IMPROVING THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN RECOGNIZING "MICROSKILLS" ENGLISH SOUNDS USING TEXT-TO-SPEECH

A THESIS

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Advisor's Approval

This thesis entitled **Improving the Students' Ability in Recognizing "Microskills" English Sounds Using Text-To-Speech** prepared and submitted by **Imam Setiawan, S. Pd 8212712025** has been approved to be examined by the Thesis Board of Examiners.

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Statement of Autheticity

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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Short Autobiography

Imam Setiawan, S. Pd. was born in Jember, September 10, 1978. He has completed his S1 degree at English Education Department of State University of Yogyakarta in 2002 with his thesis entitled **Referring Expressions to Allah as Realized in the Translations of the Holy Qur'an in English and bahasa Indonesia**. Now, he is completing his master degree at English Education Department of Catholic University of Widya Mandala Surabaya. He has been teaching English for almost 14 years. In 2000 to 2003, he taught English at Primagama Yogyakarta. In 2003 to 2004, he taught English at Bogor Educare in Bogor. Afterwards, in 2004, he once became an English teacher at English First Nusantara in Banjarmasin. In 2006 to now, he is an English teacher at Al Hikmah Junior High School Surabaya.

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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 succesfully 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.