

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING TIKTOK TO IMPROVE EFL LEARNERS' SPEAKING ABILITY

Syifa Mutiara Diko Putri

Universitas Tidar

syifamutiara93@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

People are drawn to the internet as technology progresses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, technology has become a requirement in the education sector. Therefore, the researchers want to find the effectiveness of TikTok in improving EFL learners' speaking ability. The subject of this paper was 20 from the English Educational Study Program at Tidar University. This study used the qualitative research method. Based on the researchers' study with 20 students from the English Educational Study Program, the researcher concludes that the TikTok application improved students' speaking skills well. In addition, students' sentiments toward using TikTok in language learning were favorable.

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INTRODUCTION

People are drawn to the internet as technology progresses. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, technology has become a requirement in the education sector. Since face-to-face learning was switched to online learning during the pandemic, technology has become a key element of the learning process, posing a problem for educators (Mandasari et al., 2020). In addition, technology lets teachers teach students at a distance by utilizing methods that allow synchronous and asynchronous contact with the entire class, groups, and individual children or young people; access to learning resources; and interactive and collaborative activities. In other words, online learning presents a new difficulty for educators, as they must adjust the learning approach to the current pandemic condition.

Both students and teachers are using online learning. Face-to-face learning can no longer be used to facilitate the teaching and learning process. Teachers should use Internet media to disseminate information. In addition, the teaching and learning process has become less intensive than it was in the past. Students' motivation to learn suffers as a result of this. It restricts the ability of teachers and students to communicate with each other. Students were unable to perform at a higher level because of the restrictions. One way to teach students in online learning is by using interactive learning media.

According to Zaitun et al. (2021), it is necessary to have learning media that is not

difficult for students to use and does not make them feel odd. Learning media is a resource for learning that evolves in parallel with the advancement of learning technology and takes on various forms, starting from audio, visual, and audio-visual. The presence of learning media plays a critical role because the media can serve as a vehicle for introducing or transferring information and simplifying the abstract into something concrete and complex, which aids in comprehension and interpretation. The media employed is also an integral aspect of the instructional design that the teacher must master. Because learning media significantly impact the learning process and student learning outcomes, teachers must genuinely be able to select the most appropriate and effective learning media.

Social media is a learning media that is familiar to students. According to Yang (2020), social media has four main purposes: entertainment, socialization, informativeness, and academics. The use of appropriate learning media can improve EFL students' speaking ability. One social media that can be used as a learning medium is TikTok. TikTok has become a trend nowadays, popular among EFL students learning the language.

Pratiwi (2021) study stated that the participants had a positive attitude regarding the TikTok application used as a strategy in English language learning to help improve literacy and speaking skills. TikTok originated in China; Dou Yin, a social network and music video platform, was launched in September 2016. This application can be downloaded on Google Play Store and App Store, allowing users to create short music videos. In 2022, as of April, TikTok will have 500 billion downloads worldwide. Since the pandemic spread worldwide, this application's many content creators share educational, scientific, and other creative videos.

One of the most important communication skills is the ability to speak, especially when exchanging information. The ability to produce an oral language is a linguistic skill (Brown, 2004). Moreover, speaking is one of the problematic skills faced by students. Students might be shy to speak using the English language because they do not master the language. Lack of vocabulary and practice made them not master the English language. Pratiwi (2021) stated that someone could be brave and fluent in speaking by considering six important things. They are confidence, fluency & accuracy, finding the right words, showing where we are going, keeping the listeners interested, and sounding natural.

There are some previous studies found related to the topic of this research. According to Ferstephanie & Pratiwi (2022), this research showed that the deployment of TikTok demonstrated its efficacy in developing students' speaking abilities. It can be concluded that

the TikTok application motivated students to love learning, particularly when enhancing their speaking abilities. While creating the content, students were free to express their thoughts and creativity. Moreover, based on Afidah et al. (2021) study, students in UNWAHA's second semester expressed a favorable attitude regarding TikTok as a video aid in EFL classroom instruction while also using it outside of class to practice their English skills. They said that TikTok would be used in speaking classes as a teaching tool. According to previous research, TikTok enhances EFL learners' speaking ability. The difference between this research and the other research is that this research wanted to find out the efficacy, pros, and cons of the TikTok application as a learning medium in increasing EFL learners' speaking ability. This study aims to determine the effectiveness of using the TikTok application to improve the EFL learners speaking ability during online learning.

METHODOLOGY

This study used the qualitative research method. According to Denzin & Lincoln (2008), qualitative research uses more than one method and looks at its subject in an interpretive and natural way. On the other hand, qualitative researchers look at things in their natural settings and try to figure out what's going on based on what people think it means. Qualitative research involves the careful use and collection of a wide range of empirical materials, such as case studies, personal experiences, reflective writing, life stories, interviews, observations, historical texts, texts that describe how people interact with each other, and visual texts that show how people talk about their lives. The subject of this study were 20 students from the English Educational Study Program at Tidar University. Three steps are involved in conducting this research: preparation, data collection, and finishing. Firstly, the researchers prepared a questionnaire containing ten questions in Google Forms for 20 English Educational Study Program students. The students answered the questionnaires that the researcher had dispersed. Last, the researchers analyze the data based on the student's answers to the questionnaire and write down the result that reveals the research finding and conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research findings, the researcher tries to determine the effectiveness of using the TikTok application to improve the EFL learners speaking ability. The researcher wants to show the questionnaire results that the students have filled out. The researcher found

that the TikTok application enhances the students' speaking ability based on the questionnaire results.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire was created using Google Form, and it has ten questions using the Likert Scale. The range of the scale is strongly agree to strongly disagree.

Table 1. The range of Likert Scale

Optional	Score
Strongly Agree	5
Agree	4
Neutral	3
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	1

The Result of The Questionnaire

Q1: I can learn to speak English from TikTok.

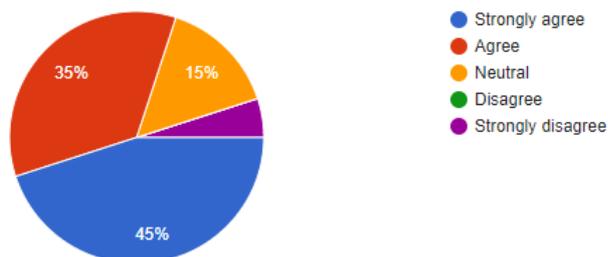


Diagram 1. Q1

Through the diagram above, the researchers found that 45% of the students strongly agree that they can learn to speak English from TikTok. Therefore, based on the researcher's analysis, most students can learn to speak English from TikTok, and it can also be one of the learning tools to help them learn to speak English.

Q2: Using TikTok will motivate me to improve my speaking ability.

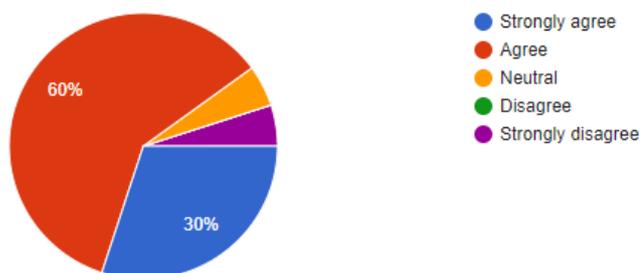


Diagram 2. Q2

From the diagram above, most students agree that TikTok will motivate them to improve their speaking ability, with a total percentage of 60%. Based on the researcher's analysis, when they used TikTok, it motivated them to improve their speaking ability because there is a lot of interesting content in this application.

Q3: I do not worry about making mistakes at TikTok because it is just for fun.

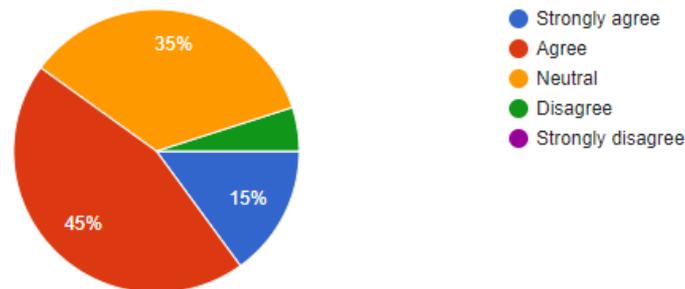


Diagram 3. Q3

The researchers found that 45% of the English Educational Study Program students agree that they do not worry about making mistakes on TikTok because it is just for fun. Based on the researcher's analysis, most students do not worry about making mistakes in learning at TikTok because they already know about the purpose of this application which is to entertain them.

Q4: I can speak English in TikTok to communicate with others from different countries.

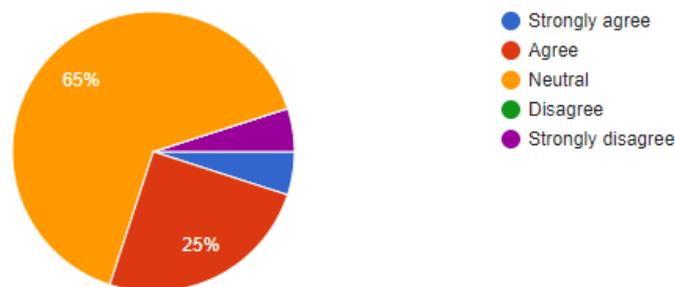


Diagram 4. Q4

From the diagram above, 65% of students choose neutral about whether they can speak English on TikTok to communicate with others from different countries. Based on the researcher's analysis, most students can speak English on TikTok to communicate with other friends from different countries because English is one of the languages used to communicate worldwide.

Q5: I can freely express my opinion on the TikTok platform.

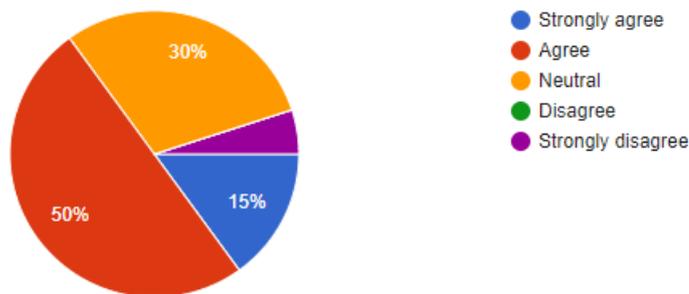


Diagram 5. Q5

In the diagram above, it can be concluded that 50% of the students agree that they can freely express their opinion on the TikTok platform. Therefore, based on the researcher's analysis, the students freely express their feelings and opinions because, on TikTok, nothing limits them from expressing their feelings and opinions.

Q6: I think the use of TikTok improve my speaking confident.

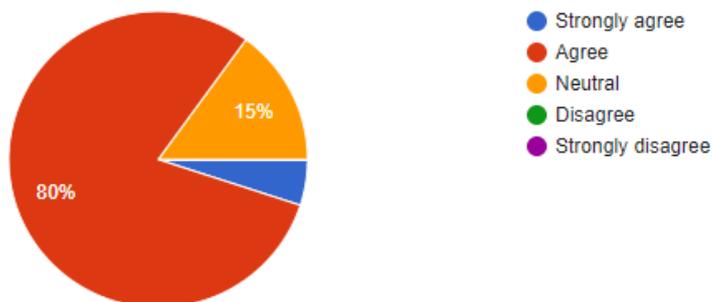


Diagram 6. Q6

The researchers conclude that 80% of students agree that using TikTok can improve their confidence. Since TikTok is one of the applications used through the phone screen, one user and the other do not need to face to face in speaking. Because of that, the researchers analyzed that it can be one of the reasons that TikTok improves the student's speaking confidence.

Q7: I use TikTok to create my speaking style.

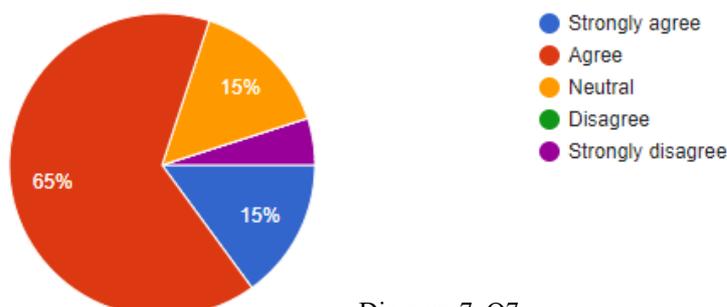


Diagram 7. Q7

The researcher concludes from the diagram above that 65% of the students agree that they use TikTok to create their speaking style. Based on the researcher's analysis, most of the students use TikTok to create their speaking style because many native speakers from different countries have different speaking styles. Therefore, the students have a lot of references to create their speaking style.

Q8: I can duet with an English speaker in TikTok.

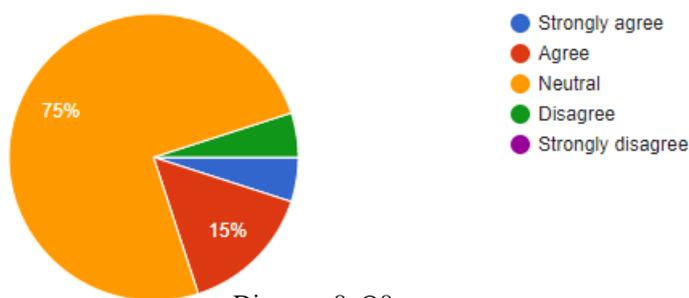


Diagram 8. Q8

In the diagram above, it can be concluded that 75% of the students are neutral that they can duet with an English speaker on TikTok. Based on the researcher's analysis, there is a feature from TikTok which can do a duet with another video, so many TikTok users use this feature to collaborate with other friends.

Q9: I can monologue in trend sounds in TikTok.

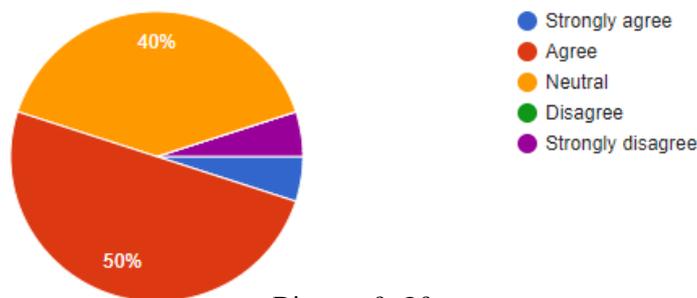


Diagram 9. Q9

In the diagram above, it can be concluded that 50% of the students agree that they can monologue in trend sounds on TikTok. TikTok is an application that uses sound to interest the users. Therefore, when they want to post something on their account with the audio attached from TikTok, many students will indirectly review and retake the videos they made until they have a better result and upload the video on their account. Indirectly, they already did a monologue in trend sounds on TikTok.

Q10: TikTok permits access to the trend topics that I can share with others.

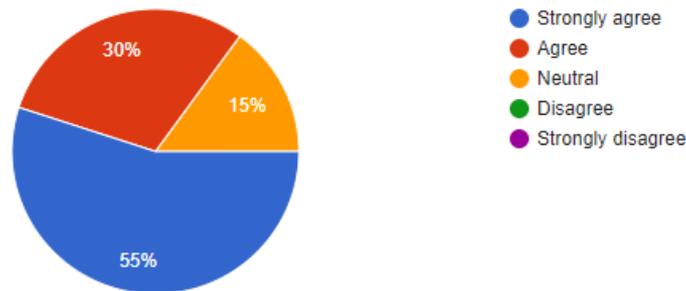


Diagram 10. Q10

In the diagram above, it can be concluded that 55% of the students strongly agree that TikTok permits access to the trend topics I can share with others. However, even though they can freely express their feelings on social media such as TikTok, they must be careful in choosing, liking, comment on this application. Because what they see, like, and comment on TikTok can affect their timeline.

Based on the diagram above, the researcher concludes that the TikTok application improved students' speaking skills. Students' sentiments toward the usage of TikTok in language learning were favorable. The program TikTok made the educational environment more enjoyable and engaging. By incorporating TikTok into the learning process, students were motivated and excited to participate in oral communication. TikTok can also facilitate students' and teachers' access to learning materials. Students can generate various English-speaking content on TikTok due to the numerous tools used to make videos more engaging and interactive. By practicing and connecting language learning using TikTok, students can relate it to their daily lives and improve their speaking skills for more meaningful language learning.

The Pros of TikTok in Improving Speaking Ability

Based on the research finding, the researcher found that there are several pros of TikTok application in improving EFL learners' speaking ability, such as:

- TikTok helps the students to learn how to speak English.
- TikTok motivates the students to develop their speaking ability.
- TikTok helps the students choose what kind of speaking style they want because many native speakers also use TikTok.
- The students can freely express their opinion in learning English without rules.
- TikTok helps the students to be more confident in speaking English.

The Cons of TikTok in Improving Speaking Ability

Based on the research finding, the researcher found that there are several cons of TikTok application in improving EFL learners' speaking ability, such as:

- Since TikTok is one of the applications intended to entertain users, it is feared that this app will make the students lose time and forget to do other activities.
- TikTok shows posts from other people; if the students do not focus on practicing their speaking ability, it will distract them.
- Since TikTok does not have the correct and incorrect pronunciation feature, the students must choose the content from a trusted native speaker with many followers.

CONCLUSION

The use of appropriate learning media can improve EFL students' speaking ability. Social media is a learning media that is familiar to students. It has four main purposes: entertainment, socialization, informativeness, and academics. TikTok has become a trend nowadays, popular among EFL students learning the language. One of the most important communication skills is the ability to speak, especially when exchanging information. The ability to produce oral language is a speaking skill. Speaking is one of the complex skills that students face. Students might be shy to speak using the English language because they do not master the language.

The researcher concludes that the TikTok application improved students' speaking skills well. Students' sentiments toward the usage of TikTok in language learning were favorable. The program TikTok made the educational environment more enjoyable and engaging. By incorporating TikTok into the learning process, students were motivated and excited to participate in oral communication. TikTok can also facilitate students' and teachers' access to learning materials. Students can generate various English-speaking content on TikTok due to the numerous tools used to make videos more engaging and interactive. By practicing and connecting language learning using TikTok, students can relate it to their daily lives and improve their speaking skills for more meaningful language learning.

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