IREELL
Indonesian Review of English Education, Linguistics, and Literature
P-ISSN: 3025-2369 **I** E-ISSN: 3021-8101
https://jurnalfaktarbiyah.iainkediri.ac.id/index.php/ireel/index

The Influence of Using Online Oxford Dictionary toward Pronunciation and Vocabulary Mastery

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ABSTRACT

In order to clearly express the ideas, students need to master pronunciation and have vast vocabulary. Media and strategy are essential matter to achieve well-acquired vocabulary and good pronunciation. Online dictionary such as Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (later abbreviated as OALD) is one of the media to aid students in improving pronunciation and vocabulary. Students used to utilize the book version of OALD, yet, nowadays they prefer to use the online form through internet networking. Thus, this research aims to determine the influence of using online Oxford Dictionary on students' pronunciation and vocabulary at the fourth students of English Department of State Islamic Institute of Kediri (IAIN Kediri). 30 students of English Education study program were chosen as the subject of this qualitative study. This research used questionnaire and interview to collect the data related to an alternative reference in technology for learning vocabulary and pronunciation especially online Oxford Dictionary. The results of the questionnaire were processed descriptively. The research results showed that the online Oxford Dictionary influence students' pronunciation and vocabulary enrichment. It is recommended to solve the problem of pronunciation and vocabulary mastery.

Keywords: Online Oxford Dictionary, pronunciation improvement, vocabulary mastery

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Introduction

Nowadays all people know the benefits of technology. It makes their activities easier in all aspects. For example, education has implemented technology in language learning. It changes the way a teacher and students teach and learn languages. In learning languages, the students need more vocabularies to know the meaning and the function of the words as well as how to pronounce the words. Consequently, vocabulary and pronunciation are two crucial components of dialect learning. Pronunciation alludes to the way words are talked. As expressed by the Grown-up Vagrant English Program (2001), pronunciation is how a language is talked and articulated. It incorporates enunciation, stretch, and sound. Besides that, vocabulary alludes to the body of words utilized in a specific language. Successful educating methods incorporate show, verbal clarifications, and intuitively exercises. Understanding the significance of vocabulary and pronunciation can offer assistance for the learners' progress in enhancing communication abilities and way better get it the language.

OALD (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary) is one of dictionaries for advanced learners. Dictionaries are respected by numerous as the repository of last etymological specialist (Wright, 2001) and a bank account of words to be drawn upon in time of require. It is for the most part respected as a driving English learners' dictionary in English learning. It is additionally considered one of the foremost powerful English progressed learner's word references for non-native English speakers around the world. Concurring to Hartmann & James (2001), a web word reference could be a dictionary or other reference work accessible through a computer network such as the web. As language learners, understudies as it were got to utilize their contraptions which are associated to the web to utilize the online dictionary. It implies that a web dictionary can be a critical apparatus for understudies in learning outside dialect to offer effortlessness and adequacy to form understudies effectively when learning the English Language. The use of dictionaries in English learning has become an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Furthermore, OALD has been known as a very useful resource in improving students' vocabulary and pronunciation skills. According to the previous survey, 82 percent of the college understudies preferred dictionary apps, and it was for the most part recognized that most of them thought that dictionary apps seem contribute a part to learning English. Harmer (2002) uncovered that the vital components of

learning English are vocabulary and pronunciation, and it may be a major center in studying a foreign language.

Despite different materials and methods used, the literature on previous studies reports several common findings regarding learners' dictionary. First, learners' dictionary skills are often inadequate (Boonmoh, 2012; Chan, 2014). Not knowing how to pronounce a word in dictionary, learners stop searching as soon as possible, scan through the beginning of the entry and choose one of the first meanings instead of examining all the senses (Tono, 2011). Second, dictionary behaviour seems to be related to language skills. Thus, the frequency of search queries is not linearly related to the number of correct answers (Atkins & Varantola, 1998; Liou, 2000; Pelttari & Mutta, 2014). Further, many learners have difficulties when a familiar word is used in an unfamiliar sense, as they tend to believe that the meaning which they know is the only one (Atkins & Varantola, 1998; Chan, 2014).

Research regarding the use of dictionaries in improving vocabulary and pronunciation skills has been carried out by several researchers. However, there are still many studies that have not specifically examined the influence of electronic dictionary, such as OALD on EFL learners' vocabulary and pronunciation abilities. Thus, it is hoped that this research can contribute to broader knowledge about the influence of using OALD in improving students' vocabulary and pronunciation skills.

Methods

This research is a qualitative study and was conducted using the questionnaire and interviews. The questionnaire was created using the Google Form platform. According to the Converse (1986), a questionnaire may be a set of questions outlined to assemble data from a respondent. It is the interface between the respondent and the researcher, and thus plays a central part within the information collection handle. A well-designed survey ought to collect information that compare to the survey's explanation of goals whereas taking into consideration the factual prerequisites of information clients, regulatory and information handling necessities as well as the nature and characteristics of the respondent population. 30 students from English Education study program were chosen as the participants of this study to determine the influence of using online Oxford Dictionary toward pronunciation and

vocabulary mastery. The participants were chosen considering their education background which was familiar with the use of the dictionary. Questionnaire was the main instrument to collect the data from 8 to 9 July 2024.

The researchers created 15 questions which consist of 11 closed-ended statements about influence of the online Oxford dictionary toward the students of English education in mastering pronunciation and vocabulary. There were 4 dichotomous questions with a simple answer "yes or no". A dichotomous question could be a sort of question that requires a double reaction, typically "yes" or "no." It is utilized to classify or classify things based on particular criteria. Dichotomous questions are frequently utilized in overviews, surveys, and other shapes of information collection to assemble data and make choices based on the reactions. the Likert Scale' scores are one for strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, and strongly disagree, and one question for the frequency in using online Oxford Dictionary with answer never, seldom, sometimes, usually, and always.

Data obtained through questionnaire were analyzed descriptively by finding out the mean score and percentage of the score. Descriptive is the characteristic of data in qualitative research as it is taken from documents, audio-video recordings, transcripts, words, pictures, etc stated by Bodgan & Biklen (2003). Data from English education are presented in tables. Those data were than compared. The interpretation of the mean score and percentage score was seen from the evaluation criteria of the questionnaire. Furthermore, data through interviews were analyzed by finding out the transcription.

Result and Discussion

In this part, the findings are to answer the research questions are presented. After implementing the research, the researchers found some data. The data consist of the questionnaire results. The questionnaire consists of fifteen closed-ended questions and statements. After implementing the research, the researchers got the result for the Dichotomous questions section below:

Table 1. Students' view toward Online Oxford Dictionary Usage

Questions	"Yes" (%)	"No" (%)
Do you know Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (AOLD) app?	77 %	23%
Do you have online Oxford dictionary on your phone?	30%	70%
Did you ever use an online Oxford dictionary?	70%	30%

Does the online Oxford dictionary that you used help you in learning English?	73%	27%
Mean	62.5%	37.5%

From the table above, it can be seen from the first question there were 77% of students know Online Oxford Dictionary. It means that almost students are familiar with Online Oxford Dictionary. Furthermore, the second question there were 30 % of students answer not have Online Oxford Dictionary, however online can be access on website or the app. For the next questions, there were 70% ever use an Online Oxford Dictionary. The following question, there were 73 % of students answer that Online Oxford Dictionary help them when learning EFL. Finally, the mean of this questionnaire there were 62,5%, which means almost all students gave positive view about the Online Oxford Dictionary usage.

To strengthen the result of the research, the students were interviewed for several questions related to their experiences using the Online Oxford Dictionary. From the interview, it was found out that most students discovered several advantages using the Online Oxford Dictionary. It can be seen in the student responses in the interview below.

Student 1: "Yes, because the online Oxford dictionary helps me to improve my vocabulary and my pronunciation. I can see the phonetic symbol from that dictionary so I can know what the correct pronunciation of a word is. I use not only Online Oxford Dictionary but also another kind of online dictionary.

Student 2: "Yes, I use online Oxford Dictionary to find the pronunciation of the word and It is really help me. I also can find the function of the word from Online Oxford Dictionary such as it is as a verb or adjective.

Table 2. Students' responses on the frequency of using Online Oxford Dictionary

Question	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Usually	Always
How often do you use OALD app?	26%	23%	33%	13%	5%

According to the table above, it can be seen there were 51% (33 of students sometimes, 13 % usually, and 5 % always) of the students often use online Oxford Dictionary. It means that there were 51 % of students required the online oxford Dictionary. Online Oxford Dictionary has two version web and application. Oxford Dictionary is the foremost

commonly named smartphone app (Nami, 2020). The Oxford Dictionary of English may be a free dictionary app that gives you gets to over 350,000 words, expressions, and implications. The Oxford Dictionary of English app too offers sound elocutions for 75,000 words (Dylewski & Witt, 2021).

Table 3. Students' Responses toward vocabulary and Pronunciation Mastery

Statements	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
I like the online Oxford dictionary as a reference for learning English.	23%	60%	17%	0%
The online Oxford dictionary can enhance my pronunciation in a better way.	23%	74%	3%	0%
The online Oxford dictionary can improve my pronunciation through hears the sound of the word.	33%	60%	7%	0%
I can pronounce words easily after learning by using the online Oxford dictionary.	23%	64%	13%	0%
The online Oxford dictionary is an effective tool to improve my pronunciation.	17%	80%	3%	0%
I can enrich my vocabulary by using the online Oxford dictionary.	23%	67%	10%	0%
I get a lot of new vocabulary after learning by using online Oxford dictionary.	27%	57%	16%	0%
The online Oxford dictionary helps me to know the function of the words	20%	60%	20%	0%
The online Oxford dictionary helps me to understand the variation the words.	27%	67%	6%	0%
I can memorize new words easily after learning using the online Oxford dictionary.	10%	60%	30%	0%
Mean	22.6%	64.9%	12.5%	0%

From the table above, it could be seen that the 83% students showing positive responses by using the online Oxford Dictionary as a reference for learning English. There were 72 % agreed and 23 % strongly agreed about the second question. The students also agreed that an Online Oxford Dictionary can increase their pronunciation through hear the sound of the word because it shows 60 % agreed and 33 % strongly agreed. Susanto (2018) stated that word can change in term of sound, letter, and length. They can contrast in how they are permitted to alter and make inferred or arched shapes, such as plurals, particular, and different tenses. And they can change within the run of subtlety and meaning they pass on and, subsequently, in what circumstances can utilize them. Obviously, these can all impact

whether, and how totally a word is learned. These sorts of contrasts between words have been explored at a few lengths, more often than not beneath the umbrella thought of the learning burden; what makes a word troublesome or simple to learn. In the next statement, there were 64 % of students agreed and 33% strongly agreed. It means more than 90 % of students agree that after using the Online Oxford Dictionary they can pronounce word easily. Furthermore, there were 97 % (80 % of the students agreed and 17 % strongly agreed) that the Online Oxford dictionary is an effective toll to improve their pronunciation.

In this part is students' response using Online Oxford Dictionary toward vocabulary enrichment. Vocabulary is characterized as add up to number of words that the learners know the meaning and can utilize (Milton, 2009). Vocabulary language learning is a dynamic preparing that requires on the portion of the learners to ceaselessly secure vocabulary of a target language (Susanto, A: 2018). It could be seen from question number six to ten. To begin with question about the Online Oxford Dictionary can enrich the students' vocabulary. It shows 67% agreed and 23 % strongly agreed. Next statement, there were 57% of the students agreed and 20 % strongly agreed that they can get a lot of new vocabularies after learning English by using Online Oxford Dictionary. Moreover, the students not only can master a lot of vocabulary but also the students can know the function of the word, because there were 60% of the students agreed and 20% strongly agreed. When the learners are successfully able to recognize and utilize word completely different contexts, speak, compose, pronounce the word well, they have the information and meaning of that word.

Vocabulary knowledge can be seen as the number of words an individual knows (Country & Beglar, 2007). Many creators have comparative definitions around vocabulary. Jewel & Gutlohn (2006) propose that vocabulary is the information of words and their implications. This implies that without setting up a solid vocabulary base to begin with, comprehension and utilize of a language will not be accomplished. In expansion, the dialect learner ought to be able to recognize words, and know their implications as well. In this way, when the learners are viably able to recognize and utilize a word in numerous settings, talk, compose, articulate the word well, they have the information and meaning of that word.

Then 67 % of students agreed and 27 strongly agreed that the students to understand the variation of the words. For the last statement, it shows there were 70% (60% of students agreed and 10 % strongly agreed) that Online Oxford Dictionary can help students to

memorize new words much easier. Pronunciation is one viewpoint of supporting English language abilities since speaking in English requires great language elocution so that it can be passed on clearly and justifiably (Khasanah et al., 2022). When understudies talk, perused, or tune in to English words, they as often as possible have troubles with pronunciation. As one of the aptitudes in learning a language, talking empowers individuals to send and get data or messages from others (Prasetyaningrum et al., 2021). Particularly when it comes to elocution since elocution is the foremost imperative portion of speaking, and speaking is the essential portion of language, we must speak with the correct pronunciation so that the rival we are talking to capture our point (Agustina & Erzad, 2021). There are two types of components that impact someone's capacity to memorize English: inside and outside components. Inside components incorporate inspiration, interface, gifts, and insights, whereas outside components incorporate natural circumstances and conditions, learning materials, and teachers' capacity to handle English instructing and learning programs (Frey et al., 2019). An educating and learning handle will be profitable in case the educator can apply a certain technique to drive the intrigued and inspiration of the understudies particularly in educating and learning English (Ardhany & Handini, 2019). In reality, there are different variables that cause children to feel awful in their pronunciation, counting need of vocabulary, need of encounter saying things in English, and need of instructing pronunciation in past schools.

Conclusion

The main objective of this study is to determine the influence of using online Oxford Dictionary on students' pronunciation and vocabulary at English Department of State Islamic Institute of Kediri (IAIN Kediri). To attain this goal, the researchers have attempted to incorporate all the research procedures, operations and theoretical explorations that revolve around the questions of the study. The questionnaire has been distributed among the students of English department and designed in such a way as to probe students' opinions of online Oxford Dictionary in improving pronunciation and vocabulary. The data reveal that an overwhelming majority of the sample students believe that online Oxford Dictionary assist them to improve their pronunciation and vocabulary. This shows that improving students'

pronunciation and vocabulary skill is necessary. Thus, it is apparent that all students are interested in further improving their pronunciation and vocabulary skills by using the Oxford dictionary. To summarize, the online Oxford Dictionary website/application made a difference the understudies when they are attempting to learn how to articulate or pronounce words well, and when understudies need to improve their vocabulary. The Online Oxford Dictionary offers ease and viability that it can be utilized effortlessly by all dialect learners. By utilizing the online Oxford Dictionary, understudies are simpler learning English particularly in phonology and vocabulary subjects and understudies appreciate the ease and viability.

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