

ENHANCING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AT SMK N 2 PACITAN THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF THE CAKE APPLICATION

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Abstract

This research explores the critical role of language learning in preparing students for global success amidst ongoing technological transformations in education. Conducted at SMK N 2 Pacitan on October 16, 2023, the study investigates the integration of the Cake application, a language learning tool, emphasizing heightened engagement, experiential learning, and collaborative possibilities. Addressing concerns such as technical prerequisites and pedagogical alignment, the research employs methods like class observation and student interviews. Findings underscore positive student perceptions of Cake, highlighting its appeal, ease of use, and positive impact on language skills. Students express a desire to continue using and recommending the application, emphasizing the seamless merging of learning with play. Despite recognized advantages, drawbacks like in-app advertising and internet data requirements are identified. This article provides valuable insights into utilizing Cake for language learning, serving as a foundational resource for further research and practical implementation in educational settings, acknowledging the complexities and potential benefits of integrating such technology into the evolving educational landscape.

Keywords: *Technology, cake application, education and learning media*

Introduction

Language learning plays an important role in preparing students for success in a globalized world. Language teaching prepares students for out-of-class uses of language, but today's internet, technology, and media provide greater opportunities for meaningful and authentic language use than in the classroom . Language skills empower students to engage with a wide range of perspectives, opening doors to international opportunities and facilitating cross-cultural understanding. Furthermore, language learning enhances cognitive abilities, including problem-solving and critical thinking skills. It also promotes adaptability and flexibility, qualities essential in navigating the complexities of an interconnected global environment. In essence, language learning is not just about linguistic competence; it is a gateway to broader personal and professional development, equipping students with the tools they need to succeed in an increasingly interdependent world.

The Cake application, developed by renowned language learning experts, offers a suite of features specially designed to support learning English. The user-friendly interface, interactive lessons and comprehensive learning materials make it an ideal tool for teachers and students. By integrating this application into the classroom environment, students of SMK N 2 Pacitan have succeeded in turning traditional language teaching into an innovative and immersive experience. In addition, the gamification theory popularized by states that incorporating game elements in non-game contexts can increase motivation, engagement, and learning outcomes. Cake application with their interactive and gamified interfaces, leverage the innate desire for challenge and achievement, making the learning process fun and engaging for students. By incorporating elements such as prizes, progress tracking, and competitions Cake applications motivate students to actively participate and strive for mastery. In addition, the cognitive theory of multimedia learning put forward by shows that the combination of visual, animated and interactive elements can improve learning outcomes. The Cake English app enhances students' oral English competence by using vocabulary studying, vocabulary-pictures matching games, picture

stories reading, and blank filling tests. Cake application provide a multisensory experience by combining visual elements, audio cues, and interactive features, allowing learners to absorb information more effectively and retain knowledge for a longer time . Cake application provide a multisensory experience by combining visual elements, audio cues, and interactive features, allowing learners to absorb information more effectively and retain knowledge for a longer time.

This article refers to the introduction of the application, the use of the application, and class observations to explore the benefits and challenges of implementing the Cake application in learning at SMK N 2 Pacitan. In addition, it examines the impact of technology-based approaches on students' language skills, levels of engagement, and overall learning outcomes. This article explores the exciting possibilities for leveraging Cake application as engaging learning media, highlighting the potential benefits and application that make them a valuable tool for educators and students. This article focuses on students' views of the Cake application to support learning and student responses when using the Cake application. This article provides a good foundation for exploring the use of the Cake application in language learning. However, addressing the identified gaps will increase the completeness of the article and strengthen its contribution to the existing literature. This article also includes information about using the Cake application in SMK N 2 Pacitan. It demonstrates the applicability of the research findings in a specific context and provides a concrete example of applying Cake application in a school setting.

Methods

A qualitative research approach was chosen to select the subjective experiences and perceptions of students. This approach allows for a detailed exploration of the complexities and nuances surrounding using the Cake application for learning. Theorist who supports the use of qualitative methods to understand the perspective of the subject is phenomenology. Phenomenology is a qualitative research method focusing on an individual's lived experiences within the world . Phenomenology emphasizes the subjective understanding of individual experience and the importance of understanding the world through the perspective of the individuals involved. In the context of this study, qualitative methods allow researchers to explore the subject's experiences and perspectives regarding the use of the Cake application. This research involved a sample of class X Accounting 3 SMK N 2 Pacitan totaling 30 students consisting of 26 female students and four male students. The data collection technique includes class observation dan interview. Class observation covered the activity of watching video, reading texts, filling out quizzes in the application, and practicing speaking using the Cake application. Thematic analysis was used to analyze class observation notes and interview answers from 30 students. The researcher grouped the answers of the 30 students into several categories based on the similarity of the answers from the 30 students. After grouping into several categories, the researcher described each category based on the details of the answers given by 30 students.

Finding and Discussion

Students' Interest and Engagement:

Table 1. Students' Interest and Engagement

No	Question	Answer		
		Yes	No	Doubt
1	Is the Cake application interesting?	30		
2	Is the Cake application easy to use?	29		1

The data shows that most students (30 out of 30) find the Cake application interesting. This shows that the application can attract students' interest in learning English. In addition, most students (29 out of 30) also stated that the Cake application was easy to

use. This shows that the user-friendly interface of the application makes it easy for students to interact and take advantage of the learning features provided.

Language Skills Improvement

Table 2. Improved Language Skills

No	Question	Answer		
		Yes	No	Doubt
1	Is the Cake application helpful in improving your reading skills in English?	27		3
2	Is the Cake application helpful in improving your speaking skills in English?	27		3

Based on table 2, most students (27 out of 30) stated that the Cake application could improve their ability to read, speak and listen to English. This shows that the Cake application is effective in supporting the development of students' language skills. Although some students (3 out of 30) found it possible, the majority still recognized the benefits of using the application.

It is noteworthy that while a small fraction of students, precisely 3 out of 30, may not have fully endorsed the application's effectiveness, the vast majority recognized and acknowledged its benefits. This nuanced feedback underscores the general success and approval of the Cake application in contributing positively to students' language learning experiences. The varied responses may be indicative of individual preferences or unique learning styles, highlighting the importance of considering diverse perspectives when evaluating the overall impact of educational tools. In essence, the data from Table 2 underscores the substantial and affirmative impact of the Cake application on the majority of students, affirming its role as an effective support mechanism for the advancement of language skills in the academic context.

Vocabulary Improvement

Table 3. Vocabulary Improvement

No	Question	Answer		
		Yes	No	Doubt
1	Does this application make you discover new vocabulary in English?	21		9

Most students (21 out of 30) stated that the Cake application helped them find new vocabulary. This shows that the application is effective in helping students expand and enrich their vocabulary in English. However, there were also some students (9 out of 30) who felt it was possible, which might indicate that their vocabulary expansion was not as large as the students who felt it was helped.

Intentions and Recommendations:

Table 4. Intentions and Recommendations

No	Question	Answer		
		Yes	No	Doubt
1	Would you use this application to learn more?	19		11
2	Would you recommend this application to your friends to learn English?	23		7

The majority of students (19 out of 30) stated their intention to use the Cake application in learning English, while the other students (11 out of 30) still felt it was possible. This shows that the Cake application has the potential as a learning tool that is liked by students. In addition, the majority of students (21 out of 30) also stated that they would recommend the Cake application to their friends. This shows that students feel this application is useful and effective in learning English.

Advantages and Weaknesses

Table 5. Advantages and Weaknesses

No	Question and Answer	Total
1	Does this application have advantages, if any, state it!	
	- Can be used to play while learning	14
	- Easy to understand	8
	- Interesting and not boring	13
	- Sophisticated application	3
2	- There is a video feature	2
	Does this application have weaknesses, if there are any, state them!	
	- There are ads	14
	- Using internet quota	10
	- There are no weaknesses or problems when using this application	6

According to table 5, several students (14 out of 30) considered the advantage of the Cake application to be its ability to combine learning with aspects of play, thus making the learning process more interesting and fun. However, some students (14 out of 30) also criticized the presence of in-app advertisements, which could interfere with their learning experience. In addition, some students (10 out of 30) also mentioned the weakness of the Cake application regarding the use of the required internet data.

Conclusion

Implications of study

The integration of the Cake application in the classroom environment at SMK N 2 Pacitan provides a positive experience for students in learning language. Students felt interested and found it easy to use this application, and stated that this application had a positive impact on their language skills and vocabulary. The use of the Cake application can increase students' engagement and motivation. Interactive features and a visually appealing interface, as well as gamification elements in this application are able to attract students' attention and encourage active participation in the learning process. The Cake app also enables experimental and applied learning, where students can apply theoretical concepts in practical scenarios. This allows students to experiment, make decisions, and see the consequences of their actions, ultimately deepening their understanding of the subject matter. The Cake app provides collaborative learning opportunities with its collaborative features. This encourages cooperation and teamwork among students, and builds social skills and ability to communicate in groups.

Research limitations

However, it must be acknowledged that this study also has some limitations, the number of participants in this study was relatively small, namely only 30 students from one class at SMK N 2 Pacitan. This can affect the representativeness of the results and the generalizability of the findings. For more meaningful results, studies involving a larger number of participants are needed. This study only focuses on students' perceptions and experiences using the Cake application. Assessment from the point of view of teachers, parents, or other factors involved in the use of this application is not explored in depth. Therefore, this additional perspective can provide a more comprehensive picture of the use of these applications in the context of language learning.

Recommendations for further study:

To complement this research and strengthen its contribution to the existing literature, there are several recommendations for further research, involve more schools

and classes in research to gain a more comprehensive understanding of using the Cake application in language learning. Expand research to involve the perspectives of teachers, parents, and school administrators to gain greater insight into the implications of using these applications in learning contexts. Conduct comparative studies between the use of the Cake application and other learning methods to evaluate its effectiveness.

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