The Use of Mall Applications to Enhance The English Speaking Skills Among Arab EFL Learners

Abdullah A. Almadhady¹, Abdul Rahim Haji Salam², Harmi Izzuan Baharum³
¹PhD Scholar, FSSH, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Skudai, Johor, Malaysia,
²Assoc. Prof. Dr. Language Academy, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Skudai, Johor,
³Senior Lecturer, Language Academy, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur,

ABSTRACT:
The study aims to investigate the use of Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) applications in the improvement of English language speaking skills by EFL learners. The participants were 12 undergraduate students majoring in English language at the Faculty of Education for Humanities, Anbar University in Iraq. For the purpose of this study, a MALL application, Cake-learn English, was integrated in the process of Data collection. Data were collected using a journal Entry method or what so called reflective journals. The reflective journal can help learners to identify significant learning events that happen to them. Reflective journals work to record idea, personal opinions, and experiences which help in learning. Reflective journals help learners to re-evaluate their knowledge according to the new learning materials. In addition, they help learners to grow. The results revealed that all participants argued that MALL applications could be used as s real and useful alternative of classroom to improve speaking skills. The respondents believe that MALL applications offer excellent environment to improve their speaking skills. The reflective journal analysis also showed that Cake-learn English application is effective to improve the speaking skills of Arab EFL university students.

Introduction

The emergence of mobile technologies and the rapid development of mobile applications created a new learning opportunity for EFL learners. Accordingly, the current study investigates the use of Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) applications among EFL learners for the purpose of improving English speaking skills.

There is a real need for everyone to attain the latest trends and innovation taking place in the progressive and highly advancing world. In this modern era, people get their success in their specialized areas because they make use of the available recourses of modern as well as innovative technologies (Roa, 2019). One of the imperative languages these days is the English language (Abu-Ayfah, 2020). It is the most spoken language in the word (Cholakova, 2015; krajnakova, 2012) It has been an international language of communication, business, science, information technology, entertainment and so on. Therefore, much effort is exerted to find appropriate methods in learning English.

Recently, the use of technology is fast becoming a key instrument in language learning (Kelly & Minges, 2012). In the foreign language context (EFL) the use of mobile devices for improving English learning is necessary to all language learners as it will help to motivate the learning through adding some enjoyment and fun on the process (El-Desouky, 2015). The current generation of EFL students is growing up in a digital world. Using mobile devices is an enormous part of their daily experience outside educational situations (Chen, 2017; Ivić & Jakopec, 2017).

The use of MALL applications has been rapidly integrated into EFL learning in all their aspects (Ozer & Kiliç, 2018; Zou et al., 2018). Students use mobile devices to achieve verity of

educational purposes. Moreover, a countless number of English learning apps encourage students to practice different language skills without limitations of time, place, or cost (Ahn, 2018; Eppard, Nasser, & Reddy, 2016).

Improving the English speaking skills of EFL learners is in the core focus of various studies because speaking is considered as the most imperative among the language skills. People who know a language are referred to as speakers of the language (Hosni, 2014). According to some researchers (Sheppard, 2004; Gou, 2013; Leong & Ahmadi, 2017), the success in language learning is measured by the ability to speak the language. Therefore, speaking could be considered of a high priority to EFL learners (Florez, 1999) as it has the potential to increase the overall learners' motivation and to help making the language learning as a fun and dynamic (Nunan, 1999). Bamanger & Alhassan (2015) argued that one of the main skills to be greatly improved through the use of MALL applications is said to be speaking skills. MALL can play this effective role in improving speaking skills (Tuttle, 2013; Rodrigues, 2015).

According to the above, the current study is aiming to investigate the use of MALL applications for the purpose of improving English speaking skills among EFL learners.

Literature Review

Mobile Assisted Language Learning MALL represents the formal or informal way of learning a second or a foreign language by using mobile devices (McCarty, Stao, & Obari, 2017). In recent years, MALL has received extensive research in the field of foreign-language learning because it offers a number of advantages, such as ownership, mobility, and technology convergence (Kukulska-Hulme, 2009). First, with notable growth made in mobile technology, smart mobile devices, in different countries, have become an essential tool for language the learners who have their own smart phones or other portable devices. Thus, they could have easy access to many types of mobile

resources and applications. Second, MALL provides language learners with freedom from the limits of time and place based on their own needs, they can learn anytime they want and from anywhere. Third, mobile technology has changed the way in which learning language is carried out in multimedia environment. In addition, mobile devices have come to transform the way in which learners interact with others, send and receive feedback, and engage in learning (Hwang et al., 2016; Xu & Peng, 2017).

Over the last few years, the role of mobile technologies in foreign language learning and acquisition has been common and remarkable (Stockwell, 2007). Various scholars have examined the effects of mobile devices on improving the English language speaking. In their study, Kukulska & Shield (2008) investigated whether mobile phones can support collaborative speaking and listening. In fact, they suggested mobile phones, handheld computers as important tools that can be used to enhance speaking and listening activities.

Many studies have shed the light on the role of the new technologies in improving the speaking skills by EFL learners much more than conventional approach to teaching (Herring, S. 1996; Henderson, 2005; Rosell-Aguilar, F. 2005; Supyan H., Abdullah, N. Ismail & S. Yoke, 2015). Hardison (2005) showed that there is an increasing role for computer-assisted learning with tools that provide easily interpretable displays and multimodal environments that combine the auditory and visual components of speaking performance.

Many studies have investigated the impact of using smartphones on language learning and language skills improvement (Hui Guo, 2013; Alemi, 2012; Kim & Kwon, 2013; Al-Jarf, 2012 (Cited in Jenny, Nasser, and Reddy 2016); Chinnery, 2006; Demouy, V., Eardley, A., Shrestha, P., & Kukulska-Hulme, 2011). In most of the studies the participants expressed their satisfaction and they have shown their positive attitude towards using the current mobile

applications for English language learning, and for improving certain language skills. In summary, the studies have proved that mobile applications have encouraged exciting opportunities for personal and autonomous learning environments with flexibility and reliability of access to learning materials anytime and anywhere.

The general results of the studies as reported above lead to conclude that mobile devices and smart phones are more helpful in improving English language skills compared to conventional book-based because of the time and space free nature of mobile-based learning. The increasing variety of multimedia features has provided mobile devices with a strong potentiality to open up interesting research lines in teaching and learning (Ryu & Parsons; 2009, Reis, Bonacin & Martins; 2009, Godwin; 2008, Hede & Hede; 2002). Schachter (2009) stated that because of the capabilities of smart phones they can serve as miniature classroom where-in students can participate in "anytime, anywhere" learning movements.

In a study to analyze and evaluate the current mobile applications for improving English speaking, Hui Gou (2013) proposed a new concept called MapALL (Mobile apps-Assisted Language Learning). In his study five categories were identified for the English-speaking apps, namely pronunciation, conversation, video lesson, reference, and authentic content. In regards to the learners' feedback, both the users' online reviews and the research participants' comments have shown their positive attitudes toward using current mobile apps for speaking improvement.

Method

To address the study objective, which is to assess the enhancement of English speaking skills among Arab EFL learners based on using the MALL applications. For this purpose the reflective journal method will be conducted with 12 EFL students from English department at Anbar University in the faculty of Education for Humanities. The students for the reflective journal

will be selected based on their academic levels; 3 students in the first academic year, 3 students in the second academic year, 3 students in the third academic year, and 3 students in the fourth academic year.

One of the most popular and familiar MALL applications was selected to be used in the study. The application is called "Cake-Learn English" which was selected carefully according to some evaluation criteria, like the number of downloads by users, the number and quality of feedbacks, and the rating stars as the application is rated as 4.9. The selected 12 EFL learners will be involving in the speaking learning activities using MALL application for 4 weeks.

Firstly, the researcher presents video tutorials about the learning activities of each week, and send it to the students by email (due to COVID 19), the researcher was not allowed to meet the students face to face. Secondly, the researcher answers the students' questions about the experiments in order to assure the students' understanding of the learning activities. Thirdly, the students are allowed to perform the learning activities of the first two weeks (weeks #1, and #2) using the application before conducting the first session of the reflective journal method. Fourthly, the students are allowed to perform the learning activities of the second two weeks (weeks #3 and #4) using the application before conducting the second session of the reflective journal method. Lastly, the researcher will carry out the final session of the reflective journal at the end of the speaking learning experiments using the selected application.

The reflective journal instrument is designed to show EFL students' improvement in knowledge gained and the enhancement of speaking skills after using MALL application. In every reflective journal session, EFL students are required to clarify two main things; (1) the new knowledge they gained And (2) the occurred improvement after using the application(See Appendix A). The reflective journal responses will be analyzed using content analysis technique,
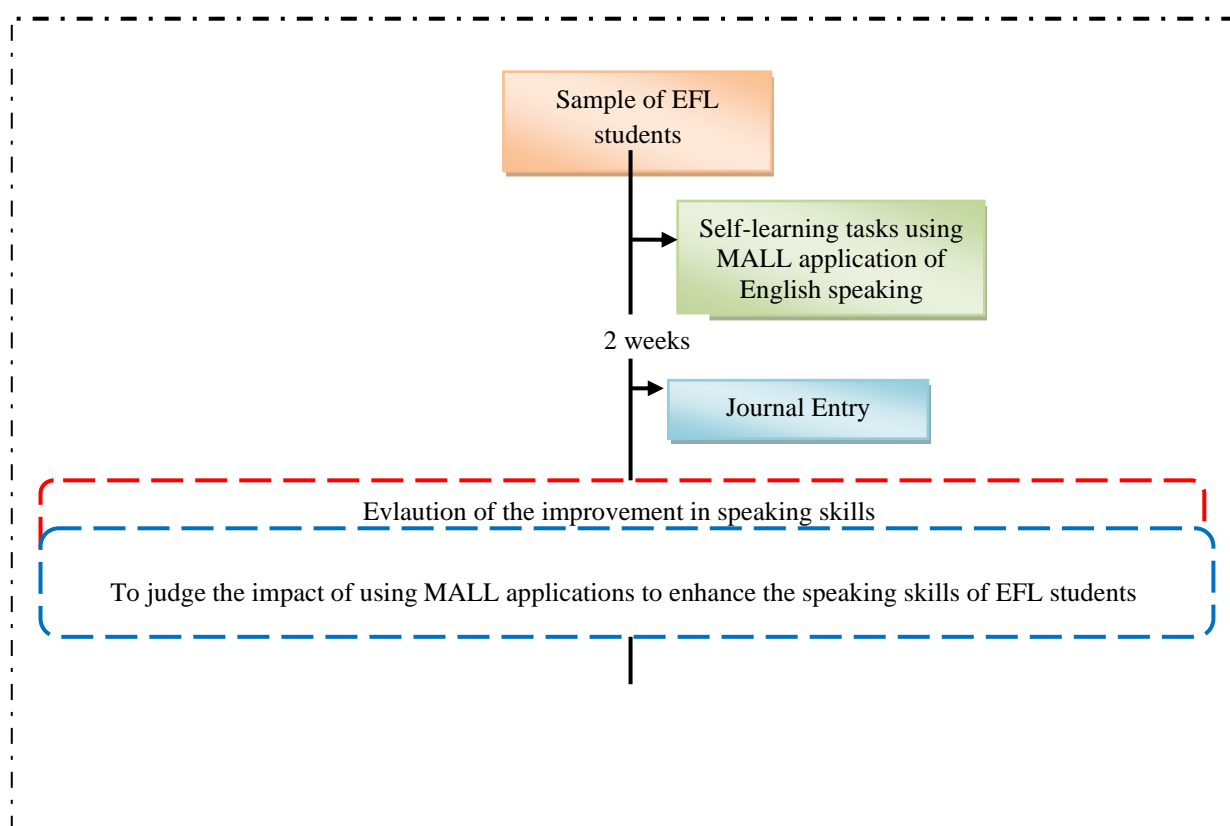
which is suitable for the qualitative data analysis of small samples.

The expected processes –of the study could be illustrated in Figure.1. The expected procedures can be described as the following:

1- To select the experimental sample from undergraduate students in English department from the faculty of Education for Humanities at Anbar University.

2- The sample will be allowed accomplishing the learning activities of English by using MALL application that identified in the reflective journal method. The proposed duration of using MALL application is 2 weeks.

3- The journal entry will be collected from the students based on their learning activities.

4- Based on the collected journal entries, the speaking improvement will be evaluated.

5- The final evaluation of speaking improvement will be judged based on the journal entry records.

Cake-Learn English application is adopted to address the study objective, which is to assess the enhancement of English speaking skills among Arab EFL university students based on using MALL applications. For this purpose the reflective journal method is conducted with 12 EFL students from English department in Anbar University in the faculty of Education for Humanities. The EFL students are selected based on their academic levels; 3 students in the first academic year, 3 students in the second academic year, 3 students in the third academic year, and 3 students in the fourth academic year.

The reflective journal instrument is designed to show EFL students' improvement in knowledge gained and the enhancement of speaking skills after using Cake-Learn English application. In every reflective journal session, EFL students are required to clarify two main things; (1) the new knowledge they gained by using Cake application for speaking? And (2) the occurred improvement after using Cake application. The reflective journal responses are

analyzed using content analysis technique, which is suitable for the qualitative data analysis of small samples.

According to the first session of the reflective journal, all respondents argued that MALL applications could be used as s real and useful alternative of classroom and being limited according to the class time and place. Table.1 presents the responses of the 12 EFL students in the first reflective journal session.

Table 1: Responses of the first reflective journal session

Respondents #	What are the new knowledge you gained by using Cake application for speaking?	Describe your speaking improvement after using MALL applications:
Respondent #1	"Today I started to use MALL applications for the aim of promoting my speaking. I noticed that we can develop English language in different ways not only to study or to speak with native speakers".	"Not much improvement at the first week of course but I could say that I can find a way to develop my English speaking. For me using MALL applications for speaking can put me on the way to improve my skills of speaking. The applications could be used as s real and useful alternative of classroom and being limited according to the class time and place".
Respondent #2	"While using the application, I obtained new knowledge. They provided me with a marvelous opportunity to enhance my speaking skill. I first started to be familiar with new daily expressions. I had, to some extent, my pronunciation corrected. New vocabularies and expressions are added to my list"	"After using MALL applications for the first week, I have somehow improved some basic elements of speaking, particularly, pronunciation and the way of combining sentences together. one more thing, the motivation of learning English started to take a wide scope in my mind"
Respondent #3	"Interesting and various knowledge added to me through the use of the applications. For example I learned about the conversations like asking for directions, greeting someone you know, daily life. In addition to the basic knowledge which is related to speaking practice as the applications designed".	"After I use MALL applications at the first week, I noticed that my speaking improvement started to develop simply a step by step with the new words and expressions and also the speaking strategies used by native speakers in the examples provided in the applications. MALL applications were so interesting".
Respondent #4	"The experience itself is completely new for me. I was afraid of bad or unsuccessful using of the applications, but they are actually with easy and smooth	"At the beginning I enjoyed learning new words and vocabularies and started using them in new sentences of my creation. This helped me to gain new sentences and structure when I

	using instructions help me to use them freely. I learned various new things including new words and vocabularies. One of the new words that I knew for the first time is "perception" which is the same meaning of "impression"	speak English. Adding to that, I felt confident and there is no shyness when speaking and recording my speaking as I am talking to a device and this encouraged me to speak freely without caring to my mistakes".
Respondent #5	"Speaking is the central productive skill in the oral cavity .Using MALL is really important for those who want to be good learners since they increase the speaking performance. In the first week, I got a little knowledge in many components, such as grammar and pronunciation. For me speaking is more than simply making the right sounds, choosing the right words or getting the constructions correct".	"My ability to pronounce words, expressions and even the whole sentence has been increased. MALL applications are helpful in the sense that one can make his performance as good as possible".
Respondent #6	"This week, I learned how to use the application "CAKE" which I considered as a virtual place of learning, after I followed the instructions given in the application. I learned how to use applications and how to treat them as a new source of knowledge and learning".	"I am using the applications for a short time yet. I can't say that I really got learned in this short time but I am happy to find a way for improving my speaking skills. Using such famous applications downloaded by millions of people around the world will definitely make a good difference which I hope to find at the end of the course of using the applications. Something I have noticed and I must mention that is the various new words and expressions available in the applications will definitely be a good thing to experience".
Respondent #7	"Defiantly my knowledge expanded and I have learned a vast number of new meanings and new speaking techniques through MALL applications usage. MALL applications provided me with most suitable modern ways of learning and I have got a new experience of speaking improvement that is the practical	"My language skills been improved greatly after using MALL applications. My language got better. I can notice my progress going ahead step by step learning a new thing every time I use the applications".

	application of the speaking use in the applications".	
Respondent #8	"The new knowledge I gained is that time management is important for learning and MALL application could really help for time managing as we can use the apps according to our interest and free time without the limits of time and place. I love the applications and I am planning to continue using them for learning".	"The improvement in my speaking that I could notice is that I am speaking faster than before as I was speaking slow but now I feel that I am speaking faster than before in addition to the new words and expressions I learned from the exercises in the applications".
Respondent #9	"They facilitate the learning process more than taking a particular course, since they involve the use of technology and smart devices, therefore the access is easy and for lifetime. MALL applications help to decrease the level of stress for students or other candidates who communicate with other people, especially if others from different country or region".	"Firstly, it is somehow difficult to understand the aim of MALL applications at the first-time access. The first three days starts with the basic speaking level, but after one week passes, the speaking ability improved and it is better than of the first days. As the content can easily be accessed day-by-day without limitations and restrictions; there must be an overall improvement for the learning abilities. The same thing happens for other learning abilities and skills".
Respondent #10	"The new knowledge I got is that there are too many mobile applications that could help to improve language skills and these applications are playing a considerable role in learning nowadays".	"After using the applications I have notices the new expressions and vocabularies provided in the applications. This could be considered as a good addition to the language and helps to improve the language efficiency".
Respondent #11	"At this stage I discover the importance of MALL application such as Cake. I can use this application anywhere and in anytime. It is fun to make the speaking learning as mobile treatment.	" at the beginning I found difficulty in develop my speaking skills using this application but after few using times I found this application is fun and I feel the improvement on my skills. Especially, when I'm not afraid from the mistakes".
Respondent #12	"This application is so amazing and I found many interested topics to develop my speaking skills. I use this application in any time, which offers new experience in	"I fell the improvements in understanding the conversations and speak some words in correct way. I have past mistakes in the speaking and I correct these mistakes using this

	speaking learning".	application "

Based on the above Table, it is clear that EFL students have gained new knowledge through using Cake-Learn English application. Through the new experience of the students, they understand the benefits of using MALL applications such as learning in anytime and form anywhere, free from the limit of learning time, free cost learning, fun and enjoyment in speaking learning. This was supported by supported by El-Desouky (2015) who confirmed that in the foreign language context (EFL) the use of mobile devices for improving English learning is necessary to all language learners as it will help to motivate the learning through adding some enjoyment and fun on the process. In addition, ability to self-learning, selecting the speaking topics based on their interests, and to discover new and valuable learning sources. On the other hand, the respondents feel less stress in speaking learning due to less tension and being less afraid of doing mistakes in front of others.

Moreover, the respondents trusted Cake-Learn English application due to the speaking materials presented by native speakers. Furthermore, the respondents are motivated to use this application due to the communication ability with other learners in the same or different region, which encourage the learner to conduct conversations with others without being afraid of mistakes. This will help them to overcome one of the obstacles of English learning as confirmed by Alaraji (2017) as he reported that one of reasons of the weak performance of Arab EFL students in speaking is the lack of motivation and self-confidence as they are afraid of making mistakes and feeling shy to speak. Additionally, the respondents expand their knowledge to learn new meanings and new speaking techniques through Cake applications usage.

Based on the responses on the improvement of speaking skills using Cake in the first two week, the respondents expressed that they feel some improvement, yet it is not a significant one. They learned how to speak some words and sentences correctly and they discovered the past mistakes in the way of speaking these words. Some respondents noticed the new expressions and vocabularies provided in the applications and tried to apply them in their daily life. Mostly, the respondents started to feel the improvement gradually a step by step with the new words and expressions based on the speaking strategies of native speakers provided in Cake applications. The results of the first reflective journal session motivated the researcher and respondents to move on for the second one. Table 2 presents the responses of the reflective journals after Cake application usage by the respondents in the third and fourth learning weeks.

Table 2: Responses of the second reflective journal session

Respondents #	What are the new knowledge you gained by using Cake application for speaking?	Describe your speaking improvement after using MALL applications:
Respondent #1	"I tried to use the other applications with "CAKE". Everyone of the applications has new specifications and advantages. The most important thing for me that they are adding new expressions every time I use them".	"The recording of the conversations on the applications was really a good and interesting thing to have because I can listen back to the recording and this helped me to improve my pronunciation by listening to native speakers sound".

Respondent #2	"While using these applications in the second week, the knowledge I gained in the first week has grown wider. Daily expressions were perfectly getting better. On the level of Grammar, some main defects were corrected. This is ,of course, a progress itself. Concerning vocabularies, I have noted that these applications support a good amount of vocabularies".	"According to my experience with these applications, I found my speaking skill getting better. In fact, there was a touchable change on the level of my ability to speak the target language. However, a good scale of speaking improvement has been gained and used later on".
Respondent #3	"I learned more information from MALL applications for example, how can I speak at an interview and how to use preposition in the conversations".	"After I used MALL applications, I began to notice a remarkable improvement in my speaking skills and also in my pronunciation especially after the intensive practice I have made as I loved the experience of being learning on MALL applications without the teacher's notice or monitoring".
Respondent #4	"In the second stage of using MALL applications I noticed myself using new expressions and sentences in addition to the new words I learned in stage1. I can also listen to the speaking of native speakers by the recordings available in the applications and try to imitate them for the best speaking skills I am trying to have".	"I can really feel the development and the new knowledge I got. The applications pushed me forward to speak and to repeat my speaking until I feel that I have done a satisfactory activity. My speaking skills really improved step by step by using the applications".
Respondent #5	"things get easier. The grammar and pronunciation have become better as well as I have got more vocabularies. Also, I got some expressions and phrases that help me to be more familiar with English language".	"Speaking gift is required everywhere, from simple conversation to formal speaking in public. So each of us should make use of this skill to be more fluent in expressing themselves. I got developed this ability in the MALL applications. They are very useful".
Respondent #6	"I have experienced something which is really different and new. Previously I was thinking of how to improve my English out of the classroom. Some friends suggested something new and available like this new	"I can feel some kind of improvement on my speaking skills even though I am still at the beginning of the learning process through MALL applications. But it looks as enjoyable and interesting experience of learning and developing my speaking. Now I have better courage to speak and

	technology. When I tried it I found it as useful and enjoyable despite the difficulties of being a completely new experience".	to repeat the recording of the conversations".
Respondent #7	"After using the applications, I can see the difference in my language skills. These applications made a positive impact on my language and enhanced it. With these applications, now I can speak better than before and use new terms that I could not use them in the past".	"My speaking skill is improved so well after using MALL applications, now I can speak in more flexible way and more confident. MALL applications supported my learning with hundreds of examples that showed me the right way to speak and made my English better than before".
Respondent #8	"I started using the applications according to the plan. I can work on the application better than I expected and I am learning new things every day. The new knowledge I got is related to the words, expressions and language structure also".	"I am feeling relaxed and more satisfied of using the application. Using MALL gave me the confidence to do more exercises and to speak without scaring of mistakes. In the second week I feel myself speaking a little better than the previous week. This making me believes that using MALL application is a good and productive activity".
Respondent #9	"My knowledge is gradually increased by using more of the contents available. Taking part in a conversation or chat in English language becomes very easy process. The auto-correct feature of MALL application helps to understand words, correct spelling mistakes, allows the participants of a single conversation to understand better and at the same time; keeps the conversation continues".	"The speaking ability has a slight difference because at this time. Meaning that there is a difference but not very big one. It is because some of the expressions are spoken in a fast way that others do not understand it well. The participant used to repeat the expressions one or twice and if it is still difficult, the speaker will write or spell the words. This feature of spelling words into letters allows other to write it on a draft, trying to speak the whole sentences as the speaker said, the difference and the improvement is like as something touchable. There is a big sense of a higher improvement for speaking. Using this method for four days, these expressions are no longer difficult or misunderstood".
Respondent #10	"In this period I have learned how to listen and to exercise the language by listening to the conversations, reading there	"I can say that I am feeling that my speaking is better that the last days for the good practice I had and because I am being more familiar with the applications.

	words, and then to record my own speaking sound. This really helped me to speak and to be familiar with some difficult words".	Now I can speak and record with less mistakes and sometimes I don't need to record for the second time, I just do it once".
Respondent #11	"My knowledge is expanded about the speaking learning using this application. I feel more fun in discover new features and learn more using this application. I believes that the MALL applications is necessary to develop the learning activities for different English skills not only the speaking skills"	"I feel happy and proud due to real improvement in my speaking skills. Now, I can make full conversation of less mistakes and I'm not afraid if I conduct mistakes in my conversations. Also, I motivated to use this application more and more to speed my improvement in speaking skills".
Respondent #12	"At the end of this session, I learn that the doing mistakes is good way to learn faster. I use this application to communicates with other learners in order to discover the improvements in my speaking skills".	"I touch serious improvement in my speaking skills through my conversations with other persons. I apply the expressions that I learn form the Cake application. I speak the words and sentences that I learn as native speakers".

According to the table above, it is obvious that the respondents continued to gain new knowledge based on their continuous experiences. The respondents discovered new strategies to learn and they realize that discovering the speaking mistakes is a good way for improvements. Thus, they are more daring in conducting conversations with other persons to improve their speaking skills through application of what they have learned. Also, the respondents developed new ways to improve their speaking skills as well as other English skills such as listening to conversation, writing what they listen, and recording what they listen and write.

Furthermore, the new knowledge that the respondents learned made them more related to the words, expressions and language structure. In additions, the respondents see that they are being faster in learning more vocabularies. Also, the respondents mentioned that the learning processes became more easy and fun. For example, the auto-correct feature in Cake application helps the respondents to understand words, and correct spelling mistakes in easy ways. In conclusion, the respondents developed their knowledge of the speaking skills in the second stage of reflective journal, which motivated them to continue using Cake application. Some respondents reported that they feel as they have found their learning partner that helps to broaden their knowledge of speaking learning and improving. The same was proved by Huang et. al (2010) when they confirmed in their study that the use of MALL applications will help learners to find their learning partner.

On the other hand, the students feel tangible improvements on their speaking skills through using Cake application. The respondents see that they are making less mistakes and longer conversations with other persons. The respondents feel that they speak the words and sentences in a more fluent way, which motivated them to speak English in front of other people. By frequent using

of Cake applications, the speaking expressions are less difficult or misunderstood. Also, the respondents noticed a remarkable improvement in their speaking skills and pronunciation especially after the intensive practice that they made. In sum, the responds feel more confident in doing longer conversations and applying what they have learned from the native speakers as well as they are being motivated to use further MALL

applications to improve other English skills such as reading and listening.

Based on the outcomes of the second reflective journal session, the research performed the final reflective journal session to assess the overall improvement of speaking skills of the respondents. Table 3 presents the responses of the final reflective journal session.

Table 3: Responses of the final reflective journal session

Respondents #	What are the new knowledge you gained by using Cake application for speaking?	Describe your speaking improvement after using MALL applications:
Respondent #1	"Being familiar with the applications, now I have no problem when I use them. I am getting better in using and learning through the applications. They not only provide information on English learning but for me they are considered as a new learning style in the new modern life of technology".	"I can sense noticeable changes on my speaking skills not only in the correct utterance and nice speaking but also in the fluent and native like accent I am trying to have. I can say any word or sentence without being afraid of bad pronunciation as I am not speaking in front of a teacher and students".
Respondent #2	"The knowledge gained by using MALL applications has undergone gradually. As I mentioned before , daily expressions , grammatical structures, pronunciations ,and the amount of vocabularies have been improved regularly. I started to recognize my defects and by the use of these applications, such defects have been, seventy percent, improved. In addition, self- confidence has been to some extent covered".	"I found myself more confident to speak English. These applications helped me to overcome the hesitation I was facing before. My speaking improvement after using MALL applications was really noticeable. I became able to express myself in a good way. I built up self- confidence which was the main obstructive issue I have ever faced in speaking English. Here I must mention that technology plays a dominant role in learning any language".
Respondent #3	"At the end of session, I learned lot information from MALL applications for example, classic audio books and best of audio stories. MALL applications help me how to speak at any situation	"After I use MALL applications at the end of session, I really mastered all English skills and some of grammar rules. MALL applications were amazing and useful for speaking. I could really notice the difference in my speaking ability compared

	or side".	to before".
Respondent #4	"In the end of the practical experience, I learned new and interesting things regarding language acquisition and improvement. The self learning experience is really great with such applications which help the learner to learn freely and smoothly without any hesitation or embracing".	"A continuous and consistent development I can feel by using the applications. They provide not only new information, but also a new way of learning which at the end helped me to have better speaking skills than before. I can speak and tell what I want to say quickly because of the intensive exercises I have done in this period".
Respondent #5	"Finally, I have realized that many of my words and expressions. Thus, many vocabularies have been gained by me. So MALL application helped me a lot in providing great knowledge. Speaking for the purpose of communication is the most common way to build interpersonal relations. However, speaking is important if we want to get things done, find out information and give instructions".	"Speaking skills have been found to be a fundamental skill necessary for our success in life , formal and informal situations. There is good words and expressions helped me develop my speaking performance. I can say that the use of MALL applications was a noticeable and useful experience in developing my speaking skills for the new horizons of learning that the applications are opening for learners and for those who are interesting to improve their speaking in a simple and dependent way based on self learning".
Respondent #6	"I finally experienced the new technology in learning and it was really interesting and productive. Although this could help us in learning but it needs to be perfect and continuous process to achieve the ultimate goal otherwise there will not be a real learning. I can say that the new knowledge I got is that I learned a new way of learning. This way is available freely and easily to everyone wants to learn or to develop".	"This experience was really helpful and useful. At least it put me on the right way of improving my English speaking even though it needs a long time and considerable efforts. At the end I felt the difference in my speaking better than when I was not using the applications. I got new vocabularies and new sentence structures and I learned how to speak faster without shyness or worry. second time we use technology to discuss the lesson plan. Very helpful to actually type, recording the talk over the computer and see my friends at the same time".
Respondent #7	"Well, after using MALL applications my language became better as new terms and sentence structures. MALL applications enabled me to do	"In fact, as I have mentioned earlier, MALL applications made me speaking English more fluently and more confidently. As we live in modern world, these applications are so suitable and new

	better in speaking English language. I have learned so many new terms and I believe it guided well to speak better English than my previous status".	learners could get high benefit from them. Before using MALL applications, I was hesitated in speaking English, but after using them, now I can speak with no hesitation. I will continue using the applications and will recommend my friends to use them for speaking development".
Respondent #8	"The experience itself is a new one to use MALL for improving speaking. I listened to native speakers and also recorded my voice and this provide me with real chance to practice the language in semi real English speaking environment. This helped to acquire new learning style and new information at the same time".	"I appreciate the experience of using MALL applications as it could lead to help me developing my speaking skills in terms of pronunciation, the new vocabularies and the sentences structure I learned from them. I can say that I really enhanced my speaking after using the applications and I would like to use them for a long time to reach the level of fluent speaking".
Respondent #9	"There is a big difference between the past two weeks and the longer period spent on MALL applications. The speaking skills or ability has a large difference and improvement than before. The more period we spent on MALL applications, the more knowledge and experience we gain. Simply because a MALL application seems to be as a friend. Some participants of a single conversation (like native-speakers) help others to correct the pronunciation of some difficult words like (refrigerator, congratulations and etc.) especially, the difficult words for a beginner or intermediate level of learning".	"Since MALL applications become as a part of my routine, I use applications most of time. The learning process become real aim that a candidate can easily be achieved by only using MALL applications. The difference between each period is really existed. The difference between each week or two specific period is huge. If I make a chart of the target goal that he should achieve, the goal is on its way to be achieved on what matters. Any candidate can take a part in a conversation no matter what others are from. Because the ability can be described for the upper-intermediate. I have learned how to speak, how an attitude can help us to understand others, as well as there is nothing seems to called misunderstood. Students should use MALL applications because applications help to learn more and more of the English language at all, not just only speaking. But the speaking is the first thing we can achieve in order to express ourselves, and communicate with other from different places, areas or regions".
Respondent	"MALL applications are very	"After using MALL applications I believe

#10	important means to improve and to develop the language skills especially speaking skills. I have found new things and learned new learning strategies of improving my English. The applications offer rich and modern exercises with contemporary topics".	that I have added something important to my language level. I became more confident to speak and to record, when I listen I understand better and I am using the new words and expressions I got from the applications".
Respondent #11	"At the end of this experience I understand the importance of MALL application in improve my speaking skills. I discover new strategies and plans to learn the English speaking. The most amazing thing is the effectiveness of these application in improve the speaking skills in short time through fun and simple activities"	"I feel a great improvement on my speaking skills. maybe it is not as native speakers but mean a lot for me depend on my situation when I start using this application. Now, I really like to learn more and doing conversations with anybody. I do conversation about many life topics to discover my new ability to speak ".
Respondent #12	"It is one of the most excellent experiences in my learning life. I discover my ability of self-learning without the need to teachers. I feel proud to improve my speaking skills using application that available for long time. It is a treasure for the EFL learners and I thank you very much to give me the chance in this experience".	"Through my current conversations I do less mistakes and I speak the words and sentences in correct way as the persons tell me. Off course, I need further enhancement but I'm satisfied about the improving in the speaking skills comparing with my past situation. I will use this application frequently, and I'm enthusiast to do further conversation after learn more using this application".

Based on the above Table, all respondents are agreeing that they gained new and valuable knowledge through their experience of using Cake-Learn English application. The respondents see that MALL applications offer excellent environment to improve their speaking skills as it was experienced by Zurita's (2004) study that revealed that the use of mobile learning is representing a constructive learning environment for learners. The speaking learning is more fun and enjoyable as well as other strengths such as ability of self-learning, free limitations of time and costs of learning activities, and ability to learn in any time and from anywhere. The respondents mentioned that they have discovered new strategies and plans to improve their speaking skills based on self efforts.

Furthermore, the respondents noticed the regular improvements in the daily expressions, grammatical structures, pronunciation, and the amount of vocabularies. The respondents learned wide vocabularies and try to apply it in their conversations as native speakers. Also, the respondents feel more confident in doing longer conversations with other persons without being afraid of making mistakes. In addition, some

respondents like to perform conversation with native speakers to fast their improvement in speaking skills.

Based on the responses on the improvements on speaking skills using Cake application, the respondents see that they can perform longer conversations with fewer mistakes and they speak the words and sentences as they learned from native speakers in the application. The respondents became more confident to speak and to record what they learned. The respondents got new vocabularies, new sentence structures, and learn how to speak faster without shyness or worry.

Moreover, the respondents noticed the considerable improvements in speaking skills in short learning time, which encouraged them to expend further efforts and time in using Cake application to improve their speaking skills. Besides, the respondents mentioned that they avoid many obstacles in speaking learning such as difficulty of performing the learning activities, being afraid of doing mistakes, and afraid of performing conversation with other persons. In addition, the respondents believed that MALL applications are effective to support the speaking learning activities in the traditional classrooms. In total, the reflective journal analysis shows that the contributions of MALL applications such as Cake-Learn English in improving the speaking skills of Arab EFL university students.

Conclusion

The present study investigated the use of MALL applications for speaking skills enhancement by Arab EFL learners. The respondents of the study were 12 undergraduate students who are enrolling in the BA program of English in the faculty of Education for Humanities, Anbar University, Iraq. The data were collected using reflective journal method. The use of the reflective journal or journal Entry helped the learners to identify significant learning events that happen to them and to re-evaluate their knowledge according to the new learning

experience they practiced using MALL apps. A popular MALL application called "Cake-Learn English" was integrated in the data collection and used in the experimental process. The results confirmed that the use of MALL applications is almost an integral part of EFL learner's daily life. The findings also indicated that the majority of the students prefer to use MALL applications for speaking skills improvement. In addition, the respondents trusted the application Cake-Learn English due to the speaking materials presented by native speakers. Furthermore, the respondents are motivated to use this application due to the communication ability with other learners in the same or different region. This will help them to overcome one of the obstacles of English learning as confirmed by Alaraji (2017) as he reported that one of reasons of the weak performance of Arab EFL students in speaking is the lack of motivation. Additionally, the respondents expand their knowledge to learn new meanings and new speaking techniques through Cake applications usage.

In conclusion, the respondents expressed that MALL applications could be used as s real and useful alternative of classroom and being limited according to the class time and place. Once again, the efficiency of using technology in language learning was evidenced and MALL applications perceived as a constructive learning environment for language learning and improving. This is attributed to the number of features provided in the applications such as their ubiquity, ease of use, and usefulness.

In the light of the findings, the use of MALL applications is considered as advantageous to learners, teachers, and also to language institutes that may could use include MALL apps in their educational tools. The study suggests that EFL learners can use MALL apps to improve their English language skills outside the classroom. It is highly recommended to use MALL apps to encourage students for self-learning and to get them enough motivated for language learning process.

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APPENDIX A
Journal Entry Form

Date:	**Journal Entry**
Respondent's Name:	Summarize the new knowledge you gained by using MALL applications for speaking: Describe your speaking improvement after using MALL applications: