

"The role of mobile apps like Duolingo and Babel in teaching speaking skills to young learners"

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Speaking is one of the skill that learners must develop when studying language. Also vocabulary is necessary in order to speak as a native. With the aim of enhancing it there are several approaches, techniques and factors that help to be easy. One of them modern technologies, namely Internet-based apps are considered as a helpful tools. It means that we may gain access to this updated environment, we might learn new language by contemporary technology. Nowadays, mobile applications have revolutionized language education, especially for young learners. For example: Apps like Duolingo and Babel are more beneficial and gamified approach to learn. They have significant influence on developing speaking skills.

In an increasingly globalized world, having ability to communicate effectively in several languages has become an vital skill for success, especially personal. By advancing digital technology, it leads to the lessons be more entertaining and engaging. Among these platforms, like Babel and Duolingo which are wide-spread among language learners have gained significant popularity. These language apps provide with engagement and effectiveness as well as focus on all skills, reading, writing, listening with speaking. This article explores how these apps are important for young learners. By analyzing their methodologies, features, we might know their effectiveness in fostering speaking skill while utilizing.

Pedagogical Purpose of Language Apps

Both Duoling and Babbel are aimed to use a gamification adaptive learning to teach languages. Although, these methods are vital, teaching speaking can create challenges while learning. According to Dr. Paul Nation (2007), "Speaking is an output-based skill that requires practice in real communicative contexts, not just recognition or recall" [3;1-4]. So, the best way is not only read someone's words, but also practice in real life is the most necessary.

In Duolingo, there is a special part that is based on "Speaking". In it, several exercises are given which require users to pronounce words, take academic, daily, topic-based vocabulary, receive feedback and comments via speech. In Babbel, the usage is introducing various dialogues that simulate real-life scenarios, additionally vocabularies and short stories.

While Duolingo's AI-driven feedback system encourages learners to vocalize phrases, researchers like Dr. Emma O'Donnell (2020) emphasize that "current speech recognition systems lack the nuance to correct prosody, intonation, and contextually inappropriate expressions" [4;50-53].

Babbel, by contrast, incorporates contextual speaking exercises where learners simulate real-world conversations. These scenarios help learners apply vocabulary and grammar in spoken form, though they still lack the unpredictability of human interaction.

Accessibility and Flexibility

Another advantage is their accessibility. Unlike traditional language classes, these apps are available anytime and anywhere. With this benefit, it is more fruitful for young people who can integrate language practice into their daily life. In addition, there is motivation in them. Like, if you do everything on time, you can get rewards, bonus and great feedback from teachers even peers. So these elements enhance students' motivation. As Professor Lison Detroz from the University of Liege States (2014), "Engagement is critical in language learning, especially for young learners. Apps that make learning feel like play can sustain interest and reduce the anxiety often associated with speaking in a foreign language" [1;57-63].

The role of parental and teacher support

Unfortunately, parents disagree with the usage of mobile phones while learning language. However, for youngs, adult guidance remains crucial. Research by Ortega and Iberri-Shea(2005) emphasizes that "Language apps are most effective when supplemented by interaction with parents or teachers who can provide corrective feedback and foster authentic conversation" [5;30-34]. It means that, in utilizing apps, parents and teachers are responsible for children. Sometimes they should give their comments and sometimes they do not forget their advice.

Limitations

Although we can see more benefits, language-learning apps have limitations. For instance, the absence of face-to-face conversational feedback and real-time interaction restricts their ability to improve speaking fluency. Furthermore both of them can not provide with real teachers who are always together. However with the help of Artificial Intelligence and virtual reality into the platforms can create opportunity to learn. By interacting with peers, speaking with partners can be more effective.

In conclusion, mobile language apps like Duolingo and Babbel are regarded as a language tools by making it more engaging and comfortable for young learners. While they offer valuable tools for developing speaking skill, they learn also with the help of traditional methods. Their true potential lies in their ability to complement traditional methods, providing a foundation for oral proficiency that can be enhanced through guided practice and real-world application. As technology continues to evolve, these apps hold promise for transforming language education further. However, as Professor Stephen Krashen(1985) reminds us, "Language learning thrives on meaningful communication. No app, however advanced, can replace the richness of human interaction" [2;3-30]. Balancing technological innovation with traditional pedagogical principles will be key to nurturing a generation confident, multilingual speakers.

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