher used an experimental method for this research. The main idea of the researcher is how to improve speaking skills with correct pronunciation by using the mobile app. Voiceless consonants are the main focus of the researcher. He used the speaking test as an instrument to collect data in the pre-test and post-test. The researcher selected samples from tertiary-level students. 25 students participated in the pre-test; the number is reduced in the post-test. The post-test is conducted on 14 samples only. The data are given in tables and pie charts to understand the proficiency of the learners.

4. Data collection:

The instrument is used to collect the data in qualitative and quantitative methods. The researcher has taken 25 samples to collect data to improve English speaking and pronunciation by using BBC Learning English app. The pronunciation series provides consonant sounds and vowel sounds. Speaking needs pronunciation. In this paper, the researcher highlights speaking skills with correct pronunciation by using the mobile app. The data is collected in two ways pre-task and post-task. The researcher focused on voiceless consonant sounds in both pre and post-tasks.

The researcher conducted a speaking test on 25 samples. Learners read the passage without any knowledge of the sounds. The researcher recorded all the voices of the learner to identify the pronunciation of voiceless consonant sounds. The researcher explained the difference in pronunciation between native and non-native speakers and illustrated the importance of sounds, and how the word can be changed in different ways with a similar difference in pronunciation.

Sl.no.	Instrument	Samples	Topic	Level of Samples
1	Speaking Test	25	Voiceless consonant sounds	Tertiary level students

Voiceless consonant sounds:

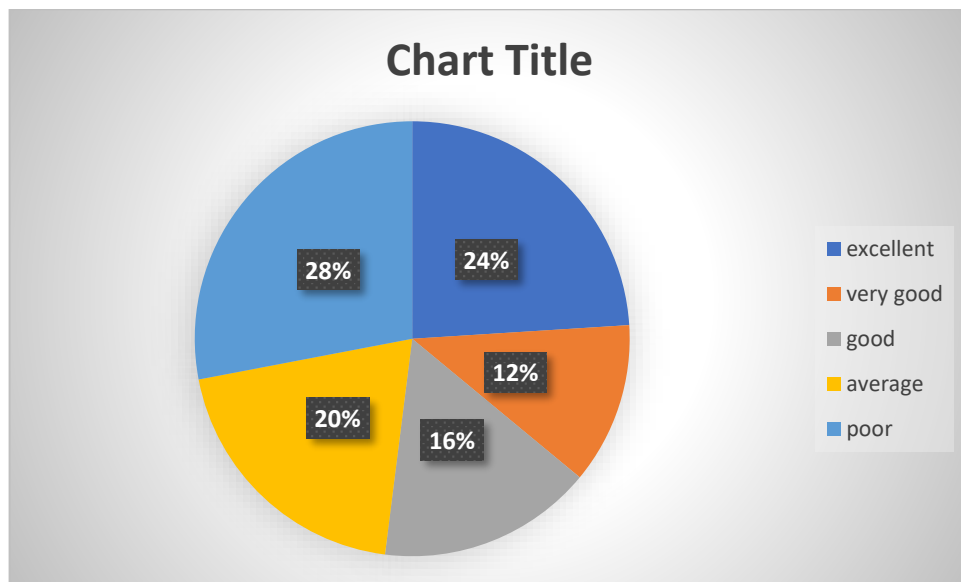| Sl.no.	Voiceless consonants	Example words (initial, middle, final)
1	/p/	Pen, computer, crop
2	/t/	Tin, button, get
3	/k/	Came, lucky, sick
4	/f/	Fat, rough, fluff
5	/s/	Soon, mister, hiss
6	/ʃ/	Sure, nation, fish
7	/tʃ/	Choke, teacher, match
8	/θ/	Thin, author, birth
9	/h/	Hear, ahead

5. Results and Analysis:

The experiment was administered to understand and analyze the present practices of undergraduate students in improving their speaking skills in pronunciation through BBC learning English App. It also aimed at studying the student's self-rating of their speaking ability and pronunciation. This section presents the results and the same was analyzed with descriptive statistics using a pie chart.

Students present a level of speaking with the correct pronunciation of voiceless consonants:

5.1) Pre-task:

In the pre-task, 25 students downloaded the BBC Learning English app and attended the speaking test without knowing anything. Even though 28% of the students are excellent in their performance on voiceless consonants. 24% of respondents are given poor performance. 20% expressed on average. 16% are pronounced good. 12% responded very well.
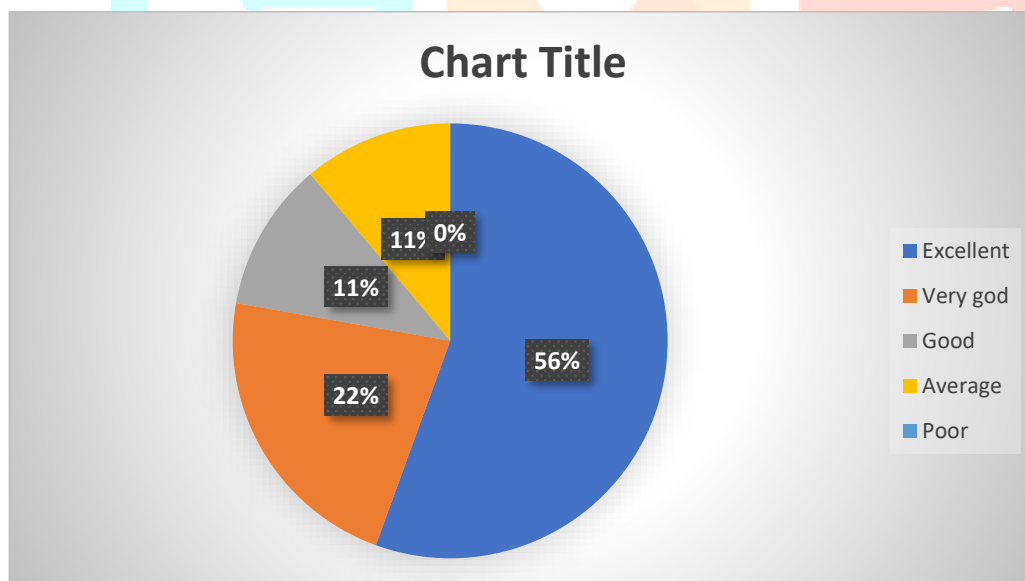
Most of the respondents performed in a better way. The researcher followed up with the remaining with appropriate guidance and make them pronounce like native speakers with the help old BBC app.

Teachers' assessment in pre-task

5.2) Post-task:

In post-task, the poor performance of the students in pre-task is not joined in this session. The poor learners didn't understand the sound patterns. More than 50% of the students reach their level of speaking with the correct pronunciation. The researcher achieved the goal with good effort.

6. Findings and Discussions:

It discusses the findings of students' current practice on mobile apps to improve speaking with good pronunciation. It improves the learner's self-learning abilities. The results indicated that more than 50% of the students were satisfied with the mobile app learning to improve their pronunciation speaking. The poor performances are nil in post-task. In overall data, the respondents pronounce the words similar to the native speakers but not exactly. Six participants out of twenty - five showed remarkable improvement in their pronunciation, three are very good, four are good, five participants are average and seven respondents allowed their poor performance in pronouncing the words in the pre-test.

In the post-test, the poor performers dropped to participate in the same instrument speaking test because they were feeling shy and had not practiced the app sessions regularly. 18 learners participated in the post-task. Out of eighteen respondents, ten were excellent in their speaking and pronunciation. Four respondents showed as very good. Good and average results are the same. Comparing the pre-test and post-test results indicated that the participants significantly improved their pronunciation of voiceless consonant sounds.

	Voiceless sounds		Voiced sounds	
1.	/p/	pat	/b/	bat
2.	/f/	few	/v/	view
3.	/t/	tear	/d/	dear
4.	/s/	Sue	/z/	zoo
5.	/ʧ/	choke	/ʤ/	joke
6.	/k/	cap	/g/	gap
7.	/θ/	think	/ð/	this

The above chart shows that every voiceless sound has its voiced partner. when the learner pronounces the sound /t/, the tongue behind the teeth and puff of air at the beginning of /t/. This is confused with /d/. The same confusion with the remaining sounds. But all the learners are not done the same mistakes. Some students wrongly pronounced the sounds /f/ and /v/. Some are with the sounds /θ/ and /ð/. Many learners are made mistakes on /tʃ/ and /dʒ/.

The researcher observed the wrong pronunciations and guided the students, on how to pronounce voiceless sounds in an easy way without any contraction with voiced sounds with the help of the BBC Learning English App. The researcher focused on the recordings of the learners to identify the wrong pronunciations. The research observed not only the learners speaking on pronunciation but also observed their voice clarity, pitch, intonation, and punctuation also.

At the end of the task, learners observed the difference between voiced and voiceless sounds in consonants and how to articulate the sounds in an easy way.

7. Conclusion:

The present study aimed to find out the learners speaking pronunciation of voiceless consonants through the BBC Learning English app. This experiment revealed a small emphasis on speaking and pronunciation in the regular conversations of tertiary-level students. The participants admitted that they did not pay attention to pronunciation and their involvement levels were not up to their expectations. Most participants accepted that mobile apps and YouTube videos are very helpful to practice words. As such BBC Learning English App provided video and audio lessons to improve their pronunciation in speaking. The major importance of pronunciation is that learners need to understand and to be understood when they interact with others in various situations. If the participants can't be understood easily, they are not able to converse with native speakers.

However, teachers and students are trying to speak like native speakers, there may be some deviations, and it is impossible for non-native speakers. Voiceless sounds are not making sounds with vocal cords, simply air passing through the mouth. Learners observe and articulate the air stream mechanism in an appropriate way. The majority of the respondents expressed a desire to be trained in proper pronunciation. Some students reported that they did not pay any attention to pronunciation while speaking.

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