

Integrating Mondly for English speaking skill in EFL classroom

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ABSTRACT

In the field of English language education, this study investigates the use of technology to improve speaking abilities in EFL classrooms, with a special focus on the Mondly platform. Traditional techniques to teaching speech are changing, and the use of technology has become an important aspect of language training. This study delves at the use of Mondly, a language learning platform known for its interactive features, to grow and strengthen speaking skills. The study looks into how Mondly integrates vocabulary learning with speaking skill development, providing a dynamic combination of language acquisition and practical application. Mondly's key elements, such as interactive discussions and personalised learning routes, are explored to better understand how they contribute to an

engaging and adaptable language learning experience. The study also highlights the benefits of Mondly, such as rapid feedback, cultural insights, and the flexibility of offline access. By deconstructing Mondly's complex role in the EFL classroom, this study hopes to provide significant insights into the optimal integration of technology and language education for the holistic development of speaking proficiency and vocabulary acquisition in language learners.

Keywords: Mondly, English language teaching, language learning platform, speaking skill, vocabulary learning

INTRODUCTION

Human existence relies on the ability of language, facilitating communication and expression. Proficiency in English, among various language skills, holds particular significance, offering opportunities in education, work, and global interactions. Mastering English is essential for effective communication and broader societal engagement, as emphasized by Sari (2003) that proficiency in English communication facilitates access to global career opportunities, international collaboration, and educational opportunities. According to Mehrabian, Salehi, and Branch (2019), language has an unbreakable connection to learning since learning techniques are the primary means of acquiring languages, and language is fundamental to the learning process. Ramírez and Kuhl's (2020) study stated the importance of developing these abilities for better comprehending the English learning process.

When someone gains proficiency in a foreign language, that person is said to be able to speak that language. Learners cannot separate their acquisition of language skills from their learning of English. Speaking abilities take precedence over language skills when it comes to communication. Acquiring new vocabulary can help you improve your speaking, which is a crucial part of learning a language. Speaking is the process of creating and making meaning in various contexts by utilizing words and body language (Rivers,

2018). In mastering the ability to speak in English, it requires mastering the language vocabulary. It is related to Saville-Troike and Barto (2016) statement that in order to communicate effectively or participate in a discussion, students must have a sufficient vocabulary.

In practical terms, it is a formidable task for an English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learner to acquire proficiency in a language not native to them, let alone achieve mastery for effective communication. This presents a significant challenge for English teachers in facilitating language acquisition among their students. Addressing this challenge necessitates innovative and contemporary pedagogical approaches to ensure that EFL learners can readily and enjoyably engage in the process of English language acquisition.

In the current educational landscape that has evolved rapidly, technological advancements have played a significant role in reshaping the traditional learning paradigm. The global pursuit of English proficiency has led to innovative methods in both learning and teaching. Technology has shortened boundaries by making communication between learners easier both in the classroom and outside of the formal learning environment (Mohamad & Woollard, 2012; Papadakis & Kalogiannakis, 2017).

The integration of technology into English language teaching, as highlighted by Alsulam (2016), has positively impacted students, enhancing their proficiency in the English language. Effectively utilizing technology requires teachers to integrate pedagogical knowledge and skills, as emphasized by Healey et al. (2008), allowing for improved language teaching and learning, record-keeping, feedback reception, and assessment. The integration of online platforms, immersive applications and interactive tools catalyzes a paradigm shift in traditional classroom environments, giving learners immediate access to native speakers, engaging exercises and individual feedback. This technological revolution enables educators to adapt teaching content to the individual needs

of learners, fostering dynamic discourse and collaborative initiatives that transcend geographical limitations. As technology serves as a link between physical classrooms and international spaces, the landscape of English learning is no longer limited by conventional pedagogical paradigms; rather, it has evolved into a dynamic journey of exploration and connectivity within an expanding digital environment. Alongside these technology implementations, the advent of online applications in providing English language instruction has been seen as a technique of increasing students' interest in learning a foreign language (Gilakjani, 2017).

Language learners obtain significantly from technological advancements. Digital language learning systems bridge the gap between theory and practice, providing an immersive environment for improving speaking abilities and expanding vocabulary. Various platforms are emerging, each with their own strategy and characteristics. Among existing language learning tools, Mondly stands out with its AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology-based approach. Mondly uses speech recognition technologies and chatbots to provide an interactive and adaptable speaking environment. Users can practice speaking by taking part in simulated conversations, receiving immediate feedback, and customizing the difficulty level as needed.

MONDLY PLATFORM

Mondly is a learning platform for languages. Mondly was launched in 2014 by Alex Iliescu, Tudor Iliescu in Braşov, Romania, which is currently under the auspices of the Pearson Publishing Company. Until 2024, Mondly has been recorded as providing more than 40 languages that can be used by language learners. Mondly has also won numerous awards since 2016. Mondly offers various language courses with a focus on teaching languages with interesting and technology-based methods such as the statement displayed on the home page of the Mondly website "Super fun and effective language courses for 41 languages."

The Mondly platform offers accessibility through various devices, such as laptops, smartphones, or tablets. Users can choose to access it either through the Mondly website or by using the Mondly application which can be downloaded via appstore or playstore or appgallery.

Picture 1. Mondly website version and (left) and mobile application version (right)



This flexibility allows learners to engage with the platform seamlessly, adapting to their preferences and convenience. Mondly can be accessed for free, giving users the opportunity to start learning a language at no cost. With its free features, users can explore various courses and learning resources available on the platform. The following are some of the features provided by Mondly to its users who want to learn languages:

a. Interactive Conversations

Mondly offers fascinating dialogues and conversations geared for practical use of the English language, allowing students to actively participate in real-life language scenarios.

b. Speech Recognition

Using innovative technology, Mondly evaluates pronunciation and provides feedback to improve spoken English, giving students a personalised approach to improving their oral communication abilities.

c. Gamified Learning

Mondly uses gamification to make English language learning more interesting and interactive, transforming courses into engaging activities that engage learners through a playful and dynamic approach.

d. Daily Lessons

Mondly provides regularly updated lessons to promote consistent and progressive advancement in English proficiency, encouraging students to make learning a daily habit for long-term improvement.

e. Vocabulary Builder and Grammar Lessons

Mondly offers planned lessons that focus on English language rules and structure, as well as tools and exercises for growing and reinforcing vocabulary, to provide a comprehensive approach to language mastering.

f. Progress Tracking

Mondly's visual progress monitoring function provides learners with a visible depiction of their personal learning journey, motivating learners and providing vital insights into areas that may need more attention.

g. Offline Access

Mondly's offline access allows users to download English lessons, making it possible to learn without an internet connection and allowing for greater study flexibility.

h. Writing Practice

Mondly provides exercises that are specifically designed to develop English writing skills, allowing students to practice and improve their written communication.

i. Real-life Scenarios

Mondly includes real-life scenarios into English language training, allowing students to use language skills in everyday circumstances and improve their contextual knowledge.

j. Social Features

By integrating with social networks, Mondly allows learners to share their progress and connect with one another, promoting a feeling of community and collaborative learning throughout the language journey.

Mondly is a flexible language learning programmes known for its useful features, particularly while learning English. The website provides interesting interactive chats and encourages practical language application through dialogues. Its speech recognition technology gives you personalised pronunciation feedback, which is a great way to improve your spoken English. The use of gamified components makes language learning more interesting and participatory, promoting continuous progress. Daily lessons allow users to stick to a regular learning schedule, while structured vocabulary builder and grammar classes improve language competency. Progress tracking systems provide visual representations, rewarding students with prizes and successes. Mondly's offline access function provides flexibility in study places, and writing practice assignments help to improve written communication abilities. Real-life scenarios allow users to use their language abilities in real-world settings, while social aspects encourage learners to interact and engage in the community. With these characteristics, Mondly stands out as a comprehensive

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language learning solution, especially useful for students looking to improve their English skills.

IMPLEMENTING MONDLY IN THE CLASSROOM

How to operate Mondly

a. Access the platform

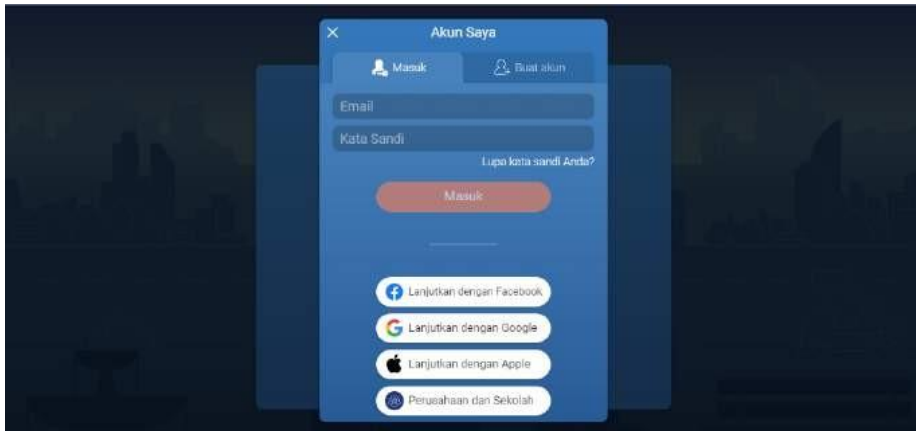
Before starting to learn language from Mondly platform, learners need to have an access to the platform by opening the website mondly.com or if learners want to access it through smartphone or tablet, learners should download the application on playstore (for Android) or appstore (for iOS) and launch it on your device.



Picture 2. Mondly logo

b. Registration or sign up and log in to the user profile

It is not necessary to the users to registers or log in their account or profile into Mondly. However, it will provide users with personalized learning experiences and progress tracking and saved the data and users' progress. Therefore, users will not lose data from learning progress when changing devices. Learners and teachers are able to have account as a single user using their own email or registers using school or company access.



Picture 3. Mondly registration and log in

c. Choose the target language

Users need to select the target language they are about to learn. Mondly will ask the users to select 'the language you speak' and 'the language you want to learn'. And under language selection, Mondly also asked users to select the current target language level; beginner, intermediate, and advanced.



Picture 4. Mondly language selection

d. Start the learning journey

Mondly presents with a welcome message and a brief overview of the app's features. Tap "Let's go!" to begin. Mondly offers a placement test to gauge users' current level. Take it if users unsure where to start, or skip it if they are a complete beginner.



Picture 5. Mondly welcoming message to the users

e. Explore the topic

The main interface displays various everyday topics like greetings, food, travel, and more. Choose a topic that interests you. bcategory.



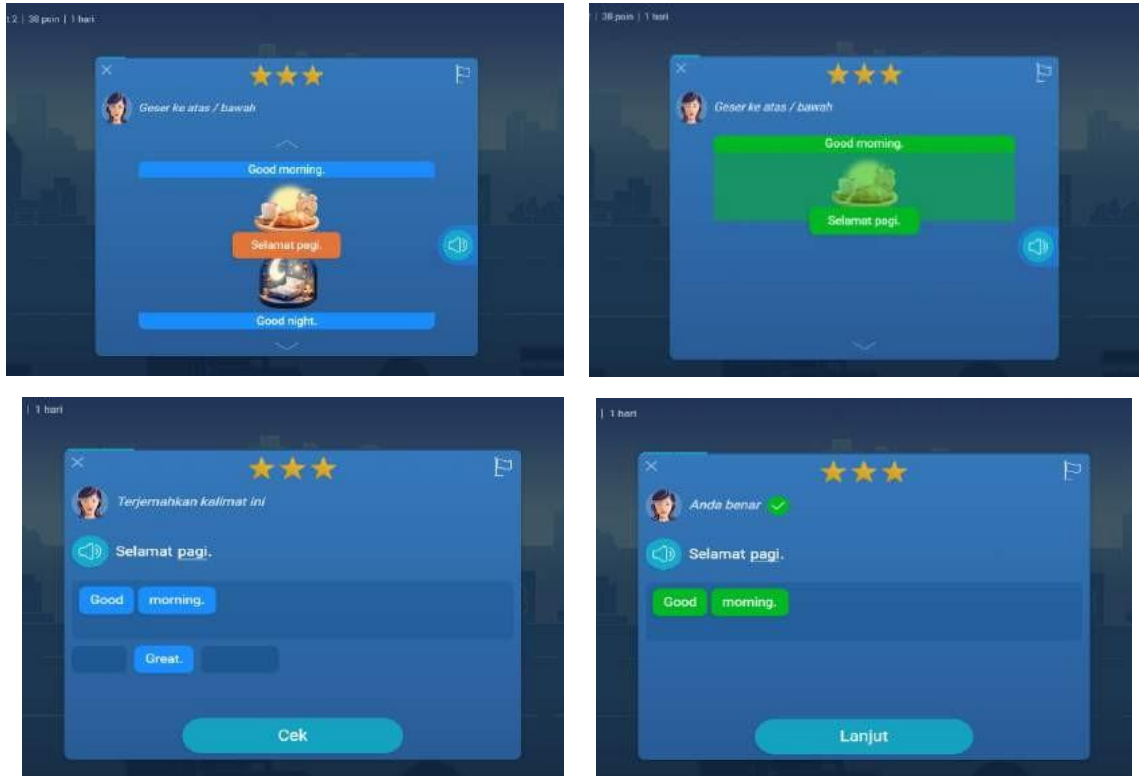
Picture 6. Mondly language learning topic

All those steps above are the way to operate and use Mondly platform from the beginning. Users be able to use Mondly to learn the new language from the beginning or enhance the language they have already learned and master it. Mondly not only offers language learners to merely simple activity to enhance vocabulary, but also help them to enhance their speaking skill. Mondly provides vocabulary learning by repeating the vocabulary in one session, students are not only offered the ability to memorize new vocabulary every day, but also how to arrange it into a simple sentence, how to write it, and how the vocabulary is pronounced. In learning activities, students are also encouraged to pronounce the word in the target language.

Activity 1 Simple Vocabulary identification

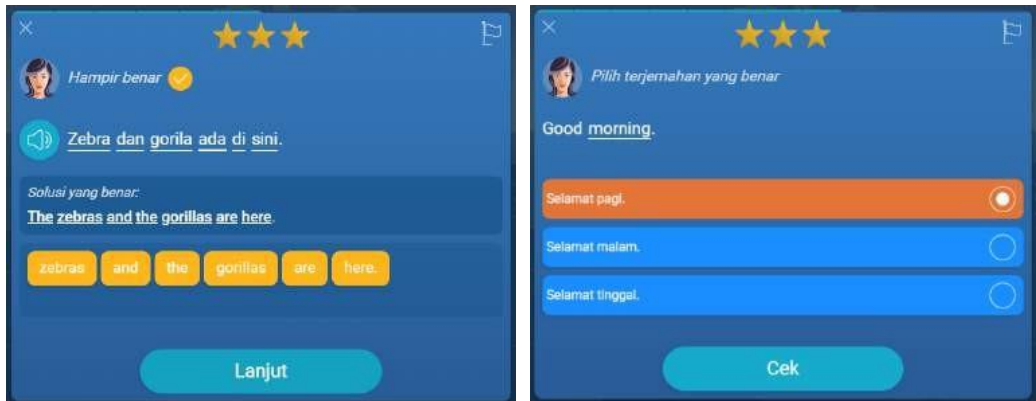
In vocabulary lesson, learners are provided with several exercises to build their English vocabulary knowledge by identifying pictures along with listening how the words are pronounced. In this activity, students not only increase new vocabulary, but how the vocabulary is generated into sentence by arranging words into full simple sentence and also listen how the sentences to be spoken. Student are also provided numerous exercises to build new vocabulary on

daily activity which will be different every day with real-life scenarios and circumstances.



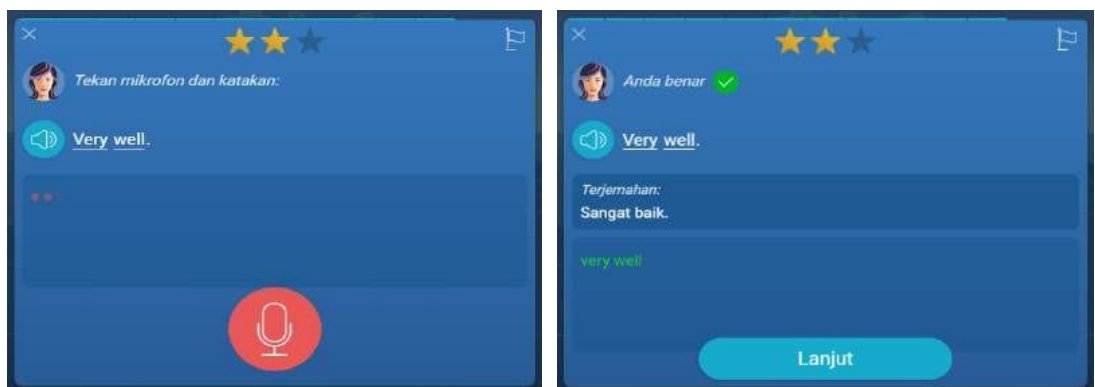
Picture 8. Mondly exercise activity

On the beginning of activity, mondly will provides pictures; consist of two to four pictures and words that describes one of the pictures. Learners should drag the words to the right picture. In this activity, students will drag the words to the right pictures while listening the pronunciation of the vocabulary. When the learners drag to correct answer, the they will get good score. Learners only allows to make wrong answer for three times, or else, they will start the same activity from the beginning. The next type of activities are put the correct words to the empty box after listening the English word of the the bahasa Indonesia words. When the learners miss it and don't listen the words clearly they are able to repeat.



Picture 9. Mondly exercise activity

Activity 2 Pronouncing Activity



Picture 10. Mondly exercise activity using speaking skill

In this interactive learning activity, learners are presented with a multifaceted approach to enhance their listening skills. Beyond simply hearing words, participants actively engage by dragging the correct answers to corresponding pictures or empty boxes, adding a tactile and visual dimension to the learning process. Moreover, the activity incorporates a speaking component, encouraging learners to articulate their responses verbally. This comprehensive

approach not only tests listening comprehension but also reinforces vocabulary acquisition and oral communication skills in a dynamic and immersive manner.

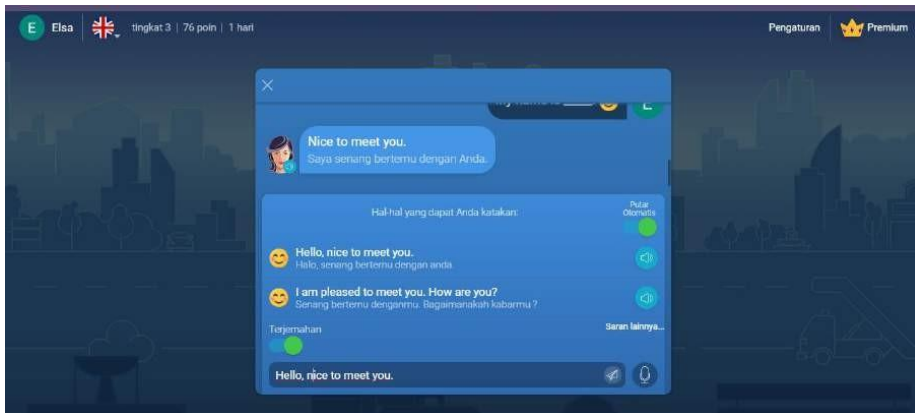
Once students finish a lesson activity, they will quickly get feedback in the form of what vocabulary they have learned in that activity and how they did with a score. Additionally, they find out how they rank compared to other students in their country or globally. This quick feedback helps them know their performance and where they stand in comparison to learners around the world.

Picture 11. Mondly feedback



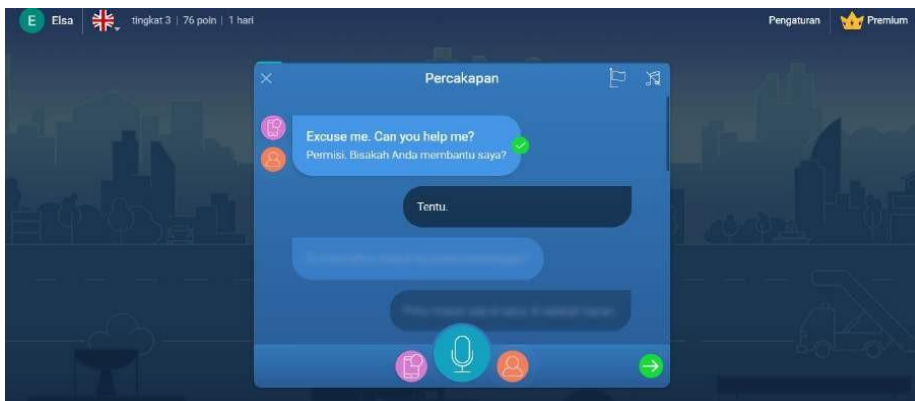
Activity 3 Conversation Activity

Mondly are provided into conversation activity. It helps students to engage conversation with Mondly conversation. In this activity, students encouraged students to speak the sentences on the box. The bot will speak and the students will reply the bot conversation by choosing available answers that related to the previous conversation that is spoken by the bot. if the students don't n know how to pronounce the sentence well, there is an option with speaker logo that will help students listen how the sentence to be spoken.



Picture 12. Mondly conversation

Mondly also provide the learners with Chatbot. There will be several situations for the learners to help them improve speaking skill in real-live conversation activity. In this activity, the learners might engage to pronounce and speak the conversation what chatbot say and what the learners' answer to the chatbot questions. Therefore, the learners are able to know how to speak well both the questions and the answers of the conversation



Picture 13. Mondly chatbot conversation

The using of chatbots in Mondly lies in its ability to provide an interactive and immersive

language learning experience. With chatbots, users can practice speaking and writing in the language they are learning directly. Chatbots provide instant feedback, helping to improve users' pronunciation and grammar effectively. In addition, the experience of dialogue with a

chatbot creates practical situations that enrich understanding of everyday language, allowing users to learn actively and have fun. With the presence of chatbots, Mondly provides a useful tool to improve communication skills in the language being studied.

CONCLUSION

Mondly presents an innovative and powerful approach to learning English speaking skills for EFL learners in the classroom environment. With features such as interactive conversations and chatbots, students can engage in realistic and interactive exercises, allowing them to experience speaking in everyday situations. Instant feedback from chatbots helps improve pronunciation and grammar, while the platform's ability to monitor individual progress provides a learning experience tailored to the needs of students of varying ability levels. Additionally, Mondly brings an element of fun through its gaming approach, providing additional motivation for students to hone their speaking skills.

The use of Mondly in the EFL classroom not only offers an effective learning tool but also allows the flexibility to adapt learning to each student's style and skill level. By giving students access to practice speaking in real-life contexts, Mondly can be a valuable support in helping EFL students overcome self-confidence and develop overall English-speaking skills.

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