

THE USE OF HELLO TALK IN IMPROVING WRITING ABILITY

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research are to describe how to use HelloTalk in teaching English and to know from the review whether the use of HelloTalk can improve the students' writing ability. The study applied qualitative research that implemented Library Research Method. The data were collected from scientific writings on the use of HelloTalk in improving writing ability between 2019 and 2024. The findings indicate that HelloTalk can significantly improve students' writing ability by fostering collaboration, creativity, real-time interaction, out-of-class practice, grammar and vocabulary reinforcement, and personalized feedback. HelloTalk is a valuable tool for teachers to enhance English language teaching and promote students' writing development. Teachers are encouraged to integrate HelloTalk into their English language curriculum to leverage its various features and benefits for improving students' writing skills. Further research could explore the long-term effects of HelloTalk on writing proficiency and investigate its potential in different educational contexts.

Keywords: HelloTalk; Writing; Ability

INTRODUCTION

In the ever-evolving domain of language education, technological advancements have become indispensable instruments for enriching language learning experiences. As societies become increasingly interconnected and globalized, the significance of effective communication across diverse languages is progressively acknowledged. Written communication, a cornerstone of language proficiency, is essential for academic success, professional advancement, and personal expression.

Traditionally, language learning methods have often centered on classroom instruction and textbook-based exercises, offering limited avenues for authentic language use and interaction. However, the advent of language learning applications has revolutionized how individuals acquire and practice language skills. One such application that has garnered considerable popularity is HelloTalk.

HelloTalk, a mobile language exchange application, is meticulously designed to connect language learners globally. It provides a platform for users to engage in real-time conversations with native speakers of their target language, fostering an immersive and interactive language learning environment. While HelloTalk is frequently lauded for its spoken language practice features, a growing body of library research suggests its potential impact on written communication skills. Studies have investigated the app's effectiveness in vocabulary acquisition (Chen, 2023) and oral proficiency (Indonesian EFL Students' Perception, 2023). Additionally, emerging research indicates that HelloTalk's text-based interactions and exposure to authentic written language may contribute to the enhancement of writing skills (e.g., Lee, 2022; Kim & Park, 2021).

Within the realm of language learning, modern smartphones present a versatile platform for accessing an array of applications that augment the language acquisition process. As Cavus and Ibrahim (2009) noted, mobile learning enables "The acquisition or modification of knowledge or skills through the use of mobile technology." HelloTalk, as a language exchange application, aligns seamlessly with this definition by serving as a communication tool and an instructional practice tool. Learners can leverage HelloTalk to send messages, exchange written feedback, and engage in text-based conversations with native speakers. The application is readily accessible through the App Store for iOS and the Google Play Store for Android smartphones.

HelloTalk, as a language exchange application, offers a unique conduit for accessing real-life written texts not explicitly crafted for educational purposes, aligning with the definition of authentic materials as "real-life texts, not written for pedagogical purposes" (Wallace in Berardo, 2006, p. 61). The application broadens the sources of authentic written materials by allowing students to engage in written conversations with native speakers, exchange messages, and

explore diverse written content within the app. This aligns with Geddes' (2004) observation that mobile learning allows students to use language outside the traditional classroom, potentially enhancing their overall proficiency. A review of library research suggests that exposure to authentic written language through applications like hellotalk can positively impact learners' vocabulary development, grammar acquisition, and overall writing fluency (e.g., Huang & li, 2020; Liu & Chu, 2019).

The hellotalk application presents a contemporary solution for language learners seeking authentic written materials and opportunities for written practice. Its features address the limitations of traditional resources, offering a relevant context for English writing skill development. This library research synthesized existing studies and delves into Hellotalk's practical applications in English writing instruction, exploring its potential as a facilitative tool and effective integration strategies. The goal was to furnish educators with insights gleaned from library research to enhance language learning experiences and bolster student proficiency in written communication.

METHOD

In this research, a qualitative research design was employed, specifically the library research method. As defined by Khatibah (2011), library research is a systematic activity undertaken to collect, process, and draw conclusions from data using methods/techniques to address research questions through the exploration of library resources. The purpose of this research design was to explain or analyze the information contained in various secondary sources, such as articles, journals, research findings, and other relevant materials.

The researcher followed Zeid's (2004) approach, utilizing library research to gather data sources such as theses, journals, or articles for analysis within the scope of the research topic. The data were obtained from academic writing, including 5 journals Wibowo (2019) The Effectiveness of HelloTalk App on English Writing Skills, Megawati (2023) The use of HelloTalk Application to Improve Writing Skill in Recount text, Solihin (2023) Enhancing Writing Skills by Using the Project-Based Learning Model Through The HelloTalk Application, Febriani (2023) HelloTalk: An Alternative Media for Improving Writing Skills for Higher Education, Arifida (2024) HelloTalk; An Application to Improve University Students Writing Skills.

The researcher solely utilized data sources for this research, specifically journal articles sourced from the Internet. These articles focused on the application of HelloTalk in the context of English writing, providing a comprehensive overview of existing research, methodologies, and findings related to the topic.

In this research, the content analysis approach was employed to analyze the data. As defined by Marilyn (2006), content analysis is a highly adaptable research method that has been

extensively utilized in library and information science (LIS) studies, accommodating various research goals and objectives. The data analysis was presented descriptively in the following manner :

- 1) Read and analyze the data sources required to find the information.
- 2) Understand the data source quality and critical information.
- 3) Explain the information discovered in the data sources.
- 4) Identify the material and interpretation into their appropriate categories.
- 5) Conclude the explanations of the data sources received

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This library research, conducted in 2024, investigates the role of the HelloTalk language exchange application in improving students' writing abilities and its integration into English language teaching practices. The study focuses on research published within the past five years (2019-2023) to ensure the relevance and timeliness of the findings. HelloTalk significantly improves students' writing abilities through its unique features and interactive learning environment. The app allows learners to connect with native speakers, providing authentic language exposure and opportunities for real-time feedback. This interaction fosters a deeper understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and idiomatic expressions, enhancing the overall quality of their writing. As highlighted in the research by Febriani et al. (2023), HelloTalk's chat feature enables students to practice writing in a conversational context, promoting fluency and natural language use. The app's built-in correction tools and translation features further aid learners in identifying and rectifying errors, leading to continuous improvement in their writing skills.

HelloTalk's integration into teaching practices is facilitated by its user-friendly interface and diverse functionalities. Teachers can create virtual classrooms within the app, assign writing tasks, and monitor students' progress. The app's ability to connect learners with native speakers provides a valuable resource for authentic language practice and cultural exchange. As demonstrated in the study by Solihin et al. (2023), project-based learning activities on HelloTalk, such as the "British Friends" project, can significantly enhance students' engagement and motivation to write in English. Teachers can leverage the app's features to provide personalized feedback, encourage peer collaboration, and create a dynamic learning environment that fosters writing proficiency.

HelloTalk's effectiveness in improving writing skills is attributed to its ability to address various aspects of writing proficiency. The app's focus on interactive communication and real-time feedback helps learners develop fluency and accuracy in their writing. The exposure to native speakers' language use enhances vocabulary and grammar acquisition, while the collaborative

learning environment promotes critical thinking and creativity. As Wibowo and Raihani (2019) noted, HelloTalk's impact on writing skills is not limited to specific text types like descriptive texts but extends to a broader range of writing genres. The app's versatility allows teachers to tailor their instruction to different learning objectives and proficiency levels, making it a valuable tool for diverse educational contexts.

The research findings consistently demonstrate that HelloTalk is a powerful tool for improving students' writing skills. The app's interactive features, authentic language exposure, and collaborative learning environment create a conducive space for learners to practice and refine their writing abilities. Teachers can leverage HelloTalk to design engaging lessons, provide personalized feedback, and foster a love for writing in their students. The app's effectiveness in enhancing vocabulary, grammar, fluency, and overall writing quality is well-documented in the research literature. By integrating HelloTalk into their teaching practices, educators can empower students to become confident and proficient writers in English.

HelloTalk's impact on writing skills is not limited to language learners but also extends to teachers' professional development. The app provides educators with a platform to connect with colleagues, share teaching resources, and learn from best practices in language instruction. As Arifida et al. (2024) suggest, HelloTalk can be used to create a community of practice where teachers can collaborate, exchange ideas, and enhance their pedagogical approaches. The app's ability to facilitate communication and collaboration among educators can lead to improved teaching strategies and ultimately benefit students' learning outcomes.

CONCLUSION

The integration of HelloTalk into educational settings has the potential to revolutionize the way writing is taught and learned. The app's innovative features and user-friendly interface make it accessible to learners of all ages and proficiency levels. By leveraging HelloTalk's capabilities, educators can create a more engaging, interactive, and effective learning experience for their students. The app's focus on authentic communication, real-time feedback, and collaborative learning aligns with modern pedagogical approaches that emphasize student-centeredness and active participation. As technology continues to evolve, HelloTalk serves as a prime example of how digital tools can be harnessed to enhance language learning and empower students to become skilled communicators in the globalized world.

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