Muhamad Hasbi, et al.



Useful Cools For English Teachers

"The dynamic intersection of technology and traditional pedagogy has given rise to a multifaceted landscape in the domain of language instruction such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) which stands at the forefront offering promises, presenting challenges, and raising profound ethical considerations."

(Introduction: Prof. Dr. Daniel Ginting)

Editor: Annisa'u Nabilah

Useful AI Tools for English Teachers

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Enhancing Students' Pronunciation Through Speechify Text-To-Speech Application

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Introducing Speechify Text-to-Speech Applications

Speechify Text-to-Speech (TTS) is a component of Natural Language Processing (NLP) or Human Language Technologies (HLT). Phonetic transcription is used by the majority of TTS systems at some point throughout the synthesis process and with the advent of face animation and the creation of animated agents. The most sophisticated TTS systems now on the market have transcended the basic audio synthesis (Sobkowiak, 2003). Meihami & Husseini (2014) discovered that when CALL was used in the classroom, students' improvements in knowledge of reading tended to be greater. The participants showed significant increases in their reading fluency knowledge suggesting that TTS software can raise the overall fluency which is a mix of reading properties like word stress, word intonation, pitch contour, and fluency (Meihami, 2013).

According to Roslaini & Komara (2020), text-aloud software is one text-to-speech technology that can assist English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students in mastering English pronunciation in the classroom. With its simple to use features such as clear, good, accurate,

and proper native-like voices, the Text-Aloud effectively assisted students in improving their pronunciation skills. But perhaps most importantly, it increased students' motivation to learn pronunciation. Sain and Cobar (2023) also discovered that the TTS (text-to-speech) technology improved students' pronunciation in word stress: Using the Google Translate app.

The Use of Speechify Text-to-Speech for English Teachers

Features and Affordances

Speechify is a text-to-speech (TTS) program compatible with Chrome, Desktop, and Mobile. This app is compatible with both Android and iPhone syncing. Users can download from any cloud or Google Drive, import PDFs or documents, and scan books or writings. The application offers realistic human voices produced by state-of-the-art artificial intelligence technologies. Any text can be read aloud to students. They're able to produce their audiobooks too (Amin, 2022). The figure below is showed the homepage of Speechify text-to-speech (TTS) application.



Figure 1: Speechify Text to Speech (TTS) Application

The initial step for using Speechify Text-to-speech (TTS) application is clicking the https://speechify.com/text-to-speech-online/. Speechify is the #1 text to speech program that turns any written text into spoken words in natural-sounding language. Speechify is also the #1 rated text-to-speech app in the App Store with over 150,000 reviews. Featuring 100+ realistic TTS voices with multilingual support, including exclusively licensed, Snoop Dogg & Gwyneth Paltrow voices. Speechify helps you improve your focus, helps you read faster, and helps you remember more of what you read. We can Scan QR code to download Speechify App and Use the online text editor, Google Chrome Extension, web app iOS app, Mac Desktop app, or our Android app.

Click the + add files button to upload documents, photos, or web links that you want to hear read out. This is the next stage in using the Speechify Text-to-Speech (TTS) application. Before playing or listening to the native speaker's pronunciation in the Speechify Text-to-Speech (TTS) application, adjust the application's native speaker sound type, volume, and speed. After making all the necessary adjustments, press the play button to hear the native speaker pronounce the challenging words you entered. We pay as much attention as we like to the word's pronunciation. Next, have the students mimic the native speakers' pronunciation of the phrases or sentences entered into the application to help them pronunce English words effortlessly and with fluency.

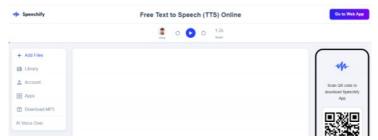


Figure 2: Speechify Text to Speech (TTS) Application ready to use

With Speechify's incredibly lifelike text-to-speech engine, the users can read more quickly than the typical reader while still enjoying the greatest artificial intelligence voices—up to 9 times quicker. Users can opt to listen only or to read and listen at the same time while using Speechify text highlighting. With words highlighted for easy comprehension, just like in karaoke. Comprehension is increased while reading and listening together. Users may throw away your concerns about jerky, robotic text-to-speech AI voices with Speechify's user-friendly AI voices. Speechify offer more than 30 languages and 100 accents in addition to high-quality, lifelike artificial intelligence voices. Additional Features that the users will Enjoy with Speechify Text to Speech as follows:

- 1. **Official celeb voices:** Snoop Dogg & Gwyneth Paltrow official and exclusive voices with more celebrity voices to come.
- 2. **Listen at any speed:** To help customers learn even more in less time, high-quality AI voices can read up to 9 times faster than the typical reader. Slowly increase the speed to as fast as it has to be, starting with 380 words per minute to train your ears to listen more quickly.

- 3. **Listen on desktop or mobile devices:** Users may listen to anything, anywhere, at any time, by automatically syncing anything they have added to Speechify library across all devices.
- 4. **Natural-sounding human voices:** Reading voices resemble human speech more naturally than any other AI reader, which helps it comprehend and retain information better.
- 5. Multi lingual and high quality natural sounding voices: Enjoy high-fidelity speech in 30+ languages with multiple voices. Some of the languages available are Arabic, Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian Bokmål, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, & Ukrainian.
- 6. **Free audio file download:** Users can type, paste, or even upload a file to have it converted to speech with the free text to speech online converter. Once downloaded, they can utilize it as an audio file for voiceovers or other uses. HD voices and official celebrity voices like Snoop Dog and Gwyneth Paltrow are available with Speechify's premium subscription.
- 7. **Document upload:** Need to turn a lengthy document into a spoken version? Not a problem. Users may quickly convert it to text by uploading it to online text-to-speech application



Figure 3: Speechify Text to Speech (TTS) Application Voices

Using Speechify Text-to-Speech (TTS) Application for Academic Purposes

There are many types of Text to Speech Applications that can be used in teaching English as a Foreign Language such as NaturalReader (https://www.naturalreaders.com/), TS2 (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=hesoft. T2S&hl=en), Pocket (https://getpocket.com/en/R), Voice aloud reader icon (https://play.google.com/store/apps/ details?id=com.hyperionics.avar&hl=en_US), Speechify (https://speechify.com/), ReadSpeaker (https://www. readspeaker.com/), Speech Service by Google (https://play. google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android. tts&hl=en_US), Voicemaker (https://voicemaker.in/), Voice Aloud Reader (https://voice-aloud-reader.id.uptodown. com/android), Balaboika (https://www.cross-plus-a.com/ balabolka.htm), and Speechnotes (https://speechnotes.co/) as can be seen in the following figure.

Text to speech ap					
NaturalReader	~	Speechify	~	Voice Aloud Reader	~
T2S	~	ReadSpeaker	~	Balabolka	~
Pocket	~	Speech Services by Google	~	Speechnotes	v
Voice aloud reader icon	~	Voicemaker	~		

Figure 4: The Types of Text to Speech Applications

The usefulness of online text-to-speech resources utilized by EFL teacher candidates to be ready for an oral success exam was investigated by Eksi & Yesilcinar (2016). In addition, by converting text data into audio files, TTS features highlight the content on the computer. When using TTS, students outperform those who just use standard computer programs in terms of literacy scores and vocabulary acquisition (Huang & Liao, 2015). In order to enhance students' vocabulary performance and encourage self-learning, Chiang (2019) reviewed a few text-to-speech (TTS) programs that may be utilized in EFL classes, such as NaturalReader, an online and desktop application, text-to-speech, TTS reader, and VOCALWARE.

Fitria (2022) encouraged teachers to pronunciation using Natural Reader Text-to-Speech (TTS) and concentrated on using TTS programs to create, make, or construct listening resources for English language instruction, particularly iSpeech. On the other hand, Textto-speech synthesizer applications for upper secondary English language acquisition were examined by Stoker (2019), with an emphasis on the teacher's viewpoint. He concluded that rather than being viewed as a fix, the use of TTS in the classroom should be viewed as a compensating tool that can help struggling readers, and that doing so may even motivate students to read more independently in order to succeed academically. James (2016) investigated how reluctant speakers could be assisted in improving their pronunciation by using Text-to-speech, an online technology that can enhance spoken production for English as a Second Language (ESL) learners. In Al-Jarf's (2022) study, the text-to-speech (TTS) program NaturalReader was utilized to help freshmen students improve their decoding abilities, reading fluency, and pronunciation accuracy.

Further Discussion on Speechify Text-to-Speech (TTS) Application

Hagstrom and Lin (2001) investigated the linguistic optimization of the Speechify text-to-speech (TTS) engine, which was intended for use in the VocalPoint voicebrowser and related applications. The TTS engine has to be able to handle both dynamic content and static system messages in order for users to browse websites over the phone. It was discovered that this requires an expansion of the text normalization module in order to accommodate the wide range of text present on the Internet. Language learning advocates who support computer-assisted methods have included text-to-speech (TTS) and speech recognition into language instruction. TTS translates text data into a voice reading immediately. It then uses patented speech synthesis technology to clearly read out the anthropomorphic sounds with adjustable speed and frequency. Finally, it uses natural semantic analysis techniques generated through artificial intelligence to make effective judgments on letters, words, the tone of numerals, and special reading methods. This enables accurate and natural pronunciation of every word (Huang & Liao, 2015).

The study conducted by Kiamanesh, Murphy, and Castel (2023) examined the effects on comprehension and metacognitive monitoring of learning when digital

passages are consumed in one of three modalities or with accented speechify text-to-speech recordings. In addition, Kiseleva & Novikov (2023) investigated the possibilities and shared their experience of teaching their students and improving pronunciation of individual sounds in a foreign language, mastering its phonetic system, intonation, logical stress, etc. by using services like the neural-network-based Readspeaker, Speechify, Google Translate, etc. With the use of these tools, foreign language learners can now focus on mastering sentence-level pronunciation rather than just individual words, potentially greatly enhancing their connected speech abilities.

Teachers of English can now combine informational instruction with English language learning resources with the use of text-to-speech technology. Furthermore, teachers are not constrained by textbooks when choosing which computer-aided teaching materials to use, which adds to the depth of instruction. To effectively learn English, students must acquire accurate pronunciation knowledge prior to memorization of words. To aid children in learning spelling, it is important to encourage the development of engaging and dynamic teaching and learning activities.

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Useful Al Tools for English Teachers

In the current educational practices where elearning plays a central role and many recent technological inventions are accessible by people of all ages, bringing in artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the English as a foreign language (EFL) classroom is recommendable. Certain AI-powered tools, when used accordingly, can help teachers deliver an effective and engaging lessons as they could assist from the teaching preparation, live and flipped classroom activities, up to the assessment

This Useful AI Tools for English Teachers book presents 30 chapters that dive deep into the realm of AI in the spectacle of EFL. The first two chapters discuss the theories prospective practices of AI in the educational context. The other 28 chapters each review one AI-powered tool that is utilitarian in English language teaching-learning and studies covering its relevance, its features and affordances, its uses in English classes, to other related issues. This book is one perfect source for EFL teachers to start learning and experimenting with AI tools in their classes and for researchers to get inspired for their future studies on AI.

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