

Cake Application as a Tool for Boosting Vocabulary Mastery in EFL Education

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Abstract- This research assessed the efficacy of the Cake application in enhancing English vocabulary proficiency among 8th-grade students at SMP IT Daarul Istiqlal Marindal I. In the present epoch of globalization, mastery of the English language has become indispensable, and digital platforms such as Cake provide inventive methods to facilitate interactive and pleasurable vocabulary acquisition. This study used a quantitative methodology, using a one-group pre-test and post-test design. The research included a sample of 30 students that were carefully chosen. The data was gathered via a preliminary assessment to gauge the level of vocabulary proficiency before using the Cake application. This study investigates whether the Cake application significantly enhances vocabulary proficiency among 8th-grade EFL students. This was followed by a period of application use, and subsequently, a post-assessment was conducted to assess the enhancement in vocabulary mastery after utilizing the program. The data analysis was performed using SPSS 25, which included doing normality tests, descriptive statistical analysis, and paired T-tests. The research results indicated a significant improvement in students' proficiency in vocabulary after the use of the Cake program, as shown by a mean pre-test score of 53.67 and a post-test score of 76.00. The paired T-test confirmed this disparity with a significance value of 0.000, suggesting that the enhancement in students' learning outcomes was not a result of chance. The study's findings indicate that using the Cake application is a successful method for enhancing pupils' proficiency in English vocabulary. This program not only improves vocabulary abilities, but also stimulates students' enthusiasm for studying English with its captivating interactive elements. Hence, it is advisable for educators to contemplate using digital tools such as Cake to boost vocabulary acquisition inside the classroom setting.

Keywords: Cake Application, English Vocabulary Mastery, Educational Technology

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is an essential instrument for human communication. Language serves as a means of communication, allowing people to exchange ideas, thoughts, and emotions, facilitating mutual understanding and interaction. Language serves as a means of communication among individuals in a community, using auditory signals produced by the speech organs (Moats, 2020). English is often regarded as one of the most significant languages globally, and this acknowledgment is universal. According to

Ilyosovna (2024), English is a very prevalent language globally and has significant significance. English enables individuals to engage with others from many nations. In the present era of globalization, mastery of the English language has gained significant importance owing to its position as the predominant global language used in several domains, ranging from commerce to academia.

The acquisition of English language proficiency primarily centers on four core competencies: listening, speaking, reading, and

writing. Out of these talents, speech is sometimes regarded as the most crucial as several learners want to communicate verbally, smoothly, and proficiently. Oral communication is the most demanding of the four essential English abilities since it requires speakers to generate phrases spontaneously. Insufficient comprehension of grammatical structure and vocabulary is a significant obstacle for learners of English as a second or foreign language (Rao, Parupalli, 2019). It is important for individuals to acquire language proficiency, which encompasses fluent speaking, in order to encourage critical thinking and enhance their lexicon. This will ultimately facilitate seamless and successful communication (Wani et al., 2023).

However, in order to communicate effectively, it is essential to possess a sufficient command of terminology. According to the research conducted by Badroeni et al. in 2022, having a strong command of vocabulary is crucial for achieving proficiency in a language. Vocabulary, an essential component of successful communication, consists of the words we use in our everyday interactions. Vocabulary refers to the repertoire of words and phrases that an individual has and use within a given language. Linguistic repertoire refers to the whole set of words comprehended, acknowledged, and used by a language user for the purpose of communication and expression of thoughts. According to (Nation, 2013), vocabulary knowledge is crucial for understanding and using language. The significance of vocabulary knowledge in comprehending and using a language is underscored by Nation, who highlights its pivotal position in an individual's linguistic ability.

As stated by Saputri and Ramli (2018), vocabulary is the paramount element of language. Vocabulary proficiency is crucial for effective verbal expression. Insufficient lexicon hampers the clarity and precision of one's communication. Hence, the enhancement of vocabulary is a crucial aspect of English instruction, particularly for pupils aspiring to enhance their oral communication abilities. Applied linguists place significant emphasis on vocabulary as a crucial component of language (Richards, 2001). Writing, listening, speaking, and reading are interdependent language abilities, and vocabulary deserves to be taught concurrently with these skills. According to Yudha and Mandasari (2021), instructors cannot effectively teach vocabulary if students

experience confusion and frustration throughout the process of learning English.

According to a study conducted by Pustika and Wiedarti in 2019, it is important for instructors to provide English learners with the necessary vocabulary and sentence structures to enhance their proficiency in targeted domains. Acquiring proficiency in English involves being proficient in English vocabulary. Having a strong vocabulary allows learners to effectively and confidently use the language by expressing their ideas and communicating utilizing a wide range of English terminology (Wahyudin et al., 2021). Effective language acquisition in English language instruction necessitates the inclusion of vocabulary development as a crucial component. (Nation, 2013) asserts that vocabulary acquisition encompasses the process of increasing, enhancing, and internalizing vocabulary knowledge that is pertinent to an individual's communication requirements. Nation highlights the significance of many vocabulary acquisition methods, including as immersive environments, systematic review, and the use of efficient mnemonic procedures.

Obtaining the requisite lexicon to achieve proficiency in a language is a primary objective in language instruction. Many students often see language training as tedious and time-consuming to master. Consequently, instructing vocabulary poses a significant challenge for language educators (Mediha & Enisa, 2014). A significant number of educators opt for conventional approaches while instructing language. Typically, pupils are provided with a list of terms and instructed to recall their meanings immediately (Hartwig, 1974). Typically, vocabulary instruction involves the repeated process of memorizing words. This approach enables students to memorize extensive word lists and their corresponding meanings, followed by participation in uncomplicated vocabulary activities. Although this method may enhance the acquisition of vocabulary, it is often seen as monotonous and inefficient for regular use.

Teachers often require students to memorize vocabulary along with their definitions, yet they seldom offer guidance on effective memorization techniques. Conversely, utilizing a dictionary represents a method centered on language acquisition, where learners actively seek out the meanings of words through dictionary usage (Nation, 2001). One of the main problems with this method is the sheer number of words present in the language and the amount of time it takes to

teach them directly. Another reason is that teaching context-free vocabulary has become more difficult. Many educational contexts employ traditional methods where teachers are seen as the sole authority and primary source of knowledge, while students play a passive role as receivers. Instruction in such systems is typically highly structured and lacks room for flexibility and innovation. As a result, students often lack sufficient power or freedom to determine the direction and parameters of their own learning (Ali & Zaki, 2019). In order to solve these issues, this research presents Cake App as an educational tool to enhance students' proficiency in language. Utilizing technology as an educational tool will facilitate the teaching and learning process, making it more convenient and engaging. The Cake App is a learning tool that utilizes gamification technology to enhance the effectiveness of learning. In this study, the impact of using the Cake App as a learning tool will be evaluated. The gamification features offered by the Cake App facilitate students in reaching their learning objectives, particularly in improving their vocabulary skills. This research will provide the findings of data analysis about the impact of using the Cake App application as a technology educational medium.

In addition to rote memorization, the use of flashcards is a technique often employed in traditional learning methods. In this technique, words along with their definitions are presented visually to assist students in memorizing and reviewing new vocabulary. Flashcards can be implemented in the form of games using illustrated cards. This method can enhance students' abilities to read and retell stories based on the illustrations on these cards (Arsana & Maharani, 2021). However, continuous use of flashcards without variation or addition of new material can lead to boredom among learners, especially when they are already familiar with the displayed words (Nurmaningsih, 2021). Although these methods can help expand vocabulary, they are often considered boring and less effective for practical application in everyday life.

As a result, teachers need to provide media that can motivate students and encourage them to learn English vocabulary. Vocabulary teaching methods have undergone significant evolution from traditional approaches to digital innovations. The teaching of vocabulary has undergone major changes with the advancement of technology. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can be used to teach English.

ICT-based learning refers to the use of computers and multimedia to enhance learning or as a substitute for other media without altering the approach and methods of teaching and learning. In English language teaching (ELT), the use of Information Technology (ICT) is intended to enhance, improve, and optimize classroom learning (Rizky Setiawan & Wiedarti, 2020).

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is used to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of learning in accordance with the principles of Curriculum 2013 (Mulyasa, 2018). English teachers should understand the benefits of using ICT and how to integrate it into their lesson plans. Teachers can utilize digital tools to present information on specific topics in lessons. This will help students better understand the topics and foster their curiosity. Digital tools in the English classroom have been very beneficial for both teachers and students. Digital platforms allow teachers and students to access the latest information on particular lessons, making English lessons more engaging for students. As they are motivated to learn, students will not get bored during lessons (Robin & Aziz, 2022).

There are many apps and platforms available to help students expand their vocabulary in a more interactive and fun way in today's digital age. Technology can help address the shortcomings of traditional methods by adding contextual and interactive components that make vocabulary easier to remember and use. According to (Mahdi, 2018), many mobile applications are used by students to help them learn English as a foreign language. These apps help students master four language skills: reading, listening, speaking, and writing. In addition, there are mobile applications such as Cake App that are specifically designed for learning vocabulary.

One prominent application in this context is the Cake app. Cake app is an English language learning tool that helps students communicate better and encourages active participation in class (Octavianita et al., 2022). Cake app is an easy and enjoyable English conversation tool that is updated daily and designed for various age groups, from children to adults. The app offers themes that align with current interests and trends. Users can access a variety of short videos in different categories on this English learning platform, such as snippets from vlogs, movie clips, and podcasts. Each video comes with text and translations in the user's native language.

In particular, these videos allow playback at slower speeds than the original speed, making it easier for students to understand and mimic the content (Adilla, 2022). The Cake app gives students the opportunity to engage in productive activities and unconsciously enhance their English vocabulary. Users can learn authentic English using this app, which is one of the most visited websites globally, YouTube. The Cake app employs context-based learning methods and provides pronunciation exercises and interactive videos to simulate real communication situations. With Cake, users can experience a more dynamic and engaging learning experience compared to traditional teaching methods.

Prior research suggests that the Cake app is successful in improving vocabulary proficiency. According to the study conducted by Putri et al. in 2023, the Cake app is a language learning application that focuses on speaking skills. The software has been shown to effectively enhance students' vocabulary knowledge by improving their speaking abilities. Furthermore, as stated by Nikmah (2023), the use of the Cake app has shown efficacy in enhancing pupils' vocabulary. According to these researchs, kids who often use the Cake app see substantial improvements in their vocabulary. Additionally, they report that the experience of learning with the Cake app is pleasurable, and it enhances their motivation to acquire English language skills.

Therefore, the need of developing a proficient grasp of vocabulary throughout the language learning process is emphasized, and the Cake app is acknowledged as an innovative method to achieve this goal. Cake is a stimulating and enjoyable way to effectively and pleasurably improve children's vocabulary. The objective of this research is to examine the effectiveness of using the Cake app in enhancing vocabulary competence and its impact on the language learning process. This study will investigate the effectiveness of using the Cake app for developing competency in English vocabulary. The purpose of this research is to evaluate the influence of using this application on the improvement of students' vocabulary. The study participants are 8th-grade students who are currently enrolled at SMP IT Daarul Istiqlal Marindal I. This research is to examine how the Cake app may improve English language learning in an educational context by analyzing its use. The goal is to provide new insights into the effectiveness of digital technology in enhancing language learning efficiency.

II. METHODS

The research method used in this study is a quantitative approach with a pre-test and post-test one-group research design. The aim of using both the pre and post-tests is to assess the disparities and use of the Cake Application by students before to and after the intervention. Quantitative research method is a scientific approach that utilizes numerical data to measure variables and examine relationships among variables. (Creswell, 2014) explains that quantitative research focuses on collecting measurable data and statistical analysis to answer research questions. This process requires precision and systematization in data collection, measurement of the variables under study, and the use of statistical techniques in data analysis, as emphasized by (Cohen et al., 2007), highlighting the ability of quantitative research to measure variables accurately and analyze relationships among variables using tested statistical analysis. Quantitative research plays a crucial role in providing a strong foundation for understanding complex phenomena in various fields of knowledge. With systematic and measurable approaches, along with the application of appropriate statistical techniques, this research not only yields reliable findings but also provides a solid basis for evidence-based decision-making.

This research used purposive sampling which involved participants from 8th-grade students at SMP IT Daarul Istiqlal Marindal I, with a total of 30 samples. The assessment instruments used were pre-test and post-test to evaluate the degree of vocabulary proficiency before and after the treatment. These assessments were utilized to determine the impact of using the Cake Application on students' performance. To conduct the research, the researcher used a pre-experimental study with a one-group pre-test post-test design sample selection, where one class from SMP IT Daarul Istiqlal Marindal I is chosen as the research sample. Then, students will be given a pretest to measure their level of vocabulary mastery before using the Cake application. During a certain period, students will use the Cake application to improve their vocabulary mastery. After the period of using the application, students will be given a posttest to evaluate the improvement of their vocabulary mastery. Data analysis is conducted by comparing pretest and posttest scores using appropriate statistical methods. This research was conducted on 30 eighth-grade students at

SMP IT Daarul Istiqlal Marindal I. In this study, the researcher received agreement from students and guardians to ensure the privacy of data collected from research participants. Pre-test and post-test scores served as the data source for this study. The researcher established a standard for interpreting student test scores. In this study, the researcher administered 20 questions to the students as a test. The results of the pre-test and post-test analyses were calculated using SPSS 25. The purpose of conducting normality tests is to determine whether there is any bias in the research. Statistical data analysis is then performed to examine the statistical outcomes based on the average values of the pre-test and post-test results. T-tests are conducted on the pre-test and post-test data to determine if there is a significant impact resulting from the use of the Cake Application.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The final results should be clear and precise. The Discussion section has essential importance in your essay. Ensure that the discussion aligns with the findings, but avoid repeating the subject. The research revealed a noteworthy improvement in students' vocabulary mastery abilities before and after using the Cake App program, as shown by the results of the pre-test and post-test. This highlights the effectiveness of the Cake App as a learning tool for enhancing students' vocabulary proficiency. The researcher performed a normality test on the data collected before and after the experiment in this study. A normality test was conducted to assess the distribution of data both before and after the therapy. Data was gathered before and after the exam to assess students' proficiency in acquiring learning outcomes pertaining to English vocabulary. The normality test findings were evaluated using SPSS 25 to ascertain the presence or absence of a normal distribution in the data.

	Tests of Normality					
	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
PRE-TEST	.104	30	.200*	.977	30	.755
POST-TEST	.120	30	.200*	.954	30	.219

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

*. This is a lower bound of the true significance.

Based on the normality test findings, the statistically significant value for the pretest was 0.755, which is larger than the threshold of 0.05. Similarly, the posttest had a significance value of 0.219, also greater than 0.05. Based on these findings, it may be inferred that the study data

follows a normal distribution.

The following table presents the results of the descriptive statistical analysis conducted on the pre-test and post-test data. The objective of this study is to examine the mean score outcomes before and after treatment in the pre-test and post-test. The differential scores from the two exams are analyzed to assess students' proficiency in acquiring English vocabulary before and after using the Cake Application as a learning tool.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
PRE-TEST	30	40.00	75.00	53.6667	9.09086
Valid N (listwise)	30				

Table 1.2 shows that a group of 30 students took a pre-test, and their results varied between 40 and 75. The minimum recorded score was 40, while the maximum was 75, resulting in a range of 35. The mean score of the whole student population was 53.6, with a standard deviation of 9.09, suggesting substantial dispersion from the average.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
POST-TEST	30	60.00	90.00	76.0000	8.44863
Valid N (listwise)	30				

Table 1.3 displays the results of a post-test taken by a group of 30 students. The scores on the exam varied between 60 and 90. The minimum recorded score was 60, whilst the maximum was 90, which created a range of 30. The mean score of the students was 76.0, with the standard deviation of 8.44, showing a very little amount of variance around this average score.

Pair 1		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
		PRE-TEST	53.6667	30	9.09086
	POST-TEST	76.0000	30	8.44863	1.54250

Table 1.4 displays the pre-test mean score of 53.66 with a standard deviation of 9.09, and the post-test mean score of 76.0 with a standard deviation of 8.44. The data shows a significant rise in the average score by 22.33 after the intervention, indicating a substantial change in the measured factor.

Pair 1		N	Correlation	Sig.
		PRE-TEST & POST-TEST	30	.815

The correlation coefficient between the pre-test and post-test scores in Table 1.5 is 0.815, with a significance level (Sig.) of 0.000. The high correlation implies a robust positive association between the two sets of scores, indicating that variations in the pre-test scores are strongly linked to variations in the post-test values.

1.6 Paired Samples Test

Pair 1	Mean	Std. Deviation	Paired Differences			t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
			Mean	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference			
			Lower	Upper				
PRETEST - POSTTEST	-22.33333	5.37127	98066	-24.33900	-20.32767	-22.774	29	.000

The results of the paired sample T test in this table indicate a p-value of 0.000, which is lower than the significance level of 0.001. It may be inferred that there is a substantial difference between the pre-test and post-test results after the administration of the therapy to the students. This demonstrates the impact of using the Cake App application as an educational tool for enhancing students' language proficiency. The impact of using the Cake App program is seen in the rise of students' average test results. For instance, the average student score attained during the pre-test was 53.6. Subsequently, following the administration of treatment to students via the utilization of the Cake App, there was an apparent increase in

This discussion part offers the findings of a study on the process of English vocabulary acquisition among students using the Cake application. In his essay, Nikmah (2023) asserts that using the Cake program is a potent method for enhancing the English vocabulary of pupils in their eighth semester. The success of the intervention is shown by the substantial disparity between the pre-test score, averaging at 72.37, and the post-test score, which exhibited an increase to 83.42. This finding is further substantiated by the results of hypothesis testing using a paired sample t-test, yielding a significance value of 0.000. This indicates a significant influence of using the Cake Application as a student learning medium, as evidenced by a notable increase in vocabulary observed in the post-test. The average score rose from 72.37 to 83.42. The use of the Cake Application has a substantial impact on enhancing students' vocabulary via the implementation of gamification elements, effectively facilitating the teaching and learning process between educators and learners, ultimately leading to improved understanding of

vocabulary skills. Thus, it is advisable for pupils to use programs like Cake Application to enhance their vocabulary development. Teachers are urged to enhance their teaching by using inventive media or techniques, such as the Cake application, to captivate students' interest and promote active engagement in the classroom.

(Tambunan et al., 2023) observed a significant enhancement in the mean scores of pupils after their use of the Cake application for educational purposes. The average scores of pupils in the experimental group showed an increase from 66.08 in the pre-test to 80.25 in the post-test. Meanwhile, the control group had a rise from 61.92 in the pre-test to 70.92 in the post-test. The use of the Cake program greatly improves vocabulary learning among kids. The post-test results in the experimental group clearly indicate the app's efficacy in enhancing language skills. The Cake program is notable for its captivating features, particularly its capability to allow users to choose their chosen genre or subject for study.

The objective of this study is to assess the efficacy of the Cake application in facilitating English vocabulary acquisition among students. The study sample included 30 eighth-grade students at SMP IT Daarul Istiqlal Marindal I. The Cake program offers an engaging platform for enhancing language proficiency via interactive activities and a wide range of multimedia materials. An analysis and comparison is conducted on the student learning results before to and after the use of the program. The data indicates a noteworthy improvement in the ability to remember and use terminology after the utilization of the Cake application. The pre-test and post-test outcomes demonstrate that students exhibit enhanced learning outcomes subsequent to using the program. These findings emphasize that the Cake application, an interactive digital tool, can enhance educational methods by utilizing cutting-edge learning media. This helps students enhance their English proficiency and makes learning more engaging and efficient, thereby avoiding monotony. Students may actively engage in the teaching and learning process by incorporating novel experiences, such as using a captivating gamification-based learning tool like the cake application.

After analyzing the study data and doing calculations, the researcher may confidently conclude that the use of the Cake app in the learning process resulted in a considerable

improvement in the English vocabulary of 8th-grade junior high school pupils. The app's efficacy is clearly shown by the significant disparity between the pre-test and post-test outcomes, with the average pre-test score being 53.66 and the average post-test score showing an increase to 76.00. This enhancement demonstrates that the interactive functionalities and multimedia materials provided by the Cake application, including as customized vocabulary drills, pronunciation assistance, and video content, are exceedingly efficient in making the learning experience more captivating and influential. The application also aids students in continuously practicing and reinforcing their vocabulary skills, so enhancing their ability to retain and comprehend the learned material. Thus, our results emphasize the considerable capacity of digital tools such as the Cake app to enhance conventional learning approaches and provide a more vibrant and inspiring learning atmosphere for students.

Also, this was also validated by hypothesis testing. The paired sample t-test yielded a statistically significant result with a p-value of 0.000. The score is less than 0.05, suggesting that the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted and the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. Consequently, the utilization of the Cake application for learning English vocabulary is deemed more efficacious than abstaining from its usage, as per the findings of a thorough investigation. The effectiveness of the Cake application in improving pupils' vocabulary may be inferred. Furthermore, research has shown a substantial rise in students' enthusiasm for acquiring English language skills. The Cake application's dynamic and engaging features effectively mitigate student boredom during English sessions, making it a very advantageous option in an educational setting.

IV. CONCLUSION

The use of the Cake application has shown efficacy in enhancing students' competence in English vocabulary. This research demonstrated a significant improvement in student learning results subsequent to the implementation of the Cake program, as compared to the preceding time. The mean initial score for eighth grade pupils at SMP IT Daarul Istiqlal Marindal I was 53.67, which subsequently rose to 76.00 in the follow-up assessment. This demonstrates that the Cake program has the capacity to greatly enhance students' linguistic abilities. Additional statistical

analysis substantiated this discovery, since the paired t-test results revealed a significance value of 0.000, much below the threshold of 0.01. This suggests that the observed disparities are not a result of random probability. The effectiveness of the Cake application in delivering English vocabulary is intrinsically linked to its appealing and enjoyable characteristics. This program enables users to acquire information via concise videos supported by subtitles and translations. Short films and subtitle translations increase comprehension of unfamiliar terminology, enabling students to discover new words. Furthermore, the application provides pronunciation activities that improve skill in practical communication scenarios. In addition, the software provides a heightened level of interactivity and engagement in the learning process, in contrast to traditional methods that are sometimes dull and less effective in real-world scenarios. Based on the findings of this research, it is advisable for English teachers to include digital tools like Cake into their vocabulary teaching for students. Integrating technology into the educational process may augment the attractiveness of instructional materials and motivate pupils to study with more diligence. Teachers should continually endeavor to discover and use innovative technologies and methodologies that captivate students' attention and promote active participation in the classroom. Furthermore, pupils are urged to use resources like Cake as a means to augment their language aptitude. By using interactive educational tools that cater to their individual interests and including a gamified platform like the Cake App, students may enhance their English language skills in a more pleasurable and effective way. Using such applications also offers students more chances to participate in pertinent situations, enabling them to rehearse and implement new vocabulary, which is crucial for enhancing language proficiency. Teachers are recommended to integrate the Cake App into their instructional strategies in order to improve students' language skills in several subject areas. Moreover, it is advisable to carry out additional investigation to ascertain the possibility of using the Cake Application as an educational tool to enhance proficiency in other language abilities.

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