

DEVELOPING AN ENGLISH WEBSITE-BASED LEARNING MEDIA AS THE LEARNING ASSISTANCE FOR 7 GRADERS

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ABSTRACT

The creation of website-based learning media in English as a learning aid for students is an important topic in today's digital era. This article discusses the development process of an educational website that uses interactive content to help students learn topics by including various features, such as fun video animations, interactive games, and quizzes. Users and experts feedbacks are the important part of the development cycle, allowing for continuous improvement and refinement of the website. This project was conducted using the Research and Development method with the 4D model, namely Define, Design, Development, and Disseminate. The research results were obtained after the web-based learning media was presented and validated by teacher, media expert, and material expert, so that the media was valid and suitable for use. This website has several advantages, such as flexibility of access, responsiveness to various screen sizes, and the ability to facilitate students' concept understanding.

Keywords: learning media, website-based learning, Research and Development, Junior High School

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language used in various fields, including education. In the era of globalization, English proficiency is important as it facilitates smooth interaction with colleagues, clients and partners from different cultural backgrounds. In Indonesia, many students face difficulties in learning English, especially in the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. However, English is also an important tool in the world of work and academia. Professions that require the ability to communicate

effectively in English are becoming increasingly important. For example, many multinational companies prefer candidates who can communicate well in English (Naumovych, 2023).

Learning English is challenging due to the lack of engaging media and interactive learning materials that suit students' needs. Worksheets, dictionaries, and textbooks are examples of common educational media and materials used by teacher and students in the classroom. These educational materials and media often do not provide immediate feedback for students and are static and boring. Therefore, students find learning English boring, unmotivating, and discouraging (Miranti, 2021).

Media and educational materials that can raise students' motivation, interest, and English learning achievement are required to address these issues. A website for learning English is one of the media and educational resources that can be employed. A website that offers exercises, tests, and other English-learning resources is known as a website-based learning media (Setyo et al., 2019). Students can use the internet to access websites for learning English at any time and from any location. Additionally, it can give pupils prompt and precise feedback regarding their learning objectives. Website-based learning media can include all types of media such as flashcards, visual media, audio media, and audio-visual media that can make the learning process more interesting and interactive (Juniardi, 2023).

This website-based Google resource is considered a basic teaching tool that can be easily used and understood by teacher and students. As an effort to make students more independent when carrying out learning both outside and inside the classroom, e-learning media that is displayed as a learning website can be used (Setyo et al., 2019). Specifically, this resource presents unique elements that make it easier for students to understand topics while studying online (Suryanto, 2018). Google Sites is a web-based online learning tool used in this research. Google Sites can be better connected with the help of creative teacher. This can have an impact on students' drive to learn, interest in learning, and effectiveness of online learning (Sabar & Rahman, 2011). Innovations must be created and developed regularly. Teacher should be able to make learning easy for their students. Teacher can post lesson plans, homework assignments, syllabi and much more on the Google website. Teacher can choose from a variety of learning materials, including text, graphics and videos. Students only need a device or laptop connected to

the internet network to access this Google site, which is also quite easy to use and can be accessed by both teacher and students. No downloading is required.

This problem description draws on previous research and seeks to identify new approaches to online education. Google Sites is particularly helpful in English classes in terms of the way materials are presented. Website-based learning media is efficient to use in the learning process to improve learning outcomes (Heni Vidia Sari & Hay Suswanto, 2017). Cahyo Nugroho & Hendrastomo (2021) also agreed that the development of learning media based on Google Sites is feasible to use from the media and material aspects.

According to Dwi Susanti & Suripah (2021), besides face-to-face learning, online self-study is also recommended. Thus, it is necessary to choose the right learning media so that the learning process remains optimal. One of the technology-based media that can be utilized as learning media is the website.

That statement was reinforced by Juniardi (2023). He stated that the use of learning media in the English learning process to facilitate the understanding of the material by students should include learning that is more interesting, can motivate students to continue learning, and strengthen memorization memories. In addition, learning media should also be effective, efficient, useful, and reusable.

The purpose of this research is to develop a website-based learning media as the learning assistance for 7 graders. This research is aimed at 7 graders because at this moment they are still in the transition from elementary school to junior high school, where they have different English language backgrounds and experiences. Hence, by using this media it can help students learn English anytime and anywhere, make it easier for teacher to teach English, and improve student's comprehension of English.

METHODOLOGY

This research used an instructional design, research and development approach. According to Sugiyono (2011), R&D method is a research method used to produce certain products, and test the effectiveness of these products using survey, qualitative, or experimental methods. The implementation of development research is based on the four stages of 4D, namely Define, Design, Develop, and Disseminate (Hariyanto et al., 2022). The application of the 4D model has the aim of developing learning device

products, where the basis for development is the previous situation or findings that show students' learning interests. The 4D model in educational research is that researchers are able to analyze the learning needs of students and then immediately decide on the selection of learning device design formats that are in accordance with the needs of students (Prasmala & Tanggu, 2020).

In the define stage, the researcher interviewed several junior high school teachers who teach the English subject to be created as part of the researcher's needs study. The design step is related to formulating objectives, creating materials, and creating website schemes. The design of this web-based teaching material design used an online application launched by Google, namely Google Sites. The researchers created the website and the contents at the development stage. To assess and revise the website that has been made, researchers at the disseminate stage asked for feedback from the teacher, media expert, and material expert.

DISCUSSION

This section explores the process of website-based learning media development including several steps, namely define, design, develop, and disseminate. Following the overview of each step, the discussion of the finding is elaborated.

Define

Learning begins with the procedures applied by the teacher. The teacher started with ice breaking so that students were excited to follow the lessons of the day. The explanation presented was easy for students to understand, so students could follow it. However, when it came to the core activity of doing assignments in groups, students still felt though as they did not fully understand the material. It compelled the teacher to clarify the intended meaning. Due to students' limited proficiency with the language, teacher only used no more than 50% of English when teaching. Based on the results of the interview, the teacher stated that one of the difficulties faced in teaching English for grade 7 is the students' lack of English skills. in addition, their abilities are also very diverse because not all students have learned English before in elementary school. some students learn English from the basics in grade 7 so students need to be motivated to learn independently in order to catch up in class.

Design

The first step in creating an educational website is designing the learning objectives. The reference for making learning objectives is a reference to the grade 7 syllabus and textbooks used from the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, namely *When English Rings a Bell*. In addition, the English teacher was also involved to guide the researcher in developing the website so that it really met the users' need. The creation of the content was conducted after completing the learning objectives. In order to keep students interested in in the learning process, engaging contents in the form video animations and catchy songs were applied. In developing the website, Google Site was used as the website hosting. Instead of creating a design at random, a scheme or chart was created to identify what needs to be there.

Development

The website created was named HELish course. At the beginning of creating the website, a template was firstly created. Then, the homepage interface was developed such as adding the header, navigations, icons, topics, and so on. In the homepage view, it can be seen the website header, course overview, and topics.

Some features of this website are animation videos, interactive games, and conversation practices. The animations videos were created to grab the students' interest to learn through this website and to provide an enjoyable learning experience. There are two types of activities provided in the videos, sing a long and learning materials. Besides providing the explanation of the topics, this website also invites the users to learn in a fun way through song. The other feature is interactive games. The games were created by using online games platform such as Educaplay, Kahoot, Quizizz, etc. Then, the games were embedded into the website to make them more accessible and visually user-friendly. These games are used as drilling to improve the students' understanding toward the topics as well as the language accuracy. The last feature is conversation practice. Since speaking skills is one of the important skills in mastering a language, it is important for students to be familiar with the context in which the expressions/ languages learn are used. Therefore, conversation practices are provided in this website through quizzes. The benefit of quizzes for this practice is that the users can obtain instant feedback after doing the practices. So, they know whether they have mastered the topics or still need an improvement.

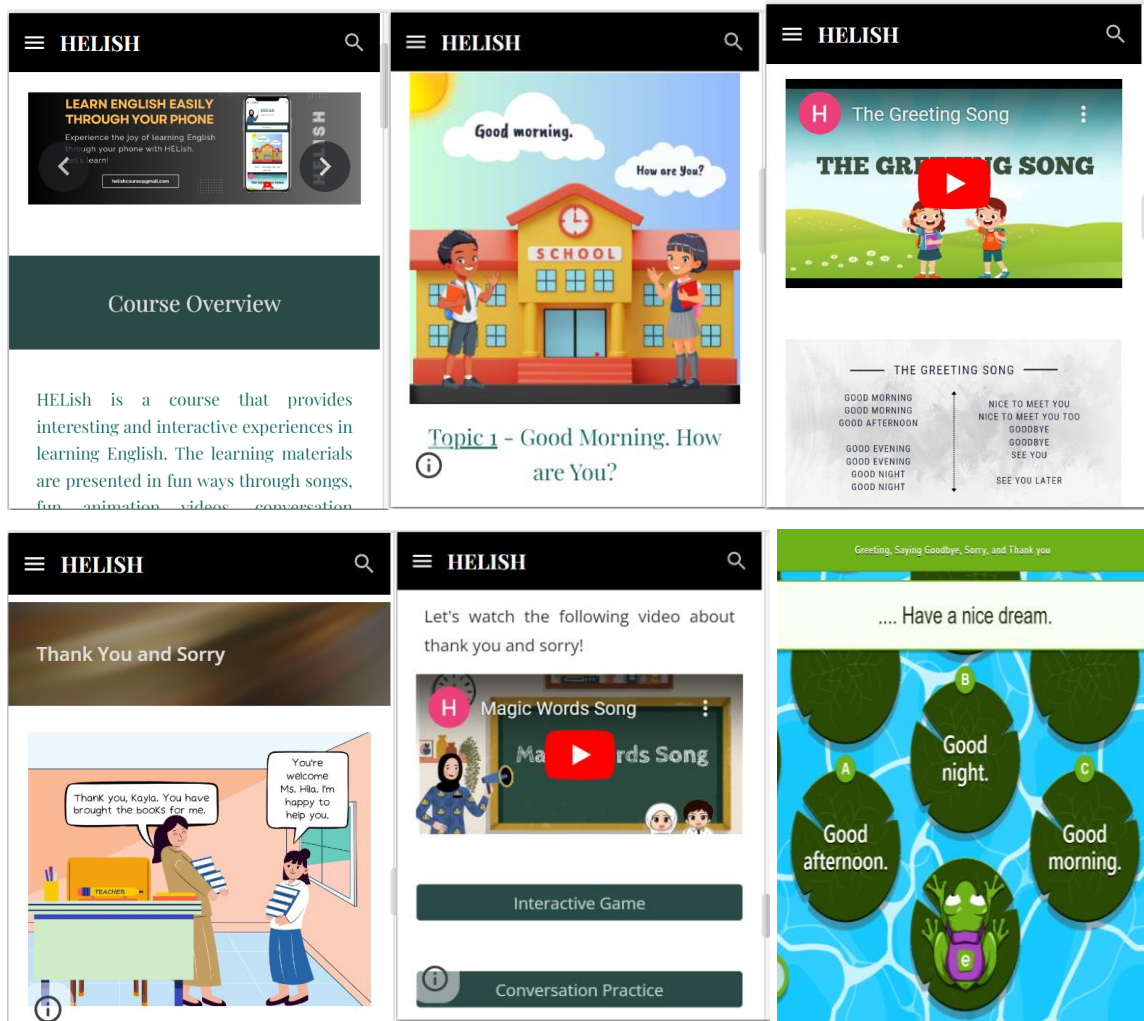


Figure 1. The Phone Overview of the Website

Disseminate

At this stage, the prototype of this media was disseminated. This dissemination was attended by teacher, media expert, and material expert. They were invited to give feedbacks and suggestions for the improvement of this website-based learning media development.

Media Validation

Media validation was carried out after the dissemination stage by the teacher, media expert and material expert. Each of them was asked to fill the questionnaires of the website evaluation. The evaluation for the teacher covered some aspects including the appropriateness of the content for the targeted users, the interface/ appearance, the interactivity, the accessibility, and the capability to attract the students' interest. The evaluation for media expert were based on multiple criteria, including interactivity, display arrangement, and simplicity of web access. The evaluation criteria for the

materials experts were related to the language features used in the website, the learning experiences, and the relevance of the materials.

Table 1. Media Expert Question Results

Remarks: 5 = Very agree; 4 = Agree; 3 = Neutral; 2 = Disagree; 1 = Very Disagree

No.	Questions	Score					Explanation
		1	2	3	4	5	
1.	Is this website media easily accessible?				✓		Based on the score obtained, this website is easily accessible
2.	Is this website media easy to use?				✓		Based on the score obtained, this website is easy to use
3.	Will using this website make teaching and learning activities more interesting?				✓		Based on the score obtained, by using this website, teaching and learning activities will be more interesting
4.	Whether the animated video made is easy to understand?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the animated video made is easy to understand
5.	Whether the animated videos made are easy to follow?					✓	Based on the score obtained, the animated video made is easy to follow
6.	Does the website display theme match the material?			✓			Based on the score obtained, the theme of the website display is quite in accordance with the material
7.	Is the font used easy to read?			✓			Based on the score obtained, the font used is quite easy to read
8.	Is the font size used too small?			✓			Based on the score obtained, the font used is quite, not too small and not too big
9.	Do the shapes and backgrounds match?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the shape and background are match
10.	Does the choice of words match the characteristics of the student?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the choice of words is in accordance with the characteristics of students
11.	Can this website display video, text, sound, and images?					✓	Based on the score obtained, this website can display video, text, sound, and images
12.	Is the illustration used very appropriate with the material?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the illustrations used are very appropriate with the material
TOTAL		0	0	3	7	2	

According to the questionnaire above, this website is easy to access and easy to use anywhere and anytime. The use of this website can make teaching and learning activities more interesting, because there are displays in the form of video, text, sound, and

images. The appearance of the website and illustrations are also adjusted to the material. In addition, the material presented is easy to understand and easy to follow by grade 7 students because the choice of words used is in accordance with the characteristics of students. According to the media expert, the font size and font type are appropriate or easy to see. He also gave advice that it would be better if the font type used is a font type that has its own characteristics so that it is easily remembered by the reader.

Table 2. Material Expert Question Results

Remarks: 5 = Very agree; 4 = Agree; 3 = Neutral; 2 = Disagree; 1 = Very Disagree

No.	Statements	Score					Explanation
		1	2	3	4	5	
1.	This website-based media is feasible for use.				✓		Based on the score obtained, this website-based media is feasible for use.
2.	This media is in accordance with the needs of students.				✓		Based on the score obtained, this media is in accordance with the needs of students.
3.	This media is difficult to use.		✓				Based on the score obtained, this media is easy to use.
4.	The media can be used anytime and everywhere.					✓	Based on the score obtained, the media can be used anytime and everywhere.
5.	This media is effective and efficient to be used for learning.				✓		Based on the score obtained, this media is effective and efficient to be used for learning.
6.	The language used is easy to understand.				✓		Based on the score obtained, the language used is easy to understand.
7.	This media facilitates the learning process in class.				✓		Based on the score obtained, this media facilitates the learning process in class.
8.	By using this website, learning becomes more interesting.				✓		Based on the score obtained, by using this website, learning becomes more interesting.
9.	This media motivates the students to learn.				✓		Based on the score obtained, this media motivates the students to learn.
10.	This media helps students link the theory and practice.				✓		Based on the score obtained, this media helps students link the theory and practice.
TOTAL		0	1	0	8	1	

According to the questionnaire above, this website-based learning media is easy and feasible to use because it can be used anytime and anywhere. The material presented is in accordance with the needs of students. The language used is easy to understand so

that it facilitates the learning process when used in class. By using this website, learning becomes more interesting and can motivate students to learn independently or in class. The material expert also agrees that this website-based learning media is effective and efficient to use for learning. He gave suggestions for the language used to be better equivalent to the order to be eye catching.

Table 3. Teacher Question Results

Remarks: 5 = Very agree; 4 = Agree; 3 = Neutral; 2 = Disagree; 1 = Very Disagree

No.	Questions	Score					Explanation
		1	2	3	4	5	
1.	What do you think about the website we created?					✓	Based on the score obtained, the website we created is very good.
2.	Are the animations or illustrations used on the website appropriate for children?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the animations or illustrations used on the website appropriate for children
3.	Is the quality of video animation on the website good enough (video, sound, animation, etc.)?					✓	Based on the score obtained, the quality of video animation on the website is very good (video, sound, animation, etc.)
4.	Is the text on this website easy to read?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the text on this website easy to read
5.	Is this website easy to access?			✓			Based on the score obtained, this website is quite easy to access
6.	Is this website easy to use?				✓		Based on the score obtained, this website is easy to use
7.	Is the learning flow in this website easy to understand?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the learning flow in this website is easy to understand
8.	Is the game on this website interesting?					✓	Based on the score obtained, the game on this website is very interesting
9.	Is the quiz on this website easy to understand?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the quiz on this website is easy to understand
10.	Is the conversation practice on this website easy to understand?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the conversation practice on this website is easy to understand.
11.	Is the material on the website in accordance with the material learned in class?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the material on the website is in accordance with the material learned in class
12.	Is the presentation of the material easy to understand?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the presentation of the material is easy to understand

No.	Questions	Score					Explanation
		1	2	3	4	5	
13.	Is the language used easy to understand?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the language used is easy to understand
14.	Are there enough practice questions or activities provided?				✓		Based on the score obtained, there are enough practice questions or activities provided
15.	Are the activities on this website in accordance with the material studied?				✓		Based on the score obtained, the activities on this website are in accordance with the material studied
16.	Is this website interesting for students?				✓		Based on the score obtained, this website is interesting for students
17.	Can this website motivate students to learn independently?				✓		Based on the score obtained, this website can motivate students to learn
18.	Can this website improve students' English skills?				✓		Based on the score obtained, this website can improve students' English skills
19.	What do you think are the criteria for good learning media for students?						Easy to access, contains many fun exercises like games, contain clear materials explanations
TOTAL		0	0	1	14	3	

According to the questionnaire above, this website is very good in terms of the animation or illustration used and the quality of the video animation (video, sound, animation, etc.). This website is easy to access and easy to use. The learning flow is easy to understand from opening, core, to closing and the text used is easy to read. This website provides various quizzes, conversation exercises, and games that are certainly interesting and easy to understand. The presentation of the material is in accordance with the material learned in class so it is easy to understand. In addition, the language and activities on this website are in accordance with the material studied. This website is made to attract students to learn independently or in class and can motivate students to improve their English skills. According to the teacher, the criteria for good learning media for students are that it can be accessed easily, contains many fun exercises such as games, and contains clear explanations of the material.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the website-based learning media developed is recommended to use because it is interesting, user friendly, and accessible. This

also facilitates students' independent learning and increases their curiosity in learning English through fun learning experiences. Even though this website has advantages in features, such as the availability of fun animation videos (learning videos, songs and lyrics), interactive games and quizzes, this website still has a drawback, namely the consistence of the appearance like the font and the visual, the language use, and the domain building for this website. The product of this research is the prototype of the website validated by teacher, media expert, and material expert. Thus, further research needs to be conducted to test the effectiveness of this website in improving the students' English skills.

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