

An Innovative Solution to Improve English Conversation Skills in Elementary Schools: Replika Chatbot

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ABSTRACT

Learning English in elementary school is importance. It also highlights the use of Replika chatbot as a technology that facilitates students to practice English conversation with a robot. Chatbot is one of the popular artificial intelligence tools as a way to provide language learning opportunities for students and being able to simulate real-world conversations. This paper presents the result of a study that investigated the use of Replika chatbot to help the students in elementary school to learn English. This study involved 25 students who were divided into two groups: an experimental group that used Replika chatbot and a control group that did not. The results of the study showed that the students in experimental group who used Replika chatbot made significantly greater gain in their English conversation skills than the students in the control group. Replika chatbot can be an effective tool for helping students learn English. The chatbot provides a fun and engaging way for students to practice English conversation. The use of chatbots can be an effective way to support language learning in elementary school. This is a major challenge as it limits the number of students who can use chatbots for language learning. Some parents may be concerned about the potential for their children to be exposed to inappropriate content or to become addicted to their phones. Others may simply not see the value in using chatbots for education.

Keywords: English language learning, chatbot, Replika, elementary school, technology

INTRODUCTION

Learning English at a young learner holds significant importance. Because of that the use of technology in learning is very important nowadays. So as a teacher should find innovative methods to enhance student engagement. One of the artificial intelligence (AI) to facilitate English conversation practice for elementary school is Replika chatbot. The ability of AI to process and analyze data faster and more efficiently than human, this is the main reason why this technology is increasingly in demand and used in various field, including education. Chatbots are popularity as language learning tools, to offer simulated real conversation experience. According to Cao et al. (2019) "Intellegent learning system for speaking practice in an English course" It means that the use of AI-based learning systems has also shown to help students improve their English conversation skills. The integration of AI into English conversation elementary students offering a multitude of benefits that empower learners to achieve their speaking goal effectively. In this article, the writer discuss about an Innovative Solution to Improve English Conversation Skills in Elementary Schools through Replika Chatbot. The writer compares the progress of an experimental group using Replika with a control group receiving traditional English intruction. This is expected can provide students perspectives about the use of technology in learning English conversation.

METHODOLOGY

This research investigated the effectiveness of using Replika chatbot as a tool for improving English conversation skills in elementary school students. Replika is an AI chatbot design to be a virtual companion. It learns and adapts to students conversations, striving to become a friend, through the students interaction, Replika learns the students preferences and conversation style, personalizing its responses to better. The research design is a quasi experimental design with two group was employed.

How the Replika chatbot was used in practice? The writer divided into two group of the sixth grade of students, one group consist of 25 students, which is named experimental group, because they used Replika chatbot for their conversation. And another group, consist of 25 students named control group, they did not use Replika chatbot for their English conversation practice. The students with experimental group make some simple question in English then they type the question in replika chatbot and then noted what is replika responses. The skills and ability the students to continue the question after the replika response will make them confident to express their conversation. So the results are very relevant. For the students with control group, they speak or conversation each other, they give question and noted what the response.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The use of Replika chatbot makes it easy for young learners to practice their conversation. They do not need to be embarrassed and afraid to speak in English because they are not witnessed directly by their teachers and friends. This is very different when they speak directly with their teacher or their friends. Students are also becoming more creative in making questions because the Replika responses is interesting. Shy students become more confident to make questions and give response because they only talk with a Replika chatbot. As a result, Replika chatbot can be a supplementary tool for children learning English, but it shouldn't replace traditional methods like classes or textbooks. Adult supervision is essential to ensure children are learning correct grammar and pronunciation. Some students said that this chatbot is easy to use because they only need type what they want to talk and wait the replika response, and they can continue another question.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the potential of Replika as a valuable tool for promoting English conversation skills in elementary school students. Further research is warranted to explore the long-term benefits of chatbot integration in language learning and to develop strategies for addressing potential limitations. Future research could investigate the effectiveness of Replika across various learning styles and explore different integration strategies within the classroom setting. Additionally, studies could address parental concerns and develop strategies to promote responsible technology use.

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