Investigating the Effects of Using "Zoom Application" in Enhancing EFL Learners' Pronunciation

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the effects of using "ZOOM Application" in enhancing EFL Learners' Pronunciation skills. The descriptive analytical method was adopted to conduct the study. For data collection, two tools were used. A questionnaire was designed, and distributed for teachers. Besides, an observation for EFL learners. The sample consists of (20) University teachers who were selected randomly from different Sudanese Universities. The Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) program was used to analyze data .This The study found out that ZOOM application   is facilitating for teachers manage his lecture and can take his attendance easily and directly, Zoom application is shorten a time and doesn't cost a lot of efforts for learners and stay at their homes , and Zoom technology has a great tool for developing and promoting teamwork spontaneously in teaching process .This study recommends that, officials should provide and support schools and universities with strong technological infrastructure and teachers should concentrate on using Zoom application for its greatest benefits.

 Keywords: E-learning, distance learning technologies, educational research, Zoom Apps.

المستخلص

هدفت الدراسة الي التقصي من إستخدام تطبيق الزوم للإسهام في مهارة النطق لطلاب اللغة الانجليزية كلغة أجنبية . استخدم الباحث المنهج الوصفي التحليلي كما أستخدم الملاحظة والاستابة كأداتين للدراسة , تكونت عينة الدراسة من عشرون أستاذا جامعيا يعملون في التعليم العالي .استخدم الباحث برنامج الحزم الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية لتحليل البيانات .أظهرت الدراسة نتائج أهمها ان تطبيق الزوم يسهل من القاء المحاضرة والقدرة علي أخذ الحضور بسهولة وبشكل مباشر , تطبيق الزوم يختصر الوقت ويقلل تكلفه الدارسين وإبقاءهم بالمنزل , تعد أداة تقنية الزوم فاعلة في تطوير العمل الجماعي بتلقائة في العملية التعليمية . أوصت الدراسة بالاتي, ينبغي علي المسؤولون دعم و تزويد البينية التحتية بالتقوية التكنلوجية للكليات والجامعات, وينبغي علي الاساتذة التركيز علي استخدام تطبيق الزوم لما له من فوائد عظيمة.

الكلمات المفتاحية : التعليم الالكتروني , تكنلوجبا التعلم عن بعد, تطبيق الزوم ,بحوث تعلمية , السودان.

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1-0 Introduction

In spite of modernizing of learning –teaching process around the world Sudan still far way to gain and achieve progress in E- learning teaching. Most Sudanese universities are delayed many months due to Covid 19 .The researcher focus on the applied this Zoom application to solve the problems of delaying learners to graduate from universities and making changing in traditional method of teaching process to modern one .

1-1Statement of the Problem

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many universities were stopped working resulting to delay and accumulate batches in higher education in Sudan. Researcher writes on investigating effects of ZOOM APP to enhance EFL learners Pronunciation skills to avoid stopping of teaching- learning process and improve learners' pronunciation skills.

1-2Objectives of the Study

1-To enhance EFL learners' pronunciation skills

2-To facilitate teaching process for both teachers and students

3-To support the continuation of online teaching - learning process in higher education institutions.

1-3Hypotheses of Study

1-Zoom application enhances EFL learners pronunciation skills .

2-Zoom application facilitates teaching process for both teachers and students.

3-Zoom application supports the continuation of online teaching - learning process in higher education institutions.

2-4Questions of the Study

1-To what extent Zoom application enhances EFL learners pronunciation skills?

2-To what degree Zoom application facilitates teaching process for both teachers and students?

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3-To some extent Zoom application supports the continuation of online teaching - learning process in higher education institutions?

1-5 Significance of the Study

This study is significant because at following:

1-It helps teachers in management lectures easily and save time to achieve the goals of courses.

2- It helps students increase their motivation to enhance their pronunciation skill and continuation of learning process.

1-6 Methodology of the Study

The researcher used the descriptive analytical method which is based on data collection, classification, organization and analysis. Sample included (20) working teachers at higher education. The subjects were selected randomly. To achieve the study aims, the researcher used a teacher's questionnaire and observation.

1-7 Limits of the Study

This study has three limitations:-
1. Limitation of time: The study was carried out and applied in academic year 2020/2021.
2. Limitation of place: The study was applied and carried out in Gezira university
3. Limitation of Subject: The study will deal and discuss investigating the effects of using "ZOOM Application" in enhancing EFL Learners' Pronunciation skills.

2.0 Literature Review

2-1 Introduction

English language is an international means of communication for most people around the world. English is an international language and became intermediary of verbal communication between both lectures and learners. Therefore, it has distributed into the exchanging of thoughts and expressions

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which have contributed massively to disciplines of linguistics and political development of any country. Sudan, as a country is need assisting learners at higher education to progress technological, then the world became a small village to reach other countries. Researcher uses zoom application to facilitate the sequences of pedagogical process during natural disasters .Mainly, world became expose to natural pandemic as currently disease COVID -19 these reasons led the researcher continues and deepen his view in is enriched area to broaden the horizon of teachers and learners.

2.2 Zoom Application

Zoom application allows English language teachers to present the content of their lectures spontaneously in various ways through many sets, which are available. On other hand, in the Zoom's desktop there is a Share screen command which can give English language teachers a great opportunity to develop and share the teaching materials to students' easily, by sharing videos and articles, . During the session lecturer was watching his learners online directly who are absent or attend lecture. English language teachers can encourage his/her learners to use active questions for analyzing, assessing and evaluating their learning process and participations during a session. Learners could be asked each other's during lecture to gain feedback. Teacher also recording a lecture as a video, pdf, and Mp3 sounds and sharing it later.

Changing the world help learners and lecturers to initiate online conferences room to facilitate learning process by means as Zoom's app. It contributed on save of losing time .Zoom's features allow to English language educators to find out and evaluated the four skills through rich communications with English language learners. In addition to screen sharing as blackboard, Zoom encourages English language lecturers to explain their shared screen information directly without hesitating, making lectures more technically and effectively.

English language lecturers may documentation their lectures to the Cloud or locally card .On other hand, English language learners may also record and turn recording item or material when they like during a lecture or after, if the teacher enables this feature. Zoom as app allows of English language lectures to present ideas of their instructions in various ways.

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Numerous colleges are preparing learners to incorporate innovation like zoom applications to be utilized during training since individuals are quickly adjusting to getting to these advancements to encourage correspondence which prompts the far and wide prevalence of online learning (Ali, Naeem et al. 2020).

Different researcher recommended that a zoom meeting (a simultaneous learning methodology) can have an immediate connection with positive effect on learners' scholarly exhibition and inspiration towards the learning cycle (Gupta, Shrestha et al. 2020). It was accepted that utilizing zoom meetings can encourage understating of syntactic and semantic perception through the way toward composing and modifying before sharing these communication because of the sentiment of weakness of imparting them to their colleagues and educator which urges them to structure right explanations (Molchanova, Kovtoniuk et al. 2020).

2.3 The Benefits Students get from these AI-based Technologies are as Following:

• Youngsters invest a great deal of time on learning. Artificial Intelligence based technologies give a likelihood to focus on spare time, using 10 or 15 minutes(*Sandu.,R .et al (*2021). Moreover, they can get feedback from mentors in a constant manner (Molnár, Szűts et al. 2018).

• These arrangements can be revamped by learners' degree of information, interesting themes, etc. The system will usually assist learners with their weak points (Sapkota and Narayangarh 2020).

• Simulated intelligence-based phases offer virtual instructors to note the learners' improvement. Obviously, only human instructors can efficiently address the learners' needs; anyway it's satisfactory to get second input through virtual tutor (Song, Oh et al. 2017).

2.4 Teachers also get Benefited through these Technologies. Some of those benefits are quoted below (*Sandu.,R .et al (*2021):

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2.4.2 Teachers also Get Benefited through these Technologies. Some of those benefits are quoted below:

• Distinctive instructional sessions allow seeing the shortcomings in learners' knowledge and understanding.

For occasion, the Courser a platform can inform the instructor if a huge number of learners picked off false reactions to a specific question. Therefore, the teacher has a possibility to concentrate on the requested point (Wei, Yu et al. 2018) .

Zoom's screen sharing can give English teachers a great opportunity to enlarge English language learners' multicultural variation as a result of sharing and appealing resources for instance movies, films, piece of writing, and presentations. Throughout lectures issue, in addition to watching them, English language instructor s may give confidence to their learners to apply vigorous activities to investigate and assessed their learning. Lecturers might be also asked some questions to learners to reveal their lectures feedback via a video tape and distributing it to each other.

In Zoom's app both teachers and learners are interesting when using Zoom as mediator of teaching and learning process. Applying this method in Sudan may help to solve the problems of weaken English levels between learners and pushing Sudanese Universities at higher rank according world universities classification.

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The Zoom application as a platform media is used to connect people around world, Purtri N & Suryaman .M (2022), define Zoom as a medium means in communication between oral and written video comprising of different practical finical low cost then ,it used friendly.

E learning has a vital role nowadays with related with both positive and negative findings for example in recent study, Fitzpatrick et al.(2020) report that, students

Who attended virtual free public schools online has already in better ways than other in existence prior to pandemic demonstrated decreased achievement in language arts with little improvement performance over subsequent years.

Nonetheless, it is important to note that there are amount of changes between learners at the effective approval schools and students shifting to online learning due to the pandemic. For example, on the positive side, student-to-teacher percentages in traditional schools are lower than in virtual platform , and students in traditional schools are possible to have already developed confident relationships with their teachers prior to the pandemic (Fitzpatrick et al. 2020).

Probability of existing some advantages of the difference of online learning may be better preservation courses by the students and a decrease in the time needed for them to learn (Li and Lalani 2020).

Beside other negative side, lacking of infrastructure available in public and private brick-and-mortar schools and limited time to effectively design and deliver online education prior to the school closures have challenged the transition to virtual.

3-0Methodology

The researcher adopted descriptive analytical method. The researcher has used two tools for collecting data, these tools are: an observation and questionnaire. Questionnaire consisted of (10) statements was distributed to teachers at higher education . The researcher used Zoom's app in a lot of online webinars at Washington D.C American live Series of Professional Teachers as seminars shown in live face book videos at 2020 till 2021 he attended (24) webinars .He tries to convey this recent techniques to his students. The researcher attended more than (50) courses had been implemented through Zoom then he used it as

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instructor. Thus, he aware the benefit of this App to raising students comprehension and helping them to continue in their study in all naturally circumstances and in time of pandemic .The researcher used a teacher's questionnaire as a tool for collecting data .

3-2 Procedure:

Firstly, researcher recorded his observation of a particular situation then he had taken his notes about these webinars .Secondly he interpreted those notes according to relevant criteria. Finally he wrote organized paper that represented his observation and interpretation, with the aim of answering his paper question.

4-0 Results and Discussion

Table (1): ZOOM gives self -confidence for learners .

Valid	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	17	85.0%
Neutral	3	15.0%
Disagree		
Total	20	100.0%

Figure (1)

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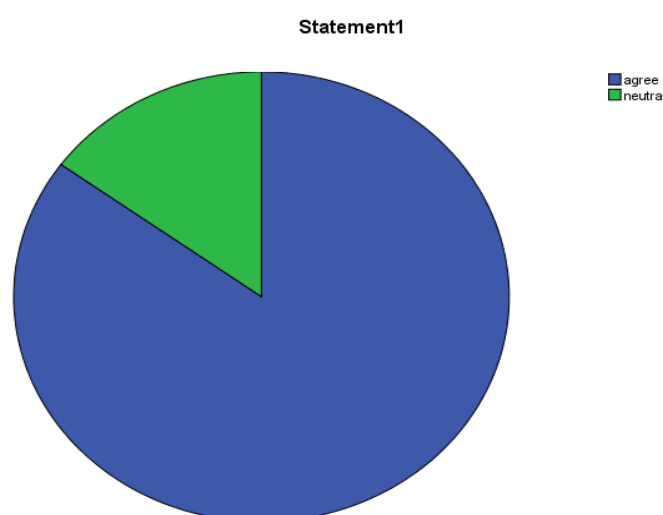
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Based on the above data presented in the table (1) it is clear that most of the samples responses are in agreement with the assumption ,the frequency is (17) they constitute (85.%).

Table (2) ZOOM App contributes on EFL learners to master English sounds.

Valid	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	13	65.0%
Neutral	7	35.0%
Disagree		
Total	20	100.0%

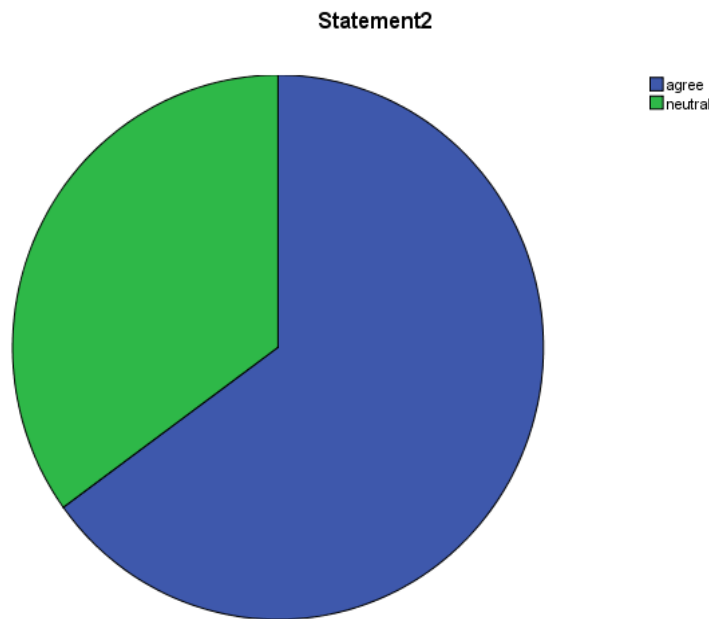**Figure (2)**

From the above data presented in the table (2) it is clear that two third of the samples responses are in agreement with the assumption ,the frequency is (13) they constitute (65.0%).

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Table (3) ZOOM is facilitating to teachers manage lectures.

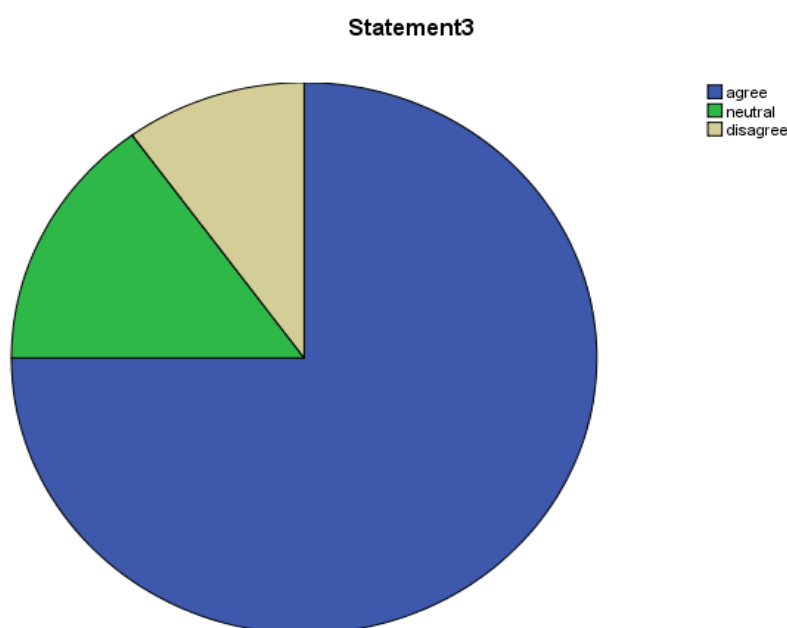| Valid	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	15	75.0%
Neutral	3	15.0%
Disagree	2	10.0%
Total	20	100.0%

Figure (3)

The table (3) above, reveals respondents' attitudes on the instructors' role and teaching techniques used inside the class. This results, confirms the ZOOM is facilitating to teachers manage his/ her lecture and take attendance directly.

Table (4) ZOOM encourages learners at higher education.

Valid	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	17	85.0%
Neutral	2	10.0%
Disagree	1	5.0%
Total	20	100.0%

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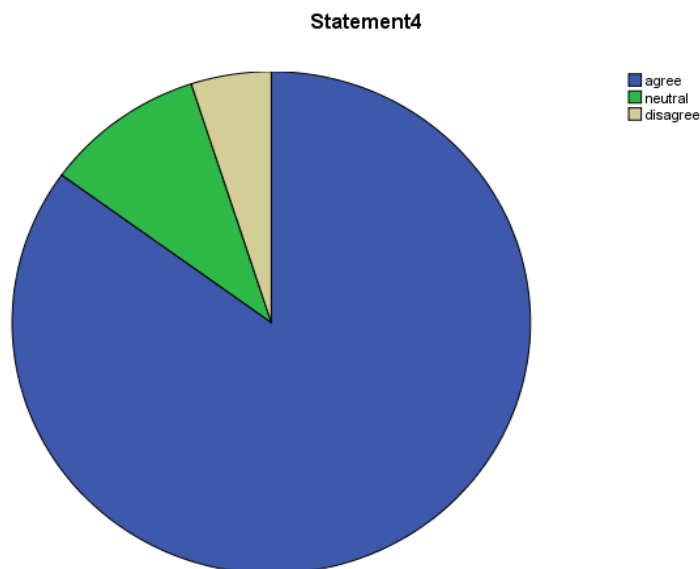مجلة البطانة للعلوم التربوية العدد الرابع عشر ص (187–206)

Figure (4)

Form the Table No (4) illustrate (85%) of respondents signed agree, whereas (10%) signed neutral ,on the other hand (5%)disagree. This result guarantee that ZOOM is diversity technique that encouraging learners at higher education in remote areas to communicate accurately .

Table (5) ZOOM App is an easy in application.

Valid	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	13	65.0%
Neutral	4	30.0%
Disagree	3	10.0%
Total	20	100.0%

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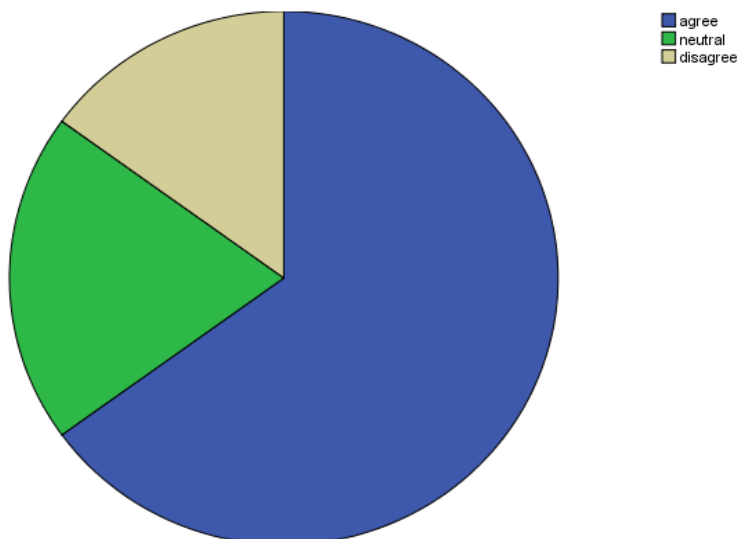مجلة البطانة للعلوم التربوية العدد الرابع عشر ص (187–206)

Statement5

Figure (5)

From the above data presented in the table (5) it is clear that most of the samples responses are in agreement with the assumption ,the frequency is (17) they constitute (65.%).

Table (6) ZOOM is developing and promoting teamwork .

Valid	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	12	60.0%
Neutral	6	30.0%
Disagree	2	10.0%
Total	20	100.0%

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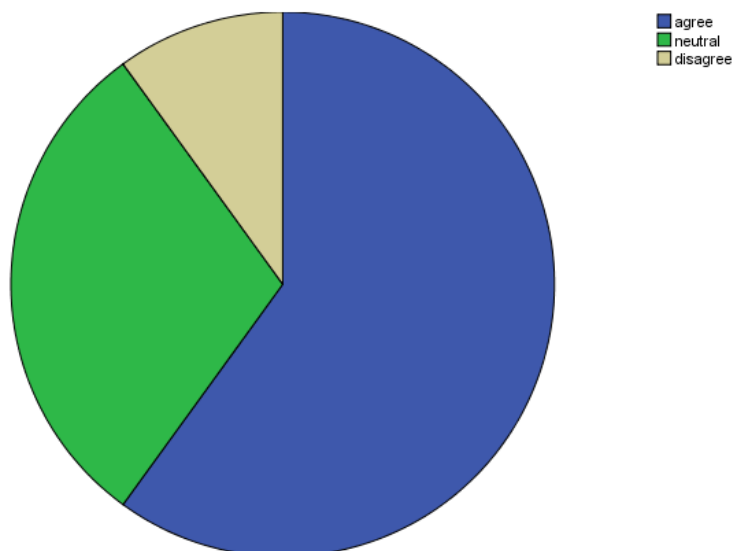
Statement6

Figure (6)

As seen in the above data presented in the table (6) it is clear that less than two third of the samples responses are in agreement with the assumption ,the frequency is (12) they constitute (60. %).

Table (7)ZOOM App saves time and effort for learners .

Valid	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	16	80.0%
Neutral	3	15.0%
Disagree	1	5.0%
Total	20	100.0%

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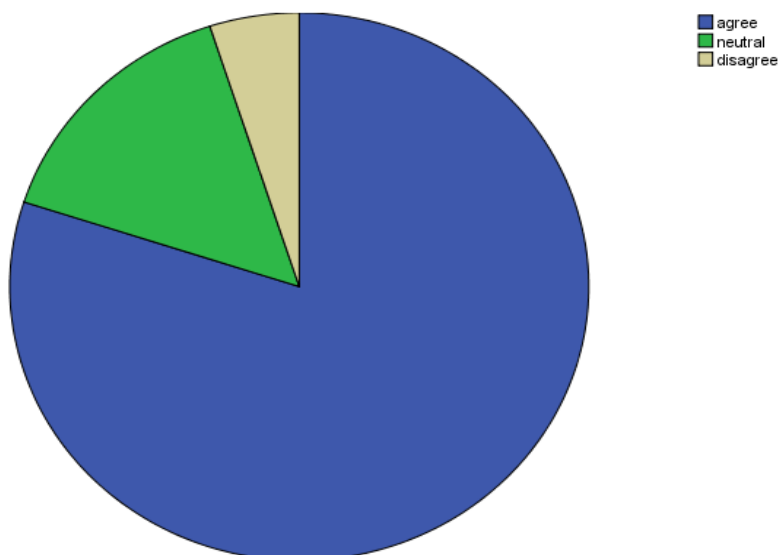مجلة البطانة للعلوم التربوية العدد الرابع عشر ص (187–206)

Statement7

Figure (7)

According to above table shows (80.0%) of respondents signed agree, whereas (15.0%) signed neutral,(5.0%) disagree, this result confirm that ZOOM is taken a short time and doesn't cost learners just stay at their homes.

Table (8) ZOOM enhances a positive learning results .

Valid	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	14	70.0%
Neutral	5	25.0%
Disagree	1	5.0%
Total	20	100.0%

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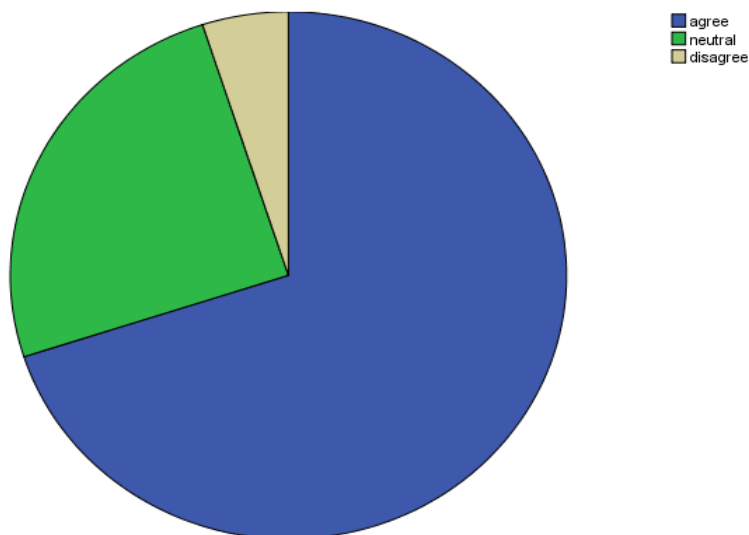مجلة البطانة للعلوم التربوية العدد الرابع عشر ص (187–206)

Statement8

Figure (8)

According to above table shows (70.0%) respondent signed agree, whereas (25.0%) signed neutral ,(5.0%) disagree, this result indicted that ZOOM enhances a positive learning results for both teachers and learners.

Table (9)ZOOM is reducing over workloads.

Valid	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	14	70.0%
Neutral	5	25.0%
Disagree	1	5.0%
Total	20	100.0%

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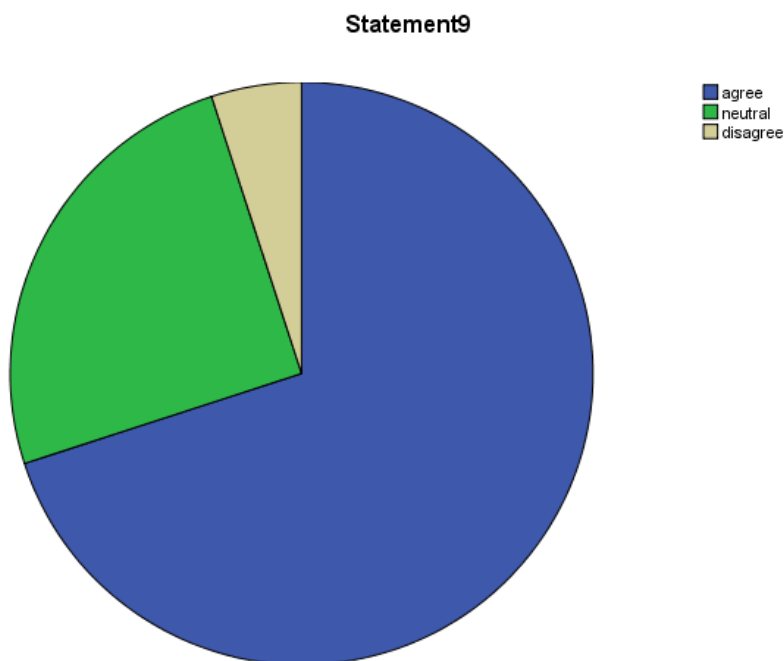مجلة البطانة للعلوم التربوية العدد الرابع عشر ص (187–206)

Statement9

Figure (9)

Based on the above data presented in the table (9) it is clear that two third of the samples responses are in agreement with the assumption ,the frequency is (14) they constitute (70.%).

Table (10) ZOOM gives the learners an opportunity to record a lecture .

Valid	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	19	95.0%
Neutral	1	5.0%
Disagree	-	-
Total	20	100.0%

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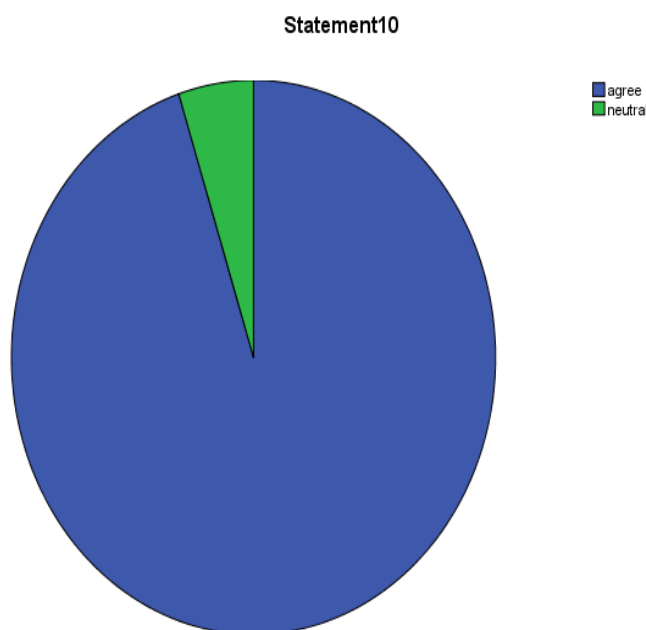
Statement10

legend:
- agree
- neutral

Figure (10)

From the above data presented in the table (10) it is clear that most of the samples responses are in agreement with the assumption ,the frequency is (19) they constitute (95.%).

5.0 Conclusion

The study revealed the following:

1. The study subjects agreed about the advantages of using the Zoom application to help learners in pronunciation skills.
2. The study subjects were sure about the development infrastructure of universities in Sudan.

5.1 Findings

1-Zoom APP is an easy in applying and available to learners .

2-Zoom APP facilitates lectures management to teachers and attendance can be taken easily .

3-Zoom app is shorten the time and doesn't cost for learners just stay at their homes.

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4-Zoom technology is a great tool for developing and promoting teamwork spontaneous.

5-Zoom application is given self-confidence for learners and teachers specially at pair and group work.

6- Zoom application makes learners depend on themselves to work individually.

8- Zoom application enhances a positive learning results for both teachers and learners.

9- Zoom application reduces over loads for English language teachers.

10- Zoom application allows to learners' record a lecture and then can be listened and watched at any time.

5.2 Recommendations

1- Officials should provide and support schools and universities with strong technological infrastructure.

2-Teachers should concentrate on using Zoom application for its greatest benefits.

3-Educators should make Zoom application available everywhere.

4-Learners should use Zoom application because it helps them to depend on themselves.

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