

Tiktok Usage's Linguistic Effect on a Preschooler's Language Development: A Qualitative Case Study

Nadya Elchaira¹⁾, Alemina Br. Perangin-angin²⁾, Rusdi Noor Rosa³⁾

^{1) 2) 3)} Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

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CORRESPONDENCE

E-mail:
nadyaelchaira17@gmail.com

A B S T R A C T

Tik Tok is incredibly popular across all age groups, including young children. Its attractiveness, use, and accessibility have a big influence on how children perceive linguistic exceptions when using the app. The focus on this study is to investigate the impact of TikTok on the linguistic development of a five-year-old child. This study utilizes a case study methodology and a qualitative research strategy. In this study, interviews and observations are the methods used to collect data. Feiza Elhayatein, a five-year-old child who watches Tik Tok videos at times, is the study's subject. The study's findings indicated that Feiza had a greater capacity for language use, but parents should exercise greater caution in this regard. Feiza's parents do need to set limits and restrictions for her Tiktok video consumption, even though this application may help her learn the language.

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Introduction

Children acquire language through a complex and specialized cognitive process that is naturally easy and non-instructive. Because of its universality, it transcends individual distinctions and functions on a subconscious level. Furthermore, it continues to be cognitively separated from more general cognitive processes like information processing and intelligent behavior (Zurriyati, Perangin-angin et al., 2023), acquiring a language is a subconscious process. During this phase, language learners develop a "feel" for accuracy rather than being knowledgeable of the language's grammatical rules. It can be concluded that The process through which humans learn to recognize, understand, and produce words and sentences for communication is known as language acquisition.

According to linguist and "inventor" of the idea of transformational-generative grammar, Noam Chomsky, a kid has a sort of "tool" that they use to learn a language. transformational-generative. From birth, children possess inherent dispositions and talents that serve as Language Acquisition Devices (LADs) to facilitate their natural language acquisition. What's happening in the infant to be able to pick up language so fast may be explained by their natural ability, or what Chomsky called the LAD. up contrast to the tabula rasa idea, which postulates that an infant's brain is like a blank piece of paper that will be filled up by events after birth (Pratiwi, Anggita, 2023). Early childhood language acquisition can be accomplished through a variety of methods, including reading storybooks, watching visuals with brief explanations, hearing tales from parents, and observation. However, given the state of affairs in the present period, technology now permeates every aspect of human existence (Karimah et al., 2022).

Alongside with the advancement of technology and the times, the language of its speakers will also continue to develop and evolve. Language growth is inexorable in this day and age due to the evolution of communication technologies, particularly with the emergence of social media (Nurhasanah & Lestari, 2021).

Today's media makes extensive use of online media, which allows people to create websites, connect with one another, and interact with the virtual world. One kind of

internet media is the Tik Tok app, which is widely used by people of all ages, including young children. It is visually pleasing, simple to use, and easily available, making it simple for users to create brief videos and see other fascinating content. Social networking is become an essential aspect of everyone's daily life in the digital age, including for kids.

TikTok, a Chinese social network and platform for music videos, launched in September 2016. TikTok is one of the most popular social networking sites among kids and teenagers; its user base has grown significantly in recent years.

Indonesia is among the nations with the greatest number of TikTok users worldwide, with over 10 million active users. In particular, Indonesia is home to over 99.8 million TikTok users, making it the second-largest TikTok user base globally, after the United States (Wulan Anggraeni & Robandi, Babang, 2023).

Interesting features of social media tickers include the ability to add filters, music or songs, stickers, live features, stores, and more. Although social media ticks offer a range of films that help prevent boredom and saturation, these social media are highly popular with both the general public and and students.

Children can easily follow the video that shows on the touchpad if they can see it or hear it. particularly in terms of terminology and the words utilized. It turns out that children using the app TikTok have a big influence on the development of linguistic differences in society. The hypothesis states that children acquire language through three processes: imitation, consolidation, and association . Affirmation is supposed to convey the happiness a kid feels when they say the words properly, imitation is to duplicate the pronunciation and sentence structure of the sentence they hear, and association is attempting to imitate a sound with a particular thing. Prior to speaking, children must first learn to listen. While using the TikTok app, kids first learn the language in the video and then play around with it, not all kids get the meaning of the words they hear. During his investigation, the researchers noted several discovered languages that frequently surface on TikTok and are employed in kid-friendly dialogue. This is due to a process of reproduction whereby they imitate language, which is subsequently repeated or used again when they converse with an a partner. Consequently, kids' dictionaries or vocabulary grew as a result of the TikTok films they viewed (Az-zahra W.P et al., 2022).

As a result of viewing TikTok videos, children unintentionally develop an understanding of the language they hear and see in the videos. They also use these language patterns in their regular interactions with other people.

Consequently charged content can still be found in TikToks, despite the platform's claims to have minimized the spread of it (Mumtaz et al., 2022). The most significant information they discovered throughout their investigation was how kids utilize language on social media to replicate or consume inappropriate and simulated content.

(Nurhasanah & Lestari, 2021) discovered in a prior study that the Tiktok app had a beneficial effect in that it made it easier to explore more foreign languages, allowing users to learn while viewing the entertainment features of the app in addition to relying on books or teachers. Unlike Nurhasanah and Lestari, however, Fidrayani's research from 2022 shown that young children communicate with unsafe language and lack appropriate behavior. Therefore, it may be said that TikTok videos have less of a positive effect on kids' language development.

However, According to a related study by (Wulan Anggraeni & Robandi, Babang, 2023) titled *The Impact of TikTok Social Media on Children's Language Politeness*, 84% of respondents had come across offensive content on the platform, even though the majority of kids (89.5%) continued to use polite language when leaving comments.

TikTok has an impact on kids' language skills beyond only that. However, carefully consider the impact on senior high school students. According to (Yulita & Hertiki, 2023) research, TikTok provides a range of English-speaking activities that can improve students' confidence and speaking skills, which in turn can help students feel more comfortable speaking the language.

The majority of earlier research was done to examine how TikTok improved students' language skills in the classroom. In the meantime, even a five-year-old adolescents may watch TikTok videos in today's digital age. Thus, the purpose of this study is to determine how TikTok influences a 5-year-old child's language development.

Research Method

This kind of study is qualitative and descriptive; that is, it analyzes data simply to the extent necessary to describe it and presents it in a way that makes it easier to understand and draw conclusions. The behavioural sciences seek to understand the fundamental reasons of human behaviour, and qualitative research is particularly important in this regard. Descriptive research involves a variety of fact-finding inquiries and surveys. The goal of descriptive research is to provide as much detail as possible on the existing situation (Kothari, 2004).

A case study was used in the investigation. A case study is a comprehensive analysis of a single person, entity, or occasion. The objective of a case study is to collect as much data as possible on an individual or group so that the conclusions can be used in a variety of contexts. A five-year-old girl called Feiza Elhayatein Dalimunthe served as the study's subject. She's in good physical, mental, and social health as a young child. She enjoys watching TikTok videos, singing, and running both inside and outside the house. She also enjoys asking her parents the names of objects, behaviors, or concepts he sees both inside and outside the home. Feiza's parents participated in the study as well in order to provide detailed information regarding Feiza's communication style.

Observation along with interviews were the methods used to gather the data. At the location of the TikTok-based study of early childhood language abilities, researchers conducted live observations. They watched and observed the situation in the field to determine the impact of the TikToks on the child's language ability and whether the child's watching of the TikToks affected the child's speaking ability in both positive and negative contexts. Based on the results, the researchers were able to draw conclusions about the effect of TikToks on the child's ability to speak. Although the subjects of the interviews—that is, the parents who allowed their child to use the TikTok app—have been chosen through this approach.

Compiling and interpreting data is a multi-step process. To get the data, the researchers first record a little conversation with the child. The data is transcribed once it has been recorded. Subsequently, the researchers examine the newly acquired vocabulary from TikTok by the subject. Third, the object's parents were interviewed by the researchers to gauge the subject's linguistic development.

Result and Discussion

In the digital age, workouts are used extensively in the lives of children. According to BPS data, children in Indonesia between the ages of 5 and 18 are already actively using social media. As a result, parents have a responsibility to supervise and manage all information their children receive through the exercise, as well as to engage with them during play by offering concise and clear explanations (Mumtaz et al., 2022).

Feiza generally watches Tiktok at her father's office after school, according to what was observed and what was discussed during the interview with her parents. Since her mother went to her office, Feiza spent the majority of her weekdays in her father's office. The majority of Feiza's time was spent on Tiktok watching videos. She picks up certain slang terms from this that she would never have encountered in the real life.

In (Mumtaz et al., 2022), Brooks claims that parents actually frequently set their kids free. In the meanwhile, parents are urged by the American and Canadian Association of Pediatricians to be firm and consistent in not allowing their children to practice while they are under two years old. Children three to five years old are only allowed one hour each day, and children six to eighteen years old are allowed two hours. The majority of kids still have intense playtimes, nevertheless, according to data from field study. In fact, a lot of them can exercise for an entire day without any specific parental time constraints.

Table 1: Words of Tiktok Used by Feiza

Tiktok Words	Sentences
Buset dah	Buset dah! Dua lapis bungkusnya
Salting	Ih kamu inilah! Kan aku jadi salting!
Salpok	Lucu banget sih. Salpok aku
Emang boleh seseru ini!	Emang boleh seseru ini musiknya!
Bestie	Iya dong! Kan kami bestie!
Oh My God!	Oh My God! Aku pusing!
Lebay	Lebay banget sih
Otw	Kami lagi otw ke Medan nih
Viral	Aku suka makan ini karena ini viral
Gemoy	Adik Elis gemoy banget kan?
Guys	Hai guys, hari ini kita mau jalan-jalan
Curhat	Aku mau curhat dong
Selfie	Yok kita selfie!
Gabut	Aku gabut la

Many theories of language learning are cited from Julrissani in (Nurhasanah & Lestari, 2021), including the following: The behavioral theory created by Bandura, which highlights how environment or habit can influence language acquisition; (1) The Behavioral Theory, which stresses the infant's neurology or biological preparation; (2) Chomsky's Preformationist Theory, which states that a child picks up language from hearing what he hears in his surroundings; (3) The Theory of Cognitive Development: Bates, Snyder, Namara, and Gleason redeveloped the theory, which was first developed by Piaget and Vygotsky. They all believe that a person's mind, or cognitive maturity, and active engagement in its surroundings are what generate and regulate language; (4) The psychosocial-linguistic theory is a theory that focuses on the interplay between activity, social interaction, and intellectual interaction in language.

In this study, Feiza's language development is at the cognitive theory level. According to cognitive theory, which is the theory of linguistic growth in children, these two children differ in a number of ways depending on internal and environmental circumstances as well as behaviorism (Warni et al., 2023). Bromley eventually came to the conclusion that the language he owned Bromley came to the conclusion that the language he owned was the outcome of the child's active participation in the learning process since, according to this cognitive theory, a newborn had the capacity to actively participate in the process of processing information and drawing grammatical inferences. According to Vygotsky, a child's cognitive and linguistic development is strongly influenced by the culture and society in which they are raised.

Some theories suggest that children learn language more from their surroundings than from what they see or hear. Feiza picked up certain languages on Tiktok quickly because she is permitted to watch the app for a few hours each day in her current setting. Feiza might not have known what those words meant when she first heard them. In the meantime, she employed the words in appropriate sentences and phrases.

Nevertheless, Feiza also regularly employs a few phrases like "kamu bertanyanya?" or "kamu tercandu-candu?" (Are you curious?) when someone her a question. The researcher noted that Feiza experienced no adverse effects from the videos she viewed on Tiktok. Rather, she typically expresses her excitement about anything with those phrases when she's feeling cheerful. For example, she would say, "Emang boleh seseru ini?" when she was pleased with what she had accomplished. Actually, the vocabulary she learned from Tiktok has helped her become a more communicative young child.

In alongside the observation, Feiza's parent was interviewed by the researchers. Her father said she is an extremely active child. She speaks a lot. She therefore frequently incorporates words from Tiktok into her everyday language. Feiza uses the terms to her parents and grandparents in addition to her peers. Thankfully, Feiza's parent claims that she never picks up offensive language via Tiktok. The vocabulary she acquired is still appropriate and useful for expressing herself.

Nevertheless, the parent's job is to establish a positive connection with the child, to listen to her faithfully, to pay attention to her everyday actions, to provide attention, to set limits and regulations, and to spend as much time as possible with her (Belinda & Abidin, 2023).

According to Traxler in (Hidayani, 2021), children become more adaptable in their use of language as their talents grow. According to the description given above, Feiza's vocabulary is influenced by both her biological makeup and her surroundings, and she acquires and uses words in essentially the same ways.

These applications are limitless, accessible to everyone with ease and without restriction thanks to technological advancements that enable connectivity between nations and regions.

Feiza has a greater capacity for language, but on the other hand, her parents ought to provide her with more protection. Feiza's parents do need to set limits and restrictions for her Tiktok video consumption, even though this app may help her learn the language.

Conclusion

Based on the data, it can be concluded that Feiza, a young girl, spends most of her time watching TikTok videos after school, which has led to her acquiring slang words she has never heard in her real life such as salting, gabut, salpok, bestie, buset. Observation and interviews with her parents reveal that Feiza uses these words in her daily life with her parents, grandparents, and aunties. According to cognitive theory, children acquire more language from their environment, and Feiza's active role in the learning process has contributed to her language development. Despite the negative impact of the words, Feiza uses them in appropriate contexts and is more expressive. It can be seen from her response when she is happy of doing something. She usually says 'emang boleh seseru ini!'. Her parents also noted that Feiza's active nature and frequent use of TikTok words make her a good listener and expressive child. Feiza's language acquisition has improved, but parents should provide more protection. Although TikTok had some great effects on her, there is no denying that the application had some negative effects as well, such making her acquaintance older people with some slang terms. This may cause her to

become less courteous. Furthermore, Feiza does not know many decent Indonesian vocabulary because she primarily uses words from TikTok in her everyday speech. TikTok can facilitate language acquisition, they should also establish boundaries and limit Feiza's exposure to TikTok videos

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