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Effectiveness of BUSUU application Improving Speaking Skills Students at The Al-Mahira Islamic International Boarding School

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Article Info

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Correspondence: Phone: +6281938548006 **Abstract:** Appropriate teaching tools, students' proficiency, and students' lack of confidence. These problems occurred at Al-Mahara Islamic International School in Malang. Therefore, through this research, the researcher aims to offer a solution to these problems by applying the Busuu application to improve speaking skills for seventh-grade students at Al-Mahara Islamic International School in Malang. The hypothesis of this study is that the use of the Busuu application to enhance speaking skills is effective. This research employs a quantitative, descriptive, pre-experimental design using pre-test and post-test formats. The research variables include independent and dependent variables. The average pre-test score was 72.60, and the average post-test score was 80.80. Comparing the pre-test and post-test values, the t-value was 4.459, and the significance value (2-tailed) was 0.000, indicating a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test results. The t-value (4.459) exceeded the t-table value (2.093). This indicates that the hypothesis of this research, Ha, is accepted, and Ho is rejected, meaning that the application of the Busuu application is effective in improving speaking skills for seventh-grade students at Al-Mahara Islamic International School in Malang. **Keywords:** *Busuu's Aplicattions, Education, Speech Skill*

INTRODUCTION

Learning Arabic for beginners is a challenge in itself due to the differences in dialects, grammar, and sentence structures that vary across languages. This is a significant task for the language. Students face difficulties in the learning process because some teachers still use traditional methods, which leads to lower motivation among students to learn Arabic.(Taubah & Pasuruan, 2024) There is an urgent need for modern innovations in today's era of technological and informational development in the learning process.(Nafisah, 2022) For example, using mobile technology, especially Android media, which is expected to play a major role in overcoming this issue.(Hasan, Milawati, Darodjat, Khairani, & Tahrim, 2021)

In its implementation, web-based applications such as Arabic language learning media facilitate the learning process for students because they can be accessed anywhere and anytime,(Kelas, Sd, Pematang, & Sinaga, 2023) and various platforms such as Android and computers can be used. Educational media are needed as tools to support learning activities so that they can work effectively.(Moto, 2019) With Android, Arabic language learning can be presented digitally through sound and video. This will create a new face in the learning process,(Paramita, Azizah, & Ahmadi, 2023) making it more interesting and enjoyable.(Hasan et al., 2021)

However, the reality is that many schools and other educational institutions that teach Arabic still do not fully implement technology-based learning.(Muassomah, Halimi, Abdullah, Ismail, & Zahroh, 2023) The Al-Mahara Islamic International Institute in Malang conducts Arabic language studies in both general and religious education during the afternoon. In fact, they often participate in local and national competitions that feature Arabic elements. However, many students still struggle to communicate using the Arabic language.(Shaffiddin, 2007) One factor contributing to this issue is the lack of technology-based learning tools used by teachers in the learning process. (PENDIDIKAN, 2018) Therefore, improvements are needed, especially in learning facilities.

One educational application based on Android that can be used to learn Arabic for beginners is Busuu. Busuu is an application developed to help individuals learn foreign languages, one of which is Arabic. Initially, Busuu was a free website developed as a communication channel for language learning from other countries,(Nabighoh, 2017) targeting students of all ages. Generally, Busuu is designed to be used to discuss languages via computers and Android devices. Currently, access to Busuu for beginner-level classes is still free, but access to intermediate and advanced levels requires payment.



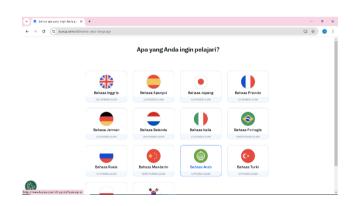
Busuu is a technology-based language learning app that offers a variety of features to help users learn foreign languages easily, quickly, and interactively. Here is a detailed review of this app: Busuu was developed by busuu Limited, a company based in London, England. The company was founded in 2008 by Bernhard Niesner and Adrian Hilti with a vision to bring language learning to everyone through modern technology.

In 2021, Busuu was acquired by global education company Chegg Inc to expand its impact in the world of education. Busuu is a language learning platform that uses a community-based approach and artificial intelligence (AI) technology. The app is designed for different skill levels, from beginner to advanced, with content that complies with CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) standards. In 2021, Busuu was acquired by global education company Chegg Inc to expand its impact in the world of education. Busuu is a language learning platform that uses a community-based approach and artificial intelligence (AI) technology. The app is designed for April 2025, Volume 8, Issue 1, 17-26

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The Visual Display of Busuu includes: (1) Minimalist and Modern Design: Busuu has an intuitive interface with easily accessible icons and menus. (2) Key Features: Tabs are available for courses, progress statistics, and community interaction. (3) Segmented Lessons: Lesson modules are presented in a short format so that users can learn at any time. Busuu provides learning for 14 languages, including:Popular Languages: English, Spanish, French, German, Italian.



Here are some related studies for the research. In other article that Busuu is a language learning application that provides suitable linguistic materials for native speakers. In line with this, Busuu application is used as a tool for learning foreign languages due to its interactive power in learning and mastering foreign languages. Busuu University offers independent education for the Arabic language, which includes planned independent learning and open education. All learning processes are continuously developed, so Busuu can also be referred to as Web-Based Training (WTB) or Web-Based Education (WEB), as it meets the three principles of web-based learning: A) Interaction, B) Dependence, C) Relevance.(Albantani, Islam, Syarif, & Jakarta, 2018)



This research will be very useful for readers or other researchers due to the many differences and uniqueness compared to other studies on Busuu. One of the distinctions is that this research focuses more on students' speaking skills, specifically in Arabic. Additionally, this study will measure the effectiveness of the Busuu application at various levels: elementary, intermediate, and advanced.(I & Iii, 2022) Therefore, the researcher aims to conduct research at Al-Mahara Islamic International Junior High School, covering all stages of junior high school, including seventh, eighth, and ninth grades, under the topic "The Application of Busuu Educational Media in Improving Speaking Skills for Students at Al-Mahara Islamic International Junior High School in Malang."

METHOD

This research is an experimental study, specifically a pre-experimental design. (Fauzan, Aldila Intan Maharani, Nazida Wahyu Dyah Pramesti, & Candra Ar Roziq I Pranoto, 2024) It is referred to as a pre-experimental design because there are still external variables that may influence the formation of the dependent variables. As a result, the experimental outcomes, which are the dependent variables, may not be affected by external variables. This can occur because there are no control variables, and the sample is not selected randomly.(Habibie & Trifitrianto, 2020) This research follows a pre-test and post-test design for a single group.(Habibie & Trifitrianto, 2020) The experimental design involves administering a pre-test before the researcher gives the final test to the research sample group.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Application of Busuu Educational Media to Improve Speaking Skills for Students at Al-Mahara Islamic International School, Malang

This research was conducted using Busuu as an educational model that encouraged students to engage in real-world experiences and reflect on activities they had tried.(Program et al., n.d.) The teaching steps used were based on Kolb's theory, which includes: concrete experience, reflective observation, abstract conceptualization, and active experimentation.(Kolb, 1984) The researcher focused more on the convergent learning styles because they train students in critical thinking and emphasize applied methods to develop speaking skills quickly.

However, there were differences between the steps outlined by Kolb and those applied by the researcher. The intervention prepared by the researcher was indirect; it was sufficient to remind students of previous experiences using Busuu media as reinforcement for their learning. It was not about decision-making or ideation, but rather about providing clear understanding. The students were focused on the theory and its analysis, applying it orally.

In this study, the researcher used the Busuu application as an educational tool to facilitate students' understanding of the knowledge, which would affect their learning outcomes and achievement of learning objectives as outlined in the theory.(Aldakhil & Alfadda, 2022) However, this tool is not for direct presentation or offering opinions on pictures; it simply aims to motivate students, encourage them to learn, and ease their ability to deliver lessons and clarify their knowledge. The educational model used by the researcher is related to this tool, which is presented in a simple and varied format that reflects the learner's personal characteristics and the material.(Soraya Anori, 2013) This makes the transfer of knowledge easier and ensures long-term retention, as students are trained to visualize while learning.

Through the application of experiential learning supported by the Busuu tool, which encourages the development of thinking and linguistic wealth, the goal is to increase proficiency in speaking skills based on Mansour's theory, at least enabling students to convey information others.(Bibliothèque to Apc Hamma_A00488_2019.Pdf, n.d.) Many students successfully answered questions related to topics like "introductions," "the canteen," and "the library" in Arabic.(Winarso, Puspitorini, Indrianna, & Panday, 2021)

The results of applying experiential learning with the Busuu tool indicate that it significantly affects students' learning outcomes, particularly in speaking skills. This was observed by the researcher during the

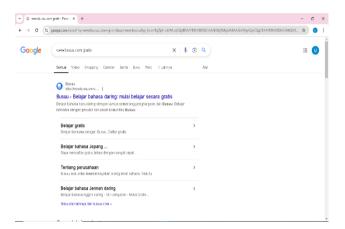
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study. The students enthusiastically participated in the learning activities, and they were able to perform tasks that improved their speaking skills.(Marlius, Bambang, & Wirman, 2021)

Here's how to download and use the Busuu application.

1.Download Busuu app/open Busuu link

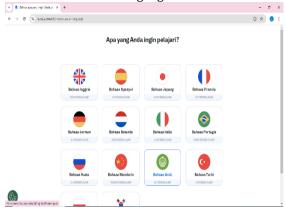
You can download the Busuu app either through the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. But in the application of this teaching facility for seventhsemester students at Al-Mahira International Islamic School, the researcher used a projector to access this program, the researcher opened www. Busuu. com so you can continue learning your language.



2.Choose Free Learning



3.Select the desired language

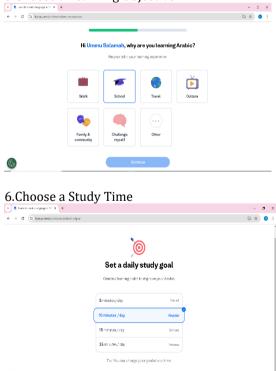


4.Sign in with your Google account

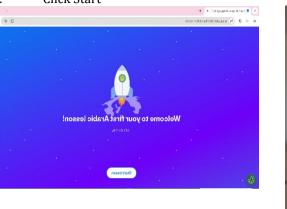
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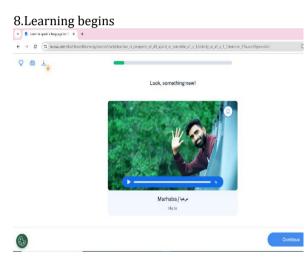
5. Choose a Learning Objective

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The following is the Documentation of Learning Activities with the BUSUU Application.



Effectiveness of Busuu Educational Media in Improving Speaking Skills for Students at Al-Mahara Islamic International School, Malang

In addition to the practical evidence, the researcher also presented statistical evidence, which



was analyzed using the SPSS (26) software,(Latifah A, Herdiansyah, & Romdhona, 2023) as shown in the previous chapter. To measure the effectiveness of applying Busuu in improving speaking skills at Al-Mahara Islamic International School, the researcher used the paired sample t-test. However, before conducting the test, it is necessary to perform a normality test to check if the data from both the pre-test and post-test follow a normal distribution. The paired sample t-test is then used to compare the results of the pre-test and post-test from a single group and to test the hypotheses of this research.

Based on the results of the normality test using Shapiro-Wilk (Test of Normality), it was found that the pre-test had a value of 0.022, and the post-test had a value of 0.051. If the value is < 0.05, the data distribution is non-normal; if the value is > 0.05, the data is normally distributed. Since the pre-test and post-test values were greater than 0.05, the data was considered normally distributed.(Latifah A et al., 2023)

In the analysis using the paired sample t-test, the average result of the post-test (80.80) was greater than the average of the pre-test (72.60). The correlation between the pre-test and post-test values was 0.682, indicating a very strong correlation. The significance value (2-tailed) was 0.000, indicating a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test results, which means that the treatment had an effect on the post-test results. The t-value was 4.459, and the degrees of freedom (df) were 19, while the critical t-value (ttable) was 2.093. Since the t-value (4.459) was greater than the t-table value (2.093), Ha (the alternative hypothesis) is accepted, and Ho (the null hypothesis) is rejected.

In conclusion, based on all the analyzed data, the research hypothesis is accepted, meaning that the application of Busuu educational media is effective in improving speaking skills for students at Al-Mahira Islamic International School, Malang. This confirms previous studies on teaching speaking skills in the context of experiential learning theory, and the application of this model demonstrates that experiential learning is effective for teaching Arabic language speaking skills, as evidenced by the higher post-test scores compared to the pre-test.

CONCLUSION

After completing the research process and data analysis, the researcher concluded that the application of Busuu educational media to improve speaking skills for students at Al-Mahara Islamic International School in Malang was supported by both qualitative and statistical evidence as follows:

Implementation of Busuu Educational Media:

Initial Phase: The process began with a question to assess the students' condition and engage them in the learning process. Teaching Process: The teaching process followed four steps: concrete experience, reflective observation, (Puspitorini, Hamdani, Zulfadhli, Muhendra, & Purwa, 2022) abstract conceptualization, and active experimentation.

Use of Busuu: Busuu was used on the screen to introduce vocabulary and sentence structures, making it easier for students to retain vocabulary and construct sentences.(Agustin, 2023) The educational value of this approach was similar to using interactive educational games, as found in Busuu.

Conclusion: The teaching steps were carefully planned and executed according to the design, with real evidence showing that students were able to improve their speaking skills.

To implement the BUSUU application, the researcher classified the process into three steps: planning, implementation, and evaluation.

In this presentation of the data, the researcher was characterized in detail about the application of educational means Busuu in upgrading the skill of speech for students at Al-Mahira Islamic International Intermediate School Maleng, and the following clarification:

The first meeting, tested and simulation took place on November 1, 2024 from 07.00-07.30 and 7.30-08.30. In the first 30 minutes, the simulation of education focused on the Busuu Means app that students will use in learning. The hour after it is underway. This test is directed at the research samples and these 25 students in the seventh grade of the International Islamic Skilled School Malang. This test is conducted before the application of Busuu's methods to upgrade speech skill to upgrade speech skills, therefore, it is called the pre-test. There is no purpose and no purpose except to know the students' competence on the pre-treatment subject. The results of the data indicated that their proficiency in speech skill was low, and some were unable to assign structure and speak Arabic fluently.

The second meeting, the researcher was treated about the application of Busuu methods to upgrade speech skills. This treatment was held on November 8, 2024 from 07.00-08.00 and was attended by seventh grade students from Mahira International Islamic School Malang.

In the full hour, the researcher focused on applying Busuu's teaching aids to upgrade speech skills. Zahahi stages of your education activities in the first activity opened with peace and supplication in congregation and simple greeting in Arabic. Then read the attendance sheet. Before the education process, I started by asking the condition of the students so that the students felt still and happy when teaching. The teacher explains the results of the pre-test as well as direct answers from Arabic speakers, so that students are motivated in their learning. In the core activity the therapy is conducted through the Busuu educational means app to upgrade speech skills. The treatment was carried out according to the stages of education in the previous theory.

The teacher instructed the pupils to open their Arabic booklets, with this week's lesson titled "Acquaintance", the teacher showed several procurements related to dating on the Busuu app that was already on the projector. The teacher then rotates each relevant outlet so that students can understand and imitate the correct reading of native Arabic speakers. After the students listen to the correct reading of each spread, the teacher asks them what they heard. "What?" he asked, asking what all the metaphors he heard meant. In addition, under the provided modulators, there are also typical sentences of each modulator aimed at enabling students to issue sentences independently. Besides that, the students answer the question found in the means of a community so that he can do it.

After the students get a lot of spreadouts and sentence examples from the Busuu app, the next student is asked to create a group of 2 students in each group. After that, students are asked to cooperate in short conversations related to the topic "In the canteen". Before the students go ahead, the teacher offers a game to add to the feeling of high competition among them. The game is in the form of "partitions, elbows, brushes". After the students are ready to move on, the teacher plays the game. For students who make the wrong move in the game "barrier, elbow, brush", the group must be prepared to move on first. Each group wants to move forward in speaking Arabic with its partners. At the end of the activities, the researcher presented conclusions from the lessons and gave the job so that students could learn and remember lessons at home. Then the teaching concludes with supplication and peace.

One observation in this step is that students enjoy learning. And they get excited when learning. They share the whole process of education with compactness and pleasure and no one is bored in learning. One of the results of the observations during the duration of the research is that the process of education using educational means Busuu motivates students in teaching speech skill. Evidenced by the exceptional enthusiasm of students from the beginning to the end of education, they pay much attention to the researcher's explanation and answer questions aloud and built-in. In addition, students do not feel bored in learning because establishing education in pleasant means means Busuu who helps them to teach vocabulary and structures in it.

The third meeting, the researcher was treated about the application of Busuu's methods to upgrade speech skills. This treatment was held on November 15, 2024 from 07.00-08.00 which was attended by students of the seventh grade of the International Islamic Skilled School Malang.

In the full hour, the application focused Busuu teaching aids to upgrade speech skill. Here are the stages of education activities in the first activity opened with peace, supplication in congregation and simple greeting in Arabic. Then read the attendance sheet. Before the education process, I started by asking the condition of the students so that the students felt still and happy when teaching. The teacher asks the past education about the topic of "acquaintance", so that students remember their past learning. In the core activity the therapy is conducted through the Busuu educational means app to upgrade speech skills. The treatment was carried out according to the stages of education in the previous theory.

The teacher instructed the pupils to open their Arabic booklets, with this week's lesson titled "In the Canteen", the teacher displayed several library-related spreadouts on the Busuu app that was already on the projector. The teacher then rotates each relevant outlet so that students can understand and imitate the correct reading of native Arabic speakers. After the students listen to the correct reading of each spread, the teacher asks them what they heard. "What?" he asked, asking what all the metaphors he heard meant. In addition, under the provided modulators, there are also typical sentences of each modulator aimed at enabling students to issue sentences independently. Besides that, the students answer the question found in the means of a community so that he can do it.

After the students get a lot of spreadouts and sentence examples from the Busuu app, the next student is asked to create a group of 2 students in each group. After that, students are asked to cooperate in long conversations related to the topic "in the canteen". Before the students go ahead, the teacher offers a game to add to the feeling of high discussion between them. The game is shaped like "above,below". After the students are ready to move on, the teacher plays the game. For students who make the wrong move in the "up, down" game, the group must be prepared to move on first. Each group wants to move forward in speaking Arabic with its partners. At the end of the activities, the researcher presented conclusions from the lessons and gave the job so that students could learn and remember lessons at home. Then the teaching concludes with supplication and peace.

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The fourth meeting, the researcher was treated about the application of Busuu's methods to upgrade speech skills. This treatment was held on November 22, 2024 from 07.00-08.00 which was attended by students of the seventh grade of the International Islamic Skilled School Malang.

In the full hour, the application focused Busuu teaching aids to upgrade speech skill. Here are the stages of education activities in the first activity opened with peace, supplication in congregation and simple greeting in Arabic. Then read the attendance sheet. Before the education process, I started by asking the condition of the students so that the students felt still and happy when teaching. The teacher asks the past education about the topic of the "canteen", so that the students remember their past learning. In the core activity the therapy is conducted through the Busuu educational means app to upgrade speech skills. The treatment was carried out according to the stages of education in the previous theory.

The teacher instructed the students to open their Arabic booklets, with this week's lesson titled "In the Library", the teacher showed several library-related spreads on the Busuu app that was already on the projector. The teacher then rotates each relevant outlet so that students can understand and imitate the correct reading of native Arabic speakers. After the students listen to the correct reading of each spread, the teacher asks them what they heard. "What?" he asked, asking what all the metaphors he heard meant. In addition, under the provided modulators, there are also typical sentences of each modulator aimed at enabling students to issue sentences independently. Besides that, the students answer the question found in the means of a community so that he can do it.

After the students get a lot of spreadouts and sentence examples from the Busuu app, the next student is asked to create a group of 2 students in each group. After that, students are asked to cooperate in long conversations related to the topic "in the library". Before the students go ahead, the teacher offers a game to add to the feeling of high discussion between them. The game is in the form of "right, left". After the students are ready to move on, the teacher plays the game. For students who make the wrong move in the "left, right" game, the group must be ready to move on first. Each group wants to move forward in speaking Arabic with its partners. At the end of the activities, the researcher presented conclusions from the lessons and gave the job so that students could learn and remember lessons at home. Then the teaching concludes with supplication and peace.

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The fifth meeting, the test took place on November 29, 2024. From 07.00-08.00 am. This test is for research samples, and these are seventh grade students at Mahira Islamic International School Malang. But 5 students did not participate in this test due to the patient and absent. This test was carried out after the application of education by Busuu means to upgrade speech skills, and this test was called the post-test. The aim of this test is to find out the effectiveness of the application of Busuu teaching aids to upgrade speech skill. The results of the data showed that the presence of improvement after treatment is evidenced that students are able to assign the correct structure and train wholesale speech and simple conversation with friends in the classroom or abroad.

The data analysis/Result :

1.Normality Test

The normal-state test aims to determine the distribution of data for all two tests, whether before the test or after the test, usually distributed or not.

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Tests of Normality

	Kolm	ogorov-Smir	nov ^a	Shapiro-Wilk					
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.			
Pretest	.255	20	.001	.886	20	.022			
Postest	.202	20	.032	.905	20	.051			

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Based on the normal distribution testing standards, if the obtained value is <0.05, the data is not normally distributed. However, if the obtained value is >0.05, the data is normally distributed. The results of the data analysis from the pre-test are 0.022 and from the post-test are 0.051, and since the result is greater than 0.05, the data is normally distributed.

2.Sample T test

After declaring the data normal, then analyze the data with a T-test. Based on the results of the Paired Sample T Test in the table:

Paired Samples Statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Pretest BUSSU	72.60	20	9.730	2.176
	Postest BUSSU	80.80	20	10.768	2.408

In the double sample statistical table, it is indicated that the average value of the pre-test is 72.60 and the average value of the post-test is 80.80, which means that the average value of the post-test is greater than the average value of the pre-test.

Paired Samples Correlations

				Significance		
		N	Correlation	One-Sided p	Two-Sided p	
Pair 1	Pretest BUSSU & Postest BUSSU	20	.682	<.001	<.001	

In the table the paired sample correlations table indicates that the pre-test and post-test value have a correlation value of 0.682 with a very strong category.

	Paired Samples Test									
	Paired Differences Significance									cance
				95% Confidence Interval of the Difference						
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Lower	Upper	t	df	One-Sided p	Two-Sided p
Pair 1	Pretest BUSSU - Postest BUSSU	-8.200	8.224	1.839	-12.049	-4.351	-4.459	19	<.001	<.001

The paired sample test table shows that the mean score difference between the post-test and pre-test is 8.200, with a sig (2-tailed) value of 0.000, indicating a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test. The pre-test is an oral exercise before the treatment, while the post-test is an oral exercise after the treatment. Additionally, this indicates a significant effect of the treatment difference on each test. The result of the thitung value from the previous table is 4.459, and the df value is 19, so the ttabel value is 2.093.

The research hypothesis is accepted if the thitung value is greater than the ttabel value, meaning that the application of the Busuu teaching method is effective in improving the speaking skills of seventh-grade students at Ma'hirah Islamic International School, Malang. Conversely, the research hypothesis is rejected if the thitung value is smaller than the ttabel value, meaning that the application of the Busuu teaching method is not effective in improving the speaking skills of seventhgrade students at Ma'hirah Islamic International School, Malang.

From the measurement of the pre- and post-test, it was indicated that thitung 4.459 is greater than ttabel 2.093, so the result of the research hypotheses is acceptable and Ha is returned. In the sense that the application of Busuu teaching aids is effective to upgrade the speech skill of seventh grade students at Al-Mahira International Islamic School Malang.

In addition to the factual evidence, the researcher clarified the statistical guide as it was analyzed using the computer statistics device (SPSS) which the researcher presented in the previous chapter. To measure the effectiveness of the application of Busuu methods to upgrade speech skill at the International Islamic Skilled School of Malang, the researcher used the Pared Sample T Tes. But before that, it is necessary to perform the normal state test and the conditions are met from the Paired Sample T Test.

The normal state test to determine the distribution of data in both tests, whether the pre-test and the post-test, are usually distributed or not. And the Paired Sample T Test to compare the result of the rate of the pre- and post-test from one group and to test the hypotheses of this research.

Based on the Shapiro Wilk (Test of Nomality) test results showing the previous Shapiro Wilk (Test of Nomality) test that the pre-test is 0.022 and the posttest is 0.051 and if a value of < 0.05 is obtained, the data is distributed abnormally, but if a value of > 0.05 is obtained, the data is distributed normally. It indicated that the result of the pre- and post-test is greater than 0005, so the data was distributed normally.

In the analysis of the Paired Sample Test, it was indicated that the rate of the result of the post-test 80.80 is greater than the rate of the result of the pretest 72.60 and the correlation between the values of the pre- and post-test was 682 with a very strong category and the result is -tailed 2 semantic, which indicates a large difference between the results of the pre- and post-test, which means that the treatment has affected the results of the post-test. The result of thitung4.459 and the result of df is 19 so the result of ttabel is 2.093. From the measurement of the pre- and post-test, it is indicated that the thitung is greater than the ttabel so that Ha is acceptable and Ho is returned.

The conclusion from all the data analyzed is the acceptable research hypotheses i.e. the application of Busuu means effective to upgrade the speech skills of students at Mahira International Islamic School Maling. Confirming the previous study, it has also researched the teaching of speech skill in the light of the theory of experimental education and its employment in preparing its teaching model in application, which is an explanation that the experimental education procedure is effective for the use in teaching Arabic language for the subject of speech skill according to a little statistically that the rate of the post-test is greater than the pre-test.

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