

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF USING TIKTOK AS A LEARNING AID IN THEIR SPEAKING ENGLISH AT FIRST SEMESTER OF ZAINUL HASAN GENGGONG ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

This research explores students' perceptions of using Tiktok as a learning tool to improve their English speaking skills. Through interviews with students, it was found that Tiktok, along with other social media platforms such as YouTube, Instagram and so on, plays an important role in improving speaking proficiency. Researchers used qualitative descriptive methods and involved five students. They are first semester English students, academic year 2025/2026. This study found that the majority of students have a positive perception of using Tiktok reels in speaking skills. Students believe that this tool is comfortable and fun to develop a new atmosphere in learning to speak, it also increases their motivation because Tiktok reels provide interesting content for improving their speaking skills, they can find many Tiktok accounts that post more about English lessons with short duration even though students sometimes get a distract cause of random video but they already know their own goals to practice consistently every day and everywhere. Through this tool, students gain a lot of vocabulary from the video, quotes, caption, or comment section that is very helpful for them to improve their speaking performance especially when they are engaged in communication with other people both inside or outside classroom practice.

Keywords: Speaking Skills, Tiktok App, Student perception.

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, students are very familiar with social media because it is not only used as a communication tool but also a for working and learning need. In developing and emerging countries, many people have adopted the use of social media in the learning process. Many studies have been done by a number of researchers to identify the use of technology among students, including the use of social media. Mobile learning is working over society into rapidprogressive development (Hasanah & Pradipta 2021). Thusly boundless admittance to a particularly inexpensive and sophisticated device has rather

changed the scene of e-learning from various perspectives. With social media students can also develop their knowledge of anything, including their ability to speak English, as well as to assist students in their learning process. Speaking skills are the most important skills for learning English as a second language. Among the four skills, speaking is considered the most important skill in learning English as a second language (Rao 2019). In this situation, learners must be self-assured and possess a strong foundation to develop their speaking ability and their confidence, learners should engage in regular practice, on the other side, speaking is one of the basic skill in

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learning English. students need one more person as a partner to improve their language. Speaking is a human conversation that has included two or more people sharing information or ideas orally Learning to speak English means practicing it, and this is why some students lack speech because they are less in practice (Silalahi & Luardini 2021). Besides that language is a human conversation tool which has verbal and non-verbal forms. However, this conversation is activities that included two or more people: the speaker and the listener, who then should practice more to improve their language in speaking.

Many studies have sought to illustrate how new technologies could assist with the educational process. and in this technological age, there are also many social media, such as Facebook, email, TikTok, Instagram, & WhatsApp and many other social media. One of the most popular social media today is Tiktok. Tiktok is currently popular among students and other teenagers, not only that, many parents also use Tiktok as a tool to help them meet their needs. Tiktok, known for its visually displayed content, has evolved beyond its original purpose of sharing personal moments. And become a platform for showcasing creativity, art, and even educational content (Aldahdouh, Tahani Z., Petri Nokelainen, and Vesa Korhonen 2020).

The perceptions of using Tiktok as a learning aid in speaking English are a developing area of research and require further investigation. Understanding how students perceive Tiktok as a tool for improving their English speaking skills can provide valuable insight into the effectiveness and potential benefits of using the social media platform in a language learning environment. This research aims to explore students' perceptions of first

semester on using Tiktok as a learning aid in improving their English speaking skills.

METHODS

In research, several methods can be implemented, which may refer to qualitative or quantitative techniques. In this study, the researcher took the kind of qualitative research as the premise of this research category. Qualitative means research that is used to study goods that are used as ordinary devices by them and then tries to make intelligence or to understand a phenomenon that has something to do with the application that people bring to them (Creswell state 2007). This involves collecting qualitative data, such as interviews, observations, or text analysis, to detail the characteristics, context, and meaning associated with the research subject. The researcher chose this qualitative descriptive research, aiming to provide an indepth understanding of the observed phenomena, by including students' views and perceptions in developing their experience and ability to speak English.

This present study Implement descriptive because this research attempt to describe and explain the Phenomenom description about what are Student's perception on the use of Tiktok on learning speaking English at one of Islamic university in Probolinggo. The researcher decided to use descriptive data collection techniques to investigate problems that occurred in the first semester at one of Islamic university in probolinggo, especially regarding ability issues. Research setting indicates the location where the researcher conducted the research to find and collect the data. This research was conducted at private Islamic university in probolinggo. Which one of the universities under the auspices of the Zainul hasan Genggong islamic boarding school.

In this research, researchers conducted research in the first semester of the English education department study program. The results of my interviews with several students show that these first semester students are accustomed to using English when learning is taking place, and students are also very familiar with social media, especially Tiktok reels where these reels are used as a medium for learning speaking skills by uploading English videos as very interesting content to motivate viewers. From this method they can practice their speaking skills and can develop self-confidence when dealing with other people especially in today's digital era. The participants in this research were 1st semester students consisting of 36 students, but the researchers only took 5 students from the 36 students as data samples.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Student's Perception On The Use Of Tiktok On Learning English At First Semester Of Zainul Hasan Genggong.

In this section, the researcher wants to know the perceptions or opinion of students when they use Tiktok for learning English. From this research, the researcher wants to present some of the results of student's perceptions. The following are some perceptions from students.

"I think using Tiktok is very good for students English education department. In Tiktok application we can study vocabulary, speaking, listening and other" (Nayla,2025)

"Using Tiktok in learning English I think is efficient to students because in Instagram many English video that is interesting. So many students not bored in learning English. Many English video that contain about learning English like how to pronounce the vocabulary correctly, how to differences

between British and American English and other" (Rena,2025).

In the previous section, the student mentioned that using Tiktok for learning is very interesting and effective, Tiktok is not only used for uploading but also as learning material in English, but some students stated that Tiktok could help them to improve their English skills, they:

"Using Tiktok as a medium for learning English in my opinion is a very good way to improve our English skills. By using Instagram as a medium we can gain broader knowledge, especially in learning English, because Instagram provides tremendous opportunities for language learning for students and teachers a like. As we know, currently learning is not only obtained and done in the classroom, we can learn from anywhere and anytime, such as learning through Tiktok media and so on. That way, students will be motivated to be more enthusiastic about learning with the various features provided on Instagram, especially in learning English" (Nayla,2025) *"In my perception, using Tiktok to learn English is quite efficient, because it is supported by the features found on Tiktok that can help improve English skills so that learning becomes more fun"* (Luluk,2025).

In another side, there are some students who delivered negative perception of the use of Tiktok in learning English, as mentioned:

"I think it's more complicated to use Tiktok because not everyone uses Tiktok and they know how to do it". (Rifki,2025) *"I think if we use Tiktok for learning English is not conducive and I never try use Tiktok for learning and it's very seldom for people to use Tiktok for learning".* (Dina,2025)

"My perception is that using Tiktok in learning English is not very effective because on Tiktok we don't find too much material

but more entertainment, such as videos, photos and others". (Alex,2025)

B. The Obstacles That Students Face on The Use Of Tiktok On Learning Speaking English at Zainul Hasan Genggong.

In the learning process, to be able to achieve goals in learning, students are often faced with obstacles that can affect implementation of the learning process. In daily life-day. Obstacles are known as difficulties, obstacles have such an important meaning in do every activity. Obstacles can causes the implementation of an activity to be disturbed. Obstacles is everything that gets in the way, obstacles faced by humans or individuals in the daily life of those who come and go change, thereby creating obstacles to individuals who live it to achieve goals (Oemar,2020). Tiktok is an application that is often operated by students because there are several supporting media on Tiktok that can help and improve their speaking abilities, for example the features on Instagram to help them practice English by using the Tiktok reels video. This means that Tiktok is a place that can serve student's skills, especially in speaking English.

In the learning to use Instagram application often has obstacles in it. There are some students who mention the obstacles in using Tiktok in learning speaking skills, as stated:

"The obstacles in using Tiktok in learning English students are often the signal is bad so Instagram can't use, students often not focus on learning English others but they are focus to watch not important videos in Tiktok" (Rena,2025).

"I think if we use Tiktok of learning English. It is adding barriers to students and obstacles is no have less memory, quota runs out or it could be someone Tiktok".(Rifki,2025)

"I think the obstacles is Tiktok is not focus for learning English, so the feature that make as not to be focus for studying in like watching video, another video, fun video example. So we can't be focus for learn English".(Alex,2025) "Some obstacles may be found by some people in learning English using Tiktok. one of them is like confusion felt by beginners. They may get difficult to make certain about what kind of material that must be learnt first"(Alex,2025).

Based on the exposure of data findings and research findings through several procedures for collecting data from data sources, it will be discussed in detail. Firstly, the researcher tried to describe the students perception on the use of Tiktok on learning English at Zainul Hasan genggong.

C. Student's perception on the use of Tiktok on learning English at first semester of Zainul Hasan Genggong.

Based on the data finding, there are some students gave their various perceptions of the use of Tiktok in learning English. The English teaching learning students or commonly called TBI's student give their responses or perceptions in two categories namely positive and negative perceptions. Giving positive or negative in perception refer to the how people view of the things which is saw. It was similar with Leavit theory which said perception is sight namely how someone sees something and view or understanding (Leavit,2014). It means that students can show their positive and negative view based on their understanding of something. According to the data that is gotten, students have mentioned about learning English using Tiktok is very interesting and helpful. This is due to the existence of Tiktok as a means that can help students to improve their English skills through the features found on Tiktok. Tiktok is not only used to share photos and videos, but Tiktok is also used

as a learning medium to share material about English and also provide feedback to other Tiktok users. The same point of view come from Aydin said Tiktok is a social media that we can use as a medium for learning English that is interesting and also effective in motivating learners. It means that learning through one of the application which is often to be used in nowadays era namely Tiktok included to the positive activity which helps student to learn English in interesting way.

In another side of the statement which is mentioned by student, learning English by using Tiktok allows users or student to learn English at that time in everywhere or anytime. It means that student as the user is able to use Tiktok as English learning tool in a real moments and time. According to the data finding the students realized that Tiktok was interesting to help them learn English anywhere and anytime. It is also similar with Sirait and Marlina statement which says the use Tiktok as a tool for online peer-reviewed activities provide benefits such as motivating students, easy to use, less paper used, flexible time or being able to study anywhere and anytime. It means that the students can choose learning situations based on their own needs. It can be concluded that Instagram is an interesting solution for students who want to learn English without difficult because Tiktok is easy to use anytime and anywhere.

D. The obstacles that students face on the use of Tiktok on learning Speaking English at Zainul Hasan Genggong.

In learning to speak English using Tiktok, researchers found obstacles faced by students in learning. From interviews with students conducted by researchers, researchers can conclude that there are

obstacles that occur in learning to speak English when using Tiktok media. The most obstacle in learning speak English on ultizing Instagram which is mentioned by student is the networking. The main important point in accessing Tiktok is internet. The used of internet while using Tiktok really needed just because this application included to the kinds of media social which is operated by networking in mobile phone. The internet is one of the obstacles that quite a lot of student's experience when learning to use Tiktok. One of the factors is the availability of a signal that is not good in various areas especially for students who are in remote areas where the signal is still difficult. This term will be the most problem that will be faced by student in learning English by using Tiktok in their mobile phone.

In addition of the obstacles Tiktok for learn speaking English, quotas are included in the next obstacles. This is the other obstacles of what student feel of the used Tiktok just because Tiktok consumes a lot of quota. This obstacle makes student often to use Tiktok for the tool in learning speaking and the effect of higher quota will offend their financial. So they have to spend more money to buy internet quota. Purchasing internet quota has obstacles if students do not have money. The students will find it difficult to buy internet quota, so that learning on Tiktok media will be constrained and learning on Tiktok is less effective if the signal is disturbed due to bad weather and so on.

Dealing with some statements from student, the obstacle is the contents that exist in Tiktok. Tiktok well known as media for entertaining people through photo or videos. This way will disturb the student on learning speaking in using this app or it can be said that student will not focus on learning English because of watching funny

videos or interesting picture that is presented. So they are not able to focus on learning English. In this case the researcher can conclude that sometimes students are disturbed by other posts or videos reels uploaded by people who do not share English Material that appears on the home page, making students not focus and forget to learn English.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on interviews conducted with students regarding their perceptions of using Tiktok as a learning aid in improving English speaking skills, several important insights were obtained. The aim of this research is to find out whether students think positively or negatively about using Tiktok reels as a mobile-assisted language learning tool to improve their speaking skills. The results of interview observation data show that the majority of students view positively the use of Tiktok to improve their speaking skills. Tiktok Reels has proven to be a useful teaching tool for students learning English, especially speaking. Even though students are sometimes distracted by random videos, they already know that practicing consistently every day and everywhere is one of their goals. Students believe that this tool is comfortable and is a fun way to develop a new atmosphere in learning to speak.

This also increases students' motivation because Tiktok Reels provides interesting content to improve their speaking skills. Students can improve their speaking skills by using this tool, which helps them gain a lot of vocabulary from videos, quotes, captions, and comment areas. This is very useful when they interact with other people, both inside and outside the classroom.

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