Review Article

# Developing Listening Materials through Utilizing Speech Reader in Indonesian Context viewed by English Teachers

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**Abstract** English foreign language learners need model how to pronounce words, how to construct a sentence in acceptance form of English. Learners at the beginning have to imitated words and sentences based on listening media. In Indonesia, English is foreign language; it is difficult to find exposures. Exposures are important for language learners since them needs example in using language at real situation as the compliment of designed language, which is set up by the teachers. Thus, this study needs future technology has been found nowadays and developed in the future.

Teaching language is not just teaching how to understand a language, but how to use that language. Methods in teaching language have been developing starting from grammar translation method to the recent method. There is no method, which is perfect for all language learners. For years, language teachers are looking for the best method in language teaching and learning Rifai (2010). The development of Language teaching and learning methods are still developing till now.

Nowadays, media in teaching and learning process takes important roles in teaching and learning process. Teaching and learning process without media, will give less impression to learners than using media. The success of teaching and learning process is not only based on the method, but also the media that uses in that process (Rifai: 2010). Learning media, in language teaching and learning process, will be a model for learners how to use the languages in proper and accepted form.

The editing process itself also takes time to get the best tone, space and tempo. The time, that spending to make record, is off course increasing the cost. Besides that, making permission documents, sending staff to English speaking country to take native speakers voice is cost a lot. The immigration cost, time, and accommodation for staff also spend budget. It would makes developing listening comprehension materials high cost.

The second problem is about technology. In taking native speakers voice, it needs recording equipment. The recording equipments, including the editing tools, are not easy to use. It needs the right place and time to record. It also needs expert staff to operate that equipment. In short, not all people could use recording equipments.

The last problem is not all native speakers are good readers for EFL learners. Their language style in reading may be impacted by local style. It needs English native speakers which their reading styles are Standard English and suitable for EFL Learners level of mastery. Finding it is time consuming, at the end increasing the cost.

Those problems could be solved by utilizing TTS Reader 1.3 and adobe audition 1.5. TTS Reader 1.3 is text to say software. It is provided free on the Internet, you can download it at http://sphenet.com/TTSReader/Download. It works by input a text and then the software will read it.

The research using TTS voices to develop listening materials has been conducting, as I know, two researches. Sha (2010) conducts his study of TTS voices in China. Based on his abstract, his research found that TTS voices become an alternative to develop listening materials. In his experiments, he uses TTS voices to develop listening test at classroom.

Azuma (2006) conducts his study in Japan. He develops listening test using TTS voices. Azuma's argument, TTS voice is cheaper rather than using manual recording. The result of Azuma's research says TTS voices are easy to use as media to develop listening comprehension test in classroom.

## A. Literature Review:

### 1. Listening Comprehension:

It is widely believed that language has four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. From those skills, listening comprehension takes important roles in the first step of language teaching and learning process, especially in Indonesia, where English is a foreign language. Listening is a means of successful language learning. It is the most critical for language learning at the beginning (Rost in: 2002 in Baehaqi: 2010).

### 2. TTS Reader 1.30

TTS Reader 1.30 is text to speech software. It reads a text automatically, user needs to paste a text to a box, then let TTS reader 1.30 read it for the user. It has special features such as, user-friendly design, Automatic highlighting of currently read text, and saved to wav and MP3 format.

**3. Adobe Audition 1.5**

Adobe Audition 1.5 is a software to make audio recording, editing, and mixing or Windows 2000 and XP. It is useful to create, edit, loop, and enhance individual sounds and mix them in a multitrack recording environment using up to 128 different tracks. This software is developed from Cool Edit Pro.

**C. Methods in Developing Materials**

This research of developtment is adapting research and developtment model by Dick and Carrey (2009:1-10). It uses model from Dick and Carrey since (1) this model focuss on the target of teaching, and (2) focusses on teaching planning. According to Dick and Carrey (2009), there are 9 procedurals steps. Those procedural steps are (1) identify instructional goals, (2) conduct instructional analysis, (3) identify entry behaviors and learner characteristics, (4) write performance objectives, (5) Develop criterion-referenced test item, (6) develop instructional strategy, (7) develop and select instructional materials, (8) develop and conduct formative evaluation, and (9) develop and conduct summative evaluation.

Ini this study it is using 4 procedural steps. Those steps are (1) identify instructional goals, (2) identify entry behaviors, and learner characteristics, (3) write performance objectives (4) develop and implement supplementary materials. The steps number (1) and (3) showed by design of learning process. The step number (2) showed by observation on teaching and learning activities. The step number (4) showed by products and implementation at classroom by collaborative teaching within the teachers.

The data on this research are words, frase, sentences, and paragraphs. The Data takes from (1) expert validation within discussion and notes, (2) field records of classroom observation, (3) subjects' written work on supplementary materials that are developed. Data captured by (1) characters behavior and attitude; (2) characters activities; (3) and characters dialogs. The data in form of paragraph has identified to explain identifiying and reexplanation the characterization.

The instruments of this study are to collect the data, those are (1) instrument in expert validation and guided of learning observation; (2) instrument of data collection when a field-validation in classroom.

**Procedure of Utilizing TTS 1.30 and Adobe Audition 1.5 General Procedure:**

1. Switch on your laptop;

2. After it finished loading, activate the Adobe Audition and TTS reader 1.30

3. Choose a text from the from your laptop

4. Copy then paste it to TTS reader 1.30 and make sure it has appropriate reading speed

5. Convert it to MP3 by press → tool → Read to MP3 → select Output format as MP3 → then start.

6. Edit and compile that file using Adobe audition 1.5.

**Results**

Developing listening materials, are the more difficult rather than others language skills. Azuma (2006) describes there are three problems in developing listening materials of English. (1) Cost effectiveness (2) Technological problem and (3) Native speakers of English not always good readers for EFL learners. The problem in cost is not always about the salary to pay native speakers. It may come from the recording process itself. Recording the best voice takes time. To get the best voice, recording staff may take several times.

Based on the results of product tests on English teachers, it is found that: (1) this method is still too complicated to develop in Indonesia, due to IT Support limitations, (2) too long, 24 hours, for editing, and (3) The difficulty of producing this listening material at home, which means the cost of production that leads to the difficulty of upgrading learning materials. In the future technology that can support this research is the hologram device, integrated with voice synthesizer. The device has not been mass marketed for the present, but will be marketed in the future, mixed up with screen reader application.

**Conclution**

English foreign language learners need model how to pronounce words, how to construct a sentence in acceptance form of English. Learners at the beginning have to imitated words and sentences based on listening media. In Indonesia, English is foreign language; it is difficult to find exposures. Exposures are important for language learners since them needs example in using language at real situation as the compliment of designed language, which is set up by the teachers. The alternative way to bring exposures in classroom is listening comprehension activities.

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