

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DUOLINGO IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

Technology has rendered the significance of distance in communication. It has improved many parts and section of life in human kind. One of which is education. Education nowadays has been heavily affected by technology. This results in a surgence of learning digitally or online learning. Language learning, which one of the sector in education has felt its impact. Many people begun to learn foreign languages. One of which and most common in english. Technology has gave birth many tools in learning english like language learning app like Duolingo. Duolingo has been used by students and teachers in their own endeavor in language learning.

Keywords: *Duolingo, language learning, app*

Introduction

Globalisation has enable humans to connect with people regardless how far they are with each other. Boundaries by distance is no longer a problem due to the advancements of todays technology. Resulting people interacting more frequently with others, despite they're in a different places especially different countries.

However, one barrier still remains; the language barrier. Though technology has come so far, people still need to learn an entirely new language in order to communicate with people of different countries. Of course, technology has gave birth to what we call “machine translation”, a technology that translates for us. Still, it is still far from perfect.

Today, language with the most speaker in the world is English language. According to Statistica (2022), there were 1.5 million people around the world that spoke english either as a native or a second language. With that in mind, it is clear that education in learning english becoming more and more important and varies as a result of the number of speakers and the oppurtunity it gave if you're fluent.

One way of learning english that is gaining traction and also a product of technology's growth is language learning application such as Duolingo.

Touted as one of the most popular apps in language learning especially english among other apps, Duolingo is a favored choice among students. By the data in correspondent of Businessofapps.com (2021), Duolingo triumphs

over other language learning apps by over 67.37%. Dominating the industry by a large margin and makes a statement that students does rely on Duolingo.

However, does learning through Duolingo can really be effective? Can Duolingo taught the students the intricacies of english?

1. What is Duolingo?

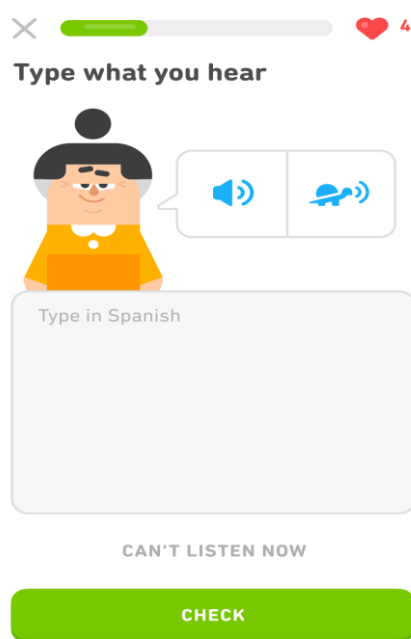
Duolingo is a language learningor training tools in a form of an app. The concept of Duolingo first presented by Professor Luis Von Ahn and his post-graduate student Severin Hacker of the Carnegie Mellon University. Their goal is to create education with the utmost quality and make it accessible. When the private beta was launched, 300.000 people were in the waiting list. The app officially launched at 19 June 2012 and has been pulling new users since then.

2. How Duolingo Works?

Duolingo present their material in game-like way. The user will find some concept that exist in video game bubble like levels, XP (experience point), and many others. The difficulty of the lesson is presented as level while XP is needed to progress through the lesson

Duolingo taught the students by presenting materials in 3 sections: writing, listening, and reading. In the listening section, there are materials such as conversation audio, identifying by audio, and even dialogue with accents. On the listening part, Duolingo has word matching and transalting. Last, the reading

section has conversation that as gaps that require the student fill in the blanks.



Method

The data that are present in this article is done in a qualitative manner. Qualitative approach, mainly observation and survey, is chosen due to our goal of exploring people's thoughts on Duolingo. The data collected here is from various observation and various reports that we referenced that we've made. The data then was compiled and structured.

Result And Discussion

An example of Duolingo's exercise.

A. Advantages Of D

Duolingo is a great gateway to those who are completely new in English. Duolingo gave the user the very basic of english which students can build of it. Students who are unfamiliar with english can take advantage of Duolingo to get familiar with english. User can use it to widen their vocabulary and learn the basic grammar.

Learners also has the capability to pick which method of learning that they felt are most suited to them. Thanks to the myriad of method in Duolingo, learners can pick which method is more effective to them as people has their own preferred way when it comes to the method of learning.

Other things that Duolingo taught that is crucial is consistency. In order to master a language, consistency is needed after all. In the words of Dubreil regarding Duolingo on

consistency (2021), "What Duolingo does is to potentially entice students to do things you cannot pay them enough time to actually do, which is to spend time in that textbook and reinforce vocabulary and the grammar,"

It's clear that Duolingo is an app that encourages new english learner to take the first step in learning english followed by flexibility and consistency in mind.

B. Disadvantages Of Duolingo

However, Duolingo falls apart when it comes to delivering more advanced topics. Topics such as the intricacies of the language can fall short in spite of much needed proper explanation. Because Duolingo itself only taught the barebones of english, it can be impossible to learners who're already at intermediate level to improve by using Duolingo.

Duolingo also only excells at increasing writing and reading proficiency; not speaking. Duolingo exclusively taught the user in the writing aspect and reading aspect because it can be structured and presented in an easy way compared to speaking. Speaking can only be sharpen by talking directly to someone who is native or fluent in english.

An aspect that negate Duolingo has is its dependence on memorizing instead of understanding. Because of its puzzle game-like format, user who is already well-versed in Duolingo will not gain anything new. Failing in its purpose to taught learner the foundation of english.

All in all, the limitacy of Duolingo can be detrimental in the long run and for new student who just looking to get started and want to wrapped their head on many concepts that are exist in english.

C. Student's Perspective On Duolingo

According to a research conducted by Andi Amalia Sabila and Wawan Gunawan on student's perspective on using Duolingo as study material (2019), Duolingo has given the students a lot of benefits due to its features. It increases their consistency because of Duolingo's reminder tool which is infamous. One students also say it's rewarding because Duolingo rewards the user. A reward called "Lingot" that allows the earner to buy merch or courses. The students also can track their own progress and progress with their own pace rather

than get pressured by other's progress. Student's decision-making skill also get a notable increase due to the time limit that Duolingo impose on their every material.

We can conclude that Students are able to pick bountiful and postive effects learning from Duolingo as they can learn in their own preferred way. Resulting in a bright outlook on Duolingo.

D. Teacher's Perspective On Duolingo

With the students taking full use of technology in their learning, teachers are also expected to do the same. Teacher's goal is to facilitate and teach the students. The form of accommodation that teacher can bring to the table may vary thanks to technology

Language teachers especially, has many tools and resources under their belt. One of the tools is language learning app like Duolingo. Their view on Duolingo is that it is a supplement, not an end-it-all solution.

In general, they admit that Duolingo is an app that does the job well in what they do. However, one teacher spoken out that Duolingo is not being truthful regarding learning a language english included. The point is that Duolingo promises fast result, even though that learning a language is a long-term effort and can't be done quickly.

They also added that they are not fond of the way that Duolingo marketed themselves as a all-in-one language learning centre. What actually Duolingo does is teaching the user the groundwork like grammar, vocabulary, etc. They also stress that to become proficient in english, the student needs to consume many medias that are related to english.

One teacher added that Duolingo is useful as supplementary or a companion material for learning english. The reason being is that Duolingo has an optimized "gamified" experience in learning english which the student fond of, incredible accesibility, and flexible.

In summary, Duolingo is seen as a complimetary materials along with the main materials that help to introduce the basic in a lesson.

Duolingo is a language learning app with gamified structure that has goals to help students around the world to study english or other language. It is useful, myriad in features, accessible, and flexible. Students who has use it

mostly has a positive experience on using Duolingo as their materials. Teachers also has a good opinion and mostly use it as supplementary lesson rather than replacing main one.

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