Use of Duolingo Application for German Learning

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Abstract: In the digital era of technology as it is today, Along with the rapid development of media technology, it is increasingly easier for us to access information, especially in the field of education. It is undeniable that education is affected by technological advances, for example one of the teaching applications that displays several popular languages in the world is the Duolingo application. This Duolingo application can be accessed via the internet via mobile phones for the benefit of learning foreign languages, one of which is German. This application can be made by yourself to support learning activities and can make it easier for us, especially students, to practice these German language skills. The usefulness of the Duolingo application for German language learners will be described in the following presentation: i) Definition of Duolingo application ii) How to use Duolingo application iii) Discussion of the Duolingo application as a medium for learning German iv) The benefits of using the Duolingo application as a medium for learning German v) Duolingo in Learning German as the Ability to Read (Leseverstehen) Speaking (sprechfertigkeit), Listening (Hörverstehen) and Writing (Schreibfertigkeit) vi) Advantages and Weaknesses of Duolingo Application vii) conclusion.

Keywords: Duolingo Application, Learn German

Introduction

With the rapid development of technology like this, it is good that technology can be used optimally for progress in various aspects of life. It is undeniable that education is affected by technological advances, for example, one of the teaching applications featuring several popular languages in the world is the Duolingo Application. Duolingo is available in both web and app versions. Duolingo is a very popular platform for foreign language learners. It is proven in the Google Playstore (an application store for the android system) as of May 1, 2022, Duolingo has been downloaded more than one hundred million times and has received twelve million reviews with a fairly high average review point, which is 4.7 out of a maximum score of 5. In the App Store application (the application store belonging to the Apple company), Duolingo has been reviewed more than nineteen thousand times with an average review point of 4.9 out of a maximum score of 5. Duolingo also ranks 4th in the educational application category. This reflects the interest and large number of users on the Duolingo app.

Learning a foreign language does not become boring and difficult anymore through the internet, there is a lot that can be used and reached, through this Duolingo Application. Duolingo carries the concept of "playing while learning" to make it more fun and easy to use for all ages. Many things become obstacles when you want to learn a foreign language. One of them is learning German, limited time or the absence of practice friends so that the material that has been studied is simply forgotten. As a result, German language skills remain basic and do not advance to the next level. One thing that needs to be considered when looking for skinny online is, there is a partner for practice. And these two things are in the Duolingo Application. This Duolingo application is made very similar to a computer game where users have to pass certain levels. The next game or lesson will be opened if the user has mastered the previous material. Users can complete various types of exercises including multiple choice, writing and also speaking through the microphone.

Therefore, this Duolingo application provides several features to help students, both students and the general public, easily learn German. Users can complete various types of exercises including multiple choice, writing and also speaking through the microphone. With that, this application has accommodated the learning of the four skills to build language skills, especially German.

Definition of Duolingo application

Duolingo application is included in the category of mobile learning where learning utilizes mobile devices (Smartphones). According to Jorge et al. (2015: 51) says that mobile learning refers to a learning process that is supported by the use of wireless mobile device technology with the characteristics of its users being students who do not have to physically meet each other in the same place as in a classroom, instruction room or training place. in study. The student has a mobile device as part of their daily routine.

Duolingo application is a free language learning application created by Luis Von Ahn and Severin Hacker. This application is mobile, besides being available in the web version, Duolingo is also available on several operating systems such as Android, Ios and Windows Phone. This app provides 66 different language courses and is available in 23 languages. Lessons are provided in written and voiced form, there is also speaking practice for more experienced users. There are questions in one chapter that must be completed by users of this application.

The Duolingo application displays material in the form of text, audio and visuals. In the initial process of learning German, the easy material will be filled first with the level of difficulty that will continue to increase. If you have passed some of the subject matter, the user can go to the next level. Duolingo has a neat interface that fits the context. The presentation of each material is easy to understand, concise and attractive. The display is of course made in such a way that the text looks dominant in learning so that users can easily understand and read every word that appears.

How to use Duolingo application

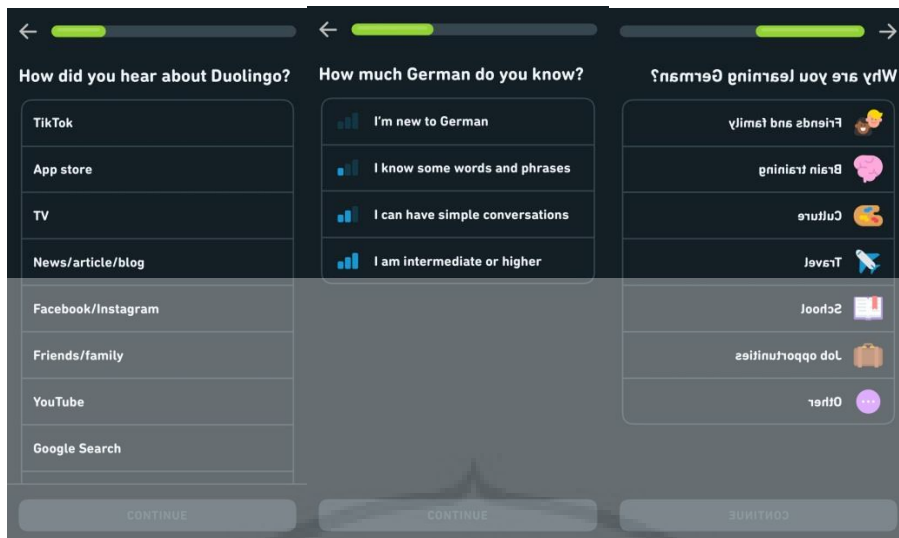1. Download the duolingo app on playstore/app store
If you already have it installed, you can directly create an account or log in if you already have an account
2. Select the foreign language you want to learn, on this page just type 'GERMAN'

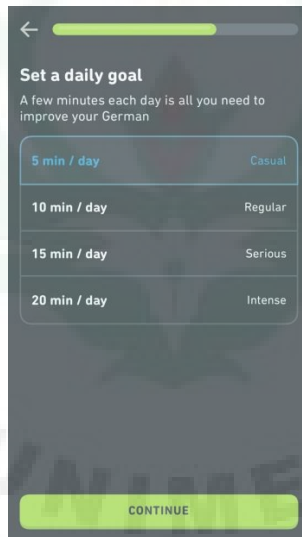Picture 1.1 interaction via dulingo application

3. The next step you will be faced with several questions. what are your reasons for choosing/learning that language, why study that language, etc. this is questionable in order to make it easier for you to learn the foreign language according to the desired goal.

Picture 1.2 interaction via dulingo application

4. Choose a Learning Target

You can choose the length of time you want. There are several time duration options available, ranging from casual, casual, serious, and crazy.
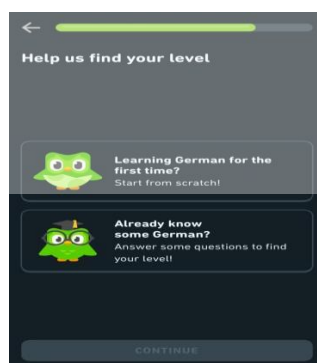

Picture 1.3 interaction via dulingo application
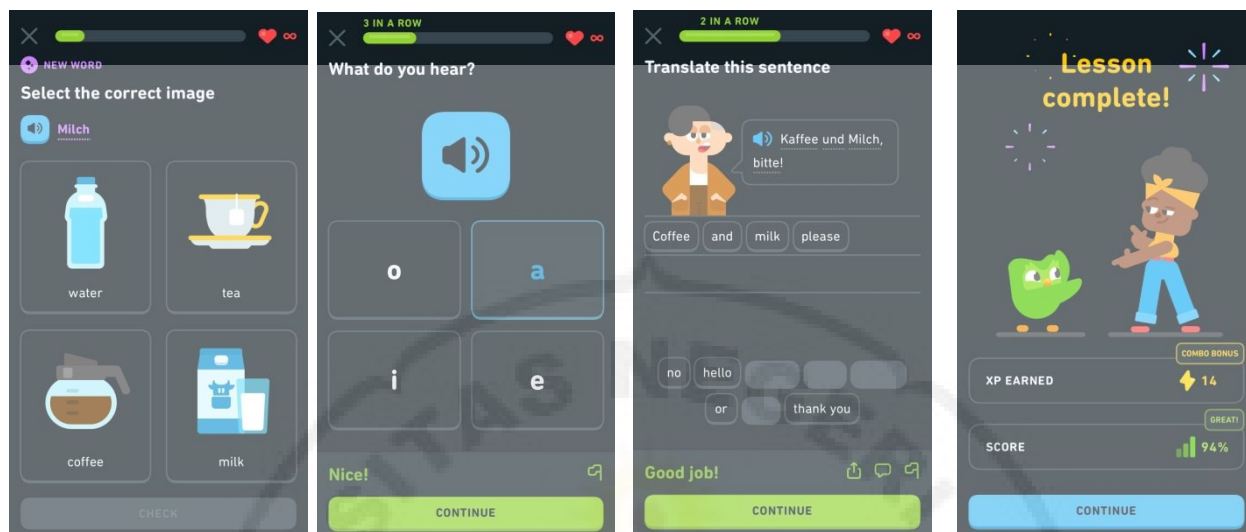
5.Select the starting path

Why is there this choice before starting to learn, because the choice of this path can direct you for those who are beginners or who are already a little fluent in foreign languages.

for those of you who are still beginners in learning a foreign language, it is better to choose the "just started learning". Why? because you will really learn from the basics, so you will not get confused at the time of further material.

Picture 1.4 interaction via dulingo application

6. After you have completed these steps, you can immediately enjoy learning from the duolingo apk. The questions in the tutorial are certainly very interesting, starting from learning to listen, observing pictures, compiling words

Picture 1.5 interaction via dulingo application

Discussion of Duolingo Application as a German Learning Application

At the basic level of German lessons, there are several themes such as family, food, drink and ownership. Each of these themes can be chosen by the user to test their German language skills, if the user chooses family then the questions that will appear are related to family as the theme. The questions that arise are translating sentences, determining the correct pair of sentences, translating the spoken word and pronouncing the written word. The learning presented is very interactive because the user is required to pronounce the correct word or sentence in German according to the material being studied. However, if the user makes a mistake, they will immediately get feedback in the form of the correct answer from the material.

The preparation of sentences in each question is also accompanied by a virtual German voice where users can find out firsthand the correct pronunciation of words in German so that it can help their ability to communicate in German.

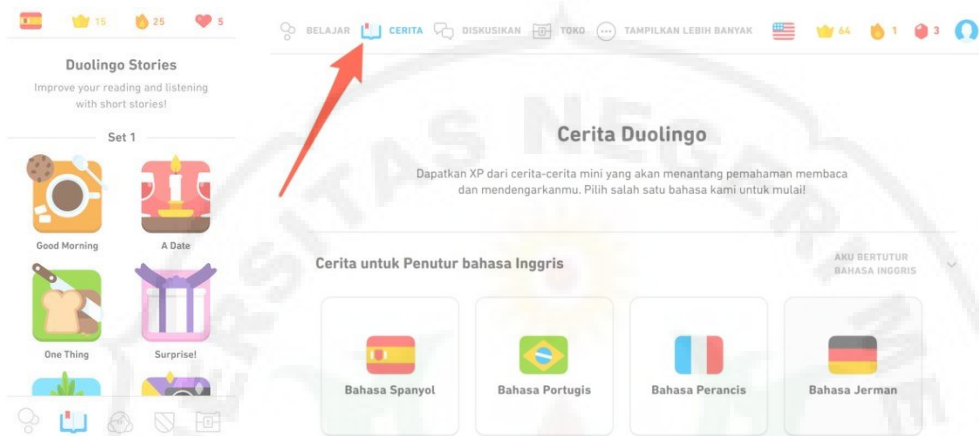**The benefits of using Duolingo application as a medium for learning German**

Learning using the Duolingo application can help make it easier for students to study independently, because it summarizes all the skills needed in learning a foreign language, from written form, voice, to speaking practice. The audio available on Duolingo is found in every question, so this application can help students in listening skills, because as previously stated by the author, listening skills are one of the obstacles experienced.

Researchers use the Duolingo application as a learning medium when applying the Autonomous Learning model. According to (Jaskova, 2014) the Duolingo application has a good learning strategy, because it uses a learning mechanism in the form of a game where the user must pass a certain level, so that it can motivate users in learning. Based on this statement, it is known that Duolingo can motivate students to learn foreign languages. The results showed that students were enthusiastic and interested in using the Duolingo application because of the game's basis. This motivates students to learn German.

Duolingo in Learning German as the Ability to Read (Leseverstehen) Speaking (sprechfertigkeit), Listening (Hörverstehen) and Writing (Schreibfertigkeit)
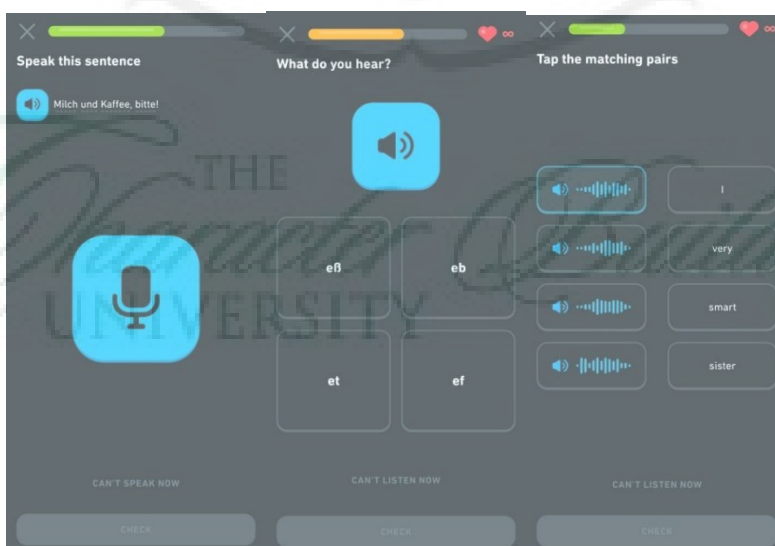
As one of the skills that build one's language skills, reading skills (lessen) are certainly important for German language skills. temenil in Garbe states Lesekompetenz (reading skill) ist, geschriebene Texte zu sich begreifen, zu verwenden, und über sie zu reflektieren, um eigene Ziele

zu erreichen, das eigene Einsicht und Potenzial weicha und am lichenel ben. (Garbe, 2020:6), which can be translated into reading ability is the ability to use, understand, and reflect on written texts with the aim of obtaining information, developing knowledge and individual potential and participating in social learning. In this reading skill Duolingo provides a short stories feature for iPhone users. With this feature, users are able to learn the language better because there are longer sentences. In total there are 100 short stories complete with narration and voice to test reading and listening skills. Previously, this feature was only available on the website. But now Duolingo has added this feature to the iPhone. There are many short story topics to choose from, from biographies, fiction, to well-known fairy tales. When accessing the short story, you will be asked to translate or complete the sentence. After translating or completing the sentence, you will get a certain amount of EXP, just like any other game.

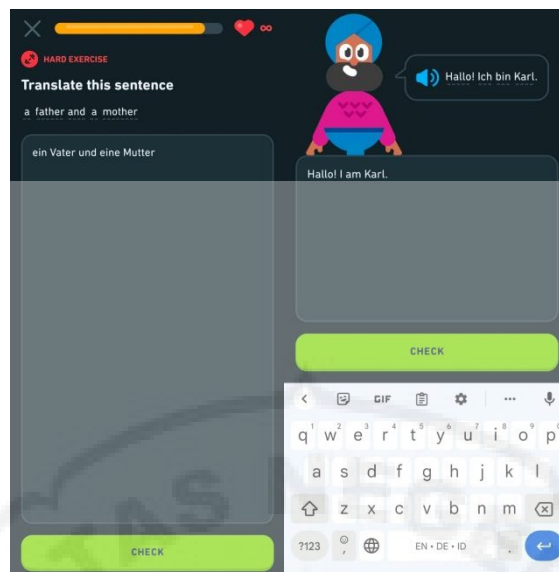Picture 2.1 interaction via dulingo application

HardReset.info: If you want to make your learning on Duolingo more interactive, you can use sound effects in the Duolingo app. This feature helps you practice both speaking (sprechfertigkeit) and listening (Hörverstehen) skills. To practice these skills, give Duolingo permission to access the mic rophone in Google Chrome. Currently, Chrome is the only web browser that allows speech recognition. When you use Duolingo on Google Chrome for the first time, you will be asked to allow Duolingo to use your microphone. You will see the following prompt on the top left, and you will need to select "Allow". That way you will get some testing in one of the tests in this application.

Picture 2.2 interaction via dulingo application

In learning German, students not only learn about vocabulary and the language but also grammar. Therefore, a medium is needed to develop students' writing skills. In learning German, one is faced with a difficulty in writing skills because it has a marked difference with the writing of other languages. However, there is a learning media that feels suitable to overcome these difficulties. The Duolingo application can also solve this problem by providing it in some parts of the test. In the writing section, there is a type of question that requires participants to describe an

image with a predetermined minimum number of words. You can see an example with the following image.

Picture 2.3 interaction via dulingo application

Advantages of Duolingo App

The Duolingo application is cross-platform so it can be used on various operating systems such as Android, iOS, and Windows phone. It can also be used on computer operating systems such as Windows 10 and Mac Os so that users can adjust it to the device they have. Duolingo can be downloaded on application store providers such as the app store and playstore for free so it can be said that there is no cost involved in getting the Duolingo application. Then in terms of appearance, its user-friendly interface and pleasant presentation of material make Duolingo very helpful for someone in learning German.

The Duolingo application is included in the mobile learning category where users can use it anywhere and at any time as long as internet network access is available. This is in line with what was stated by Calimag (2014: 121) that one of the basic considerations for developing mobile-based teaching media is the flexibility in accessing information anytime and anywhere. In terms of effectiveness in learning, the Duolingo application has the potential to provide new learning and experiences because students can be directly involved in learning activities.

According to our experience, the animation provided by this application makes us happy and not bored using the application. And because taking the concept of "learn and play" is increasingly challenging to complete the next mission in order to advance to the next level.

Weaknesses of Duolingo App

Behind the advantages, there must be weaknesses. That is, sometimes the sentences used in the application are still rarely used in communicating in everyday life. So, don't be surprised if you are still a bit confused when using it. Then, the application also still does not provide features to communicate between users. Lastly, the app has a lot of ads. To get rid of these ads, you need to spend money to subscribe to Duolingo Plus.

This Duolingo app so how effective it is depends on yourself as to when to start and end it. The more often we use it, the more trained our language skills will be. According to my experience what we have done, when we first started using Duolingo, there were many answers that we had to answer in standard Indonesian. There are still a lot of sentences and terms in the app that are a bit standardized or clunky, which means they're not often used on a daily basis - it's probably better to look for common everyday phrases on youtube.

This application is also based on English, it is advantageous if we can understand English but it is a pity if we are not fluent in English to use this application. In the English course in this application we can learn in Indonesian, but if we study a foreign language or what we are discussing this time is German we can only learn it in English. In short, English-Indonesian or

English-Indonesian but for German and other languages only German-English and not German-Indonesian.

Conclusion

It is undeniable that education is affected by technological advances, for example one of the teaching applications featuring several popular languages in the world is the Duolingo Application. Users can complete various types of exercises including multiple choice, writing and also speaking through microphones. Globalization in all fields like this is no longer possible. can be avoided.

It can be concluded that the Duolingo application is an application that allows students to determine their own way of learning so that it is easier to understand the material. This Duolingo application can also help listen and add vocabulary and simple sentences in German. Through this Duolingo application, students get good results and positive responses. Therefore, the learning model through this application is stated as an alternative for students to increase learning independence while increasing vocabulary and practicing listening skills in German.

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