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Students' Perception on the Use of TikTok for Learning English

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Abstract

Currently, there are many media that can be used to learn English independently, one of them is using TikTok social media. This study aims to know and describe students' perception on the use of TikTok for learning English. The participants of this study were students of the 2021 English Language Education study program who used TikTok to learn English, totaling 21 students filled out questionnaires and 6 students as interviewees. In determining the participants, the researcher used purposive sampling technique. This study used a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. In collecting data, the researcher used observation sheets, questionnaires and interviews. Based on the results of this study, it was found that students have a positive perception of using TikTok to learn English. Learning English by using TikTok can help students to improve their English skills. Learning English on TikTok is fun and stress-free. In addition, TikTok has many advantages such as easy to access, varied video content, interesting content and easy to understand, can learn from native speakers, free and many others. However, learning English by using TikTok also has challenges such as internet network problems and costs for internet quota.

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INTRODUCTION

English is an international language used to communicate around the world. In Indonesia, English is even taught at every level of education. English is one of the subjects that is important, especially for students majoring in English. Where they are required to be able to master the four English skills to be able to communicate and participate in learning activities in the classroom well. So that their ability to speak English will greatly affect their learning process in the classroom. Meanwhile, their time to learn English in class is limited. Students have limited time to learn English in class, and they still do not have enough encouragement to practice English outside the class in order to get familiar with English (Al Nakhalah, 2016). In fact, to be able to master English well requires a lot of time and continuous practice.

As a solution, there are many ways that students can do to improve their English skills. For example, by taking an English course or by studying



independently at home. Especially with today's technological sophistication, students can use gadgets to help their learning activities. Through gadgets, they can access any information they need and want to learn. On the gadget, they can download various applications that can support the learning process.

One way to learn English with gadgets is by learning English through social media. People can use it as a tool or resource to learn and understand materials related to their lessons and also improve the quality of their English skills (Nurjannah et al., 2021). It can be accessed easily anywhere and anytime. A previous researcher has conducted research on the use of social media to learn English and found that students have positive perceptions about using social media to learn English. Social media provided an endless supply of English content which enabled them to continuously practice their English skills especially listening, expanding their vocabulary, and improve their pronunciation knowledge (Safitri, 2021).

One of the most popular social media is TikTok (Ferstephanie & Pratiwi, 2021). TikTok is a short video application that is popular among young people. On TikTok, people can watch and upload any video. At this time, TikTok is not only used for entertainment but can also be used for English learning media. There are many kinds of videos that can be found on TikTok, such as lip sync videos, duet challenges, song lyrics, cooking videos, health, and of course videos with English content. On TikTok, people can't set what videos they want to watch, but the appearance of videos on a TikTok account is influenced by user interactions with an account, hashtags used, accounts followed, video content often watched and many others. For example, a TikTok user often watches and likes videos with English content, then there will always be videos with English content appearing on his TikTok homepage. Currently, there are also many accounts that specifically discuss English, @Jagobahasa.com, @LearnMatch, such as @discoveryenglishjogja and others. So that TikTok can be used as a medium for learning English by students that is easily accessible through gadgets outside the classroom.

Herlisya & Wiratno (2022) argue that using TikTok application in learning English can help students to improve their speaking skills. TikTok media can also improve students's English listening skills (Perangin-angin, et.al., 2021). Rahmawanti (2021) and Ubaedillah, et.al (2021) also stated that TikTok is the second most favorite social media for students to learn English and is used by English teachers in distance learning. It means that TikTok can used for learning English and can help them to improve their English language skills.

As with other learning media, TikTok as a media for learning English also has advantages and disadvantages in helping students to improve their English. Every student has a different perception of using TikTok as a media for learning English. For this reason, this study aims to see students' perception regarding whether TikTok can help them in learning English independently or not and how they learn from the application. Perception is a process of entering information into the human brain which through perception, human continue to connect with their environment through their five senses (Slameto, 2015). Robbins in (Lele, 2019) also stated that perception is processes by which individuals organize and also

interpret their sensory experience so that it will bring meanings to them. It is the process when a person receives a stimulus through his/her senses (Walgito, 2005). Students' perception can provide information or an overview of how they use TikTok to learn and is it true that learning English through TikTok can help them to improve their English skills.

Based on this, the researcher interested in conducting a research entitled "Students' Perception on the Use of TikTok for Learning English".

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a descriptive method with a qualitative approach because the aim is to describe and explain students' perceptions on the use of TikTok for learning English. The respondents in this study were students of the English language education study program batch 2021. In determining the participants, the researcher used purposive sampling technique with the criteria of students using TikTok to learn English. So that the number of participants is 21 students.

Instrumentation

In this research, there are three instruments that used for collecting data, namely observation sheets containing questions about whether the respondent is a TikTok user to learn English, research questionnaires containing questions about students' perceptions of using TikTok to learn English, and interviews consisting of 6 questions about using TikTok to learn English.

Techniques of Data Collection

In collecting data, the researcher used observation sheets, questionnaire and interviews. Observations sheets were distributed to obtain the number of participants. Furthermore, the research questionnaire was distributed online in the form of Google Form. This questionnaire used the Guttman scale which contains "Yes" and "No" choices. All statements in the questionnaire were made in the form of positive statements about using TikTok for learning English. If the respondent supports the statement, it means that the perception given is positive and if the respondent does not support the statement, it means that the perception given is negative. Each answer from the respondent was also supported by reasons. After the result is collected, the researcher conducted interviews with 8 participants where the interviewees were selected based on the result of questionnaire.

Techniques of Data Analysis

The data from the questionnaire is then made into the form of frequency and percentage tables. Meanwhile, the data generated from the interviews were analysed using the Miles and Huberman technique, namely data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Finding

• Questionnaire

1. English skills that improved by students in learning English by using TikTok

Based on the questionnaire, students have positive perceptions of English skills that improved by students in learning English by using TikTok. The table below present students' questionnaire result.

Table 1. Students' perception of English skills that improved by students in learning English by using TikTok

No	Statement	Answer		Total
		Yes	No	_
1	TikTok provides an opportunity to	21	0	21
	improve my listening skill.	100%	0%	100%
2	TikTok provides an opportunity to	21	0	21
	improve my speaking skills in English.	100%	0%	100%
3	TikTok provides an opportunity to obtain	21	0	21
	new English vocabulary.	100%	0%	100%
4	TikTok provides an opportunity to	17	4	21
	improve my English grammar knowledge.	81%	19%	100%
5	TikTok provides an opportunity to	20	1	21
	improve my knowledge of how to	95.2%	4.8%	100%
	pronounce words in English.			

2. Students' feeling of using TikTok for learning English

In the next part of questionnaire, the students were questioned about their feelings when using TikTok to learn English. Based on the questionnaire results, students have positive feelings in using TikTok for learning English. The result can be seen in the table below.

Table 2. Students' perception of students' feeling about using TikTok for learning English

No	Statement	Answer		Total
		Yes	No	_
1	Learning English by using TikTok is fun.	21	0	21
		100%	0%	100%
2	Learning English by using TikTok increases	14	7	21
	my confidence to communicate in English.	66.7%	33.3%	100%
3	TikTok increases my motivation in learning	17	4	21
	English.	81%	19%	100%
4	TikTok provides an opportunity to study	18	3	21
	English independently.	85.7%	14.3%	100%

3. The convenience of using TikTok to learn English

In the last part of the questionnaire, the students were asked about the conveniences they found when using TikTok to learn English. Based on the questionnaire result, the students have positive perceptions about the convenience of using TikTok to learn English. The detailed result showed in the table below.

Table 3. Students' perception of the convenience of using TikTok to learn English

No	Statement	Answer		Total
		Yes	No	_
1	TikTok is easily used for learning English.	18	3	21
		85.7%	14.3%	100%
2	There are many videos of English contents	21	0	21
	on TikTok.	100%	0%	100%
3	English contents on TikTok can be accessed	19	2	21
	in anytime and anywhere.	90.5%	9.5%	100%

Interview

➤ What are your reasons for using TikTok as a media for learning English?

The first question of the interview was about the reasons of the students use TikTok as media to learn English. Some of students who gave the most positive responses to the use of TikTok to learn English stated that they use TikTok to learn English because the content on TikTok is easy to understand and interesting. Like a student said:

"For me, TikTok more interactive and easy to understand. TikTok gave me an easy way to understand some grammar more than a book. You also can ask to the creator about subject or things that you are not understand. Unlikely other platform, TikTok summarizing all the method to learn English, you just need to type the key word and you got what you want." (Student 4)

Another student think that she uses TikTok to learn English because TikTok is currently the most used or popular application.

"Because at this time TikTok is the most used application, therefore I use TikTok and I find many accounts to learn English which is easy to understand." (Student 1)

Another reason student use TikTok to learn English is because on TikTok there are many videos that discuss English.

"In TikTok I can see so many things, especially English contents. I often watch English content videos in TikTok, like comedy, parody, education, and etc. A lots of Tiktok content creator have different English accent, so I can learn so many

accent from different country. This way is more fun and flexible, I can practice whenever I want and wherever I am." (Student 3)

The last reason students expressed is because TikTok is easy to access.

"My reason is TikTok easily accessible by anyone and at any time. When learning English on tik tok, the material is easier to understand because it is explained by various sources with interesting concepts." (Student 2)

While some of the students who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English also stated that they use TikTok to learn English because on TikTok there are many English learning videos.

"My reasons are as I saw much video on TikTok, there're a lot of content creator who teaches the audience, such as TOEFLl test." (Student 6)

Another reason they mentioned is because TikTok is easily accessible.

"I use TikTok because TikTok is the easiest way to access English videos." (Student 7)

Another student also said that she uses TikTok because it is one of the most popular apps.

"Hmm alright, my reason for using TikTok for learning English because TikTok is one of the famous applications and I wasn't bored use tiktok. I mean, it's similar like killing two birds with one stone." (Student 8)

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the students who gave the most positive responses and the students who gave the most negative responses have the same views regarding their reasons for using TikTok as a media for learning English. They stated that the learning content on TikTok is easy to understand, the application is easily accessible and popular and there is a lot of content about English language in it.

> Can you explain, how you learned English by using TikTok?

The second question is related to how students learn English by using TikTok. Students who gave the most positive responses to the use of TikTok to learn English stated that they learn English on TikTok by practicing English for example through dialogue with creators. Like a student mentioned:

"I practice when I see the video. I mean, when I see English content video I will learn anything from the video. For example, videos about comedy, I saw the video and I analyze it, and the result is I knew ohh this is a joke for English people, or this is a joke from x country. Actually, I have so many English education videos in my FYP, because I like it so

much, and tiktok served it to me. Some videos contain a dialog between me and the content creator, so I can practice at the time, or the video contain about grammar and I can learn it at the time, so easy to learn English from TikTok." (Student 3)

Another student said that she learns on TikTok by saving videos she watched and then re-watching them and taking notes from those videos.

"Usually, random videos about English always in my FYP, when I got something new like grammar, vocabulary, or how to speak like native speaker, I save that videos to my gallery and then I rewatch it. Sometimes I also make a note." (Student 2)

Another student also said that she learns on TikTok by typing the video keywords she wants to learn in the search feature and by following the creator.

"First, I type the keyword like "how to learn basic English" then the platform will show you some creator about basic English. Second, if you want more content about English you have to search about English often or you can follow the creator. Third, the algorithm will bring you to the content or creator by how often you search about learning English. For Your Page have unique algorithm so make sure you did it often. Forth, find someone to practice. This the important part, practice every day and learn every day. Some creator also have place for people who learn to interact like an apps or chat group on another platform." (Student 4)

While the students who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English also stated that they learn on TikTok by practicing and taking notes.

"Okay, I learned English by TikTok, as usual I choose several accounts about English such as Ilhamsaheri, he always gives viewers tips, new vocabularies and other. And yeah, I watch his videos and practice with them. I also choose several contents about conversations and practice by myself." (Student 8)

"Sometimes I wrote on the paper." (Student 6)

Another student mentioned that she learns by watching live broadcasts of people who speak English.

"I watch videos on TikTok, I also watch live from people who use English. Because of watching that often, I learned a lot." (Student 7)

Based on the explanation above, it can be seen that the students who gave the most positive responses and those who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English have the same way of learning English on TikTok. They learn by re-

watching and practicing, saving videos, taking notes and watching live broadcasts of people who speak English.

➤ How do you feel learning English on TikTok?

The next question related to the feelings of the interviewees when they learn English by using TikTok. Based on the results of the interviews, some of students who gave the most positive responses to the use of TikTok to learn English stated that they feel learning English on TikTok is fun, not boring and not monotonous.

"It's just fun, because it's not monotonous and not boring, and you can hone your skills too." (Student 5)

Another student mentioned that she really enjoys learning English on TikTok.

"I really enjoy it and it makes it easier for me to learn English." (Student 1)

Another student also said that she is so exited learn English on TikTok.

"I feel so excited and for me it is interesting." (Student 2)

Learning English on TikTok also feels no pressure. Like a student said:

"I feel like no pressure, when I used books or take online course I have presiden because it's cost a lot and boring. Books made me feel bored sometimes also the online course sometimes too easy to get distracted when there's notification from another apps." (Student 4)

While some students who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English also stated that learning English on TikTok is fun and they enjoy the learning.

"It's so fun, because lots of funny and interesting content there." (Student 7)

"Hmm I enjoy learned by using TikTok. However, in grammar that's really not worth it for me." (Student 8)

Another student also said that learning on TikTok is less awkward.

"It's like different situation, when I learn English on TikTok, I got much better, maybe cause not too awkward. The back sound makes good too." (Student 6)

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the students who gave the most positive responses and those who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English have a positive view of how they feel when learning English on TikTok. Learning English on TikTok is fun, not boring, and not monotonous. They feel exited and really enjoy the learning. It feels no pressure and is less awkward.

➤ What benefits have you obtained from learning English by using TikTok?

The fourth interview question is about what benefits students got when they learn English by using TikTok. Some of students who gave the most positive responses to the use of TikTok to learn English stated that the benefits they feel when learning English on TikTok is getting new knowledge, a community to learn English, friends and more. Like a student mentioned:

"I got some community to learn English or to practice. New friends. New knowledge. Also got a modul about learn English. Information about new method." (Student 4)

Another student said that she is more motivated and her English skills improved.

"The benefits I get are that I am more motivated to learn English and also improve my skills such as reading, speaking, grammar, and listening." (Student 1)

While the students who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English also stated that they get new knowledge and their skills improved.

"I learned a lot. Such as pronunciation, new vocabulary, and slang." (Student 7)

"Yeah, TikTok is able to increase my speaking skill especially in my pronounce. Incorporate new vocabularies and I can avoid repeation when I talk with others." (Student 8)

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the students who gave the most positive responses and those who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English have the same view about the benefits they get from learning English on TikTok. They got new knowledge, friends, and their skills improved.

➤ What are the conveniences or advantages that you encounter when you use TikTok as a media for learning English?

The next question was to ask about what conveniences or advantages students found when they used TikTok as a media for learning English. Some of students who gave the most positive responses to the use of TikTok to learn English mentioned that the conveniences of learning on TikTok is easy to access.

"Easy to access, we just need handphone and signal. And easy to apply, what we want to search we just type the keyword in the typing column, and the result will appear." (Student 3)

Another student said that she can learn English from native speaker.

"The advantage I get is that with Tiktok I can be free whenever I want to learn and I can also learn directly with the native speaker.

While some students who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English also stated that they can learn English from native speakers.

> "As my opinion, maybe because of that person's language, their first language is English, so they could more mastering, I got the right version from the native." (Student 6)

Another student mentioned that she can learn on TikTok freely.

"I can access all the videos freely and it's free." (Student 7)

Besides watching learning videos, on TikTok students can also create content and upload their own videos.

"In my view as an English student, the conveniences or advantages use TikTok, we can learn anywhere and anytime yeah during we have internet access. We don't need spending a lot of money for it. And yeah, we are able to make contents about English by our skill and be brave show our English skill in public. I mean to create contents." (Student 8)

Based on the explanation above, it can be seen that the students who gave the most positive responses and those who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English have the same view of the conveniences or advantages of TikTok as a media for learning English. They said that TikTok is easy to access and it's free. They can also learn English from native speakers and they can create their own videos.

➤ What are challenges or disadvantages that you encounter when you use TikTok as a media for learning English?

The last question related to the challenges or disadvantages that students found when they learn English by using TikTok. Some of students who gave the most positive responses to the use of TikTok to learn English stated that the challenges of TikTok as a media for learning English is to access TikTok requires a lot of quota.

"I often can't limit myself when I spend my time on TikTok and TikTok spend a lot of quota, so if we don't use wifi maybe we can be broke because TikTok." (Student 3)

Another challenges when using TikTok to learn English is network problems.

"It's just sometimes network problems and it's heavy on the quota, so far so good." (Student 5)

Another student mentioned that when she wants to ask something she does not understand from the video, she can only ask it in the comments column and it is unlikely that the content creator will respon.

"The disadvantage that I have encountered is that if we want to ask something that we doubt, it will be difficult because we can only ask in the comments and there is only a small chance

that our comments will be read because many people have commented too." (Student 1)

While some students who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English also stated that the challenges of TikTok as a media for learning is network problems.

> "I can access TikTok videos anytime and anywhere as long as there is an internet connection. So, if there is no internet connection I can't watch it. And sometimes, their pronunciation makes me a bit confused. And sometimes there are some slang words that I don't understand, so I don't understand their videos." (Student 6)

Another challenge is that when learning on TikTok is easy for students to get distracted.

"Well, my challenges using TikTok for learning in English, sometimes other contents give me distraction and then I doubt because several contents so fast and I can't catch up what the meanings of them and I must replay the videos." (Student 8)

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that some students who gave the most positive responses and those who gave the most negative responses to the use of TikTok to learn English have the same view about the challenges of TikTok as a media for learning English. The challenges are network problems, fee for internet quota, hard to communicate with creator and students are easily distracted.

Discussion

This study tried to describe the use of TikTok as a media for learning English based on students' perceptions. It was found that students have positive perceptions about using TikTok as a media for learning English. TikTok provides opportunities for students to improve their English skills such as listening, speaking, grammar, pronunciation and obtained new English vocabularies. This is similar to what has been explained by several researchers (Perangin-angin et al., 2021; Pratiwi et al., 2021; Rahman, 2021) who stated that TikTok as an English learning media can improve students' English skills. TikTok can help students to improve their listening skills because some videos are from native English speakers so they can practice their listening skills to understand the meaning of the video content and gain new knowledge about English accents. Students' listening skills can improve when learning English by using videos (Woottipong, 2014). Learning on TikTok also allows students to practice their speaking skills in English through English conversational dialogues provided by video creators, so that it can provides opportunities for students to improve their speaking skills. There are many videos that explain various topics about English so as to enable students to acquire a variety of new English vocabulary. These are supported by Herlisya & Wiratno (2021) who stated that using TikTok as a learning medium can improve speaking skills and make it easier for student to absorb English vocabulary. There are several TikTok creators who discuss English grammar so that it can also help students to increase their knowledge of English grammar. Learning videos about English grammar are

included in the five types of lessons from TikTok online videos that are often made (Warini et al., 2020). The students also found videos that explain how to pronounce an English word so that it helps them to practice and improve their pronunciation. This is the same as the statement of Pratiwi et al (2021) that TikTok application can be used as a medium for pronunciation learning in English because it has many benefits and is effective in helping students and teachers in teaching and learning activities in the 20th century.

Furthermore, students' responses to the questionnaires and interviews also showed that learning English with TikTok is fun. The short duration of the video and the delivery of interactive and interesting content make learning less boring. The students admitted that when learning using TikTok they feel more enjoying and relaxed because there is no pressure like learning in class. Once again, this is in line with what has been found by Pratiwi et al (2021) that the use of TikTok application is very influential because this application is useful and provides benefits because it makes learning easy and fun, students can watch interesting videos, do business, and they can also find out what is happening in this world. In addition, more than half of the students believed that learning English by using TikTok can increase their confidence to communicate in English. Along with increasing knowledge about English and the more frequent practice makes them more daring to speak in English. It also increases their motivation to learn and master English more deeply. TikTok also allows students to be able to learn independently. They can access TikTok whenever and wherever they want. They can learn according to their motivation and desires. This is supported by Herlisya & Wiratno (2021) the use of TikTok application is not only to improve students' speaking skills but also this application can motivate students to become more confident.

Another interesting thing is that TikTok provides convenience to students in the form of ease of use. Students believed that TikTok is an easy-to-use media for learning English. It can be used by anyone. Additionally, there are many videos that discuss about English and students can search for any topic about English that they want to learn. Some content creators are also native English speaker so they can learn English from the native speakers. Students can use TikTok anytime and anywhere and is easy to use (Hastomo et al., 2022). A student also stated that the benefits they get when using TikTok are getting a community to practice English, new friends, new knowledge, English modules and information on new ways to learn English. The use of social media, one of which is TikTok, for learning English can make students' insights increase by easily getting information and meeting new friends (Deksi et al., 2021).

These various conveniences and benefits are also the main reason for students to choose TikTok as a media for learning English. From interesting and easy-to-understand content, ease of access, and the availability of various topics that can be learned. According to Ferstephanie & Pratiwi (2021) TikTok is one of the most popular social media today. So, it also becomes one of the reasons why students use TikTok to learn English.

Students also explain their way of learning English by using TikTok. Among other things, by re-watching the videos they learned and practicing it. Like practicing using English conversational dialogues provided by the creator. They can also follow

the accounts they like and save the learning videos on their gadgets for re-watching at a later time. In addition, there are also those who make some notes of the topic they learn.

However, TikTok as a media for learning English also has some challenges or disadvantages including internet network problems. According to Safitri (2021), the challenges faced by students in using social media to learn English are internet connection problems and inappropriate content. To be able to access TikTok, students also need internet quota so they have to pay for it. This is the same as stated by Afidah et al (2021) in their research that TikTok application requires quite a lot of quota. Another disadvantage is the TikTok algorithm which shows videos randomly so that sometimes it can interfere with students' concentration. On TikTok, students have little chance of getting responses from the creator if they want to ask something they don't understand about a video. Because some of the creators are native speakers, students feel that the creators speak too fast in delivering a material. So students have to re-watch the video to be able to capture the meaning. Even so, TikTok has the potential to be one of the best independent English learning media for students.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, students have positive perception on the use of TikTok for learning English. They stated that TikTok provides opportunities for them to improve their English skills. Learning English on TikTok is fun, stress-free and they can enjoy learning more. So that it can increase their learning motivation. TikTok also allows students to be able to learn independently. In addition, TikTok has many advantages such as easy to access, there are many videos with various English topics, interesting contents and easy to understand, students can learn directly from native speakers, can be accessed anywhere and anytime for free and provide opportunities for students to get English communities, new friends, new knowledge, English modules, and information about new ways to learn English. Learning on TikTok, students can save videos, re-watch and practice them or by writing some notes. They can also follow the accounts they like. Students also mentioned the challenges they faced while learning English on TikTok, namely internet network problems, fees for internet quotas, random videos that can interfere with learning concentration, small opportunities to get responses from creators. Although it has weaknesses, TikTok is very worthy to be considered as a media for learning English.

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