Improving English language proficiency using Novo's mobile learning solution

ABSTRACT

*NovoLearning recently completed an innovative language learning pilot project with the Indonesian Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (RISTEKDIKTI) and Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI) to improve the English communication skills of **2000 students** at 14 universities nationwide ranging from Sumatra to Papua. The pilot project commenced in October 2018 and concluded in April 2019. The project's key objective involved improving the oral proficiency skills of participants through utilising NovoLearning's Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) software and interactive courseware in a mobile-learning application. As part of the project, a random selection of students (354 in total) completed an English language proficiency test at the start of the English language program and a second test at the end.*

*Analyses of the pre-course and post-course proficiency test showed that **participants improved 20.7%** across all three levels of the proficiency test and a t-test revealed a **significant effect** of the NovoLearning Communication Program on the learners' knowledge of English. Results highlight the success of the innovative language learning pilot project to provide language training to prepare learners for success in their future professional and academic career.*

NovoLearning provides a fully integrated training solution, allowing focused English language instruction, communication preparation and integrated skills training. The key objective of the innovative language learning pilot program was the improvement of oral proficiency skills. In order to achieve this aim, the overall English proficiency skills of participants were tested as part of their enrolment into the *English Communication Program: A General English Course* at the beginning of the pilot and a second English proficiency test was assigned to learners at the conclusion of the program.
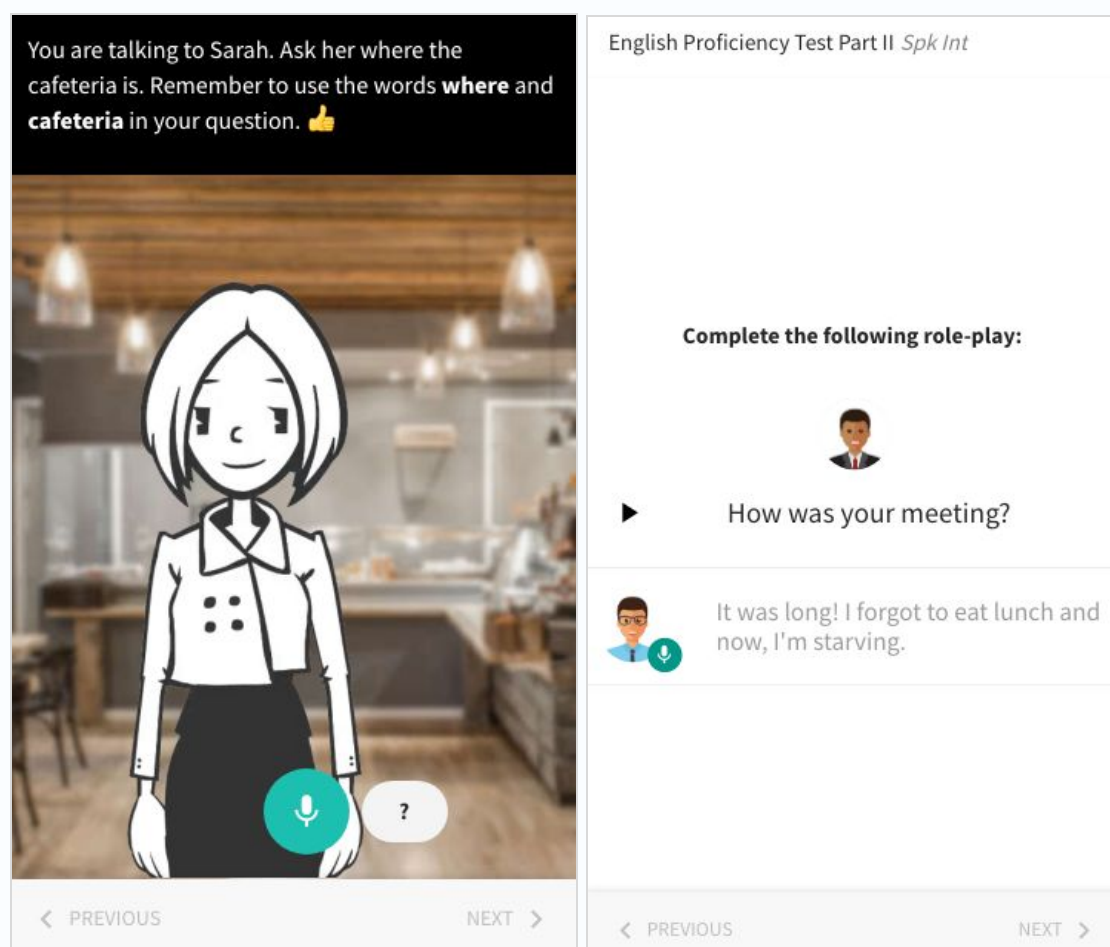

Figure 1. *Screenshots of train and test exercises in the Novo app.*

Each test was divided into three levels; level 1 was directed at elementary level proficiency, level 2 at intermediate level and level 3 at advanced level. Each level assessed specific competencies beginning with general grammar knowledge, reading comprehension, listening skills and, finally, pronunciation and speaking.

The core function of the proficiency test was to provide a snapshot of a participant's English performance and capabilities in these specific areas and represented the learner's understanding, confidence and command of the building blocks of the English language. A random sample of learners were invited to complete the pre-course and post-course proficiency tests. In total, 354 learners completed both tests and results show that participants **improved 20.7%** across all three levels.
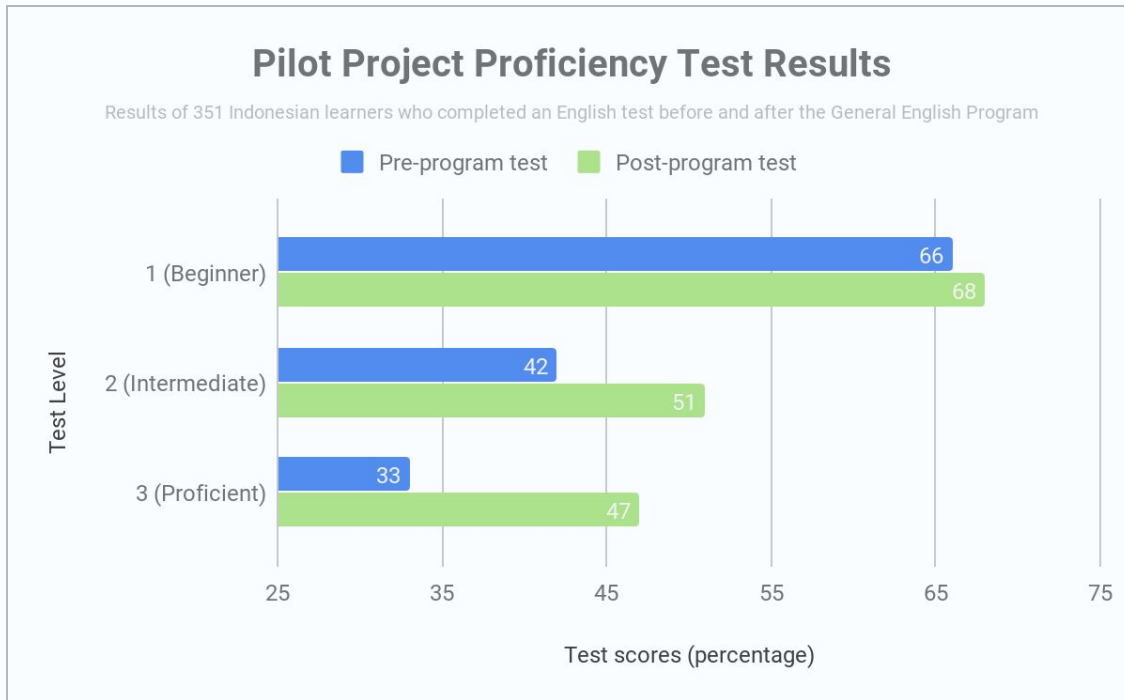
Pilot Project Proficiency Test Results

Results of 351 Indonesian learners who completed an English test before and after the General English Program

■ Pre-program test   ■ Post-program test

Test Level	Pre-program test	Post-program test
1 (Beginner)	66	68
2 (Intermediate)	42	51
3 (Proficient)	33	47

Test scores (percentage): 25, 35, 45, 55, 65, 75

Figure 2. Proficiency Test results of 351 Indonesian learners before and after following Novo's English Program. The scores are shown separately for the 3 different test levels.

The Proficiency test results presented in this report reflect a significant improvement in the general understanding and competency of project participants. On average, learners scored lower in the pre-course test (M = 115.02, SD = 51.66), performing better in the post-course proficiency test (M = 133.53, SD = 60.50) and **a dependent t-test revealed this difference to be significant** ($Mdif$ = -18.51, $t(353)$ = -12.00, $p < .001$). This difference represents a small to medium-sized effect d = 0.33.

Once results are broken down into the three levels of the test, level 1 shows **an increase of 3.0%** from the first assessment to the post-program assessment, and level 2 and level 3 show **an increase in test scores of 21.4% and 42.4%** respectively. Learners were able to show healthy gains in their knowledge of the English language and these results highlight the success of the innovative language learning pilot project to provide mobile language training to prepare learners for future success.

Would you like to know more about our research or
the NovoLearning mobile learning solution?
Contact us at research@novo-learning.com!