

## TIKTOK AS A LEARNING MEDIUM IN TEACHING SPEAKING SKILL: EFL STUDENTS' PERCEPTION

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SUBMISSION TRACK	ABSTRACT
Submitted : 27 June 2023 Accepted : 22 July 2023 Published : 25 July 2023	This study intended to investigate how students feel about utilizing TikTok as a learning tool to develop their speaking abilities. Social media is crucial to modern living, especially advancing education in the digital age. TikTok, one of the most popular social media platforms, is presently thought to be able to help students with their speaking abilities. The data from this research were statements from interview sessions conducted by five students in 11 <sup>th</sup> grade at SMA Sejahtera Surabaya as a data source. The results obtained from this study were 3 different perceptions held by students. First, TikTok can be utilized as an extra learning tool because it offers a wide variety of information that allows students to master subjects that they don't understand in class. Second, TikTok may be utilized as an interactive learning tool since it offers engaging features that encourage students to actively participate in class. In addition, the duration of the video is quite short so that students don't get bored easily. Finally, TikTok can increase students' level of confidence in speaking English because TikTok provides various kinds of English-speaking exercises that can improve students' speaking skills and make them more confident.
KEYWORDS	
TikTok, Learning Media, Speaking Skill, EFL Students' Perception	
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### Introduction

Nowadays, technology is an essential component of education. Technology has a huge impact on how students learn in the classroom. The use of technology has the potential to facilitate education and instruction. Given to its many benefits, educators are encouraged to use technology into the classroom. The advancement of technology increased the opportunities for the emergence of social media. Due to school closures and the shift to teaching and learning style during the Covid-19 outbreak, social networking sites have become increasingly important in learning English among youngsters (Escamilla-Fajardo et al., 2021).

The social networking sites that teachers utilize the most as teaching tools include Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, and WhatsApp. However, after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, TikTok has developed into one of the social networking sites that people frequently use in society (Kaye et al., 2021). TikTok is regarded as a learning tool due to its large user base, comprehensive features, and wide range of content (Puspitasari, 2021). Moreover, TikTok is also beneficial for both the teacher and students (Pratiwi et al., 2021).

TikTok is a social media platform originally from China which based on short video-making platform launched in 2016 by Zhang Yiming and owned by ByteDance (Darvin, 2022). TikTok was first introduced as "Douyin". However, the word "Douyin" in China is categorized as violent, so the company changed its name into TikTok. TikTok has been used in Indonesia since 2017. At that time, there were only few people who used this application. Nevertheless, in recent years, almost fifty percent of Indonesian people

are using TikTok. At first, people only using TikTok as social media to interact with others, but later on TikTok is used for academic purposes, especially in language learning.

In learning a language, speaking skill is regarded as the most crucial skill for a learner to achieve. It is in line with Maulana et al. (2019), mastering speaking is the most central point in language learning. Speaking is a social activity that involves generating and distributing meaning under a variety of conditions (Zainurrahman & Sangaji, 2019). Moreover, Irawati (2014) as cited in Zuhriyah (2017) defined speaking as the process of forming phrases and sentences orally with the intent of communicating with others. Speaking skills serve the purposes of being able to verbally explain an idea, a person's feelings, or a notion.

Studies already conducted have demonstrated how TikTok works to help learners improve their speech proficiency. Dewi & Arifani (2021) conducted research on the use of TikTok for teaching in improving learners' speaking ability, and found that TikTok can enhance students' speaking skill. Likewise, Barrot (2022) stated that social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok can be used as language learning resources. TikTok, in contrast to other apps, has no regional limitations, providing users to comprehend spoken English in any nation.

For users to develop their oral communication skills, TikTok gives a platform for learning and communication. It gives students more chances to gently practice speaking English through social interaction and content exchange (John & Yunus, 2021). TikTok allows users to communicate with foreign acquaintances via live broadcast, which improves oral proficiency and learners confidence in making use of English expression (Schurz et al., 2022). It is clear that using TikTok in the classroom has a significant impact on how proficient students are in speaking.

Furthermore, 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. However, limited researches have examined the perception of EFL learners on TikTok in teaching speaking skill.

Based on the problem that is found, it has been claimed that social media, particularly TikTok, is related to language acquisition. Therefore, the researcher is interested to explore the perception of EFL students on TikTok as learning media. Furthermore, the researcher also wants to know the students' experience of using TikTok in speaking class. Due to the shortcomings of the earlier studies, the current research aimed to explore students' perception on TikTok as a learning media in speaking class. Finally, students' perception towards TikTok depends on the result of the study.

## **Research Method**

The study employed the qualitative case study method in obtaining, analyzing, and discussing the data. The participants of this study include five students in the eleventh grade at SMA Sejahtera Surabaya.

This study used semi-structured interview for data collection because the list of questions could be prepared earlier. In a semi-structured interview, the researcher asked only a few prepared questions, and the rest questions were asked spontaneously. The researcher conducted a face-to-face interview in order to obtain an effective data.

The data of this study is analyzed using thematic analysis. Maguire & Delahunt (2017) stated that finding themes or patterns in qualitative data is a process known as thematic analysis. The researcher used theory triangulation to validate the data. Theory triangulation as stated by Denzin (1978) in Flick (2009) is the process of analyzing evidence while keeping several different viewpoints and hypotheses in mind.

## **Result and Discussion**

Depend on the interview result and analyze the data, this study found three perceptions of EFL students toward TikTok in speaking class: 1) Provide the supplementary material; 2) Interactive learning media; 3) Enhancing students' speaking confidence.

### **Provide the Supplementary Learning Material**

The first perception is TikTok provides the supplementary learning material. Due to their less immediate needs for English, EFL students have fewer chances to use the language outside of the classroom. It also happened when the students want to practice their speaking skill. When the class is over, they tend to stop practice and only continue on the next class. Therefore, additional material is needed to support students' self-learning.

Supplementary material refers to additional resources created to give students sufficient exposure to language and practice chances. It is an academic support linked to the regular material. It is used to enhance, complement, and extend the curriculum. Supplementary material can be in the form of newspaper, slides, electronic recording and computer application which relate to the curriculum and are available for teacher use and student selection.

TikTok functions as supplementary learning material because it serves various learning content that can help the students during the teaching and learning process. The students revealed that they can understand the material better by watching videos on TikTok. It was conveyed by student 1 and student 2 in their interview with the researcher.

Student 1:

[TikTok provides content with various learning themes making it easier for me when I want to learn new material or even material that I don't understand in class. For example, when I want to learn about grammar, I can better understand the material through TikTok because the explanations are easier to understand.]

Not every student understand the information presented in class. In the learning process, there are some teachers who are still failing in delivering the subject. As a result, the students require a media that can assist them in the classroom. Student 1 mentioned that TikTok helped him learn new material or even material that he did not understand when he was in the class. It is in line with the result of the study conducted by Syamsiani & Munfagati (2023), the students show positive attitude towards TikTok because it can help them to understand the material that their lecturer cannot deliver clearly.

Student 2:

[The content on TikTok is very varied. So, I prefer to learn using TikTok because on TikTok there are usually some learning materials that are not taught in class, such as the correct pronunciation of some vocabulary in English.]

Moreover, student 2 revealed that he likes to learn through TikTok because he can learn the materials which are rarely taught in the classroom. During speaking class, only few teacher who are truly teaching how to pronounce some English words. Therefore,

there are some students who are still lacking in pronunciation practice and they preferred to learn it from other resources. Content creators especially native speaker value TikTok to teach these materials because they are more expert in this field and this kind of content usually attracts more users to view their content.

### **Interactive Learning Media**

The second perception is interactive learning media. Interactive media refers to the use of technology in the field of education to facilitate an efficient and effective learning process. One of the characteristics of interactive learning media is that students not only see and hear during the learning process, but also interact directly and play an active role during the learning process.

Media has an important role in the teaching and learning process (Islam & Musdalifah, 2022). Without media, the learning process will not run smoothly. Media refers to resource of information. Media is a good facilitator to engage students' interest in the learning process. It is also a supporting factor in achieving learning process. Moreover, media can enhance students' understanding and knowledge by delivering material effectively (Ardiana & Ananda, 2022).

TikTok is considered as interactive learning media because TikTok has many interactive features, such as voice recording, video recording, stitch, and duet features, which can make the students actively engaged during learning process. It was mentioned by student 3 in their interview with the researcher.

Student 3:

[Learning by using TikTok is really fun. On tiktok there are many features that make me feel more interested in learning. One of them is the stitch and duet features. I really like using this feature because it allows me to interact directly with content creators. In addition, the duration of the videos on TikTok is quite short so I don't feel bored when learning to use TikTok.]

Student 3 revealed that using TikTok in learning activities is really fun. The features that TikTok has, such as video recording, voice recording, video and voice editing, stitch, and duet, make the learning environment more alive. She also mentioned that she likes using stitch and duet features because she can interact directly with the content creator and it can help her to practice their speaking skill. Besides, learning becomes less boring because of the brief video duration and the delivery of engaging content (Novitasari & Addinna, 2022).

### **Enhancing Students' Speaking Confidence**

The third perception is enhancing students' speaking confidence. Confidence is needed when speaking English. Without confidence, students are unable to express their ideas and thought. Therefore, students must practice their speaking skill in order to become more confident in speaking English. The study discovered that students' speaking confidence is increased after using TikTok in speaking class.

A person's level of self-confidence greatly influences the person's speaking ability. The more confident a person is, the more thoughts one can convey to others. When someone is confident, they have a variety of beliefs about their skills and potential (Sheldrake, 2016). Students' self-confidence and motivations are highly relevant to the teaching and learning process.

Students who are confident can convey what they feel freely without being afraid of other people's opinions. Speaking confidence develops as a result of consistent

practice. The more often that person practices, the higher his confidence level will be. Therefore, in order to increase the level of confidence of students, a tool is needed to facilitate student practice activities.

TikTok is regarded as a tool in enhancing students' speaking confidence in language learning because TikTok provides many fun activities which help the students to practice their speaking skill more. It was conveyed by student 4 and student 5 in their interview with the researcher.

Student 4:

[Most of the English content creators on TikTok are native speakers so I am more motivated to practice speaking English. Apart from that, the content on TikTok also provides a lot of various kinds of exercises to learn to speak English which makes me practice more often and over time I feel more confident when speaking English.]

Student 5:

[The average content on TikTok facilitates its users to practice speaking English. For instance, conversational dialogue and basic conversation making it easier for students who are just learning English like me. Because I often practice after seeing content on TikTok, I feel quite confident when I speak English.]

Based on student 4 statement, TikTok makes him become highly motivated because the content creator is generally a native speaker. TikTok also provides many speaking practices for its users. Furthermore, he also revealed that he became more confident after practicing his speaking skill through TikTok.

Student 5 explained that contents on TikTok aid its users to drill their speaking skill. For a new English learner, content such as basic conversation and conversational dialogue is very helpful. This kind of content provides opportunities for students to improve their speaking skill. Therefore, student 5 feels relatively confident when speaking English.

From the perspectives above, it can be summarized that TikTok is helpful in enhancing students' motivation and students' speaking confidence through its content. It is supported by Herlisya & Wiratno (2022) who stated the use of TikTok application is not only to improve students' speaking skill but also this application can motivate students to become more confident.

## Conclusion

From the study above, the researcher drew a conclusion that every student has different perceptions towards the use of TikTok as a learning media, especially in speaking class. All of the students interviewed by the researcher agreed that TikTok are advantageous as a learning media. It was found that there are three different perspectives of EFL learners toward TikTok as a learning media in speaking class. First is TikTok provides supplementary learning material. TikTok provides various learning content which can help them to understand the material better. Next is interactive learning media. TikTok has many interactive features which can make the learning process becomes more engaging and fun. The features that students mostly liked were stitch video and duet features. Lastly, TikTok is beneficial in increasing students' speaking confidence. Most of the students are having doubts about themselves because they cannot speak English fluently. However, after practicing their speaking skill through TikTok, they feel more motivated and confident when speaking English.



## Acknowledgements

The endeavor of writing this article would not have been possible without the support of the wonderful people around the researcher. Hence, the researcher would like to express enormous gratitude to Hertiki, S.Pd., M.Pd., as the researcher's honorable advisor and respected lecturer, who gave the researcher endless support, meaningful knowledge, and genuine guidance in completing this article.

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