

Students Opinion Towards the Implementation of Tophonetics Application in Learning Pronunciation

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ABSTRACT

The article was to development the students' opinion on the implementation of ToPhonetics application in learning pronunciation. The researchers conducted a survey model according to Masri. This technique learns data analysis techniques with descriptive analysis. Used to analyze data results from calculation questionnaires as well as results from interviews conducted. So that the data used in the study are grouped into two, namely qualitative data and quantitative data. And then analyzed descriptively to determine the fit between students' opinions when implementing the ToPhonetics application in learning pronunciation. The survey method is applied to describe the phenomenon of ToPhonetics application as a media for learning pronunciation. The subject of the research was the first semester students of English Education in the academic 2023/2024. The research sample which consisted of 28 students. The results of the students' opinion on the implementation of the ToPhonetics application in pronunciation learning are positive opinions. The percentage reached 83.7% in the final result. Data shows that students love and enjoy the ToPhonetics application to learn pronunciation in English because of the features, usability, content, context, connectivity and mobility in the ToPhonetics application. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that students have a positive opinion about the use of the ToPhonetics application to help them in improving pronunciation in learning English.

Keywords: *Tophonetics Application, Learning Pronunciation, Pronunciation*

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INTRODUCTION

As the most widely spoken and studied language in the world, English has become an interesting and important global study to master in every country around the world. In English Language Teaching (ELT) there are four skills, namely speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Speaking and writing as productive skills, listening, and reading as receptive skills. These skills are important to master in learning English, and pronunciation has an important role to play with all four skills. Pronunciation is one of the important nouns spoken based on and basic ability to speak English and other languages. Correct English pronunciation is to help students pronounce correctly. Clear pronunciation makes students easy to understand and produces intelligible sounds.

Pronunciation is one of the basic components when speaking. That is part of productive skills because while speaking, the speaker must think and pronounce the words correctly using the proper articulation of pronunciation so that the resulting meaning is appropriate. Speaking skills using accurate pronunciation skills are very important. If we mispronounce the articulation in a word while speaking, it makes it difficult for the listener to understand what we are talking about. In addition, it can be one of the factors that can lead to misunderstandings in communicating.

As for the teaching process, pronunciation is a basic skill that is useful and can affect other aspects of the language. For example, pronunciation can facilitate listening comprehension and allow a person to be able to be understood during verbal interactions. Furthermore, it also assists learners, especially students, to gain the skills they need for effective communication in English (Mohammad Reza Ahmadi, 2011, hal. 74-83). Pronunciation helps one recognize how sounds are produced and performed directly and how to understand the differences of sounds from one another. Pronunciation, on the one hand, has its own charm to learn, compared to grammar and vocabulary skills. As the resulting pronunciation changes and so does the perception of language learning, the process of teaching and learning pronunciation begins to evolve from being ignored to being recognized that pronunciation is an important element in the language classroom. In addition, pronunciation learning in language classes certainly has several problems, such as lack of student understanding when pronouncing words correctly, limited student learning time, lack of supporting media to learn pronunciation.

Most of the English pronunciation skills of students in the English Education Department at UIN Raden Intan Lampung are still relatively low, especially early semester students. They consider pronunciation a difficult subject because the sound of words is usually different from their written form. They feel confused and have difficulty pronouncing some English words, especially foreign ones. Based on an interview conducted at UIN Raden Intan Lampung on June 7, 2023, it was found that most students in the early semester of the English Education Department had been taught the ToPhonetics application as a media to learn pronunciation by lecturer who teach pronunciation courses. But on the other hand, it can still be found that most students still experience problems with pronunciation. It can be concluded that there are various difficulties in learning English, they complain more about speaking, grammar, vocabulary, and one of them is pronunciation. They find it difficult to understand how to pronounce words in English correctly, because according to them usually the pronunciation of words in English is different from the original writing. This causes students to become hesitant to pronounce English words correctly. In addition, they are also constrained by a lack of practice in pronouncing English words using phonetic transcription.

On the other hand, the researcher also conducted interview with lecturer who teach pronunciation practice courses which concluded that the basic pronunciation skills of some students were still quite poor, because basically they only focused on learning pronunciation when they got the pronunciation practice class. In addition, they are also constrained by lack of practice and lack of understanding the pronunciation of every word in English well. Therefore, the pronunciation ability of early semester students in the English Education Department is still low. Based on the phenomena that occur, to overcome problems in pronunciation is not easy, especially in learning English. There are many ways that can be done to pronounce English words correctly, one of which is

to use the ToPhonetics application. ToPhonetic application is one of the learning media that students can use to find phonetic letters in words in English.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing in depth the use of the ToPhonetics application as a pronunciation learning media for first semester students of English Education at UIN Raden Intan Lampung. The researcher decided to conduct a study entitled "Students Opinion Towards the Implementation of ToPhonetics Application in Learning Pronunciation" to find out students' opinion regarding the use of the ToPhonetics application as a pronunciation learning media by English Education students at UIN Raden Intan Lampung.

METHOD

This research uses quantitative methods with the type of survey research. According to Arifin, quantitative research is research conducted to explain, test correlations between variables, find causality variables, test theories and find out generalizations that have predictive value of a phenomenon (Sugiyono, 2019, p. 16-17). Quantitative research can also be defined as a method based on the philosophy of positivism used to examine a particular population or sample, and data collection using research instruments, data in statistical/quantitative form, that have the objectivity to test established hypotheses. Quantitative methods are used, because quantitative research aims to determine the relationship between two or more variables that are causal, test theories and analyze data using statistics to test hypotheses (Sugiyono, 2008, p. 23-24). According to Creswell, quantitative approaches use several investigative strategies, such as experiments, surveys, and data collection on fixed instruments that provide statistical data (Creswell, J. W, 2003, p. 18). Therefore, there are findings of quantitative approaches that can be explanatory, confirmative, and predictive.

While survey research was chosen because in collecting information on the results of data research, researchers use questionnaires as the main method. As Masri states that survey research is research that takes a sample from a population and uses questionnaires as the primary data collection tool (Masri S, Sofian Effendi, 1989, p. 3). In this research using questionnaires as a data collection tool. The survey method was chosen to determine the influence of advertising attractiveness and brand image on consumer decisions. According to Sugiyono, the survey method is a quantitative research method used to obtain data that occurred in the past or present, about beliefs, opinions, characteristics, behavior of variable relationships and to test several hypotheses about sociology and psychological variables from samples taken from certain populations, data collection techniques with observations (interviews or questionnaires) that are not in-depth, and research results tend to be generated (Sugiyono, 2008, p. 23-24).

Based on the opinion above, the type of survey research using quantitative research methods is seen from its usefulness in accordance with the research that researcher conducted, to find out whether there are significant students' opinion on the implementation of the ToPhonetics application in learning pronunciation with the results of mastering the pronunciation of first-semester students majoring in English education at UIN Raden Intan Lampung.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research was conducted to determine first semester students' opinion of using ToPhonetics Application in increasing their English learning pronunciation. Among

the first semester students of English education at UIN Raden Intan Lampung, the participants were chosen. Since this research used a questionnaire and interview, 24 students were asked to fill out a questionnaire, and 15 students as representatives were asked for more detailed explanation through interviews. This chapter shows and discusses the data from the questionnaire and interview.

1. The Result Using Questionnaire

In this section, students were asked to answer 11 questions related to students' opinions in using the ToPhonetics Application. This section contains several elements in the ToPhonetics Application (usability, content, context, and connectivity/mobility). The last is about the closing statement. The results of the research will be more clearly illustrated in the following tables.

a. Usability of ToPhonetics application

"I like ToPhonetics application because it is easy to use"

Table 1

Students opinion of usability in ToPhonetics application 1

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	17	70,8 %
Agree (A)	7	29,2 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the data, 70,8 % of students chose to strongly agree, and 29,2 % chose to agree. It can be concluded that ToPhonetics application is easy to use for learning English pronunciation.

"I like ToPhonetics application because it is easy to understand"

Table 2

Students opinion of usability in ToPhonetics application 2

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	13	54,2 %
Agree (A)	11	45,8 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the data, 54,2 % of students chose to strongly agree, and 45,8 % chose to agree. It can be concluded that ToPhonetics application is easy to understand for learning English pronunciation.

b. Content of ToPhonetics application

"I like ToPhonetics application because it helps me in learning pronunciation"

Table 3

Students opinion of content in ToPhonetics application 1

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	9	37,5 %
Agree (A)	13	54,2 %
Neutral (N)	1	4,2 %
Disagree (D)	1	4,2 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the table above, 13 students (54.2%) chose to agree, and 9 students (37.5%) strongly agreed that they liked the ToPhonetics application because it helps in learning pronunciation. While 1 student answered neutrally and 1 student disagreed. It can be concluded that most students like the ToPhonetics application because they find it helpful when learning English pronunciation.

“I like ToPhonetics application because it makes it easier for me to change words into phonetic letters”

Table 4
Students opinion of content in ToPhonetics application 2

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	18	75 %
Agree (A)	5	20,8 %
Neutral (N)	1	4,2 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the table above, 18 students (75%) chose to strongly agree, and 9 students (20,8%) agreed that they liked the ToPhonetics application because it makes it easier for them to convert words into phonetic letters in learning pronunciation. While 1 student answered neutrally. It can be concluded that most students like the ToPhonetics application because they find it easier to convert words into phonetic letters in learning English pronunciation.

“I like ToPhonetics application because it displays colors and sounds are available for how to pronounce them”

Table 5
Students opinion of content in ToPhonetics application 3

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	18	75 %
Agree (A)	5	20,8 %
Neutral (N)	1	4,2 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the table above, 18 students (75%) chose to strongly agree, and 5 students (20,8%) agreed that they liked the ToPhonetics application because it displays colorful and there is a sound for the way to pronounce each word in two accents. While 1 student answered neutrally. It can be concluded that most students like the ToPhonetics application because they find it interesting and helpful because it displays colors and sounds are available for how to pronounce each word in learning English pronunciation.

c. Context of ToPhonetics application

“I like ToPhonetics application because it relates to my learning experience”

Table 6
Students opinion of context in ToPhonetics application 1

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	6	25 %
Agree (A)	11	45,8 %
Neutral (N)	4	16,7 %
Disagree (D)	3	12,5 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the table above, 6 students (25%) chose to strongly agree, and 11 students (45,8%) agreed that they liked the ToPhonetics application because relates to their learning experience. While 4 student answered neutrally and 3 students choose

disagreed. It can be concluded that most students like the ToPhonetics application because relates to their English learning experience.

“I like ToPhonetics application because the content in it relates to my learning in pronunciation”

Table 7
Students opinion of context in ToPhonetics application 2

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	7	29,2 %
Agree (A)	11	45,8 %
Neutral (N)	3	12,5 %
Disagree (D)	3	12,5 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the table above, 7 students (29,2%) chose to strongly agree, and 11 students (45,8%) agreed that they liked the ToPhonetics application because relates to their learning in pronunciation. While 3 student answered neutrally and 3 students choose disagreed. It can be concluded that most students like the ToPhonetics application because relates to their learning in English pronunciation.

d. Connectivity/Mobility of ToPhonetics application

“I like ToPhonetics application because it can be used anytime and everywhere”

Table 8
Students opinion of Connectivity/Mobility in ToPhonetics application 1

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	17	70,8 %
Agree (A)	7	29,2 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the data, 70,8 % of students chose to strongly agree, and 29,2 % chose to agree. It can be concluded that most students agree that the ToPhonetics application is easy to use for learning English pronunciation anytime and averywhere.

“I like ToPhonetics application because free to access without requiring a quota”

Table 9
Students opinion of Connectivity/Mobility in ToPhonetics application 2

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	8	33,4 %
Agree (A)	12	50 %
Neutral (N)	2	8,3 %
Disagree (D)	2	8,3 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the table above, 8 students (33,4%) chose to strongly agree, and 12 students (50%) agreed that they liked the ToPhonetics application because it can be accessed freely without requiring quota. While 2 students answered neutrally and 2 students choose disagreed. It can be concluded that most students like the ToPhonetics application because it is free and can be accessed without the need for quota.

e. Closing Statement

“Using ToPhonetics application increases my motivation to learn English pronunciation”

Table 10
Students opinion about ToPhonetics application in increases motivation

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	6	25 %
Agree (A)	9	37,5 %
Neutral (N)	3	12,5 %
Disagree (D)	6	25 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the table above, 6 students (25%) chose to strongly agree, and 9 students (37,5%) agreed that most students find using the ToPhonetics application it increases their motivation to learn English pronunciation. While 3 students answered neutrally and 6 students choose disagreed.

“I will continue to use ToPhonetics application to learn English pronunciation”

Table 11
Students opinion about sustainability in using ToPhonetics application

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree (SA)	7	29,1 %
Agree (A)	9	37,5 %
Neutral (N)	4	16,7 %
Disagree (D)	4	16,7 %
Total	24	100 %

Based on the table above, 7 students (29,1%) chose to strongly agree, and 9 students (37,5%) agreed. While 4 students answered neutrally and 4 students choose disagreed. It can be summarized that most of the students agreed that they would continue using ToPhonetics application to learn English pronunciation.

Based on the findings of the answers in the questionnaire session above, it can be concluded that students have a positive response to the use of the ToPhonetics application to learn English pronunciation because of the usability, content, context, and connectivity/mobility of the ToPhonetics application. Besides that, most of students have a positive opinion about the features of the Tophonetics application in improving pronunciation mastery in learning English. The features of the ToPhonetics application can make it easier for them to learn, their desire to achieve their goals, and make them enjoy practice in learning English. In addition, almost all students agree that the use of the ToPhonetics application can increase their learning motivation and will continue to use it to learn in English pronunciation.

2. The Result Using Interview

To support questionnaire data, the researcher used interview with students to find out the problems faced by students when learning pronunciation. There are fifteen questions that researcher asks to the students that are divided into two aspects. The essence of the first interview is to find out the learning media used during learning pronunciation and students' opinions about using the ToPhonetics application as a pronunciation learning media, which consists of six questions. The second interview point is to find out the learning process in the pronunciation class, which consists of

nine questions. From the results of the interview, the researcher can conclude that students feel helped by using the media during pronunciation learning in the class.

The students opinion towards the implementation of ToPhonetics Application in Learning Pronunciation

In the interview session, students were asked to answer three questions related to their opinion towards the implementation of ToPhonetics application in learning pronunciation. The researcher used interview and questionnaire to find out how students opinion to the pronunciation learning process through the ToPhonetics application. By considering the data obtained through interview and questionnaire, it was shown that student responses when using and applying the ToPhonetics application in pronunciation classes running well, data analysis highlighted that pronunciation learning through phonetic letters is very influential for pronunciation accuracy. It can be explained that the phonetic symbol lesson in pronunciation class aims to allow students to know and be able to pronounce words correctly, be able to read phonetic letters, and also be able to distinguish between British and American accent pronouns. From several questions addressed to students regarding the use of the ToPhonetics application, the results obtained are good and can be concluded as follows.

- *Do you think the use of the ToPhonetics application is easy to use in learning English pronunciation?*

For the first question, most students argued that the reason they chose to use the ToPhonetics app was because it was easier and faster to convert words into phonetic letters than having to find them manually using a dictionary book. Almost all of students agree that the use of the ToPhonetics application is very easy to use and helps in learning pronunciation. However, one student (student 3) said that using the ToPhonetics application was very easy, but the student felt that he often misheard if he encountered an unfamiliar word, making it difficult to pronounce it.

- *Do you think learning to teach pronunciation using the ToPhonetics application is fun?*

For the second question, most students responses that learning phonetic letters is new to them especially they are first semester students, studying phonetic letters really interests them because it is different from letters in general. It can be explained that students feel interested and happy when they use the ToPhonetics application because they find it helped by its features that can improve their pronunciation in English and clarify the sound of each word. Almost all students agree that learning pronunciation using the ToPhonetics application is very fun because in their opinion it is something interesting and new for them to learn a language. However, on the other hand, one student (student 10) thought that using the ToPhonetics application was normal and a little boring.

- *What do you think of using ToPhonetics application for teaching English pronunciation?*

For the third question, most of the students enjoy using mobile application to learn English pronunciation because some of reasons. Students 1,2,5,7, and 9 said that the use of the ToPhonetics application is very easy to use in changing phonetic letters in learning pronunciation and can be accessed anytime and anywhere. Another reason came from students 6, 8, and 10 argued that the use of the ToPhonetics application greatly helped them in learning pronunciation

because it was practical and quick to understand. While students 3 and 4 said, the ToPhonetics application was very good to use because its features could be understood but they argued that the use of the ToPhonetics application was not effective because they felt that pronunciation practice was better to avoid pronunciation errors.

The students opinions in teaching and learning Pronunciation

In the interview session, students were asked to answer four questions related to their opinion towards in teaching and learning pronunciation. From several questions addressed to students regarding their opinions when learning pronunciation, the results obtained are good and can be concluded as follows.

- *Do you think pronunciation is important in English?*
For the first question, all students think that learning pronunciation is very important in learning English. Student 6 said that pronunciation is an important thing to learn, because pronunciation is something that must be considered when communicating. Another opinion was put forward by student 3, that pronunciation is a basic thing in a language, if it is wrong in pronunciation, it will also be wrong with the meaning caused.
- *Why do learn pronunciation?*
For the second question, Most students think that learning pronunciation is mandatory in language, because if the pronunciation is good then the effect of misunderstanding meaning can be minimized when communicating. Student 10 argues, learning pronunciation is important, because good pronunciation will help people understand the meaning of what we say. Meanwhile, student 8 said that learning pronunciation is important because it makes it easier for us to speak English.
- *Do you think correct pronunciation is important in English?*
For the third question, all students think that correct pronunciation is important in English, because in their opinion if the pronunciation is wrong then the meaning is also different. Student 4 said that every word in English has a difference in pronunciation, this will affect communication if the pronunciation is wrong. Another opinion from student 6, who said correct pronunciation is important, so that there are no misunderstandings when we speak in public.
- *What is your response in learning English pronunciation?*
For the last question, most students say that learning pronunciation is very important and very beneficial to make it easier for them to perfect their pronunciation in English. Student 6 said that learning pronunciation was very fun because it could provide information about accents in English and how they are pronounced. On the other hand, student 9 said that learning pronunciation is difficult because most words in English are pronounced differently from the writing.

Based on the findings of the answers in the interview session above, it can be summarized that most of students like and enjoy using the ToPhonetics application to learn English pronunciation. Besides that, most of students have a positive opinion about the use of the ToPhonetics application that makes it easier and helps students to learn pronunciation through phonetic letters. In addition, they believe the ToPhonetics application can increase their learning motivation towards pronunciation. Then some students agree that learning pronunciation is a very important thing to do so that there is no misunderstanding of meaning when communicating.

Based on the results of the study showed that the implementation of the ToPhonetics application has a significant influence on students' pronunciation mastery. From the results of questionnaires and interviews, it was obtained that most students had a positive opinion of the implementation of the ToPhonetics application in learning pronunciation. This research was conducted to describe students' opinions on the implementation of the ToPhonetics application in learning pronunciation. Data was collected from the first semester class A, majoring in English Education at UIN Raden Intan Lampung.

In this research, the results of the questionnaire showed that most students liked and enjoyed this application for learning English pronunciation. This is in line with Faidah's opinion which states that all students agree that the use of the ToPhonetics application greatly helps them to learn pronunciation, In addition, 4 aspects cover all sides of the ToPhonetics application including usability, content, context, and connectivity & mobility. Students were asked 9 questions related to these 4 aspects, and almost all of them agreed that they liked the ToPhonetics app because of the various things in it according to these 4 aspects. Students' opinions of questionnaires in this session showed that they liked and enjoyed the ToPhonetics application for several reasons. The reason is that the ToPhonetics application is easy to use, easy to understand, displays audio results from the text searched, and in its application related to learning experiences and daily activities. In addition, they like the ToPhonetics application because it is flexible, and can be used anytime and anywhere, and access the ToPhonetics application is free and only requires premium quality to get its additional features. It can be concluded that there is a positive influence of student opinions on the implementation of the ToPhonetics application in learning pronunciation.

To dig deeper into the role of ToPhonetics application features on student motivation, in the questionnaire session participants were asked to answer 2 questions related to the use of the ToPhonetics application. The results showed that students liked all the features, but some features made them feel their motivation to learn English increased. It can be concluded that the features in the ToPhonetics application are very interesting, useful, and help students in learning English pronunciation. Then, secondly, most students agree that they will continue to use the ToPhonetics app to learn English pronunciation.

In the interview session with student representatives, researcher also got some student statements about this application. A student said that he said that the use of ToPhonetics application in today's modern era is very helpful and beneficial in learning pronunciation. Besides being easy to use and understand, the use of the ToPhonetics application is also fun because it can convert words into phonetic letter forms quickly and precisely. This finding corroborates other researchers who state that the flexibility, practicality, and practicality of the ToPhonetics application can be seen in terms of its usefulness is highly valued by students in learning English pronunciation.

Based on the three previous studies, all of them used the same ToPhonetics application in influencing students' pronunciation mastery. The research conducted by Faidah Yusuf has focused on the influence of mastery of student pronunciation based on the ToPhonetics application, while this study focuses on students' opinion on the implementation of the ToPhonetics application as the right medium in learning English

pronunciation. Then in the research conducted by Mas Sulis Setiyono has a focus on the use of science (International Phonetic Alphabet) in teaching pronunciation, while this research is a classroom action research that uses the ToPhonetics application as a tool in student learning. Furthermore, Aning Riza also discussed the implementation of science (International Phonetic Alphabet) in research design, while this study also implemented the ToPhonetics application in the first semester students in class A majoring of the English education at UIN Raden Intan Lampung in the academic year 2023/2024 and focused on students' opinion regarding the use of the ToPhonetics application in learning pronunciation.

Thus, in the first semester students in class A of the English education at UIN Raden Intan Lampung in the academic year 2023/2024, there is a significant positive opinion from the application of the ToPhonetics application in pronunciation learning because of the features, usability, content, context, and connectivity & mobility in this application. From the findings above, it can be concluded that learning using the ToPhonetics application is a good thing in influencing teaching methods to help and support students in increasing motivation to learn pronunciation.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research conducted on first semester students class A of the English education at UIN Raden Intan Lampung in the academic year 2023/2024 and analysis of student questionnaire and interview data. The results can be concluded that there is a significant influence on the application of the ToPhonetics application in students' learning English pronunciation. This can be seen based on descriptive analysis of the object exposure. In conclusion, using the ToPhonetics application in learning English pronunciation can have a positive influence on students' pronunciation mastery. This is clearly visible from most the student's opinion of the implementation of the ToPhonetics application in pronunciation learning is a positive opinion. Data shows that students like and enjoy the ToPhonetics application to learn pronunciation in English because of the features, usability, content, context, connectivity and mobility in the ToPhonetics application. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the use of the ToPhonetics application helps students in improving pronunciation in learning English. By applying the ToPhonetics application in the teaching and learning process, it can have a special influence on the mastery of the pronunciation of English words, because pronunciation is one of the important aspects of a language. This is in accordance with the application of the ToPhonetics application to the first semester students of class A in English education at UIN Raden Intan Lampung in the academic year 2023/2024 to find out their opinions regarding the application of the ToPhonetics application in learning English pronunciation.

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