

## ABSTRACT

**Sari, Risa Dinda, 2024.** *The Use of Text-to-Speech Software in Natural Reader Application to Improve Students' Pronunciation (A Pre-Experimental Research At Grade 9B of SMP PGRI 1 Ajibarang in the Academic Year of 2023/2024).* Thesis. Supervisor 1: Erna Wardani, S.Pd., M.Hum., Supevisor 2: Slamet Riyadi, S.S M.Pd., Chief External Examiner: Drs. Ashari, M.Pd., External Examiner: Mustasyfa Thabib Kariadi, S.Pd., M.Pd., Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, Jenderal Soedirman University, Faculty of Humanities, Language Education Department, English Education Study Program, Purwokerto.

This research has aimed to improve students' pronunciation skills using Natural Reader Application. This research used a pre-experimental design with a quantitative approach involving 23 samples of students from SMP PGRI 1 Ajibarang. This research instruments were pre-test consisting of 11 words to pronounce and post-test consisting 10 words to pronounce.

The results of this research showed that students' pronunciation skills after using Natural Reader Application improved up to 11.3% from the mean of pre-test score 36.2 to the mean of post-test score 77.3. Furthermore, the results of significance values was  $0.002 < 0.05$ , it means that the students' pronunciation skills using Natural Reader Application significantly improved. It can be said that, the Alternative Hypothesis was accepted and the Null Hypothesis is rejected.

The use of Natural Reader Application for students' pronunciation skills was fairly effective. It can be seen from the gain value calculation. The data obtained showed that the gain score was 0.58 from the mean pre-test score that was 36.2 and mean post-test score was 77.3, and it is included in the medium category of gain score was  $0.7 \geq \text{gain } 0.3$ .

Based on the research result above, the use of Natural Reader Application improved students' pronunciation skills at Grade 9 of SMP PGRI 1 Ajibarang, and the use of Natural Reader Application fairly effective for students' pronunciation skills at Grade 9 of SMP PGRI 1 Ajibarang. The researcher suggested that English teachers should use Natural Reader Application in teaching-learning process, especially in pronunciation skills. The researcher also suggest that the student should have more practice in pronunciation skills to improve their abilities.

**Keywords:** *Natural Reader Application, Pronunciation skills, Text-to-speech.*

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Penelitian ini menggunakan desain Pre-experimental dengan pendekatan kuantitatif yang melibatkan 23 sampel siswa SMP PGRI 1 Ajibarang. Instrumen penelitian berupa pre-test yang terdiri dari 11 soal dan post-test terdiri dari 10 soal.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa keterampilan pengucapan siswa setelah menggunakan aplikasi Natural Reader meningkat hingga 11.3% dari skor rata-rata pre-test 36.2 menjadi skor rata-rata post-test 77.3. Selanjutnya, hasil nilai signifikansi adalah  $0,002 < 0,05$ , artinya keterampilan pengucapan siswa menggunakan aplikasi Natural Reader meningkat secara signifikan. Dengan kata lain Hipotesis Alternatif diterima dan Hipotesis Null ditolak.

Penggunaan aplikasi Natural Reader dalam keterampilan pengucapan siswa cukup efektif. Hal ini dapat dilihat dari perhitungan nilai gain. Dari data yang diperoleh menunjukkan bahwa gain score adalah 0.58 dari skor rata-rata pre-test 36.2 dan skor rata-rata post-test 77.3 dan termasuk dalam kategori sedang gain score yaitu  $0.7 \geq \text{gain } 0.3$ .

Berdasarkan hasil penelitian di atas, penggunaan aplikasi Natural Reader dapat meningkatkan keterampilan pengucapan siswa di kelas 9 SMP PGRI 1 Ajibarang, dan penggunaan aplikasi Natural Reader cukup efektif untuk keterampilan pengucapan siswa pada kelas 9 SMP PGRI 1 Ajibarang. Selanjutnya, peneliti menyarankan agar guru bahasa Inggris menggunakan aplikasi Natural Reader untuk proses belajar-mengajar, terutama dalam keterampilan berbicara dengan pengucapan yang benar. Peneliti juga menyarankan agar siswa lebih banyak berlatih dalam keterampilan pengucapan untuk meningkatkan kemampuan mereka.

**Kata kunci:** *Aplikasi Natural Reader, Keterampilan Pengucapan, Text-to-speech.*