A *CALL* For Perfection: The Use of Pictowords
Discovery in Teaching Pronunciation.

MLING SONJEN

2000531419

FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY MARA
SAMARAHAN CAMPUS, SARAWAK

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ABSTRACT

'A CALL For Perfection: The Use of Pictowords Discovery In Teaching Pronunciation'
is a study done to determine the effectiveness of the use of Pictowords Discovery, a
computer-based pronunciation programme to the learners' level of good pronunciation
and learners' interest in pronunciation learning. The study, which was done to a group of
30 learners of ESL in SK Lumba Kuda, Kuching, showed encouraging results in all three
tests administered throughout the experiment. The subjects of the study also showed
positive attitude towards learning using the programme, this further proven the
effectiveness of the use of Pictowords Discovery. Although this study was done to only a
small group or learners over a very limited time period, it managed to provide useful and
encouraging results for future studies in the related field.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

English is seen as an increasingly global language over the last 20 years. Learners who study the English Language hope to gain the communicative tools necessary to survive in the real world. One of the communicative tools, which has become increasingly important, is effective pronunciation. However, its importance in second language communication is still widely debated. Some research suggest that teachers can make a little or no difference in improving students' pronunciation, while on the other hand other research suggest that the teacher can make a different if certain pronunciation criteria, such as the teaching of suprasegmentals, are being taught.

Castillo (1990) suggested that 'the role of pronunciation in language has varied widely from having virtually no role in the grammar-translation method to being the main focus in the audio-lingual method where emphasis is on the traditional notions of pronunciation, minimal pairs, drills and short conversations'. Still teachers find pronunciation one of the least favourite topics for them to address in the classroom. As pronunciation is one of the components of the English Language that should be mastered, teachers have no choice but to teach pronunciation.