

Learn German Vocabulary Through BUSUU Application

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Abstract: The use of media in learning is an effort to improve quality in supporting the learning process and can encourage students to participate in learning activities in a fun way. The Busuu application is an application specifically designed to support web-based learning of German and is also available in the form of a mobile application and is one of the main alternatives that is very accessible for individuals who do not have much free time to learn languages by direct learning. On the Busuu application and website, it offers 4 (four levels) German language learning materials, starting from the Beginner (Anfänger A1), Beginner (elementary A2), intermediate (Mittel B1) and Intermediate (Obere Mittelstufe B2) levels and has 4 competencies in learn German, namely listening skills (Hören), reading skills (Lesen), speaking skills (Sprechen), writing skills (Schreiben). This application is also equipped with a chat feature, so that users in learning German do not only learn from one direction so that users can interact with other users and can more easily learn the language by exchanging materials with other users.

Keywords: Vocabulary, Busuu Application

Introduction

Vocabulary is a collection of words contained in a language, the wealth of speakers or writers, words used in certain fields of science, such as economics, social, education or physics (Rastuti, 2009: 3). Vocabulary is the vocabulary or the number of words in a language (KBBI 2003: 597).

According to Sujianto (1988:1) vocabulary or word structure are: (1) All words in the language; (2) Redundancy of speakers or writers; (3) The terms used in the scientific field; (4) A list of words arranged like a dictionary with concise and practical explanations.

The use of media in learning is an effort to improve the quality and support the learning process. Encourage students to participate in learning activities in a fun way. Very useful in conveying information, helping to simplify the educational process, and enabling teachers to practice the principles of teaching and learning object description (Matra, 2020), can transmit information between (Indrasari, Novita & Megawati, 2018).

The Busuu app was first published in 2007 in Spain by Bernhard Niesner and co-founder Adrian Hilti on the Busuu.com website. At that time, Busuu was only available in the form of a website that offered free language learning services for users who wanted to learn languages in various parts of the world. In this application, the focus of learning is on communication skills. This application is packed with a friendly interface, attractive and user-friendly features.

Initially, Busuu was a free website developed as a communication channel for learning foreign languages for students of all ages. In general, Busuu is designed to be used as a discussion language about computers. The app has a comment box where thousands of comments are posted for site users to correct later, allowing users to quickly spot language errors while studying. In addition, Busuu offers learning in four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing (James, 2011).

Theoretical Framework

Definition of Learning Media

The term media comes from Latin. This is the plural form of 'media' and literally means "intermediary" or "introduction". The general meaning is anything that can send information from information to recipients of information (Hayes, 2017). According to the National Education Association (Nurseto, 2012:20), until now all objects that can be manipulated, seen, heard, read or discussed have been determined along with the facilities used for these activities.

Noehi Nasution (2004: 7) defines learning media according to: (1) Gagne, learning media as part of learning resources from the student environment that can facilitate student learning; (2) Briggs, learning media includes subject matter; physical media, and learning media. (3) according to Wilbur Schramm, learning media is a technology to convey information and learning messages. Yusuf Hadi Miarso: Learning media is anything that can stimulate the teaching and learning process. (Rohman, 2013:156).

The use of media in learning is an effort to improve the quality and support the learning process. Encourage students to participate in learning activities in a fun way. It is very useful in conveying information, helping to simplify the educational process, and enabling teachers to practice the principles of teaching and learning object description (Matra, 2020), being able to transmit information between (Indrasari, Novita & Megawati, 2018).

Types of Mastery of Vocabulary

The types of vocabulary mastery according to Haris in Nurgiyantoro (1995:209) are (a) receptive mastery, which can be interpreted as passive mastery. This means that understanding can only be found in the process of thinking. Receptive language activities include listening and reading. This mastery is also known as the decryption process. (b) productive skills, including speaking and writing skills, also known as coding; It is the process of communicating ideas, thoughts, and feelings through linguistic forms and implies spoken language or mastery of spoken words.

Vocabulary refers to the vocabulary or the richness of the words used. As a benchmark for language proficiency, vocabulary is a measure of the amount of vocabulary used, understanding of the words used, and the accuracy of their use in the context of sentences (Subana, et al, 2000:252). According to another opinion, "a collection of words contained in a language" (Chaer, 2007: 6). Regarding Indonesian vocabulary, the so-called Indonesian vocabulary includes all Indonesian words that are listed in the Indonesian dictionary. Based on this description, we can conclude that vocabulary is a collection of words contained in a language, words that are controlled by a group of people and become a reference to determine the level of knowledge of that person.

Vocabulary Learning Benefits

According to Tarigan 1993:2-3 in Eric Abdulrahman 2010:27 "The quality of a person's language skills clearly depends on the quality and quantity he has. The richer the vocabulary, the higher the possibility of language proficiency he has, so it can be said that the quantity and quality as well as the level and depth of one's vocabulary are the best indicators of personal development. Therefore, those who have a good vocabulary will be able to catch a lot of ideas and can communicate fluently with others.

The benefits of having a good vocabulary are: Jenny Ferdiani, 2012 The Effectiveness of Learning Japanese Vocabulary Using Game Media Domikado, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia |repository.upi.edu. -Improve Language Ability. Improve communication skills.-Using the right vocabulary to express ideas and opinions appropriately.

The Use of Busuu in Learning German Vocabulary

Learning is the process of acquiring or acquiring knowledge about a subject, skill, experience, or instruction learned, Brown (in Pringgawidagda, 2002:21). To learn a foreign language, we must at least try to master a new culture, a new way of thinking, a new element of behavior. Full success in expressing and receiving messages through the medium of a second language requires full physical, intellectual and emotional involvement.

German is the second foreign language learned in high school, after English. This language serves as a means of self-development in the field of communication, selective or commonly called local content that broadens horizons by recognizing achievements in the fields of science, technology, and cultural arts. With language, it will enable a person to express ideas, ideas, and information. Perfect language proficiency means the ability to convey, namely the ability to understand and produce spoken and written text.

In today's era of globalization, they must use electronic media, holding fast to this, all groups, both students and teachers, must be aware of developments in this increasingly sophisticated era (Iswanto, 2017). In the digital age, anything is possible on the Internet. Therefore, it is not surprising that currently there are many applications that can support independent learning needs (Albantani and Madkur, 2017). Initially, Busuu was a free website developed as a communication channel for learning foreign languages for students of all ages. In general, Busuu is designed to be used as a language discussion via computer. The app has a comment box where thousands of comments are posted for site users to correct later, allowing users to quickly spot language errors while studying. Moreover, Busuu offers learning in four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing (James, 2011).

Learning German can now be done alone via the internet (Chusna, 2012). One of them uses the Busuu application, an application that foreign language learning. This application is available and can be downloaded from smartphones running Android and iOS platforms. With this app, students can use it while learning German.

The Busuu application can be a very accessible and excellent alternative for people who don't have much free time to learn languages through hands-on learning. This can also be used as a strategy for educators to learn German specifically, so as to give the impression to educators that they are not inferior to the current information available.

This strategy was also applied to reinforce students' thinking that learning German is more than just using a dictionary. The use of this application also stimulates or increases students' enthusiasm for learning German.

It is time for students to follow supports this very rapid technological development, and educators must take advantage of the available facilities to support their learning. With this application, learning German is no longer difficult, students also don't find learning German boring (Wahyuni, 2017).

Busuu is an application specifically designed to support website-based language learning and is also available in the form of a mobile application. Busuu is managed by a team of language education experts, design teams, and website developers from various countries. On 15 July 2015, McGraw-Hill Education announced that it had acquired the largest stake in Busuu.com for €6 million (approximately \$US\$6.5 million). With such a fantastic price, Busuu is increasingly open to further developments in the future. McGraw-Hill Education is an education company that provides a generally self-contained language learning model. The aim is to assist in achieving the goals to be achieved in technology-assisted foreign language learning. McGraw-Hill Director of Education Mark Doman explained that Busuu's user base is growing every day. Of the 55 million users, two-thirds of Busuu users access the internet via smartphones. This is considered very profitable because the number of Internet users is increasing day by day. Wireless networks are increasingly diverse and gadgets are increasingly diverse and accessible to everyone.

McGraw-Hill Education plans to further develop the website to support 60 languages in different parts of the world. Busuu is supported by a team of native speakers in 12 countries (English, French, German, Arabic, Dutch, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Brazilian, Spanish, Russian, Turkish) so users can learn the language the same way it is spoken. 12 languages provided by this app for free. We have won several language learning provider awards including the BETT Innovator Award, the Tech Crunch Europe Award and the Best Educational Startup in Europe by EdTech Europe. This achievement is proof that this application is worthy of being

used as a student friend and needs a deeper introduction not only to users but also to educational technology development companies in Indonesia (Huda, 2017).

In an article, Teddy Nee (2014) describes Busuu as a self-study foreign language learning application that provides language materials from native speakers. In line with Khoirul Huda (2017), he stated that the Busuu application was used as a medium for learning foreign languages because of its interactive power in learning and acquiring foreign languages.

Learn German with the Busuu app supports 4 different German language skills. The four language skills which include listening skills (Hören), reading skills (Lesen), speaking skills (Sprechen), writing skills (Schreiben) and the four competencies have followed the rules of German grammar. These four language skills are considered very effective and efficient for beginners who want to learn German, and for users who have already learned German to start and re-test their German skills, it is also useful in some cases (Huda, 2017).

On the Busuu application and website, users can learn foreign languages and their pronunciations through available native speakers. If there is an error, this feature will correct it directly. This application is also equipped with a chat feature, so that users in learning German do not only learn from one direction so that users can interact with other users and can more easily learn the language by exchanging materials with other users. In addition, the Busuu application is not only suitable for teenage and adult users, but is also very suitable for users of the children's category because it has features specifically designed for children. In this capacity the appearance of the application is very suitable for children who want to learn German. There are lots of very interesting coloring pictures that can attract children's attention to continue learning German through Busuu.

Levels of German Learning Materials at Busuu.

The Busuu app has 4 advanced main features that you can use while learning German. The first feature is Lessons. This feature contains learning materials in German. This feature has 4 levels, namely the beginner level (Anfänger A1), which is intended for absolute beginners or users who are learning German for the first time. The basic level (elementary A2) is more than just knowledge of German.

Then there is the intermediate level (Mittel B1), which is a level that is deep enough before the user finally masters the German language. Next is the German level. Journal of Advanced German Studies ((Obere Mittelstufe B2) is an excellent learner of German.

1. Beginner Level (Anfänger A1)

This level has ninety six (96) lessons. The topics presented at this level include greetings/greetings, introducing yourself, formal greetings from various times and places, formal greetings, Wein vs. Wien, basic phrases of survival, asking for news, conversational skills, introduction of nouns, personal pronouns (singular), grammar "sein" (singular) and "sein" (plural), clothing, occupations, regular verbs (singular) and (plural), introduce yourself, and many more materials.

2. Basic Level (Elementary A2)

At this level, there are 77 (seventy five) lessons. The themes presented at this level include the past using "sein", "haben", machen, time phrases, grammar Perfect sein, student life, grammar: pronouns (accusative), making plans with friends, grammar: verbs and grammatical cases, pronouns (dative), prepositional (nominative) adjectives, positive personality traits, and many more.

3. Intermediate (Mittel B1)

At this level, there are 82 (eighty-two) lessons. The themes presented at this level include learning about the best places in Germany, Favorite travel destinations for Germans, Vacations: Best time of year, Grammar Dative adjective endings, Coordinative Conjunctions, Konjunktiv II, Two-part conjunctions, Präpositionen mit Genetiv, grammar "Sollen" and so on.

4. Upper Intermediate Level (Obere Mittelstufe B2)

At this level, there are 61 (sixty one) lessons. The themes presented at this level include I live in a tiny house, “Vanlife”: home is where you park, Multigenerational residence is reemerging, Grammar of the “Tekamolo” sequence of family and diversity, parental leave in Germany, Life and family , manage stress with the right balance, grammar "temporale konjunktionen", grammar: indirect sentences 2 and 3 "(konjunktiv I and II), grammar: relative clauses 2 and 3, universal style, passive grammar 3 and 4 advertising, socializing, law and justice, and so on.

And at every level there is a certificate according to the level that has been completed by this Busuu user and of course it is international. In addition, there are free features of German learning materials in the Busuu application including vocabulary (Wortschatz), quizzes (Quiz/Frage) and conversations (Gespräch).

Busuu's Strengths and Disadvantages in Learning German

1. Advantages of the Busuu Application in German Learning:

- a. This Busuu application is a self-taught German language learning medium that can be accessed by anyone via a smartphone and can be accessed anytime and anywhere.
- b. The first look of busuu is very attractive for learning German, starting from the desktop, themes, color combinations, etc. (Taufiqrochman, 2015). These interesting things can inspire the enthusiasm of Busuu users (not boring).
- c. Studying German at Busuu consists of 4 levels: Level A1, Level A2, Level B1 and Level B2.
- d. All information contained in the Busuu application can be read clearly and easily, be it text, images, audio to video so that it is easily understood by beginners.
- e. Besides being easy, fast and free, this German learning application only uses internet quota.
- f. More reliable and efficient presentation of learning materials. Reliable here means that Busuu has been tested to work with the device from various studies conducted by researchers, Busuu shows a guarantee to get accurate data and predictions.
- g. Busuu users can communicate and practice together with other users. Beginners and advanced learners will never feel alone when studying with Busuu because they can communicate with each other.
- h. A representative type of independent learning with the aim of independent learning is to be able to learn German without having to meet directly with the presenter.
- i. The facilities provided by Busuu are very complete, ranging from lessons (Lektion), exercises (Übung), vocabulary (Wortschatz). The existence of these supporting facilities and programs can make it easier for users to better understand the material.
- j. When the user has completed each level of the material, the Busuu user will receive an internationally recognized certificate.

2. Disadvantages of the Busuu Application in German Learning:

- a. Only basic materials are available free of charge, while intermediate and advanced level materials are subject to a fee. So, users can still use it offline, but more money is needed to access the next material.
- b. Not suitable for those who want to learn more deeply. This is not only because you have to pay, but also because the material presented is heavy which requires high concentration.
- c. A special payment is required if you wish to obtain your certificate of academic achievement with Busuu. If students fail to pay, they will not receive a certificate, even if they have studied with Busuu for a long time.
- d. The type of language used in Busuu is not completed. So, not everything you want to learn is available on Busuu.
- e. Devices used for studying frequently display a lot of notifications. The result of most notifications is our indifference to the environment.
- f. Due to excessive use of the device makes the storage or RAM used is often full. This proves Pujiono's statement (2016:158) that the shortcomings of this Android-based mobile

learning are limitations on the device, the device has limitations such as on the display screen, storage capacity, and power limitations.

- g. Learning German through the Busuu application can cause miscommunication because users cannot meet in person with the moderator. Receiving wrong information results in false knowledge and accepted knowledge.
- h. The process of learning German with Busuu tends to provide knowledge or knowledge only, without any element of education that is carried out by teachers to students.
- i. Busuu users, especially German who tend to be less enthusiastic, can fail because they are not motivated by the presenter.

Conclusion

The Busuu application is an online medium for independent foreign language learning that has been popular in various parts of the world. This application has free and paid features. The use of the Busuu application in learning German will get maximum results if users use paid features, while the free features only provide German learning services that are not optimal. However, the use of this application is also very supportive and opens new insights to innovate in learning and teaching German. This application makes users happy and comfortable in learning German. The Busuu application also makes it easy to learn communicative German independently. All individuals have the potential to master German with technological advances so that competitiveness will be higher and will be a high motivation to master German.

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