

ENGLISHSPEAK.COM AS MEDIA FOR TEACHING PRONUNCIATION OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstrak

Artikel ini berisi tentang media pembelajaran bahasa Inggris melalui E-Learning. Media ini merupakan solusi untuk siswa SMP dalam melatih pengucapan bahasa Inggris mereka. *Englishspeak.com* adalah situs baru yang gratis yang dapat membuat belajar bahasa Inggris mudah dan menyenangkan. Situs ini menyediakan ribuan file audio yang berisi frasa-frasa dan dialog-dialog yang paling umum digunakan dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Audio dalam rekaman ini berisi tentang rekaman suara penutur asli yang dapat membantu mereka melatih pengucapan bahasa Inggris mereka.

Key Words: Pronunciation, Englishspeak.com, Junior High School Students.

A. Introduction

There are many important things to know in learning to speak English. Besides vocabulary and grammar, one key to success in learning to speak a foreign language is having good pronunciation (Bailey in Nunan, 2003:48). Many junior high school students who had trouble learning to speak in the past believe incorrectly that they are not good at learning English. They also think that English is a difficult language to be learned. In reality, most English course materials at junior high schools just give little attention to teach pronunciation. Most schools use conversation recording of native speakers' sounds only when the students are in examination. In addition, most students learn and practice the pronunciation from the teacher, not from the native speaker.

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In fact, pronunciation have impact of the people's individual and social life. Such as (Carter&Nunan, 2009:56) says that pronunciation plays a central role in both of personal and social lives: as individuals, people project their identity through the way they speak, and also indicate the membership of particular communities.

Junior high school students need to be provided with interesting speaking materials, meaningful activities, and chances of independent speaking and pronunciation learning. They need to learn how to pronounce words correctly and easily. The use of computer and internet in education has increased significantly during the last few years. Most schools already have IT equipped rooms (multimedia room). It can use by the teacher and students to practice English pronunciation by using website as a media of E-learning.

Based on (Khan, 2005:3) Electronic Learning or E-learning can be viewed as an innovative approach for delivering well design, learner-centerd, interactive, and facilitated learning environment to anyone, anyplace, anytime, by using various digital technologies along with other forms of learning materials suited for open, flexible, and distributed learning environment. It means that Electronic learning provide some interesting materials that makes the students and everyone can learn independently anytime and anywhre they need. Besides E-learning extends the boundaries of learning, so that learning can occur in the classroom, from home and in the work place (Relan & Gillani, 1997:12). It is a flexible form of education, because it creates options for learners in terms of where and when they can laern (Krauth, 1998: 25). A well designed E-learning course allows learners become actively involved in their learning processes.

Based on (Bokhari, 2009:28) Electronic Learning (E-Learning) is a type of education where the medium of instruction is computer technology. It is any learning using technological such as the Internet or software programs installed on a personal computer, as well as technology that can help with the delivery of information. In this case, electronic learning (E-Learning) is a variety of education where the medium of instruction is Computer Based Trainings.

There are many electronic learning to help teachers develop media in teaching such as the web in the Internet, audio/video tape, and interactive TV. E-Learning not only covers content and instructional methods delivered via CD-ROM, the Internet or an Intranet but also includes audio- and videotape, satellite broadcast and interactive TV. E- Learning is about using relevant technologies as part of a suite of approaches to provide the best and most appropriate ways of supporting learners' engagement and achievement.

Media of learning is one of important factor instead of the purpose, materials, methods and evaluation in learning process. Media is the thing which is used to send messages from sender to receiver to motivate attention's student (Fedorov, 2003:2). Teaching process can run well because media can give motivation to the students on learning activities. It is supported by (Harsono,

2002:24) states media that teacher use and learning resources are supporting instruments in teaching process.

In addition, there are five categories of media that can be used by teachers in English learning process (Department of National Education 2005):

- a. Visual: pictures, sketches, illustrations, patterns, charts, paintings, travel brochures, tables, and etc.
- b. Audio (music, words, sounds, and sound effects): records, tapes, radio, stories, poetry and drama, musical instruments, an oral report.
- c. Audio-visual: images, motion, television, puppet (stick, gloves, string), dramatization, role play, LCD, computer, etc.
- d. Tactile: specimens, object of things, exhibits, models, sculptured figures, live and stuffed animals, experiments, toys, puppet shows, courtyard, etc.
- e. Virtual: Internet, website, email, audio-video streaming, chat, messaging, audio-video conferencing, e-newsgroups, Cyber News, etc.

From several kinds of media above, process of media's selection is important because the media will increase the meaningful learning in the class.

Based on some theories stated above, it can be concluded that media is supporting instruments in teaching process which is used to send messages from teacher to students to motivate and create students' attention. A creative and new media is usually more interesting for students such as using internet.

Englishspeak.com is a kind of website of E-Learning media for help the students improve their pronunciation. There are some reasons to use this web to improve students' pronunciation in speaking English such as Englishspeak.com provides huge amount of audio contents. It also has the normal and slow playback speeds. Besides Englishspeak.com also has the analysis features of pronunciation, literal translation, meaning, and characters. In addition, 2500 common vocabulary and phrase items can be accessed freely. Students just need a little explanation from the teacher and then using it in IT room and also outside of the classroom. It will help student to learn independently and improve their pronunciation by using this web creatively.

B. Discussion

1. Preparation

In the preparation stage, the teacher prepares everything related to the media as mentioned below:

1. The teacher makes sure that IT room is ready to used.
2. The teacher checks the electricity is on or off.
3. The teacher chooses the lesson in the web that related to the material that will be taught.

2. Teaching Procedure

Below is one of model of applying Englishspeak.com in teaching pronunciation. The material chosen is greeting in speaking class. The procedure

of teaching consists of three stages. They are pre- teaching, whilst- teaching, and post teaching stages.

1. Pre Teaching

The beginning of the teaching process is called pre-teaching stage. It's usually about five to ten minutes. The teacher starts the lesson in the classroom. The activity involved in this stage are praying, greeting, and checking the student's attendant list. Then, it is continued to check the student's readiness for the lesson. The teacher makes sure that the board is clean, the classroom is clean, no garbage on the floor, students is on their seats, and the sitting arrangement is steady.

The teacher may also do apperception and motivation in this stage. Apperception means the activity which emphasizes to recall what the students have learned in the previous meeting.

2. Whilst Teaching

The second process is whilst-teaching stage. In this stage, the process of the learning is aimed to reach Basic Competence which is done interactively, joyfully, challengingly, and motivationally.

Whilst teaching activity is the main activity in which the lesson begins to be introduced, delivered and practiced during the class. This may be done for about 70 minutes. This stage is divided into three parts; exploration, elaboration and confirmation:

a. Exploration

The teacher assesses students' background knowledge of a topic. For example the lesson is about greeting. So the teacher ask one of students to activate their background knowledge about what they will learn.

b. Elaboration

1. First of all, teacher asks the students to take their own seat in front of the computers in the IT room (Multimedia Room).
2. Then the teacher shows the students model of the web and recommended the students to click www.englishspeak.com on their computer.
3. After that teacher introduces and then explains to the students what is Englishspeak.com and how to use the program. The explanation as follow:

Englishspeak.com is a kind of website that can be used as a media of E-learning. Englishspeak.com provide thousand of audio recording from native speaker to helps the students improve their pronunciation and speaking ability that can be used in the classroom and also outside of the classroom.

There are some components of Englishspeak.com:

1. Home
2. 100 lessons

In this part, we will find 100 lessons of conversation. The conversations divided into three levels. Level 1, 2, and 3. The students just need to click one of these part to come to the conversation.

For example:

The lesson is about greeting. Students just need to click the lesson “where are you from”. Then it will shows the conversation as follow:

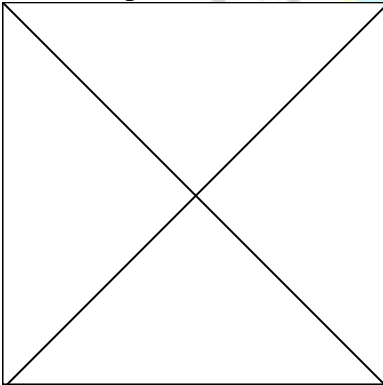
[List of Lessons](#) | [Next Lesson](#)

Lesson 1 - Where are you from?

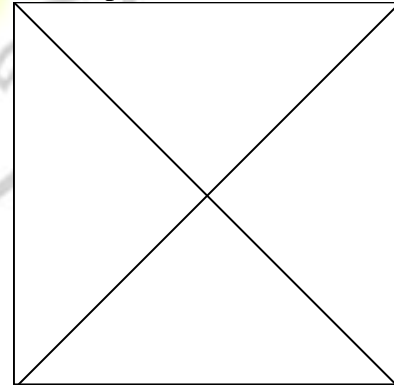
Each lesson/dialog comes from a common daily situation. To hear a sentence pronounced, click the sound icon in the audio column. To hear a word pronounced, place the cursor over a word. To see the meaning of a word, click on the word.

Conversation

Normal Speed:



Slow Speed:



Conversation Sentences

Name:

English

Audio (Slow) Audio (Normal)

<u>James</u> : <u>Hello.</u>		
<u>Lisa</u> : <u>Hi.</u>		
<u>James</u> : <u>How are you?</u>		
<u>Lisa</u> : <u>I'm good. How are you?</u>		
<u>James</u> : <u>Good. Do you speak English?</u>		
<u>Lisa</u> : <u>A little. Are you American?</u>		
<u>James</u> : <u>Yes.</u>		
<u>Lisa</u> : <u>Where are you from?</u>		
<u>James</u> : <u>I'm from California.</u>		
<u>Lisa</u> : <u>Nice to meet you.</u>		
<u>James</u> : <u>Nice to meet you too.</u>		

c. Confirmation

In this stage, after the students do their pair work to repeat the conversation that the teacher give as an example (where are you from?) from the web before, the teacher ask one of the pairs randomly to perform the conversation in front of the classroom. If they wrong, the teacher will help them to correct it.

After the students perform their pair conversation, teacher discuss with the students the difficult words they write before.

3. Post Teaching

In the last section of the meeting, the teacher and students conclude the lesson. The teacher re-emphasizes again lesson they just learned. Then teacher explain to the students that they can acces Englishspeak.com outside of the classroom and improve their pronunciation by learning independently. They can continue to the next lesson or level and choose their own material on 100 lessons page for improving their pronunciation ability if their pronunciation getting better.

3. The Advantages of Using Englishspeak.com for the Students

There are some advantages that students can get by using Englishspeak.com:

1. Students learn spoken English by using the real daily conversation examples of native speakers' sounds and also English common phrases and words by using this web. Students provided with hundred of English lessons, 1000 of most common English phrases and 1500 of most common English words.
2. Students can access englishspeak.com freely inside of the IT room of the school and also outside of the classroom, besides they can using the program easily with teacher's tutorial, or without teacher's tutorial. Because it is not difficult to be used.
3. The students can improve their pronunciation ability by playing the conversation as many as they need until they can pronounce the word correctly.
4. Students can find the meaning the difficult word of the conversation in Mariam Webster's dictionary only by click the word.

C. Conclusions and Suggestions

Based on previous discussion on chapter III, it can be concluded that teaching pronunciation to junior high students is not an easy thing. Most of the English lesson at the school just give a little attention to the teaching pronunciation. So that it needs a new media to help the teacher to teach pronunciation to Junior High School students. Englishspeak.com is one of E-Learning media that can be used in improving students' pronunciation. It provide thousand of audio recording from native speaker. It is include 100 lessons and examples of conversation, 1000 of common English phrases and 1500 of most common English words that used by the native speakers in daily conversation.

There are some steps that the teacher should do before teach the peronunciation by using Englishspeak.com. The first one is preparation. It includes:

1. The teacher makes sure that IT room is ready to used.
2. The teacher checks the electricity is on or off.
3. The teacher chooses the lesson in the web that related to the material that will be taught.

The second step is teaching procedures:

There are three stages in teaching procedures. The first one is pre teaching, whilst teaching and post teaching. In pre teaching stage, the teacher starts the lesson in the classroom. The activity involved in this stage are praying, greeting, and checking the students' attentent list. The teacher may also do apperception and motivation in this stage.

The second one is whilst teaching. In this stage is the perocess of learning is done. It involved exploration, elaboration and confirmation. In exploration teacher assesses students' background knowledge of a topic. Then in elaboration stage the teacher has to bring the students first to the IT room (multimedia room) then explain how to use the Englishspeak.com to the students. After that teacher should suggest the students to acces Englishspeak.com and repeated the sound in the web. Next, teacher ask the students to practice the conversation in a pair and repaeted the sounds until they can pronounce the word coorectly. Teacher also ask the students to write the difficul word and find the meaning of the difficult word on Meriam Webster's dictionary by click the word. Then disscuss the word together.

There are some suggestions for the teacher :

1. Englishspeak.com provides many materials for parctice pronunciationTeacher should be creative to inform and explain what is in this website. If it is used in the classroom, teacher has to choose the material and example in the lesson that appropriately for the students and match with the students' lerning material.
2. Teacher should also suggest the students to used this web outside of the classroom, because it helps the students in learning independent and improve their own pronunciation ability outside of the classroom.
3. Not all of the Junior high schools have the IT room, So that students can access the Englishspeak.com by using their personal computer at home, or access it through the internet cafe in their environment.

Note: this article was written based on the writer's paper with advisor Dr. Zul Amri, M.Ed.

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