

## “STUDENTS’ PERCEPTION OF LEARNING VOCABULARY THROUGH DUOLINGO APPLICATION: THE CASE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL IN BANYUWANGI”

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**How to Cite:** Hana (2024). Students’ Perception Of Learning Vocabulary Through Duolingo Application: The Case Of Secondary School In Banyuwangi doi: 10.36526/js.v3i2.4134

Received: 23-07-2024

Revised : 05-09-2024

Accepted: 09-10-2024

**Keywords:**

Students’ Perceptions,  
 Duolingo Application,  
 Vocabulary

**Abstract**

Duolingo is an interesting English learning application and solution if you want to learn English vocabulary independently. And this is a gamification application, which means users can learn English by playing games because this application uses audio visuals when learning. The aim of this research are to determine the perception of foreign language English (EFL) in using the Duolingo application in vocabulary learning, and to provide students experience and motivation when interacting with Duolingo. This research design uses a qualitative research design with a descriptive analysis approach. Participants in this research were 21 students in class XII A of Madrasah Aliyah Nahdatul Wathan for the 2024/2025 academic year. To collect research data, questionnaires and interviews were conduct 10 students. When conducting observations at schools, researchers found obstacles, namely a lack of interest and motivation when learning English and they had never previously studied English through applications. Based on this situation, researchers used the Duolingo application as a learning medium that students can use to develop a diverse English vocabulary. The research results show that using the Duolingo application in class XII A can give them opportunity to learn English in a fun way and provide a unique experience when learning vocabulary through the Duolingo application. Most students give positive perceptions when learning vocabulary through the Duolingo application.

**INTRODUCTION**

English has important role in learning in Indonesia, the first important role is English used for education. Second, Mastering English at work can increase your confidence during presentations. Third, English plays a role in technology. English is often used in scientific publications. According to (Putra 2020) stated that, English is excellent stimulus for students to learn English as a foreign language in addition learning English also makes it easier in work world to adopt to the environment and work in the present future also make it easier to understand technology so we can continue education to a higher level easily. This is the reason everybody needs to get a familiar with the language to connect on a international level. So, English must remain in the learning curriculum in Indonesia. In learning a language, one of the linguistic or linguistic components that must students master is vocabulary.

Vocabulary acquisition plays an important role in mastering a language. This is supported by, (Elyas and Alfaki 2014) vocabulary is more important than grammar because people generally us vocabulary and reduce grammar, especially when conveying messages quickly, as during panic

situations or when they are emotional or just responding to messages in social media. Based on this statement it can be said that vocabulary has been recognized as a major area of language knowledge. Great English learners are required to have a good vocabulary because vocabulary is the basis of the English language and the task is very important. Without knowing the parts of vocabulary, a language learner will have difficulty reading, conveying, writing, or understanding a foreign language. If vocabulary teaching techniques are not taught provide correctly and interestingly, students will have difficulty understanding the vocabulary.

After conducting observations at school, researchers discovered many facts that many students were not interested in learning English, especially when learning vocabulary, their motivation for learning English is very low. Because when the researcher asked the English teacher there, many of the students when the teacher was teaching were less interested, they tended to play alone, crowded in class, and they paid little attention when the teacher taught in front of the class They think that learning English vocabulary is very boring and difficult. They tend to get a bored when learning English without using a technology. And the only technology that has been used in schools there are videos about learning English. According to (Boy Jon et al. 2021) stated that, some students are rarely motivated to learn English because of difficulties, moreover the students motivation needs to be developed that challenges for the teachers to interest the students to engage in the teaching. To overcome this problem, several ways are needed to teach English vocabulary so that their motivation to learn English vocabulary can develop.

From the problem above, there are several ways in practicing English vocabulary so that their motivation to learn English vocabulary can increase or develop. One of them is using smartphones as a media that can help students develop vocabulary. Especially in this modern Era. Based on (Twum 2017) ) said that, smartphones had numerous benefits to support learning in and out of class. Smartphone make learning process fun and creative and can increase innovation in learning process. And teachers should have fun approaches for teaching vocabulary to their students in class to attract student interest in learning. Therefore, researchers utilize the use of smartphones to learn vocabulary through the Duolingo application.

Duolingo application is a free online language learning tool that students can use to play and learn English who created by Luis Von Ahn and Severin Hacker in 2012 from Cambridge Mellon University to learn Various languages, especially English. Which can be operated on a cellphone, PC, or computer (Anisa Dwi Tiara, M. Arinal Rahman 2021). Researches use the Duolingo application to learn English vocabulary more easily, creatively, and have fun while in class also Duolingo application can be installed via smartphone. In this application, we can learn English from a really basic level to fluent. With this application can overcome the problem of boredom learning English vocabulary. According to, (Ajisoko 2020) Duolingo application eliminates boredom from studying in class, many students are motivated to learn, more skilled because student interest in learning increases, and facilitate them to remember and practice teaching materials in their daily life.

In connection with the findings above, aims to explore the perception of secondary school in Indonesia regarding the Duolingo application in developing their vocabulary. The role of applications for students and teachers in learning English vocabulary has been developed to increase students' vocabulary so that they are more motivated to learn in a fun way.

### **Literature Review**

Researcher included several previous studies to see the similarities and differences in this research. It is hoped that previous research can provide an overview for researcher conducting research. Some of these studies include:

Research entitled "Exploring Undergraduate Students' Perception Toward the Use of Duolingo in Learning English". Which was research by (Inayah, Yusuf, and Fibula 2020) In this research, the researcher found that there was a positively perceive that Duolingo is a useful and helpful application. It brings motivational benefits for the students in learning language skills. They can seek more knowledge about language in their hands.

In another study entitled "The Use of Duolingo Apps to Improve English Vocabulary Learning" which research by (Ajisoko 2020) the result from questionnaire revealed positive responses from learners. The students were more skillful, motivated in learning because interest of learning increases, easy to understand, eliminate boredom, and facilitate students in remembering also practice the material in daily life.

For further research entitled "The Effect of Duolingo Application on Students' English Vocabulary Mastery". Which research by (Aulia, Wahjuningsih, and Andayani 2020) The result showed a significant difference between students who use Duolingo application and who didn't with the value of significance (0.017) which was less than 0.05 and the mean score of the experimental group (80.69) was higher than the mean score of the control group (80.78). this demonstrates that using Duolingo application has a significant effect on students' vocabulary mastery.

The last research entitled "Students' Perception on Using Duolingo for Learning English Vocabulary" which research by (Anton Adi Purwanto and Syafryadin 2023) According to the findings of the study, Duolingo is positive and extremely helpful for enhancing vocabulary during learning English.

### **Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is one of the language aspects which should be learn. It is a important aspect which must considered in learning language. Vocabulary is a basic element because people can speak, write, and listen. People have to know vocabulary first. It means that a mastering vocabulary is very important to understand the meaning of vocabulary and how to use vocabulary in context. According to (Tawali 2018) vocabulary is useful for students' to communicate in daily life and mastery the vocabulary would help the students in mastery all language skill.

### **Students Perception**

According to (Walgito, 2004) Perception is a process that is preceded by a sensing process or can also be called a process that is influenced by a stimulus by an individual through the sense organs [sensory process]. Then the stimulus is a confirmed and the next process is the perception process.

### **Duolingo**

Duolingo is a free mobile application and the most popular in the category of education in Google play and the founder comes from Cambridge Mellon University to learn various languages especially English (Anisa Dwi Tiara, M. Arinal Rahman 2021). This application can be operated on a cellphone, computer, and PC

### **METHOD**

Considering the purpose of this research was to know students' perception of using Duolingo Application in learning vocabulary, therefore researcher used a qualitative design and descriptive analysis approach of this research. The understanding of the research question as an idealistic of humanistic perspective is the main goal of this qualitative study. Understanding people's views, experiences, attitudes, behavior, and interactions is accomplished through the use of qualitative approaches, which also yield non-numerical data.

The data collection that use in this research are questionnaire and interview.

Questionnaire that using closed questionnaire and gives to all students of class XII A as participants 21 students. The interview that used to structure interview that gives to 10 student Madrasah Aliyah Nahdatul

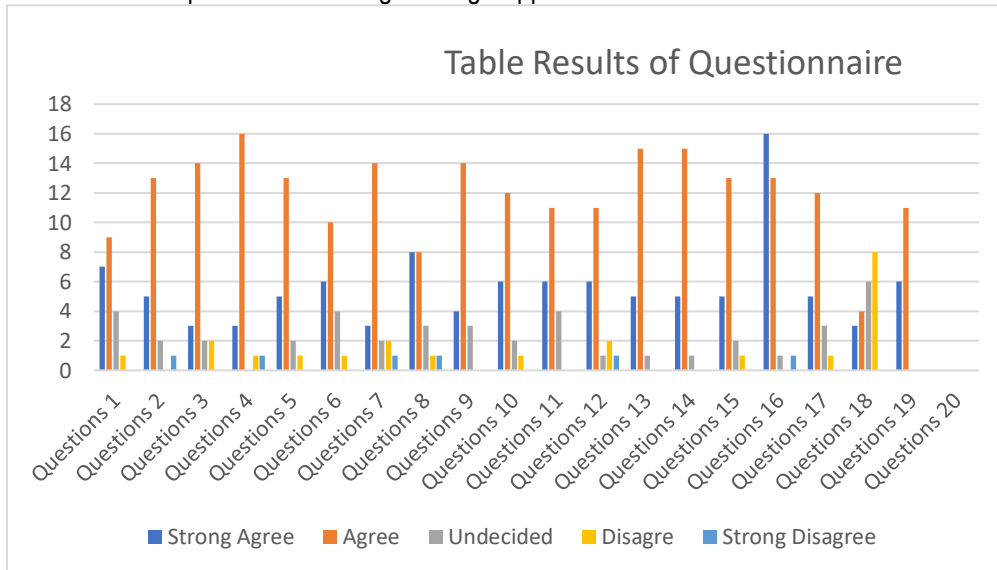
Wathan class XII A as participants regarding their perception of Duolingo Application. This research would be conducted in Madrasah Aliyah Nahdatul Wathan which is located in Jl. Raya Licin, Kec. Glagah, Banyuwangi, East Java 68432.

Triangulation technique is chosen as data validity test technique. Triangulation was a technique that combines various data collection technique. Data triangulation is a useful technique for increasing the validity, reliability, and credibility of qualitative research. By using variety of sources, method, and theories to collect and analyze the data, researchers can also gain a more comprehensive understanding of their research. According to (Baxter, Susan Jack, and Jack 2008) stated that triangulation of data sources, theories, methods, and researchers is a powerful strategy that will support research objectives, namely phenomena that are investigating and view from various perspectives. The triangulation technique is appropriate for this research since include both source data (Students of class XII A) and different data (Questionnaire and Interview). Triangulation is useful for this research because it may be use to compare the result of the questionnaire and the interview, and combining the results of data collections technique to get a data become valid.

**FINDINGS**

The participants in this research are 21 students. 21 students were given a questionnaire via Google form and choose 10 students to conduct offline interviews at school. Questionnaire and interviews were use to determine the percentage of students' perception of learning vocabulary through Duolingo application.

When the researcher asked students to sign in to Duolingo For School, so the researcher would know about their improvement in using Duolingo Application. From the results of the first meeting when



students used Duolingo, it was found that out of 21 students, the correct XP gain was 13 XP up to 100 XP only, and then in the second meeting the researcher would do quiz like in the first meeting to know their improvement in using Duolingo. Then, in the end of meeting it increased to 100 XP to 700 XP. researcher finds out the Duolingo can be increase their vocabulary by using Duolingo application. Based on table results of questionnaire, questionnaire data presented in the form above of tables and graphs, several important things can be seen: There are 20 question in the questionnaire given to respondents. For each questions, there are 5 response categories: Strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, and strongly disagree. The grapes shows the distribution of respondents answer for each questions based

on these 5 response categories. The grapes provides visual information that makes it easy to analyze pattern and trends in respondents answer. There is significance variation among the questions. Further analysis can be done to identify questions that have high polarization (many respondents at the extremes of agree and disagree) or questions that received neutral response (many respondents in the undecided category). The data can be used to evaluate respondents perception of the topic measure in the questionnaire and identify areas that need further attention.

The questionnaire findings above were also supported by statements from interview results: Q (Question) / P (Participant)

Question	Participants' Responses	Main Insights
Q1	Fun and enjoyable for studying vocabulary	Duolingo makes learning English enjoyable
Q2	Improves vocabulary knowledge	Effective for expanding vocabulary
Q3	Easy to use, helps in remembering vocabulary	User-friendly and supportive for learning
Q4	Increases vocabulary mastery	Positive impact on vocabulary acquisition
Q5	Increases motivation for learning	Boosts enthusiasm and motivation
Q6	Fun aspects and challenging	Engaging features like riddles and challenges
Q7	Internet requirement, frustrating tasks	Some issues with internet dependence and task frustration
Q8	Support for continued use in the classroom	Advocated for future use due to its fun nature
Q9	Requires internet connection	Not accessible offline
Q10	Effective but needs internet	Valuable tool with some limitations

## DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the questionnaire analysis, the table shows the percentage. Frequency of students response. A combined total of 76.2% of respondents agree or strongly agree that learning English with Duolingo is simple. This high percentage reflects the effectiveness of Duolingo's user-friendly design and straightforward approach to vocabulary learning. The results support findings from previous studies which indicate that ease of use is a crucial factor in the effectiveness of educational technologies. To maintain this positive perception, it is important that Duolingo continues to ensure that its design remains accessible and easy to navigate for new users.

A total of 85.7% of respondents agree or strongly agree that it is easy to learn English vocabulary with Duolingo. This indicates that users find the app effective for vocabulary acquisition, which aligns with research that supports the effectiveness of apps that use structured learning approaches.

The effectiveness of Duolingo in teaching vocabulary can be attributed to its use of spaced repetition and varied exercises, which are proven methods for vocabulary retention. The high level of agreement suggests that Duolingo's approach to vocabulary learning is generally successful, but there remains a small percentage of users who are less convinced. Addressing the concerns of these users could further enhance the app's effectiveness.

81% of respondents agree or strongly agree that Duolingo allows for learning English anywhere and at any time. This reflects the flexibility and convenience offered by the app, which is a significant advantage of digital learning tools. The flexibility of Duolingo is a major strength, allowing learners to

integrate English practice into their daily routines. To enhance this feature, Duolingo could consider developing offline capabilities or features that support.

90.5% of respondents agree or strongly agree that Duolingo's questions feature intriguing English vocabulary. This indicates that the app is successful in providing engaging content that captures users' interest. Duolingo's ability to feature intriguing vocabulary likely contributes to its effectiveness as a learning tool. Engaging content is essential for maintaining user interest and motivation, which are critical for successful language learning. Continued innovation.

85.7% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the English questions on Duolingo are simple to comprehend. This supports the idea that Duolingo presents vocabulary learning in a clear and understandable manner. The clarity of Duolingo's questions is a key factor in its effectiveness as a learning tool. Ensuring that questions are straightforward and comprehensible helps users engage with the material and achieve learning goals. Continuous feedback from users can help.

74.2% of respondents agree or strongly agree that Duolingo makes learning English enjoyable. This reflects the app's success in creating a positive and engaging learning experience. The enjoyment factor is crucial for maintaining motivation in language learning. Duolingo's engaging features, such as rewards and interactive exercises, contribute to this enjoyment. Ongoing development should focus on enhancing these features to sustain user interest and motivation.

81% of respondents agree or strongly agree that Duolingo is incredibly helpful for classroom learning. This indicates that the app is perceived as a valuable educational tool in the classroom setting. Duolingo's usefulness in classroom settings is supported by its ability to provide structured and engaging learning activities. To further enhance its role in the classroom, educators could explore ways to integrate Duolingo with other teaching methods and activities.

A significant portion of users (76.2%) agree that Duolingo is hard to use without an internet connection, indicating a notable limitation of the app for users with unreliable internet access, then majority of respondents (85.7%) agree that Duolingo makes it easy for them to learn English vocabulary, reflecting a positive perception of the app's effectiveness for this purpose.

Most respondents (85.7%) find Duolingo useful for understanding English vocabulary, which aligns with the high ratings of the app's effectiveness in teaching vocabulary. Users generally agree (81%) that Duolingo helps them be more active in their learning process, indicating that the app engages users effectively. A strong majority (90.5%) feel more motivated to learn using Duolingo, suggesting that the app successfully increases learner motivation.

A large percentage (95.2%) believe that Duolingo helps them memorize new vocabulary, and similarly, Question 14 shows that 95.2% feel they understand the materials more deeply through Duolingo. A majority (85.7%) believe that Duolingo helps them apply their English skills in everyday life, highlighting the practical benefits of the app. Most respondents (81%) agree that Duolingo allows them to learn English vocabulary at home, which is a significant advantage for users who prefer or need to study from home. A majority (81%) find the images presented in Duolingo interesting, suggesting that the visual elements of the app contribute positively to the learning experience.

While 33.3% find learning English vocabulary through Duolingo boring, the majority either disagree (38.1%) or are neutral, indicating that boredom is not a predominant issue for most users. Only 24.8% feel that Duolingo makes it difficult to learn English vocabulary, with most respondents not finding it a significant challenge.

The questionnaire results reveal that Duolingo is generally well-regarded by users for its simplicity, effectiveness in vocabulary learning, and ability to make learning enjoyable. The app's flexibility and engaging content contribute to its success as a language learning tool, and it is perceived as highly beneficial for both individual and classroom learning.

Based on the interview responses, researchers can organize and analyze participants' views on the use of the Duolingo application in the classroom. Here are the details of the interview results along with interpretations and insights:

Many of the students at MA Nahdatul Wathan when I am interviewed about the use of the application in Duolingo in class. Most of the students there agreed that the use of the Duolingo application made them happy when learning vocabulary in class, then there was one more student who said that the use of the Duolingo application was very fun. Then they also said that the Duolingo application can increase English vocabulary and because of this Participants consistently described Duolingo as a fun and enjoyable tool for learning English vocabulary. Both Participant 1 and Participant 2 emphasized that the app makes vocabulary study engaging and enjoyable. This aligns with previous research indicating that gamified learning platforms can enhance students' learning experiences by making education more interactive and appealing Duolingo application they can find out new vocabulary that they didn't know before.

Participants that I interviewed before stated that they believe that Duolingo significantly aids in vocabulary acquisition. Participant 9 and Participant 7 noted that the application helps them learn new words and reinforce existing knowledge. Participants found Duolingo easy to use and helpful for learning vocabulary. Both Participant 4 and Participant 6 appreciated the app's simplicity and its role in reinforcing vocabulary.

The user-friendly interface and straightforward tasks of Duolingo contribute to its effectiveness as a learning tool. The app's design is intuitive, which helps the students in learning English vocabulary. participants find Duolingo to be an enjoyable and engaging tool for vocabulary learning. The emphasis is on the fun aspect of using the application during class, which contributes positively to their learning experience. Participants believe that Duolingo is effective for vocabulary improvement. They appreciate that it introduces new words and helps expand their vocabulary knowledge.

Participants find Duolingo user-friendly and supportive in remembering vocabulary. The straightforward tasks and interface are seen as beneficial for their learning process. Participants feel that Duolingo has helped them increase their English vocabulary. The abundance of vocabulary exercises is highlighted as a key factor in their improvement. The application has a positive impact on students' motivation. The engaging vocabulary tasks are particularly noted as factors that boost their enthusiasm for learning.

Participants appreciate the fun aspects of Duolingo, such as riddles, as well as the challenge it presents, which encourages them to study harder. While some participants have no complaints, others find certain features, like the speaking tasks, frustrating when they don't work as expected. Participants support the continued use of Duolingo in the classroom for its fun and effective approach to learning English. The need for an internet connection is a limitation that participants acknowledge, though it doesn't seem to overshadow the positive aspects of the app. Participants recognize the value of Duolingo in helping them remember vocabulary but note that the requirement for internet access is a downside.

the majority of students showed positive statements. This conclusion drawn based on analysis of the frequency of their responses to each category of statement in questionnaire. Based on pervious research, Duolingo is a helpful application. Duolingo really help them increased their vocabulary skill because majority of students give a positives feedback that Duolingo has a great effect on their English vocabulary.

Based on the interview analysis, all participants give a positive perception about using Duolingo Application. They stated that Duolingo very useful for increasing English Vocabulary, Duolingo was very interesting to use because the app is fun and many interesting task.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the result and discussion, it can be conclude that the effective media in learning vocabulary through Duolingo. The students it to be quite intriguing, as seen by their favorable impression of the Duolingo Application. With Duolingo, learning English vocabulary is simple and accessible from anywhere at any time, making it easier for students to comprehend and acquire English vocabulary. Duolingo is user friendly and allows students to active learn English vocabulary.

They are motivated to learn English vocabulary based on questionnaire and interview. When learning, Duolingo inspires and motivates. By utilizing this application at home, they may effortlessly learn vocabulary in English, which improves their comprehension of the subject matter.

On the other hand, the majority of users negative opinions indicated that Duolingo is still difficult to use without an internet connection. Overall, it can be concluded that Duolingo can help students to increase their English vocabulary and also motivate them to learn English Vocabulary.

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