

The Perception of English Students Toward Tiktok as A Tool to Improve Speaking Skill in EFL Context

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ABSTRACT

The rapid development of technology today makes everything dependent on technology and this affects all fields including education. In the field of education, one of the media that people usually use to learn is TikTok. This article provides information about the effectiveness of using TikTok as an English learning medium for EFL. This article aims to find out students' perceptions of using TikTok as a learning medium to improve speaking skills in EFL. This research uses a qualitative approach with a narrative inquiry design. data collection used using interviews in a semi-interview manner. four students from the Islamic University of Malang as participants. The findings from the article state that students have a positive perception of using TikTok as a tool or medium for learning speaking, TikTok also motivates them and increases their interest in learning.

Keywords: : Student's perception; Technology; TikTok; Speaking skill

INTRODUCTION

In this era of increasingly advanced technology, many people have used social media from underage children to the elderly, many things in this world are made easier by technology and social media, one of which is social media makes it easier to learn the language, This rapid technological change has made the student learning process a little different, in fact, a smartphone or tablet has become an object that everyone needs because of its many uses, especially in the field of mobile language learning which includes social media which helps support language learning very much Needed. According to Republic of Indonesia number 22 of 2006, a rule issued by the minister of education (PERMENDIKNAS) lays forth the following standards: "Language has a central role in intellectual, social and emotional development supporting students and success in all fields of study."

For a long time, researchers and educators have used technology to support language instruction and learning (Shadiev & Yang, 2020). According to some research, social media in education promotes student participation and other aspects of learning (O'Boyle, 2014). Many social media can be used as effective learning media to facilitate the teaching and learning process, based on their function there are 4 main functions of social media, namely entertainment, socialization, information, and academics. The use of social media can also make it easier for teachers to prepare material and enable students to be more prepared to take part in lessons so that learning objectives are easier to achieve (Prabawati et al., 2021a) Therefore, the involvement of social media in teaching and learning activities really helps teachers and students facilitate the continuity of learning.

The four English language proficiency skills students need to grasp are speaking, listening, reading, and writing (Sri Kuning, 2020). When used in the context of EFL, social media use presents several opportunities for students to advance their English language proficiency (Zam Zam Al Arif, 2019). We can now find that most social media uses English and students' lives today are inseparable from media. This is where social media has a very significant influence on students' language. When using social media, the important skill to have is how to communicate with other people correctly. That's where the function of language especially speaking is needed because

Speaking proficiency and communicative competence are linked (Ilyas & Putri, 2020). Therefore Teaching English has long played a significant role in Indonesian universities and other institutions (Asyrofi & Wati, 2024). It is required of English lecturers to be able to increase their students' enthusiasm to study by setting up engaging environments in which they are encouraged to actively ask questions, engage in discussions, and express their thoughts and feelings (Ilyas & Putri, 2020).

Speaking is a necessary skill for EFL students to learn. According to Chaney (1998) Speaking is the process of creating and conveying meaning in various circumstances using both verbal and nonverbal symbols. As Cited in (Leong et al., 2017). Speaking is the most crucial ability since it's one of the skills required to carry out communication (Leong et al., 2017). Communication ability is connected to speaking ability, meaning how someone communicates with other people well and correctly depends on their speaking ability. Speaking is a highly difficult task for students of all ages, especially when it's in a foreign language. To achieve what people want to convey, people must choose correct and appropriate language, with good language speech, so that the words conveyed can be understood, therefore people need to have good speaking skills.

However, in learning and improving speaking skills, students often experience difficulties, based on data taken through questionnaires and interviews with 90 English language education semester students at Jambi University, Indonesia for the 2016/2017 academic year. The results of research on students in the 4th semester of English education revealed that Students believed that having good speaking skills was essential to their ability to interact and communicate with others in English. However, most students struggled with speaking skills and were afraid of making mistakes in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. As a result, they prepared notes on these topics before speaking to boost their confidence. They also used various methods and strategies to improve their speaking skills, such as practicing speaking in class, following an English course, speaking with friends, participating in group discussions, and using the internet as a resource.

From the many difficulties faced by students, the role of social media in learning activities is quite influential, one of which is TikTok. TikTok, TikTok was first introduced by Zhang Yiming in 2016 and is owned by ByteDance. Initially TikTok was known as Douyin, Due to its rapid development, Douyin quickly gained popularity in China and expanded to several other countries under the new name TikTok. In 2017, TikTok made its debut in Indonesia. Since then, a wide range of people in Indonesia have used Tiktok, including teenagers and the elderly. Many teenagers who are still in school use TikTok after school hours; you could argue that Tiktok diverts their attention because the app has a lot of features that are age-appropriate. such as sharing videos, live, duets, and many more features, besides that, TikTok has many users who come from various countries, apart from sharing entertainment content, there are many native speakers who share English teaching content on TikTok and students can use the duet feature with teachers or native speakers to improve their English skills.

TikTok is an application used by people all over the world, apart from sharing entertainment content, there are many native speakers who share English teaching content on TikTok and students can use the duet feature with teachers or native speakers to improve their English skills. Furthermore, makes it easier to get feedback from other people about what he teaches, is it correct by the ethics of the English language used by native speakers or is there still something lacking so the teacher can introspect from TikTok. In addition, TikTok teaches students how to communicate effectively with native speakers, and they can look up further videos about speaking material. students can also establish communication with native speakers via TikToko to improve their English skills. According to NACE, students can utilize TikTok to communicate with foreigners as it facilitates communication between them and various individuals within their country.

In previous research, researchers only studied the use of TikTok in EFL English learning and there were not many previous studies that examined the influence and the perception of student of using TikTok as a tool in speaking. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to determine influence and the perception of EFL learners in using social media as a tool to improve their

speaking skills, to find out, the researcher chose TikTok to examine how social media, especially TikTok influences EFL learners. By the thing, this research wants to know:

1. What are students' perceptions of using TikTok as a learning medium?
2. How does the use of TikTok affect students' motivation in learning English?
3. What do students think about the advantages and disadvantages of using TikTok as a learning medium?

METHODS

This research uses narrative inquiry by Clandinin (2006) which attempts to reveal. The Perception Of English Students Toward TikTok As A Tool To Improve Speaking skills in EFL Context. The main purpose of this research is to find out how much influence tiktok has in improving students' speaking skills and what their perception of tiktok media is when used as a tool for learning English. This research is located at the Universitas Islam Malang which is in the MalangCity area, Indonesia. This university was founded on March 27 1981 and has very adequate learning facilities such as LCD, there are 10 faculties with many departments in them, one of which is the English language education department from the teaching and education faculty, where the participants in our research come from the department and the faculty.

The participants in this research were English language education students who had passed the speaking course. We took two 6th semester students as samples in this research to find out their influence and perceptions regarding the use of TikTok as a medium to help improve their speaking skills. This research uses collection data with interviews. This interview method was used to reveal students' direct experiences and perceptions of the effectiveness of using TikTok in improving their speaking skills. Through a series of in-depth interviews, with several questions that we asked during the interview. This article will also present findings from interviews with students that highlight the transformation of TikTok use from mere entertainment to an effective tool for practicing speaking in the target language. These are some questions that may develop during the interview:

1. What do you think about using TikTok as a tool for learning to speak English?
2. Do you feel more motivated to practise speaking in English when using TikTok? Why is that?
3. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of using TikTok compared to traditional learning methods in terms of improving English speaking?

We used data analysis techniques described by Braun and Clarke (2006) to examine the data. The initial step is to read it again several times to gain a deeper understanding of the information. The purpose of this step is to analyze students' perceptions regarding the use of TikTok as a medium to improve English speaking skills, perceptions about effectiveness, motivation, advantages and disadvantages of using TikTok as a learning tool. The second is that a thorough understanding of the data has been achieved, coding has been performed, and patterns relating to the topic under investigation have been discovered. To identify emerging themes, the next step is to collect or group comparable statements. The final stage involved grouping topics based on what keeps the interviewee motivated and what their advantages and disadvantages are in learning English using TikTok.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The main object of this research is 2 students of the 6th semester of English language education at the Islamic University of Malang. The data obtained was carried out using semi-structural interviews, the researcher asked several questions, and the interviews were recorded and then processed into data, from the interviews it was found that:

1. *Does the participant use TikTok to learn languages?*

P1 : “ Yes, I have, I use Tiktok 5 times in a day, I use TikTok for learning English. in my opinion TikTok

is one of the media that can help us improve English learning in the field of Speaking. It is effective to do in independent learning because we can choose the content that we like so that it excites us to do it."

P2: *"Yes, I have, I usually use TikTok once a day when I have free time, I think using TikTok as a medium for learning foreign languages is very effective because I see a lot of content from native speakers on TikTok, so from there we can learn how to speak English like them, but the use of TikTok as a learning medium must be truly supervised because we are afraid of being distracted by other content that is not for learning."*

From the results of the interviews above, participants said that they use TikTok in their daily lives, they also think that using TikTok as a tool for language learning is very effective. This finding is in line with research conducted by (Lee Mei & Abdul Aziz, 2022) Most of the students interviewed felt that using TikTok as a medium for learning English was very effective and would be beneficial for all parties because it would trigger their curiosity and encourage them to continue learning the language. This shows that besides students using TikTok as entertainment, they also use TikTok as a medium for seeking knowledge and the involvement of TikTok in learning English greatly influences students' interest in learning English.

Participants' perceptions about TikTok motivate them in learn English.

P1: *"I myself feel very motivated because there are lots of content creators who provide an understanding of the pronunciation of words or sentences in English and there are lots of examples of news anchor texts to practice my speaking skills in English".*

P2: *"Yes, I like seeing a lot of people on TikTok creating content using English and I really envy them, because of that I am very motivated to learn English using TikTok. Apart from making it easier to learn the language on TikTok, I can also learn slang English. Nowadays native speakers are usually used and I really want to be able to speak English like a native speaker".*

From the results of the interview above, participants felt that they liked using TikTok as an English language learning tool, especially to practice speaking because we can learn directly from native speakers. Therefore, participants felt motivated and interested in using TikTok as a learning medium. This finding is in line with research conducted by Titik Komariyah et al., (2022) Students found moderate advantages in motivating themselves to learn and improve speaking skills on TikTok, as the platform connects users with native speakers for duet practice. Most students express interest in using TikTok for educational purposes as it offers a fun and engaging way to improve their English language skills. These results are strengthened by findings from research conducted by (Rasyid et al., 2023) state that the Most students express interest in using TikTok for educational purposes as it offers a fun and engaging way to improve their English language skills.

Students' perceptions about the effectiveness of TikTok as a medium for improving speaking skills.

P1 : *"In my opinion, using TikTok as a tool to improve my English speaking skills is very effective because I often use English-language content on TikTok to practice my English pronunciation and I feel my English speaking skill is better now since I learn in English in TikTok, I also feel that rather than wasting my time watching useless content like dancing and so on, it's better for me to learn speaking from native speaker content. In addition to improving my speaking skills, I also increased a lot of my new vocabulary from native speakers and I really like learning slang in English and at the same time practicing how to pronunciation, so I can say that we can use TikTok as a tool to improve our English-speaking skills."*

P2 : *"I think using TikTok as a speaking learning medium is quite good because I often practice my speaking by making duet videos with native speakers, and sometimes I practice my English speaking speed using a prompter and it increases my speaking skill. Regarding the effectiveness of TikTok in improving speaking skills, I am quite doubtful, because we can use TikTok as a medium for learning but I sometimes get distracted by other entertainment videos so that I sometimes forget to study because of these other entertainment videos."*

From the results of the interview, it can be concluded that students have a positive attitude

toward of using TikTok as a tool to improve their English-speaking skills, and learn using Tiktok influences their speaking skills. This finding is also in line with the findings in research conducted by Hadi & Indriani (2021) found that all students in their research agreed that TikTok could improve speaking and writing skills, students also thought that studying on TikTok was not boring and it made them motivated and confident in their speaking and writing skills. It is supported by (Farisca Adhani et al., 2023) state that students think that watching videos on TikTok that are in English even though they are not educational content, can improve an individual's speaking skills.

TikTok provides many features in it that can be used as a tool to practice English speaking skills. P1 believes that TikTok is indeed effective in being used as a medium to improve speaking. He feels that his speaking ability is getting better when he learns using TikTok. She also prefers watching TikTok as a tool to learn instead of wasting time watching useless content. Meanwhile, P2 believes that TikTok can indeed be used as a tool to learn speaking skills, but she believes that TikTok is not very effective as a medium for learning because it is sometimes distracted by other entertainment videos.

The advantages and disadvantages of TikTok as a medium for learning English, especially speaking.

P1 : *“In my opinion, the advantage of using TikTok as a learning medium is that TikTok is more up to date so I'm not behind the times. For speaking skills, the benefit is that we can know the slang English languages that native speakers use nowadays so that my speaking is quite cool. Meanwhile, the disadvantage is that Tiktok is not an application specifically designed for education and learning media, so we could be disturbed by content that is not useful, such as dancing content and so on.”*

P2 : *“the advantage of using tiktok is that I think learning English using tiktok is very flexible, the reason is because wherever I go and whenever I can learn on tiktok so I don't need to go to the classroom to study, but the disadvantage is that tiktok is not an offline application so we need an internet network to access it and also on TikTok it's not just English content and it's not just educational content, there's lots of other entertainment content that can shift our focus.”*

From the interview above, it can be concluded that students stated that there are advantages and disadvantages to using TikTok as a learning tool. P1 said that studying on TikTok can make your speaking cooler because TikTok is more up-to-date with the times, while according to P2, the advantages of using TikTok as a learning medium are TikTok can be used anywhere and anytime, this result is in line with the results of research conducted by (Addinna, 2022) stating that we can learn anywhere and anytime using TikTok as long as we have access, and we don't need to spend much money. Meanwhile, for the disadvantages of using TikTok, p1 and P2 provide the same statement that the TikTok application has a lot of entertainment content because TikTok is not an application specifically designed for education, so other entertainment content can divert students' learning focus. This result is also in line with the research findings carried out By (Addinna, 2022) The participants stated that their challenge in using TikTok as a learning medium was that they were easily distracted by other entertainment content and that sometimes the videos were so fast that they could not grasp the meaning of the video.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, TikTok is currently a medium that is very influential in all circles of humanity. Students' motivation to learn is increased when they use TikTok for language learning. They frequently utilize the app to improve their speaking abilities when learning English. Because of the different aspects that TikTok offers to help with learning, the research's findings indicate that students have a good attitude toward using this tool to develop their speaking abilities. Students' interest in honing their speaking abilities is piqued and maintained in large part by using TikTok.

This study has a few limitations that need to be considered. Because of the limited sample size in this study, the results may not be generalizable, which is crucial for research. Furthermore, employing a mixed methodology approach rather than just a qualitative one might help provide results that are easier to understand. TikTok is now the most widely used technological tool, so teaching English with it can be beneficial. Teachers' ought to so benefit from this platform's advantages. To help students improve their speaking fluency and confidence, teachers might assign speaking tasks that involve having them record videos of themselves speaking English and posting them to TikTok. To accomplish learning objectives, teachers must be taught in the usage of TikTok and how to integrate this technology into their lessons. TikTok integration in the classroom will provide pupils with an exciting learning environment, particularly when it comes to teaching and learning other languages.

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