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I-RoLE 2023

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE EDUCATION 2023

**EMBRACING CHANGE:
EMANCIPATING THE LANDSCAPE
OF RESEARCH IN LINGUISTIC,
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

13 - 14 MARCH 2023

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PWSP: PHONETIC WORD SEARCH PUZZLE BOOK

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ABSTRACT:

Pronouncing certain words correctly could be a challenge for most language learners. The project examined how effective phonetics transcriptions can help people to improve their pronunciation. To make it fun and challenging while sharpening the phonetics knowledge, the researcher created a word search puzzle book based on IPA (International Phonetic Alphabets) symbols. The study included 22 professional communication students (LG120) and 19 other faculty members. To collect data, a quantitative approach was used, with students answering questions via Google forms.

Keywords: IPA (International Phonetic Alphabets), pronunciation, quantitative, students, word search puzzle book.

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the major challenges faced by students in learning phonetics is the lack of usage of the symbols. Students tend to have difficulties in remembering and pronouncing each symbol that will cause them to find it hard to even create a sentence using IPA symbols. For people who did not have the exposure to phonetics, they would not recognise and understand the IPA symbols in the dictionary. Hence, creating the phonetic word search puzzle book can be an advantage for the people and students to learn and gain knowledge in phonetics.

Word search puzzles are typically organised around a specific theme. This project will allow players to learn new words in context and improve their phonetics skills. This phonetic word search puzzle book is made up of phonetic symbols arranged in a grid with several hidden words running in different directions but in a phonetic version. This book is intended for people of all ages, particularly LG120 students. The phonetic word search puzzle book has ten pages with various themes. It also includes a phonetic table and a QR code that will take players to a video on how to pronounce each symbol, allowing them to review and learn the fundamentals of phonetics. Phonetic word search puzzles are typically organised around a specific theme. These phonetic word search puzzles can be extremely beneficial for students attempting to master key vocabulary in a specific discipline and improve their pronunciation skills.

1.1 Problem Statement

One of the most difficult challenges for some students learning English as a second language is correctly pronouncing words. The IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbol is important in life because it teaches people how to pronounce each term properly. People who have not had the opportunity to be exposed to phonetics will experience miscommunication in a conversation. This is because they can't hold a conversation because their words have an unidentifiable

pronunciation. Students who understand the fundamentals of phonetics also have difficulty remembering each symbol that they have learned. They can recall some of the symbols but writing them in a sentence may take some time.

1.2 Project Objectives

1. To help memorise and review IPA symbols in an interesting way.
2. To improve the pronunciation of each symbol correctly.

1.3 Entrepreneurial Opportunities

A word search puzzle book that focuses on phonetics is uncommon in bookstores or on online platforms. As a result, this project has the potential to generate revenue by selling the book to students and other interested language learners in learning phonetics. This book can be purchased in physical form as well as online as an E-book or at online bookstores such as MPH and Popular. Online business appears to have a lot of potential to attract buyers in today's generation. Another option is to sell it through messaging apps such as Whatsapp and Telegram.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Despite its importance in the EFL setting (Lintunen, 2013), the IPA symbols generally do not have much exposure in the classroom as they are sometimes utterly ignored (Mirza, 2013). The game helps with word memorization, provides internal learning motivation and can be effective in recalling words after a long time (Goumas et al., 2020). Word search games are also very popular for teaching students on how to identify words (Ananda, 202 C.E.). Students learn and remember the words they prefer while learning the words which support their word spelling learning.

Every language has their own great number of sounds (Riza & Akhmad Kawakip, 2021). For instance, English has 44 (forty-four) language sounds and only has 26 (twenty-six) alphabets. To avoid such difficulties of pronunciation which lead to mispronunciation, IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) was introduced to remove the difficulties (Riza & Akhmad Kawakip, 2021). Phonetic transcription nowadays has become a good way to remedy and improve students' pronunciation. It is the written record of the sound of spoken language (Riza & Akhmad Kawakip, 2021). Because phonetic transcription based on IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) precisely shows how the word should be produced and pronounced in the right pronunciation.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study utilizes a quantitative approach. A questionnaire was distributed to 41 students, 22 were LG120 students and the remaining 19 were students from other faculties, before the researcher began working on the book. To facilitate data analysis, the questionnaire was created with the Google Form app and distributed to students via the WhatsApp platform. The findings were analysed, and content for the phonetic word search puzzle book was created. The results of the questionnaire have been discussed in the Results and Discussion section.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

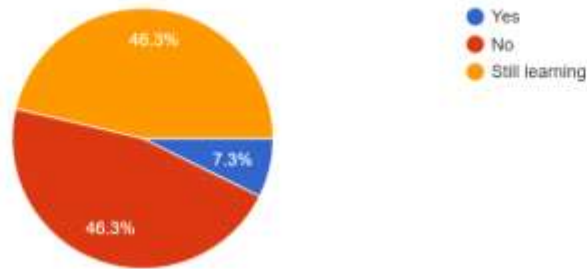


Figure 1. Response to: Can you write a sentence using IPA symbols?

Figure 1 demonstrates whether or not respondents can construct a sentence using IPA symbols. Unfortunately, only 7.3% of those polled said yes. This means that 3 out of 41 people can write a sentence using IPA symbols. Fortunately, 46.3% are still learning to write sentences with IPA symbols. If the respondents are LG120 students, that means 19 of the 22 students are still learning. Finally, 46.3% of 19 students said they could not write a sentence using IPA symbols. This is understandable given that the 19 students are from various faculties and have never been exposed to phonetics.

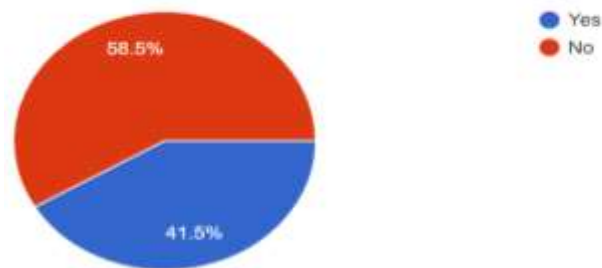


Figure 2. Response to: Can you produce the sound of each IPA symbol?

When asked if they could make the sound of each IPA symbol, only 41.5% said they could. This means that only 17 of the 41 respondents can produce the sound of each IPA symbol. The remaining 58.5% of respondents said no. That adds up to 24 respondents who are unable to produce the sound of each IPA symbol. According to this data, some respondents are still having difficulty producing the sound of each IPA symbol.

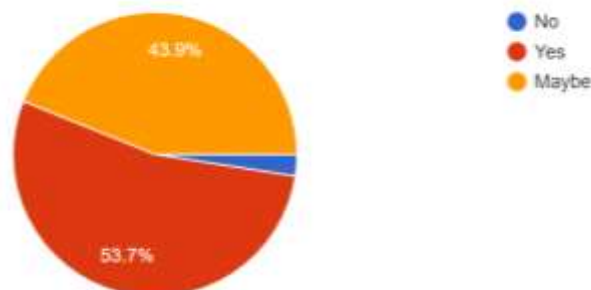


Figure 3. Response to: Are you expecting fun in learning phonetics?

According to the data, 53.7% of people are looking forward to having fun while learning phonetics. This sums up to 22 out of 41 respondents. Another 43.9%, or 18 respondents, responded maybe to express their confusion of emotions as they are unfamiliar with and hearing about phonetics for the first time. Aside from that, one respondent answered no to this question.



4. CONCLUSION

The researcher concluded that the entertaining learning element embedded in the project invention allows this phonetic word search puzzle book to improve learners' pronunciation and vocabulary. The researcher discovered that by developing this project, students can achieve their learning objectives while having fun. Sometimes, in order to amuse a student's interest in something, a new approach or strategy should be developed and applied. They will be more motivated to learn as a result of this. This project has the potential to benefit players' brain development because they will be able to recognise and recall IPA symbols that they have learned. Puzzles help them exercise their brains, which helps them focus and think creatively. There is also room for improvement in terms of the strategies used to make this project more engaging. Creating more enjoyable themes for players to explore is one of the improvements planned for this project. Another future suggestion is to turn this project into a virtual game in order to attract more players to enjoy it. These are some enhancements for the project's future.

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