IMPROVING THE STUDENTS’ ABILITY IN RECOGNIZING “MICROSKILLS” ENGLISH SOUNDS USING TEXT-TO-SPEECH

A THESIS

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GRADUATE SCHOOL
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A THESIS

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I declare that this thesis is my own writing, and it is true and correct that I did not take any scholarly ideas or work from others dishonestly. That all the cited works were quoted in accordance with the ethical code of academic writing.

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The writer realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect but he expects that it will be useful for the development of English language teaching.

Surabaya, July 2014

Writer
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Abstract

Imam Setiawan, S. Pd, 2014. Improving the Students’ Ability in Recognizing “Microskills” English Sounds Using Text-To-Speech. Thesis. Master’s Degree Program in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Education Department. Graduate School Widya Mandala Catholic University, Advisor: Prof. E. Sadtono, Ph.D

Keywords: Microskills English sounds, Text-To-Speech, Classroom Action Research, Improvement

Listening comprehension is difficult for Junior high school students. One of the problems is recognizing “microskills” English sounds. To help the students recognize “microskills” English sounds, the researcher decided to use Classroom Action Research (CAR) to teach “microskills” English sounds using Text-To-Speech (TTS).

This research aims to improve students’ ability in recognizing microskills English sounds and to find out whether TTS improve the students’ ability in recognizing “microskills” English sounds.

In this study, the researcher conducted it in three cycles. The procedures in each cycle included planning, acting, observing, testing, and reflecting. The participants were 30 students of class 8 B of Al Hikmah Junior High School for 2013-2014 academic years.

The results of the study show that TTS could successfully improve the students’ ability in recognizing “microskills” English sounds. TTS has helped the students identify verb 2 sounds, recognize strong and weak stresses, and linkage. In teaching the “microskills” English sounds, the researcher needed to repeat the model of pronunciation of verb 2 sounds, weak stresses, and linkage by using TTS. The students recognized the sounds by repetition.