University Students' Perception of the Huru Ai Interview Prep App in Increasing Students' Preparedness For Job Interviews

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Abstrak
Studi ini menganalisis bagaimana kecerdasan buatan (AI) dapat diterapkan dalam lingkungan pendidikan, dengan fokus khusus pada persiapan karir melalui persiapan wawancara kerja dalam bahasa Inggris. Studi ini melihat seberapa baik program berbasis AI, terutama Aplikasi Persiapan Wawancara Huru AI, mensimulasikan wawancara kerja mengingat pentingnya kesiapan profesional dalam pendidikan tinggi. Data dikumpulkan menggunakan pendekatan campuran dengan mendistribusikan kuesioner yang berisi 15 pernyataan kepada 31 responden. Menanggapi hasil tersebut, 58% siswa mengatakan bahwa penggunaan alat AI, seperti Aplikasi Persiapan Wawancara Huru AI, meningkatkan kemampuan mereka untuk menjawab pertanyaan wawancara kerja dalam bahasa Inggris, yang berdampak positif pada persiapan karir mereka. Selain itu, empat siswa berpartisipasi dalam wawancara kualitatif menggunakan tujuh pertanyaan, yang mendukung temuan kuantitatif dan menunjukkan bahwa pelatihan wawancara kerja yang dibantu AI sangat meningkatkan keterampilan bahasa Inggris siswa dan kesiapan umum mereka untuk dunia kerja.
Kata kunci: Berbicara, Persiapan Wawancara, Kecerdasan Buatan, Wawancara Kerja

Abstract
This study analyzes how artificial intelligence (AI) can be applied in educational settings, with a specific focus on career preparation via English-language job interview preparation. The study looks at how well AI-based programs, especially the Huru AI Interview Prep App, simulate job interviews in light of the importance of professional readiness in higher education. Data were gathered using a mixed-methods approach by distributing questionnaires with 15 statements to 31 respondents. In response to the results, 58% of students said that using AI tools, such as the Huru AI Interview Prep App, improved their ability to answer English-language job interview questions, which had a beneficial effect on their career preparation. Furthermore, four students participated in qualitative interviews using seven questions, which supported the quantitative findings and showed that AI-assisted job interview training greatly enhances students' English language skills and general preparedness for the workforce.
Keywords: Artiffical Intelligence, Interview Preparation, Job Interview, Speaking

INTRODUCTION

Modern life has changed significantly as a result of the quick development of technology, especially artificial intelligence (AI), particularly in the context of education. AI has transformed a number of industries and changed how people communicate and relate to one another. Innovative, customized, and adaptable learning strategies have been made possible by its capacity to organize and analyze data (L. Chen et al., 2020). AI technology organizes the assessment of varied abilities and fosters deeper cognitive engagement by giving learners the tools they need to succeed in the twenty-first century, including creativity and critical thinking (Chiu et al., 2023).

AI improves communication skills in language learning by supporting ongoing conversations, which creates a setting that encourages candid conversations about how learners are using AI. Through the real-time identification and resolution of possible issues, this conversation may minimize anxiety and increase motivation. To create AI tools that enhance language acquisition while simultaneously putting students' psychological health first, cooperation between researchers, educators, and technologists is essential (Pedro et al., 2019).

The four key components of language mastery are speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Speaking is the most important skill while learning a foreign or second language. The Survei Angkatan Kerja Nasional (Sakernas) from Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) reports that as of August 2022, there were 8.43 million unemployed people in Indonesia, mostly high school graduates, with 673.49 thousand (7.99%) of the unemployed being university graduates. Given that many candidates find it difficult to impress interviewers and provide insightful answers to questions, this data highlights the critical need for job interview training.

Given that most interviewers do interviews in English and that first impressions are very important, the significance of being proficient in the language is stressed. A candidate's possibilities of getting employed can be negatively impacted by low language competence, so it's critical to create effective techniques for enhancing English ability, especially in educational settings. By giving support in areas like interview techniques and resume writing, career services at universities are essential in helping students get ready for their post-graduation professions.

In relation to research by Monday (2020), students who had AI-assisted interview training were more likely to land jobs that fit their interests and skill set. In addition to preparing students emotionally and cognitively for the interview process, this kind of instruction gives them the practical skills they need to respond appropriately to any questions that may come up. This suggests how AI technology must be included into English instruction for the purpose to improve students' preparedness for employment.

Language scientists have explored various aspects of language, emphasizing that speaking is one of the four essential language skills, alongside reading, writing, and listening. Speaking enables students to interact and communicate effectively, allowing them to express their thoughts, feelings, hopes, and opinions. Individuals proficient in a language are often referred to as "speakers" or "communicators" (Guebba, 2021).

Rao (2019) highlights that speaking is a productive skill that encompasses more than just correct pronunciation and sentence structure. It requires the ability to combine words, sounds, and grammatical structures in a coherent manner to convey ideas clearly. Effective communication in speaking involves utilizing a range of skills to articulate thoughts meaningfully.

Kaur & Abdul Aziz (2020) further assert that speaking involves vocalizing words and sentences that reflect the speaker's thoughts. This skill is particularly noticeable, as people often assess a speaker's abilities based on their speaking performance before considering their reading, writing, or listening skills. This underscores the importance of developing strong speaking abilities, as they are frequently the first aspect of language proficiency that others observe and evaluate.

For university students, having strong speaking abilities is essential for both academic achievement and future employment prospects. Clear communication of ideas and emotions is essential for professional growth, claim Demirel et al. (2020). Therefore, during their professional training, university students should place a high priority on improving their communication abilities. The importance of establishing good verbal communication skills in an academic setting

is highlighted by the fact that a crucial component of speaking ability can influence multiple performance characteristics.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has various definitions depending on different perspectives. Bhbosale et al. (2020) define AI as a branch of computer science that enables machines to exhibit human-like thinking and decision-making. Keresztesi & Res (2022) describe AI as an IT field that develops systems capable of learning, reasoning, planning, and problem-solving, revolutionizing industries by enhancing efficiency. Jagodic & Sinkovec (2021) view AI as a collection of systems that observe, process, and act upon their environment to achieve specific goals, allowing adaptability across different domains.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to manage complex networks of people, businesses, and nations, making life more efficient. Its primary goal is to enable machines to perform cognitive tasks such as problem-solving, decision-making, and speech recognition (Sarker, 2022). Bhbosale et al. (2020) emphasize AI's role in replicating human abilities, including critical thinking and learning, while also developing expert systems that provide insights and recommendations.

AI can also enhance education by reducing student anxiety and increasing motivation. Encouraging open discussions about AI experiences helps students adapt, while collaboration between educators and technologists ensures AI tools support both language learning and psychological well-being (Pedro et al., 2019).

Pronunciation errors are common among students and can lead to misunderstandings in communication. As pronunciation, along with vocabulary and grammar, is essential for mastering language skills (Sofiyanti in Abimanto & Sumarsono, 2024), improving it is crucial. In the era of Industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers an efficient solution for enhancing English pronunciation. AI-powered speech recognition technologies, such as Speech-To-Text (STT) and Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), help identify and correct pronunciation errors. Tools like Google Assistant, Mozilla, and Elsa Speak enable learners to refine their pronunciation, improving their overall English proficiency (Faizal M & Alimudin, 2018).

An interview is a technique for gathering knowledge and learning new perspectives through discussions on a common interest between two or more people. It acknowledges the social context of research data and suggests the value of human interaction in the process of knowledge generation (Kvale as referenced in Utibe Monday, 2020). Additionally, a job interview is a verbal discussion designed to gather pertinent data, frequently concentrating on the participant's background and experiences to inform research or hiring decisions.

The Huru AI Interview Prep App is a specialized job interview preparation tool that provides instant feedback, mock interview simulations, and question guidance. It offers a safe and structured environment for students to practice and improve their English-speaking skills. As an audiovisual learning tool, Huru AI supports both educators and learners in enhancing language proficiency and preparing for job interviews effectively.

Numerous studies have examined how students view artificial intelligence (AI) in English language instruction, stressing both its advantages and disadvantages. Students saw AI favorably as a way to improve understanding, motivation, and feedback, as stated by Keumalasari et al. (2024), but they only paid attention to primary school instruction and not professional speaking abilities. In their analysis of vocational education, Pranata Purba et al. (2024) pointed out that AI can improve general language proficiency but not professional applications like job interviews.

The study by Azzahra et al. (2024), AI programs such as Duolingo and ELSA Speak are useful for speaking and listening, but not for situations that are career-focused. The current study, on the other hand, fills a research gap by concentrating on how college students interpret AI-

powered job interview simulations. This study investigates how AI may improve professional speaking abilities and get students ready for workplace communication by utilizing conversational AI, natural language processing, and speech recognition.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative data to gain comprehensive insights. According to Creswell (2014), mixed-methods research combines qualitative and quantitative data to provide deeper understanding beyond what either method could achieve alone. The quantitative approach involved analyzing numerical data from surveys, while the qualitative approach explored students' perceptions through interviews. This combination allowed for a broad understanding of AI-based job interview training and its impact on speaking skills.

The subjects of this research were 31 students from the 8th semester of the 2020 academic year in the English Education Study Program. These students were selected based on their interest in learning about AI job interviews to improve their speaking skills. The participants had access to the Huru AI Interview Prep App, which was integral to the study.

Data collection involved the use of questionnaires and interviews. The questionnaires were distributed to gather quantitative data on students' perceptions, while in-depth interviews were conducted with four selected participants to gain qualitative insights. The questionnaires were designed using a Likert scale, allowing respondents to express their opinions on various aspects of the AI tool and its effectiveness in enhancing their speaking skills.

The questionnaire was designed to gather students' perceptions of AI-based job interview training in improving speaking skills. It was distributed via Google Forms and utilized a Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree). The questionnaire covered key aspects such as challenges in speaking, frequency of AI-based practice, training relevance, ease of use, effectiveness in reducing anxiety, and overall experience with AI for job interview preparation.

In addition to the questionnaire, semi-structured interviews were conducted with four selected participants via Zoom to gain deeper insights. The interviews explored students' personal experiences, their perceptions of AI effectiveness in improving speaking skills, and their confidence in using AI tools for job interview preparation. The qualitative data from the interviews provided a more detailed understanding of how AI applications, such as the Huru AI Interview Prep App, contribute to students' professional skill development.

Data analysis followed a systematic process, including data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. Quantitative data from the questionnaires were categorized and analyzed to calculate percentages, while qualitative data from the interviews were transcribed and thematically analyzed to provide deeper insights into the students' experiences with the AI tool. This mixed-methods approach not only allowed for a robust analysis of the data but also facilitated a richer understanding of how the Huru AI Interview Prep App impacted students' speaking skills and their overall perceptions of AI in language learning.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study are based on data collected from questionnaires and interviews with students from the 8th semester of the 2020 academic year at the English Education Study Program, University Muhammadiyah of Jakarta. A total of 31 students participated in the questionnaire, while four students were selected for in-depth interviews. The results provide insights into students' perceptions of using the Huru AI Interview Prep App in improving their English-speaking skills for job interviews.

The questionnaire results indicate that the majority of students found the Huru AI Interview Prep App beneficial for enhancing their speaking skills. Approximately 74% of students agreed that the app effectively improved their English proficiency for job interviews, while 71% stated that it helped them think quickly and respond appropriately during interviews. Additionally, 81% of participants found that using AI-based training expanded their vocabulary and English-speaking abilities. The app also contributed to increased confidence, with 71% of students reporting that AI-assisted training made them feel more self-assured during job interviews. Furthermore, 81% of respondents stated that the realistic interview scenarios in the app helped them prepare for actual job interviews, while 71% believed that the AI-generated questions were relevant and useful in formulating effective responses.

In terms of accessibility, 65% of students agreed that the app was easy to use and convenient for practicing interview skills at any time and place. Additionally, 55% of respondents reported that AI-based interview training helped reduce nervousness, allowing them to practice in a stress-free environment. Lastly, 71% of students found that the Huru AI Interview Prep App provided a safe and pressure-free setting for job interview practice, which further contributed to their overall preparedness.

To gain deeper insights, four students were interviewed about their experiences using the app. The interviews focused on six key aspects: challenges in job interview preparation, frequency of AI use for speaking practice, relevance of AI training, ease of use, effectiveness in reducing anxiety, and overall speaking skill improvement. The interviewees mentioned nervousness, difficulty in structuring responses, and pronunciation challenges as their main struggles when preparing for interviews. However, they noted that using the AI-based app allowed them to practice independently, provided instant feedback, and helped them feel less anxious when facing real interview situations.

In terms of frequency, students reported using the Huru AI Interview Prep App between five to seven times, with many expressing intentions to continue using AI for future interview practice. They also highlighted that the AI-generated questions were highly relevant to their chosen fields, making the training more specific and applicable to real-world job interviews. The app's user-friendly interface and accessibility were also appreciated, as students could easily practice via mobile devices or web platforms.

Regarding its effectiveness in reducing speaking anxiety, students emphasized that AI-based simulations allowed them to practice without fear of judgment, which contributed to increased confidence and fluency. The overall experience using AI was described as valuable for improving English-speaking skills, with students noting improvements in pronunciation, fluency, and structured responses. When comparing their interview preparation before and after using AI, students reported a significant increase in readiness, confidence, and knowledge of possible interview questions.

The findings suggest that AI-based interview training can be an effective tool for developing students' English-speaking skills, particularly in professional contexts such as job interviews. The Huru AI Interview Prep App helped students improve their fluency, confidence, and structured communication, reinforcing previous research on the benefits of AI in language learning (Keumalasari et al., 2024; Pranata Purba et al., 2024). The structured nature of AI-based speaking practice, combined with instant feedback and realistic scenarios, made it an effective alternative to traditional language training methods.

One of the significant advantages of using AI-based training is its role in reducing speaking anxiety. A majority of students (71%) reported increased confidence in job interviews after practicing with AI, supporting the idea that self-paced, AI-driven simulations create a low-

pressure environment for learners to develop their speaking skills (Zou et al., 2020). AI's ability to simulate real interview scenarios also contributed to students' preparedness, with 81% agreeing that AI-generated questions were relevant and helped them formulate better answers.

Additionally, the personalized feedback provided by AI was highly beneficial. The app's speech recognition and natural language processing (NLP) capabilities helped students identify pronunciation errors, grammatical mistakes, and coherence issues, enabling them to refine their speaking skills progressively. This feature aligns with findings from previous studies that emphasize AI's role in improving communication skills through targeted feedback mechanisms (Azzahra et al., 2024).

Despite its numerous benefits, AI-based interview training also has limitations. Some students expressed concerns about the lack of human interaction, stating that AI could not fully replicate the dynamic, spontaneous nature of real interviews. While AI-based simulations were effective for structured practice, they lacked emotional intelligence and adaptive conversation flow, which are essential in real-life job interviews. Another limitation was the restricted number of questions per session—the app provided only five questions per interview simulation, which some students felt was insufficient for comprehensive interview preparation.

These findings highlight the potential for AI to complement, rather than replace, traditional language learning and career preparation methods. AI-based interview training can be effectively integrated into university career services, providing students with self-paced learning tools that enhance their professional communication skills. However, a hybrid approach that combines AI simulations with human-led coaching could address AI's limitations while maximizing its benefits.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights students' positive perceptions of the Huru AI Interview Prep App in enhancing their career preparation, particularly for job interviews. Using a mixed-methods approach, data from questionnaires and interviews with 8th-semester students of the English Education Study Program at University Muhammadiyah of Jakarta revealed that AI-based interview training improves response time, expands English vocabulary, and enhances speaking skills. Students found the AI interview simulations beneficial in identifying their strengths and weaknesses, allowing them to prepare more effectively for real-world job interviews.

Furthermore, the findings emphasize the importance of integrating AI technology into English language learning, as it serves as a powerful tool for developing both linguistic proficiency and professional readiness. By incorporating AI-driven job interview training into higher education curricula, institutions can help bridge the gap between academic learning and practical career applications, ensuring that graduates are not only skilled in English but also resilient and well-prepared for the workforce.

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