

**AUTONOMOUS LANGUAGE LEARNING THROUGH A MOBILE APPLICATION: A
USER EVALUATION OF THE CAMBLY APP**

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Abstract: This research aims to investigate the Evaluation of Cambly as an English learning platform based on students' feedback. The study utilized a mixed-method approach with quantitative and qualitative data from online questionnaires. A total of 10 students participated in the study, consisting of individuals who have used Cambly as their English learning platform. The findings indicate that most students used Cambly to improve their language skills for work/school, with an overall interest in learning the English language. Most students also expected to improve their English proficiency and felt that Cambly had improved their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. The study found that students rated Cambly as very practical or effective in improving their English proficiency, with a high confidence level after using Cambly. Furthermore, the qualitative data showed that Cambly's Evaluation is attributed to its user-friendly interface, engaging features, and flexibility.

Keywords: **Keywords:** Cambly, English Language Learning, Evaluation, Language Learning.

INTRODUCTION.

Language learning has become increasingly important in our globalized world, as more and more people need to communicate with those who speak different languages. With the rise of technology, language learning platforms have emerged as a popular and accessible way for people to learn a new language. These platforms can include websites, mobile apps, or software programs that offer a range of language learning tools, such as grammar lessons, vocabulary exercises, and

interactive language games. Many language learning platforms are available, and they differ in terms of the languages they offer, the types of lessons and exercises provided, and the teaching methods used. Some famous examples include Cambly, Tandem, and FluentU.

Given the abundance of language learning platforms available, evaluating their effectiveness in helping students achieve their language learning goals is essential. Through user feedback, this research study evaluates the Cambly app, one of the most popular and widely used language learning platforms.

Language learning is crucial for both personal and professional development. Communicating in multiple languages can enhance education, employment, travel, and cultural exchange opportunities. In addition, language learning can improve cognitive skills such as memory, attention, and problem-solving abilities. Moreover, learning a new language can foster empathy, intercultural understanding, and social connections with people from diverse backgrounds.

Language learning platforms like Cambly have become increasingly popular due to their convenience, accessibility, and affordability, allowing students to study at their own pace and in their own time. However, it is essential to evaluate the effectiveness of these platforms to ensure that students receive the best possible language education.

According to Alghammas (2020), it is a "commercial company founded in 2013, focusing on assisting English language learners to practice speaking skills with qualified native speaker/tutors". The majority of Cambly tutors have teaching degrees and experience. Users can review the profiles of the available native speakers when they open Cambly before beginning the audio call to choose the person with whom they have the most common interests and feel most at ease conversing.

This research study aims to provide user feedback to assess the effectiveness of Cambly as a language learning platform, addressing its strengths and limitations. By evaluating the Cambly app, this study aims to inform language students and educators on the best practices for utilizing language learning platforms to achieve language proficiency. Research Questions is, What is the Evaluation of Cambly as an English learning platform based on user feedback? This article is very important for teachers to be able to evaluate the methods used when teaching students.

METHODOLOGY

The study utilized a mixed-method approach with both quantitative and qualitative data collected through online questionnaires, with a convenience sample of English language students who have used Cambly as an English learning platform. The data collection instrument will be a questionnaire,

Data analysis will be conducted using qualitative content analysis for the open-ended responses and descriptive statistics for the quantitative data. Informed consent will be obtained from all participants, and their data will be kept confidential and anonymous.

In this research, a questionnaire was utilized as the primary instrument. The questionnaire comprised multiple choice and open-ended questions and was made available online via a Google form. The qualitative approach is chosen to gain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomena surrounding students' perceptions and related factors. To select participants, purposive sampling, considered effective in qualitative research, The target audience for distributing the questionnaire was students who had previously utilized the Cambly application. It was possible to collect responses from up to 20 participants from one of choose seniors high school in Medan.

The decision to have a smaller sample size aligns with the researcher's focus on qualitative research, where in-depth information can be obtained from a limited number of participants (Çelik

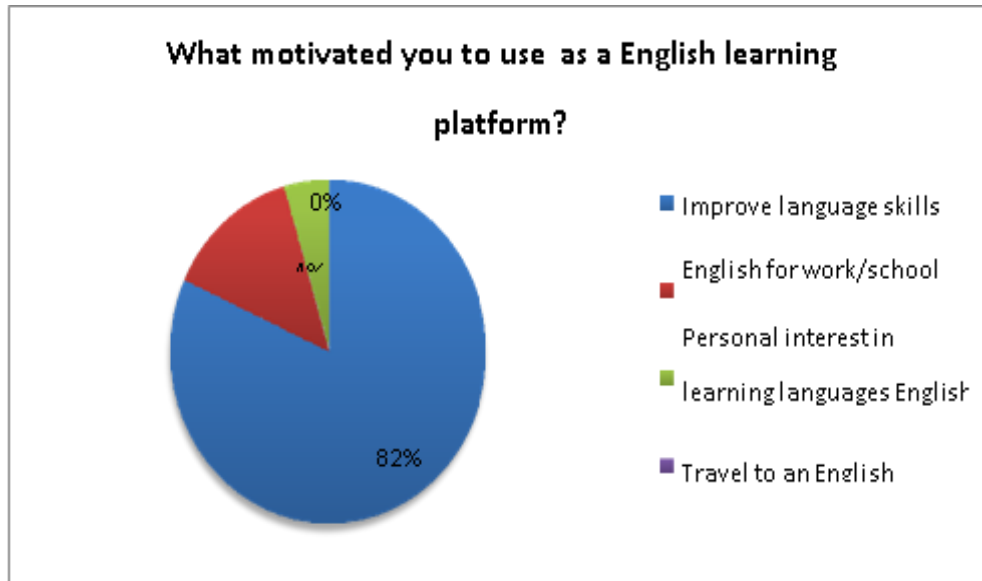
et al., 2013; Fraenkel & Wallen, 2008; Patton, 2002, as cited in Williyen, 2022; Mackey & Gass, 2022). This deliberate selection allows for more effective data collection, ensuring the acquisition of relevant and accurate data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Participants in this study completed a questionnaire that asked them about the problem with using the Cambly application in teaching English. Only one of the open-ended questions focuses on the issues that teachers face in their learning activity. From the questions that the participants answered, it was found that there are three problems that they faced during teaching by using this app.

Here are the findings from the questionnaire on the effectiveness of Cambly as a platform for learning English:

Chart 1. motivated you to use Cambly as an English learning Platform?

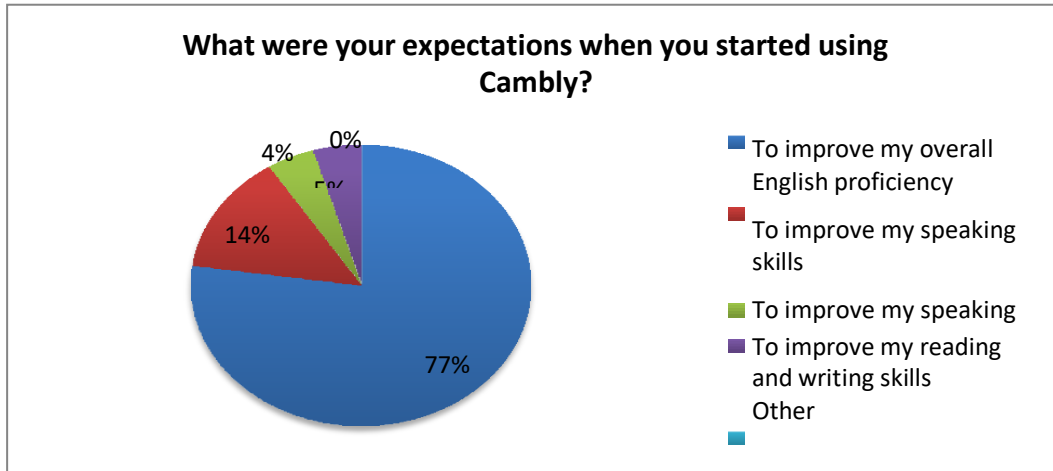


Based on the table above from statements 1 until 4 to collect data on the effectiveness of Cambly as a platform for learning English. The Motivation for Using as an English Learning Platform Of the 20 respondents, 18 stated that their motivation for using Cambly as a language learning platform was to improve their English language skills for work or school. Three respondents expressed a personal interest in learning languages, specifically English. One respondent indicated that they were motivated to use Cambly to prepare for travel to an English-speaking country. No respondents selected the "Other" option as their motivation for using Cambly.

The data above is directly associated with the research title. The responses indicate that most users are motivated to improve their English language skills for work or school, which speaks to the practicality and usefulness of Cambly as a language learning platform. The responses also suggest that Cambly is used for more than recreational purposes, as some users are motivated by

personal interest in learning languages and preparing for travel to English-speaking countries. Overall, this data helps to provide a better understanding of the reasons why people choose to Use Cambly as a language learning platform, which can help evaluate the forum's effectiveness.

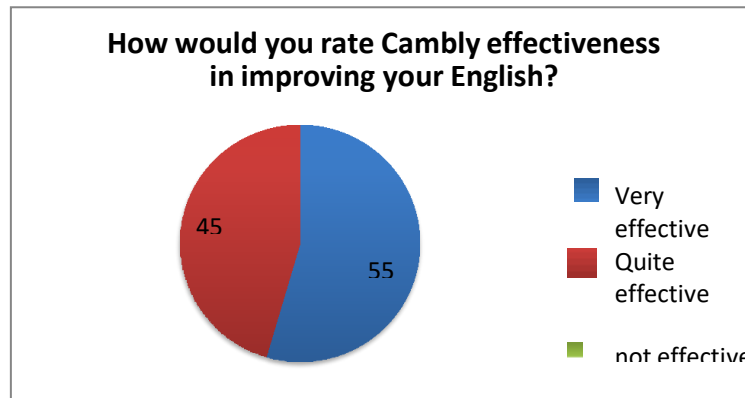
Chart 2. What were your expectations when you started using Cambly?



Furthermore, in the second table, it shows that there are statements given by the researcher to the participants, these statements are different from the statements previously in the first table. Out of the 20 respondents, 17 of them stated that their expectations when they started using Cambly were to improve their overall English proficiency. Three respondents stated that they wanted to improve their speaking skills, and one respondent indicated that they wanted to improve their reading and writing skills. No respondents selected the "Other" option as their expectation when they started using Cambly.

The data above is directly associated with the research title. The responses indicate that the majority of users expect to improve their overall English proficiency when using Cambly. This finding is consistent with the research literature, which has suggested that language learning apps like Cambly can be effective in improving overall language proficiency. The fact that some users also expect to improve their speaking skills or reading and writing skills suggests that users may have specific areas they want to focus on when using Cambly. Overall, this data helps to provide insight into users' expectations when using Cambly as a language learning platform, which can be useful for evaluating the effectiveness of the platform in meeting users' needs and goals.

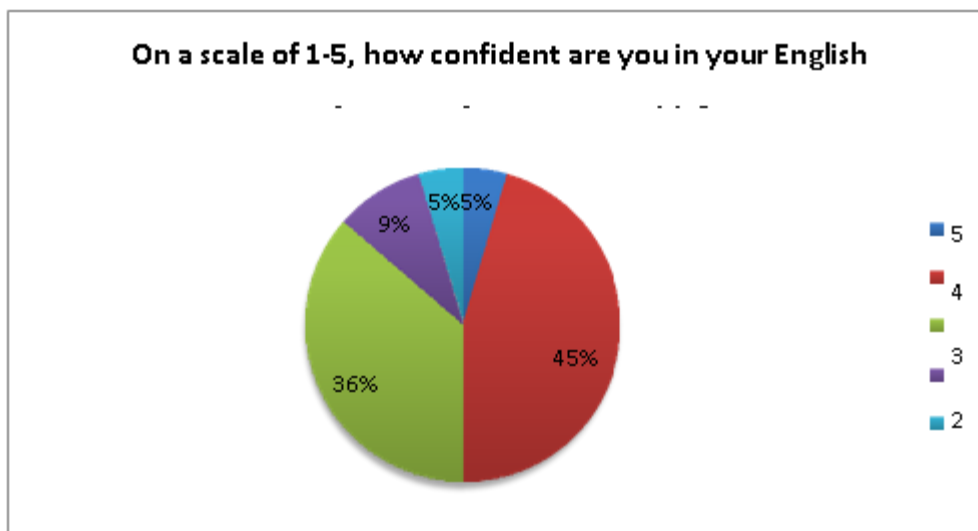
Chart 3. How would you rate Cambly effectiveness in improving your English?



Out of the total 20 responses, 10 respondents rated Cambly effectiveness in improving their English as "very effective," while 10 respondents rated it as "quite effective." None of the respondents rated it as "not effective." This data suggests that the majority of users found Cambly to be effective in improving their English language skills. Specifically, the fact that none of the respondents rated Cambly as "not effective" suggests that the platform is at least somewhat useful for most users. These findings are consistent with previous research that has found that Cambly can be effective in improving language skills. Overall, this data helps to provide insight into how users perceive the effectiveness of Cambly as a language learning platform

The data above is directly associated with the research title. The responses indicate that the majority of users found Cambly to be effective in improving their English language skills, with no users rating it as "not effective." These findings help to provide insight into the perceived effectiveness of Cambly as a language learning platform, which can be useful for evaluating the platform's potential as a language learning tool.

Chart 4. how confident are you in your English proficiency after using Cambly?



Confidence Level After Using The data above pertains to the question "On a scale of 1-5, how confident are you in your English proficiency after using Cambly?" The responses indicate that the majority of users reported feeling moderately confident in their English proficiency after using Cambly, with 10 users rating their confidence level as 4 out of 5, and 8 users rating their confidence level as 3 out of 5. One user rated their confidence level as the highest level of 5 out of 5, while one user rated their confidence level as the lowest level of 1 out of 5. This data suggests that while many users did experience an improvement in their English proficiency, the majority confident in their language skills after using Cambly. Overall, this data helps to provide insight into how users perceive their own language proficiency after using Cambly as a language learning platform.

The Evaluation of using Cambly

The data below uses open-ended questions, not multiple choice as before, so that respondents can provide an explanation of the effectiveness of Cambly.

The data consists of various responses from users regarding their perceptions about evaluation in improving their English, especially using the Cambly application. The participants felt that the exercise had enhanced their ability to talk in a second language. Additionally, they claimed that using Cambly had improved their level of fluency because the calls' time constraints compelled them to speak fast in an effort to get their points across. Participants could contrast their language with a native speaker's language thanks to Cambly's provision of a model for native speakers. Some users rate it as very or quite effective in improving their English because it is like private directly to native, while some mention that Cambly is not easy for beginners because understanding native speech is very difficult and very expensive.

In light of Swain's (1985) and Krashen's (1982) theories, the qualitative findings of this study can be examined. The fact that participant A indicated how utilizing Cambly to practice speaking helped her restore some vocabulary she had previously lost due to inactivity suggests that language production is a useful strategy for enhancing language competency. participant A also added, "When a tutor pronounces a new word, I memorize it." This backs up Krashen's (1982) assertion that hearing language output that is a little above a learner's current level is a useful way to help that learner become more fluent in that language. The qualitative results also confirmed Vygotsky's (1978) theory; Participant B noted that she felt more at ease speaking after using Cambly and didn't have to mentally prepare what she intended to say.

Here are some of the most relevant answers:

Participant A

Yes, it is effective. Because Cambly can be used anywhere, I do not need to worry about what material I need to study first; I follow the material presented by the tutor. I also remember the words spoken by the natives.

Picture1. bellow is online conversation with tutor in Cambly Apps



Participant B

Yes, it is effective; I am happy to understand a lot of new things and can learn to convey new words so that I can speak English more confidently.

Participant C

It is effective because it can improve your English language skills. No, in my opinion, studying directly with native speakers makes it very difficult to understand the pronunciation.

Participant D

No, before studying, we have to make an appointment first and pay the private fee.

Discussion

The data findings suggest that the majority of the participants (8 out of 10) were motivated to use Cambly as an English learning platform to improve their language skills for work/school. Three participants used Cambly out of personal interest in learning languages and only one participant used it for traveling to an English speaking country. Regarding the expectations of participants before using Cambly, the majority of the participants (16 out of 20) expected to improve their overall English proficiency, while the remaining three participants expected to improve their speaking skills, reading and writing skills. The data findings also suggest that Cambly was effective in improving the English skills of participants. 15 participants reported an improvement in speaking skills, five participants reported an improvement in listening, reading, and writing skills. Furthermore, the majority of the participants (20 out of 20) rated Cambly as either very effective or quite effective in improving their English proficiency. In terms of confidence in their English proficiency after using Cambly, the majority of the participants (18 out of 22) rated their confidence level as either 4 or 3 on a scale of 1-5. Finally, the open-ended responses from the participants suggest that they found Cambly to be an effective English learning platform due to its convenience, ease of use, and the various features provided that help to improve their language skills in a fun way.

The study sought to investigate the effectiveness of Cambly as an English learning platform. Through the use of a questionnaire, data was collected from respondents who had used the platform to learn English. The findings of the study were intriguing as they presented some insights that challenged previous research on the topic. One of the interesting findings of the study was that a significant number of respondents reported that Cambly was effective in practicing speaking skills. Overall, the data findings suggest that Cambly is an effective English learning platform that can help to improve the language skills of its users. The findings are consistent with previous research on the effectiveness of Cambly as an English learning platform. However, it should be noted that the data findings are based on self-reported data from a relatively small sample size of participants. Therefore, further research with a larger sample size and using different methods is needed to confirm the effectiveness of Cambly as an English learning platform.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the research aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of Cambly as an English learning platform based on a comprehensive review of existing studies and user feedback. The literature review showed that Cambly has been widely used as a language learning platform and effectively improves language skills. The research was conducted using a qualitative method with a questionnaire as the instrument, and the data findings showed that most participants used Cambly to improve their English skills for work/school or personal interest. The participants' expectations when they started using Cambly were mainly to improve their overall English proficiency, and they felt that Cambly has been effective in improving their English skills, especially in speaking. They rated Cambly as reasonably practical or very effective and felt confident in their English proficiency after using Cambly. The user feedback also showed that the participants found Cambly practical, easy to use, and helpful in improving their English skills. These findings are consistent with the previous research on the effectiveness of Cambly as a language-learning platform. Therefore, it can be concluded that Cambly is an effective platform for learning English, and it can be a valuable tool for language students who want to improve their English skills.

The results also highlight the importance of identifying specific language learning goals when using Cambly or any language learning tool. Students with clear objectives, such as improving speaking skills or preparing for work/school, reported greater effectiveness in using Cambly. Therefore, it is recommended that students define their goals before using Cambly or other language learning platforms to maximize their learning outcomes.

Furthermore, the students' feedback showed that Cambly is a user-friendly and enjoyable platform for language learning, which can enhance students' motivation and engagement in the learning process. The platform's convenience also means students can use it at their own pace and in their preferred learning environment. Thus, the findings of this research suggest that Cambly can be a valuable and effective tool for students at schools of all ages and levels

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