

**STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF USING DUOLINGO
IN LEARNING ENGLISH AT SMAN 1 TABUNGANEN**

THESIS



**BY
NORDIANSYAH
SRN. 2111102110006**

**NAHDLATUL ULAMA UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH KALIMANTAN
FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

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AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

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By
NORDIANSYAH
SRN. 2111102110006

**NAHDLATUL ULAMA UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH OF KALIMANTAN
FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
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APPROVAL

Name : Nordiansyah
SRN : 2111102110006
Title : *Students' Perceptions Of Using Duolingo In Learning English
At SMAN 1 Tabunganen*

After being checked and revised, the thesis has been approved to be examined.
Banjar, 11 August 2025

Advisor I

Pajrian Noor, M.Pd.
NIDN. 1123089302

Advisor II

Lailatun Najmiah, M.Pd.
NIDN. 1117059301

VALIDATION

Name : Nordiansyah
SRN : 2111102110006
Tittle : *Students' Perceptions Of Using Duolingo In Learning English
At SMAN 1 Tabunganen*

The thesis has been examined by the board of thesis examiners of English department of Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Nahdatul Ulama University of South Kalimantan on August 11, 2025.

Examiner I

Examiner II

Fikri Fuadi Azmy, M.Pd.
NIDN. 1116109401

Lailatun Najmiah, M.Pd.
NIDN. 1117059301

Acknowledged by,

**Dean of FKIP
NU University of South Kalimantan**

**Head of English Education Department
NU University of South Kalimantan**

Isnaniah, M.Pd.
NIK. 150012021

Novi Dwi Yuliani
NIK. 200012035

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned below:

Name : Nordiansyah
SRN : 2111102110006
Place/Date of Birth : Tabunganen Tengah, January 5th, 2002
Thesis tittle : *Students' Perceptions Of Using Duolingo In Learning English At SMAN 1 Tabunganen*

Declare that this undergraduate thesis is my original work, gathered and utilized especially to fulfill the purposes and objectives of this study, and has not been previously submitted to any other university for any degree or other purposes. I also declare that the publications cited in this work have been properly acknowledged. If someday, it is proven otherwise, I understand that my degree will be revoked.

Banjar, August 11, 2025

The writer,

Nordiansyah

SRN. 2111102110006

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Dream, Believe, and Make It Happen”

-Agnes Monica Muljoto-

This thesis is sincerely dedicated to:

My beloved parents, for their endless love, prayers, patience, and unwavering support throughout my journey. My dear friends, who have stood by my side, shared countless moments, and encouraged me during the ups and downs of this process. All individuals who have supported, motivated, and inspired me to keep moving forward and never give up on my dreams. And most importantly, to myself for enduring the challenges, embracing the lessons, and believing that I could make it until the end.

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Peace and blessings be upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad Shallallahu ‘Alaihi Wasallam, who has brought humanity from the darkness of ignorance into the light of knowledge and faith. May we always be among those who receive his intercession on the Day of Judgment.

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Nordiansyah

SRN. 2111102110006

ABSTRACT

Nordiansyah. (2025). *Students' Perceptions Of Using Duolingo In Learning English At SMAN 1 Tabunganen*. A Thesis. English Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Nahdlatul Ulama University of South Kalimantan. Advisor. (I) Pajrian Noor, M.Pd. (II) Lailatun Najmiah, M.Pd.

Keywords: *Students' perception, Duolingo, English learning, rural education, mobile-assisted learning.*

This research aims to explore the perceptions of tenth-grade students at SMAN 1 Tabunganen toward the use of Duolingo in learning English. The study focuses on understanding students' feelings, motivations, and challenges during their experiences with the application. This qualitative descriptive research involved 15 participants selected from a class of 29 students. Data were collected through observations and semi-structured interviews, then analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings revealed that most students found Duolingo enjoyable and helpful, especially in improving vocabulary and listening skills. They appreciated its gamified features and flexibility for independent learning. However, some challenges were noted, such as lack of internet access and difficulty understanding certain tasks without teacher guidance. Interestingly, while students liked using Duolingo, they still valued traditional methods when facing grammar or writing exercises. The study concluded that Duolingo can be a supportive learning tool when integrated with classroom instruction. The results provide insights for teachers and stakeholders to better implement mobile-assisted learning in rural areas like Tabunganen.

ABSTRAK

Nordiansyah. (2025). Persepsi Siswa terhadap Penggunaan Duolingo dalam Pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris di SMAN 1 Tabunganen. Skripsi Sarjana. Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan. Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Kalimantan Selatan. Pembimbing. (I) Pajrian Noor, M.Pd. (II) Lailatun Najmiah, M.Pd.

Kata Kunci: Persepsi siswa, Duolingo, pembelajaran bahasa Inggris, pendidikan pedesaan, pembelajaran berbantuan teknologi.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi persepsi siswa kelas X SMAN 1 Tabunganen terhadap penggunaan aplikasi Duolingo dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris. Fokus penelitian ini adalah memahami perasaan, motivasi, dan tantangan yang dialami siswa saat menggunakan aplikasi tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan partisipan sebanyak 15 orang dari total 29 siswa dalam satu kelas. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui observasi dan wawancara semi-terstruktur, lalu dianalisis menggunakan analisis tematik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar siswa merasa Duolingo menyenangkan dan bermanfaat, terutama dalam meningkatkan kosakata dan kemampuan mendengarkan. Mereka menyukai fitur permainan dalam aplikasi serta fleksibilitasnya untuk belajar mandiri. Namun, beberapa tantangan juga ditemukan, seperti keterbatasan akses internet dan kesulitan memahami beberapa tugas tanpa bantuan guru. Meskipun siswa menyukai Duolingo, mereka tetap menghargai metode pembelajaran tradisional untuk materi seperti tata bahasa dan menulis. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa Duolingo dapat menjadi alat bantu yang mendukung jika dipadukan dengan pembelajaran di kelas. Temuan ini memberikan masukan penting bagi guru dan pihak terkait untuk mengembangkan pembelajaran berbasis teknologi di daerah terpencil seperti Tabunganen.