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"Promoting Excellence in English Language Teaching through the Improvement of Teacher's Competency Standards"

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Abstract

This research is to report a descriptive research, investigates the use of the six features in Computer Assisted Language Learning Program (CALL) using English Language Learning Instruction Systems (ELLIS) software. The researchers limit the research on the usage of the features in Intro level. This investigation focuses on which most and least features that contributes to students' enhancement in learning English and the reasons. It also investigate which feature that contributes to students' enhancement in learning English and its contribution on how the application of the software to the students' learning results. Then, if there are features that students can suggest to add, in order to benefit their learning. The data is gathered from five classes; 1A, 1B, 1E, 1F and 1I of English Department IKIP PGRI Semarang with the subject Integrated Course.

Keywords: English Language Learners Instructional System (ELLIS) program software, features, learning results, Intro level

Introduction

Many resources for teaching foreign language are available. Instead of using single source such as book and journal, computer has become the prime resource in the recent years. Recently, computer has rapidly used in education, mostly in teaching and learning process. Its advancement has broadly come to the network and internet.

The internet has become the wide source as well as the media for teacher in teaching process. Enabling the internet as the source and teaching media would also enable the learning process outside the classroom. As the teaching media, internet brought teacher to options of some softwares, programs and learning websites. In terms of learning, teacher usually use internet and some programs inside and outside classroom. Internet and communication technology are the most common technology used in learning process. (CALL) Computer Assisted Language Learning is one of the most common programs in teaching and learning English. Companies offered schools and universities of their outstanding product ELLIS Academic Suite 3.3 is one of the CALL program software widely used in Indonesia. This program software is developed by Pearson. The program software provides some features which enable students to learn and practice the language skills. There are videos, dialogues, and text for each of the feature. This research is aim at elaborating the usage of the features in ELLIS Academic Suite 3.3 program software in intro level program during the Integrated Course class and its application toward their learning results.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This research has three research question, in which the researcher will find out the usage of the features in the ELLIS Academic program software
1. Which features that most and least contribute to the students in learning English?
2. How does the application of the program software to the students' learning results?
3. Are there any additional features in intro level suggested by the language learners?

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURES

Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL)

Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) is a field that facilitates language learners to learn a foreign language using computer. Not only computer is required as an aid, but there are also other devices that support the aid, relates to technology; internet connection, software, online course, audio and
CALL perspectives

There are two influential perspectives of CALL. At first, the activity of learning foreign language using CALL relates to Second Language Acquisition (SLA). The tasks and evaluation design in CALL are formed based on SLA. Chapelle (2001), who links the design and evaluation of CALL tasks to a set of principles derived primarily from the research base of the interactionist perspective of second language acquisition (SLA). Secondly, the activity of teaching learning in CALL is the integration of technology in the language teaching. As stated by Bax (2003), who views 'normalization' as the defining direction for the field, a state where technology is fully integrated into language teaching and ceases to be special or unusual, much like the textbook, pen and blackboard of the traditional classroom.

ELLIS Language Program Software

ELLIS is a language software program, in this version of the ELLIS Academic Suite 3.3 is a combination of computer-based ESL/EFL modules that teach core communication skills for non-English speakers. The suite begins at the early beginner level and goes to the more advanced proficiency levels. The ELLIS Academic Suite includes these programs: 1) Basics 2) Intro, 3) Middle Mastery, 4) Senior Mastery, 5) Master Pronunciation, and 6) Placement. ELLIS Basics - ELLIS Basics is a computer-based program that provides instruction in literacy and vocabulary skills that serve as a foundation for communication in English. ELLIS Intro - ELLIS Intro is a computer-based ESL/EFL program that teaches core English survival and communication skills. ELLIS Middle Mastery - ELLIS Middle Mastery is a computer-based ESL program that teaches intermediate-level English communication skills. ELLIS Senior Mastery - ELLIS Senior Mastery is a computer-based ESL program that teaches advanced level English communication skills. Master Pronunciation -Master Pronunciation is a computer-based ESL program that focuses on accent reduction and pronunciation (www.usbem.com).

ELLIS features in Intro level

There are seven features in ELLIS, Intro level. 1) turtle icon = slow audio, used for slowing down the audio sound, 2) film roll icon = line by line audio, used for comprehending the dialogue further line by line, 3) book icon = vocabulary, for checking underlined vocabularies to see the definition of the vocabulary, 4) sheet icon = communication, 5) grammar icon = grammar, for learning further the grammar rule in the dialogue plays in the video.6) globe icon = culture, used for learning the culture further based on the context of the dialogue and 7) mouth icon = pronunciation, used for listening and repeating how to pronounce chosen words in the dialogue.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The purpose of this research is to elaborate the most and least advantages feature for English language learners, as well as finding out the effect of the students' results of the study. The research population is students in the first semester in 2014, in Integrated Course subject. Based on the purpose, this study employs descriptive research. As stated by (Isaac and Michael 1987: 46) the purpose of a descriptive research is to describe systematically the facts and characteristics of a given population of interest, factually and accurately. The subject of the research is semester 1 students and five classes as the sample.

TECHNIQUE OF COLLECTING THE DATA

Steps of data collection technique are;
1. this research uses questionnaire
2. students as the population of this research filled out the questioner online.
3. the total sample were 106 students.
4. the questionnaire consists of 20 questions.

The first seven questions were asking about the students identity such as name, origin and sex. The rest of the questions were about the programs in ELLIS, particularly on ELLIS-Intro and its features.

TECHNIQUE OF ANALYZING THE DATA

This chapter elaborates the result of the questionnaire to answer the research questions. The first research question proposed the
In this situation computer assists language learners to enhance the language learning. General knowledge states by Beatty characterizes: "a definition of CALL that accommodates its changing nature is any process in which a learner uses a computer and, as a result, improves his or her language" (2003: 7).

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TECHNIQUE OF ANALYZING THE DATA
RESEARCH FINDINGS
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The language learners also suggested another feature which is Writing. The next idea of a feature that the language learners suggest is idiomatic expression. They expect that idiomatic expression is important and will be useful for them. Language aspects in learning English is important. Those are the reasons of the language learners elaborate to suggest synonym as one of the added feature in ELLIS-Intro.

CONCLUSION

From the data above it can be concluded that a feature, Mouth= Pronunciation, is the feature that is most contributive to the students learning. Meanwhile, the least contributive feature is book=grammar, because the feature only discusses sentences in the dialogue and there is not discussion on the grammar rules. The feature does not give the language learners space to learn more and practice their understanding in grammar. Regarding to the students practice in ELLIS-Intro for CALL class with their learning result, it shows that students achieve >>>>>>

The language learners also suggest some feature in the ELLIS-Intro such as translation of dialogues, subtitles writing feature and idiomatic expression.

DAFTAR PUSTAKA