

ENGLISH STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF TIKTOK APPLICATION FOR IMPROVING SPEAKING SKILLS

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Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan persepsi mahasiswa terhadap penggunaan TikTok serta kelebihan dan kekurangan penggunaan TikTok terhadap keterampilan berbicara. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menggunakan angket yang disebarakan kepada 10 mahasiswa semester 8 Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. Hasil angket dan didukung dengan hasil wawancara memberikan gambaran tentang kelebihan, kekurangan, dan manfaat penggunaan aplikasi TikTok dalam konteks keterampilan berbicara di Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. Hasil penelitian ini dapat menjadi dasar untuk mengembangkan kurikulum yang memadukan teknologi dan media sosial seperti TikTok sebagai sarana pendukung dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris di jenjang universitas yang pada akhirnya bermuara pada peningkatan mutu pendidikan.

Kata kunci: TikTok, Berbicara, aplikasi

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to describe students' perceptions of the use of TikTok and the advantages and disadvantages of using TikTok for speaking skills. Data collection was carried out using a questionnaire distributed to 10 8th semester students of Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. The results of the questionnaire and supported by the results of the interview provide an overview of the advantages, disadvantages, and benefits of using the TikTok application in the context of speaking skills at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. The results of this study can be the basis for developing a curriculum that combines technology and social media such as TikTok as a supporting tool in learning English at the university level which ultimately leads to improving the quality of education.

Keyword: TikTok, speaking, application

1. INTRODUCTION

There are four skills in English namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Meanwhile, speaking is one the four skills in English which is a process of communication by using oral form, it is not only for reading or writing, but also for expressing the ideas and opinions (Perdana and Rianti 2021). Based on Chaney in Zainurrahman and Sangaji (2019) that speaking is a social pastime that includes the technique of building and dispensing which means in a selection of contexts.

Social networks have increasingly risen in popularity, not only as a hot academic issue, but also as a core and pervasive means of digital and virtual communication for billions of people all over the world (Varga, 2018). Lately, social networks have been useful for sharing education related contents as well. This is proven when there are teachers creating accounts and sharing useful educational materials and going on live to teach or run programmes and short courses to attract an audience (Aguilar et al 2021).

Technological developments provide opportunities for the development of social media. With the support of sophisticated technology, social media is very popular among the public. It has many functions that can be used as a language learning medium. By GilPress (2023) TikTok is currently one of the most popular social media platforms worldwide with over 1.7 billion users as of 2023. This short video-sharing tool gained massive popularity in 2020 peaking at approximately 313.5 million downloads during the first quarters. It is a social media network within a video platform. It has various content and features on TikTok. Several studies have found that the use of social media as a student learning platform in motivating students to learn English has a positive impact. According to (Pratiwi et al., 2021), they stated that TikTok was effective in helping students and teachers in the classroom. They showed that some students' pronunciation improved in English learning through the TikTok application.

TikTok is an application with a high rating on the Google Play Store, namely 4.6 and makes this application very high quality in combining Artificial Intelligence and image capture (Jaffar et al., 2019). These platforms generate dynamics that not only facilitate the performance of identity and sociality but also complicate the boundaries between public and private (De Leyn et al., 2021). TikTok attracts young users born after 1996, referred to as Generation Z. This application allows the younger generation to produce creative educational videos that discuss complex topics in mathematics, physics, and chemistry that may be boring for students (Khlaif & Salha, 2021). TikTok is a modern trend among teenagers and allows users to create and share short videos of 15 to 60 seconds and allows them to choose songs, effects, or sound bites (Jaffar et al., 2019). TikTok is not only used for entertainment and business but is also used for educational purposes. Content creators teach everything based on their background knowledge and have a positive impact on the people who watch their videos. Moreover, Tiktok is an application based on movement and song creativity in the form of short videos (Perdana et al, 2021). This application is useful in teaching various topics and sharing values, principles, and skills (Khlaif & Salha, 2021).

Xiuwen & Razali (2021) explained the use of TikTok in language learning has the potential to improve students' speaking skill. TikTok provides many fun activities, including making a short video which can be used as an activity to improve students' speaking skill. Additionally, students can also learn other English skills by observing brief videos of native speakers. Many studies have examined the advantages of utilizing social media to assist language learners in developing their language skills.

From the description above, researchers are interested in investigating students' perspectives regarding the use of the TikTok application and also the advantages and

disadvantages of the TikTok application for 8th semester English Department students at Muhammadiyah University, Surakarta.

Based on the phenomena above, the researcher formulates the following problems:

- 1) What is the English students' perception of using TikTok for improving speaking skills?
- 2) What are the advantages of using TikTok for improving speaking skills?
- 3) What are the disadvantages of using TikTok for improving speaking skills?

2. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach because the data in this research is descriptive data obtained from written form, words, and documents originating from sources or informants. This research focuses on students' perceptions of Tiktok as a supporting medium in improving English speaking skills at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The author needs to get data from a student who actively uses TikTok to improve his English-speaking skills. The author wants to know students' perceptions of using Tiktok as a supporting medium in improving their English-speaking skills.

This research was conducted at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in February 2024. The subjects of this study were ten of 8th semester students at the Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta majoring in English education who were active users of TikTok. Most of them had been active users of TikTok for six years. All participants were female and aged 22 years old.

This research data is in the form of information regarding students' perceptions of using TikTok to improve their English language skills. The data source in this study is informants. People who respond to or answer researcher questions, both written and oral questions. The research informants in this study consisted of ten 8th semester students majoring in English Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta who are active TikTok users. Most of them have been active TikTok users for six years. All participants were female and 22 years old.

To get the data the researcher used the following methods of collecting, namely: questionnaire and interview.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study provide insight into the influence of TikTok on English-speaking learning among DEE (Department of English Education) students at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. Analysis of survey responses and qualitative data revealed several important points regarding the use of TikTok as a language learning aid.

In this study, the researcher found that there were three student perceptions about the use of TikTok in improving speaking skills. This study is supported by the results of Marleni et al.'s (2021) study. She also found three student perceptions about the use of TikTok in speaking skills, including TikTok improving students' pronunciation in speaking skills, TikTok improving students' vocabulary in speaking skills, and TikTok improving students' fluency in English speaking skills. This study is also in line with the findings of Erwani et al. (2022), who also found that the use of TikTok can improve students' vocabulary and speaking skills. In addition, this study is also supported by the study of Nasution and Nurlaili (2023), who also found that the use of TikTok can improve students' pronunciation and speaking skills. This study is also in line with the findings of Zebua et.al (2023) who also found and proved that TikTok improves students' speaking skills. And also, this study supported by the results of Novitasari and Addina (2022) who also found that students' have a positive perception of using TikTok to learn English.

And this study is also supported by the research results of Harahap et al. (2023) who found that from the results of their research TikTok had a positive impact on students' English-speaking skills. This study is also in line with the findings of Novianingsih et.al (2023), who also found that TikTok as Social Media influences the speaking skills of students. And also, this study, supported by the results of Safila et.al. (2023), found that TikTok videos have a positive impact on students' pronunciation abilities and are accepted as an effective learning medium for improving students' pronunciation abilities. This study is also in line with the findings of Nguyen (2021), who found the students' speaking performance was enhanced by the lively and entertaining learning platform, namely TikTok.

And this research is also supported by the research results of Syarmila et al. (2023), which found that students have a positive perception about using TikTok to learn English. And this study is also supported by the results of Nasichah's (2023) research which found that based on the results of his research, TikTok had a positive impact on students' English-speaking skills. Based on the results of the study, it shows that most students have a good perception of the TikTok application and they believe that this application can help them improve their speaking skills. This study is also supported by the research results of Kusuma and Dian (2020), who found that based on the results of their research, there are five types of learning from TikTok online videos that are often done, namely pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, common errors, and English facts. And this study is also in line with the findings of Rahamawati et al. (2023). The results are that TikTok is a useful application that not only improves speaking skills but also increases students' creativity, motivation, and vocabulary.

However, this study is different from the study of Sihombing and Sari (2023), who found that the use of TikTok helps students with listening skills. In addition, this study is also different from the study by Yulita and Hertiki (2023), which found that using TikTok can increase students' confidence in speaking English. And also, this study is different from the study of Zaitun et al. (2021), which found that the use of TikTok can make students more confident in speaking English and provide new experiences for them. Also, this study is different from the study by Anumanthan and Hashim (2022). This study concluded that TikTok is indeed an effective teaching tool, especially in terms of teaching regular verbs and sentence construction.

In addition, this study is different from the study conducted by Kaban and Rokhima (2023). This study concluded that TikTok showed that most participants were motivated to practice their English-speaking skills through the TikTok application. In addition, this study is different from the study conducted by Herwanto (2022). The results of the study showed that TikTok can be implemented in both synchronous and asynchronous classes. Students' responses to the benefits related to the speaking aspect were also revealed. However, students experienced obstacles, both technical and non-technical. This study is needed to increase teachers' insight into TELL, especially the implementation of the TikTok application in high school speaking classes, so that they can use it properly. With results like this, this study is very different from what the researcher found.

4. CLOSING

4.1 Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to describe students' perceptions of the use of TikTok and the advantages and disadvantages of using TikTok for speaking skills. Based on the results of the study, students have a positive perception of the use of TikTok as a tool to improve their English-speaking skills.

The results of the closed questionnaire, supported by the results of the interview, showed that students felt that their speaking skills had improved, such as correct pronunciation, increasing new vocabulary, and also their fluency in speaking English after using TikTok.

Based on the results of this study, it was found that TikTok provides several benefits for students. The first advantage of using TikTok is that it provides a lot of material for speaking skills. With the many materials shared by content creators, it is easy for students to hone their English-speaking skills. The second advantage is that using TikTok makes it easy for students to practice their speaking skills anywhere and anytime. According to them, learning through TikTok makes them feel easier because TikTok can be used anywhere and anytime they want.

However, besides the advantages of the TikTok application, there are also disadvantages to TikTok. The first disadvantage of using TikTok is that there are still many materials shared on TikTok that contain incorrect pronunciation or sentences, which can cause students to make mistakes. TikTok also sometimes shares material with incorrect vocabulary or pronunciation, which can be detrimental to its viewers. In addition, TikTok also uses impolite dialogue and even swear words. By sharing impolite dialogue materials, it will have a negative impact on students who see and then practice them, because it can become a bad habit for students so that they can misuse the sentences or dialogues.

4.2 Pedagogical Implication

- 1) Implications for Teaching Practice: Understanding students' perceptions of the use of TikTok in English speaking learning can provide insights for teachers to develop more effective and engaging learning strategies.
- 2) Implications for Curriculum Development: The results of this study can provide a basis for developing curricula that incorporate technology and social media such as TikTok as supporting tools in English speaking learning.
- 3) Implications for Technology Use in Education: Demonstrates that TikTok can be an effective tool in increasing students' motivation and engagement in learning English, thus providing support for the use of technology in educational contexts.
- 4) Implications for Teacher Professional Development: Provides teachers with insights on how they can integrate relevant technology into their teaching, as well as providing opportunities for their professional development in adapting new technologies.
- 5) Implications for Further Research: Provides a foundation for further research that can explore more deeply the use of other social media or other new technologies in the context of English language learning.

4.3 Suggestion

Based on the conclusions above, the researcher provide several suggestions, as follows:

1) For the students

Students must use TikTok properly. They must have persistence and discipline in using Tiktok, especially to learn English, because without persistence and discipline, they will easily misuse it. On the other hand, they can get many benefits from learning English through TikTok if they can use it well. In conclusion, the most important thing about using Tiktok to support students in learning English is how students can use Tiktok social media correctly and well.

2. For teachers

Teachers should understand how to maximize the use of learning media in order to attract

students' interest and make them enthusiastic about teaching and learning activities. This is important because students will be bored and it will be difficult for the teacher to understand.

3. For General Readers

The researcher hope that this research can increase their knowledge and interest in learning through social media, especially the Tiktok application.

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