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PROGRAM
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ABSTRACTS BOOK

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IMPROVING YEAR 1 PUPILS UNDERSTANDING OF SHORT VOWEL SOUNDS /ɛ/ AND /æ/ BY USING TALKING PIPES WITH STAVIRA AUTOMATED PHONEME TRANSCRIPTIONS (TPAPT)

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ABSTRACT

Talking Pipes with Stavira Automated Phoneme Transcriptions (TPAPT) is an innovation on enhancing year 1 pupils understanding between short vowel sounds /e/ and /æ/ as to improve their speaking skill. Pupils frequently confuse pronouncing words with /e/ and /æ/ sounds like 'met' and 'mat' and 'dead' and 'dad'. Mispronunciation of words using /e/ and /æ/ sounds usually happens because the sounds is almost the same. This innovation aimed to identify the effectiveness of TPAPT and pupils' interest in practicing /e/ and /æ/ sounds using TPAPT. Three stages are introduced in the process of using TPAPT where first participants are required to distinguish the /e/ and /æ/ sounds based on the information explained in the Stavira application. Second, recognize the sounds by using adjustable talking pipes and third, test their understanding of /e/ and /æ/ sounds using the automated phoneme transcriptions. After one cycle of using TPAPT, participants were able to differentiate between /e/ and /æ/ sounds and they like the innovation. As a conclusion, TPAPT enable pupils to reduce errors and can improve their understanding of /e/ and /æ/ sounds. This innovation can be furthered by combining other phoneme sounds in one practice since the tools can be applied to all phoneme sounds.

Keywords: TPAPT, pronunciation, phoneme, /e/ and /æ/ sounds

1. INTRODUCTION

Speaking is one of the main skills of learning English Language. To speak correctly, we must have an ability to be able to say words correctly and clearly using correct pronunciation. Without correct pronunciation, the meaning of words will be different and will cause a misunderstanding among the speakers. The study of phonemes stresses that we must understand all the English sounds so that we can pronounce every word correctly. According to Le Roux, Geertsema, Jordaan & Prinsloo (2017), phonemic awareness is triggered when a child learns that a phoneme contributes to distinguishing meaning in words. Some of English sounds may sound the same, but the way its sounds in words are different. So, we must know how to distinguish the sounds so that the meaning of words can be distinguished.

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

The material designed entitled "TPAPT" or also known as "Talking Pipes with Stavira Automated Phoneme Transcriptions". It's a tool to distinguish between the /e/ and /æ/ sounds. Through this

innovation, the participants will use this tool to improve their understanding of /e/ and /æ/ sounds through three steps of using TPAPT which are distinguish, recognition and testing. The method used to achieve the objective which is to identify the effectiveness and participants' interest in using TPAPT is through document analysis and interview.

2.1. Document Analysis & Interview

To identify the effectiveness, participants will be asked to say a set of words before and after using TPAPT. The correct words said by participants will be recorded and compared before and after using TPAPT. Also, an interview with the participants was conducted to answer the second research questions which is participants' interest in using TPAPT. The interview involved all the participants and their responses were recorded.

2.1.1. Result for Data Analysis & Interview

All participants manage to show positive improvement between before and after using TPAPT. The usage of TPAPT proven to be effective in understanding the different between the /e/ and /æ/ sounds. For the interview, the positive responses given by participants shows that they are interested in using TPAPT. Every participant said yes when they were asked about how TPAPT gave them enjoyment in understanding the difference between /e/ and /æ/ sounds.
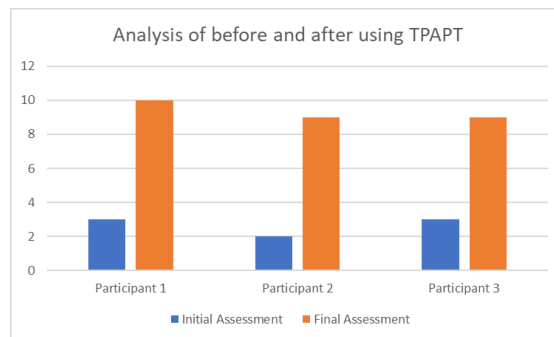

Figure 1. Analysis of before and after using TPAPT

Table 1. Analysis of interview

No.	Questions	Responses (Summary)
1.	Do you enjoy using TPAPT?	Yes
2.	Are you motivated to learn using TPAPT?	Yes
3.	Can you distinguish /e/ and /æ/ sounds after using TPAPT?	Yes

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Kelulusan daripada pihak YBhg. Profesor dalam perkara ini amat dihargai.

Sekian, terima kasih.

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