NAM CAN THO UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

DIEP ANH KHOI

ENGLISH-MAJORED STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS USING MOBILE APPS IN PRACTISING ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS

BACHELOR'S THESIS

Program: English Studies

Code: 7220201

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SUPERVISOR

NGUYEN THI MY HOA, M.A.

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DECLARATION

This research, “English-Majored Students’ Perceptions Towards Using English Learning Apps in Practising English Speaking Skills”, was prepared under the direction of MA. Nguyen Thi My Hoa, an English lecturer and a researcher at the School of Foreign Languages.

I declare that the information reported in this study is the result of my own work except where due reference is made. The essay has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted to any candidature for any other degree or diploma.

Can Tho, May 2025

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TÓM LƯỢC

Với sự phát triển mạnh mẽ trong thời đại ngày nay, công nghệ đã và đang đóng vai trò quan trọng trong nền giáo dục và học tập. Việc sử dụng các ứng dụng để học Tiếng Anh, đặc biệt là kỹ năng nói, đang trở thành xu hướng phổ biến và được quan tâm, đặc biệt đối với các bạn học sinh, sinh viên. Với các tính năng sẵn có, các ứng dụng học tiếng Anh trên thiết bị di động không chỉ mang lại sự linh hoạt, tiện lợi mà còn cung cấp nhiều tính năng hỗ trợ người học nâng cao khả năng giao tiếp. Trên cơ sở đó, bài nghiên cứu này được tiến hành nhằm tìm hiểu nhận thức của sinh viên chuyên ngành Ngôn ngữ Anh tại Trường Đại học Nam Cần Thơ đối với việc sử dụng các ứng dụng học tiếng Anh trên thiết bị di động trong việc luyện kỹ năng nói. Đi cùng với điều đó là những ứng dụng học tiếng Anh được biết và sử dụng bởi các học sinh, cũng như là những lợi ích họ có được và những khó khăn mà họ phải đối mặt. Với việc áp dụng phương pháp nghiên cứu hỗn hợp, nghiên cứu đã tiến hành khảo sát bằng bảng câu hỏi đối với 255 sinh viên và thực hiện phỏng vấn bán cấu trúc với sáu sinh viên trong nhóm khảo sát đầu tiên. Bài nghiên cứu này cũng chỉ ra một số ứng dụng được sử dụng phổ biến bao gồm Duolingo, ELSA Speak và Cake. Kết quả cho thấy phần lớn sinh viên có thái độ tích cực đối với các ứng dụng di động, họ nhận thấy nhiều lợi ích khi sử dụng ứng dụng để luyện kỹ năng nói như cải thiện phát âm, tăng tính linh hoạt và nâng cao sự tự tin. Tuy nhiên, nghiên cứu cũng cho thấy một số rào cản, bao gồm việc thiếu ứng dụng trong bối cảnh giao tiếp thực tế và sự phụ thuộc quá mức vào công nghệ.

Từ khóa: *Các kỹ năng nói, các ứng dụng trên điện thoại, Tiếng Anh.*

ABSTRACT

With the rapid development of technology in recent years, it has been playing an important role in both education and learning. The use of such applications to practice English speaking skills, has become a popular and widely recognized trend, particularly among students. With its features, these English learning applications on mobile devices not only offer flexibility and convenience but also provide various functions that support learners in improving their speaking skills. Based on this context, this study investigated the perceptions of English-majored students at Nam Can Tho University toward the use of English learning mobile applications in practicing speaking skills. Together with the perceptions, are the apps that are known and used by the students, and the benefits and challenges that they might face. Using a mixed-methods design approach, the study administered a structured questionnaire to 255 students, followed by subsequent semi-structured interviews of six of those who volunteered. This thesis also pointed out regularly used apps among the students who participated in the study, including Duolingo, ELSA Speak, and Cake. The findings revealed that a large number of students had a positive attitude towards mobile apps; they perceived benefits from using mobile apps to practise speaking skills, such as improved pronunciation, increased flexibility, and boosted self-confidence. The study also revealed several barriers that including a lack of use in real-life contexts and excessive technology dependence.

Keywords: *Speaking skills, Mobile apps, English*.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AI: artificial intelligence

EFL: English as a foreign language

MALL: Mobile-Assisted Language Learning

SPSS: Statistical Package for the Social Science