

College Students' Perception of Using Tiktok to Learn Vocabulary

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Abstract

Technology has significantly changed how learning and teaching are done in recent years. TikTok is one of the technological tools that many younger generations use today. The most crucial aspect of a language is vocabulary; using this appealing tool, learners can expand their vocabulary. By watching videos and following accounts that can provide English vocabulary lessons, TikTok social media users can also learn new words and phrases more interestingly and interactively. This study uses a quantitative method to study the perceptions of Informatics Engineering students at Cendekia Abditama University in using social media TikTok to increase English vocabulary and how TikTok video content can contribute to students' vocabulary learning goals so that their English vocabulary can increase. Data for the study are gathered quantitatively through a survey questionnaire. There are 50 Informatics Engineering students involved. The results show that students have a favorable perception toward utilizing TikTok to learn English vocabulary. Students also point out that TikTok provides a variety of tools and settings that help to increase English vocabulary.

Keywords: Tiktok, English Vocabulary, College Student's Perspective

Abstrak

Teknologi telah secara signifikan mengubah cara belajar dan mengajar dilakukan dalam beberapa tahun terakhir. TikTok merupakan salah satu alat teknologi yang banyak digunakan oleh generasi muda saat ini. Aspek terpenting dari suatu bahasa adalah kosakata; dengan menggunakan alat yang menarik ini, pelajar dapat memperluas kosakata mereka. Dengan menonton video dan mengikuti akun yang dapat memberikan pelajaran kosakata bahasa Inggris, pengguna media sosial TikTok juga dapat mempelajari kata dan frasa baru dengan lebih menarik dan interaktif. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kuantitatif untuk mempelajari persepsi mahasiswa Teknik Informatika Universitas Scholar Abditama dalam menggunakan media sosial TikTok untuk meningkatkan kosakata bahasa Inggris dan bagaimana konten video TikTok dapat berkontribusi terhadap tujuan pembelajaran kosakata siswa sehingga kosakata bahasa Inggrisnya dapat meningkat. Data untuk penelitian ini dikumpulkan secara kuantitatif melalui kuesioner survei. Mahasiswa Teknik Informatika yang terlibat berjumlah 50 orang. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa siswa memiliki persepsi yang baik terhadap penggunaan TikTok untuk mempelajari kosakata bahasa Inggris. Siswa juga menunjukkan bahwa TikTok menyediakan berbagai alat dan pengaturan yang membantu meningkatkan kosakata bahasa Inggris.

Kata Kunci: Tiktok, Kosakata Bahasa Inggris, Sudut Pandang Mahasiswa

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Received 7 January 2024, Accepted 13 January 2024, Published 13 January 2024

INTRODUCTION

Words are tools to communicate and understand others. People must use words to convey their ideas, messages, and opinions. Communicating and understanding each other will be better if people have a broad vocabulary (Schmitt, 2005, p. 55). Vocabulary is defined as a group of words used and expressed by speakers. Normally, vocabulary is a word collection that is arranged alphabetically. Each word has its definition and explanation (Barnhart, 2008, p. 697). Vocabulary is considered one of the most important language components to learn. Vocabulary is important since it is the basis for all language skills (Bai, 2018, p. 849). For English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners, having

enough vocabulary will help them in reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing, and speaking or communicating. With enough vocabulary, learners can learn English more effectively (Feng, Y., & Webb, S., 2020, p. 499).

In this era, most students have found certain ways to learn English and get exposure to a wide range of vocabulary. Social media is one of the online tools that is often used by students now. Almost all of the young generation today is literate about technology and its components, including social media. Most EFL learners enjoy using social media to learn English. They try to find content about English lessons on some social media platforms. Some research has also shown that learning English through social media helps students increase their English proficiency (Sidgi, L. F. S., 2021, p.92). Thus, the impact of technology integration on acquiring and learning English is very huge. Using applications for educational purposes can increase learners' impulses, self-study habits, and confidence in novel language learning; apps are also beneficial for learners in new vocabulary acquisition (Wang, 2017).

As technology continues to shape the landscape of education, it is crucial to adapt instructional methods to align with the preferences and habits of contemporary learners. This research aspires to contribute valuable insights into the evolving relationship between social media, technology, and language education, with a specific focus on the untapped potential of TikTok in the realm of vocabulary learning among college students. By examining perceptions, challenges, and opportunities, this study aims to inform educators, curriculum developers, and researchers about the feasibility and efficacy of incorporating TikTok into language learning curricula. The study will delve into the unique characteristics of TikTok, such as its brevity, visual appeal, and user-generated content, and assess how these elements may impact the learning process. Additionally, we will explore the role of social interaction within the TikTok community and its potential influence on collaborative learning. Understanding the socio-cultural dynamics of TikTok as a learning tool is essential for discerning its viability within the academic context.

In the rapidly evolving landscape of education and technology, the integration of social media platforms into learning environments has become increasingly prevalent. One such platform that has gained immense popularity, especially among the younger demographic, is TikTok. Originally recognized for its entertaining short-form videos, TikTok has evolved into a multifaceted tool with potential educational applications. This research aims to investigate college students' perceptions of using TikTok as a novel and engaging medium for vocabulary learning. Language acquisition is a dynamic process, and educators continually seek innovative methods to enhance students' engagement and retention of new information. Traditional approaches to vocabulary learning often involve textbooks, flashcards, and classroom lectures. However, the pervasive use of smartphones and social media platforms among college students opens up new possibilities for incorporating technology into language education.

Social media and apps have their own mechanism that allows students to learn independently and to practice self-regulation learning. One of the apps is called TikTok. TikTok is an app that appeared in 2016 and is one of the most downloaded applications today (Yang, 2020). According to Hayes, Stott, Lamb, and Hurst (2020), TikTok is recognized around the world and it is an app where users can generate their own 15- to 60-second videos. TikTok, with its user-friendly interface and diverse content, provides an intriguing avenue for exploring alternative educational methods. This research seeks to understand how college students perceive the integration of TikTok into their vocabulary learning experiences. TikTok has been examined for its pedagogical potential, notably in the context of employing brief educational videos to aid learners in speaking, pronouncing, and writing English. TikTok has developed into a valuable tool for pedagogically teaching English to people learning it as a second language (Xiuwen, Z., & Razali, A. B., 2021).

Learners can see how native speakers interact and express themselves on TikTok, which offers a platform for real-life language usage. They can come across a range of terminology and acquire exposure to colloquial language that may not be found in formal language materials by watching films in English. Learning English vocabulary on TikTok can be a fun and practical approach to advancing your language abilities. Some TikTok creators provide brief vocabulary lectures using mnemonic devices or visual aids to aid students in remembering new terms (Fahdin, R. G. P., 2020). These classes are frequently made to be interesting and engaging so that students will remember the material better. By watching videos and following accounts that provide English vocabulary lessons, users can learn new words and phrases in a more engaging and interactive way.

Videos teaching languages are among the educational content many TikTok users provide. There are creators who focus on imparting vocabulary instruction, delving into word definitions, or offering language learning advice. These little films might be a fun way to pick up new vocabulary (Nur Aziz, I., & Sabella, R. H., 2021, p. 408). Moreover, the challenges and trends on TikTok are well-known, and they frequently involve the use of imaginative and expressive language. By taking part in these challenges, you might learn new vocabulary words, idioms, slang, and everyday phrases that are currently in use in the neighborhood.

Identification of the Problem

1. What is the Informatics Engineering student's perception of learning English vocabulary through TikTok?
2. How does the TikTok app help Informatics Engineering students learn vocabulary in English?

The Objective of the Research

The objective of this research is to know how students of Informatics Engineering feel about using TikTok to acquire English vocabulary and how TikTok helps them in vocabulary learning.

Review Of Related Literature

Definition of Vocabulary Learning

Vocabulary proficiency is frequently seen as a crucial component of foreign language learning since poor communication is caused by a restricted vocabulary in a second language. Schmitt (2000) highlights that lexical knowledge is essential to communicative competence and the learning of a second language when taking into account the significance of vocabulary acquisition. Vocabulary ability facilitates language use, and vice versa. Vocabulary knowledge grows as a result of language use. Every day and outside of campuses, the value of words is demonstrated. The most proficient vocabulary is found among the highest-achieving learners in the classroom. According to Laufer and Nation (1997); Nation (2001; 2005); Maximo (2000); Read (2000; 2004); Gu (2003); Marion (2008); Susanto (2016); and Nation (2001), vocabulary building is crucial for proficient foreign language use and is crucial for producing coherent spoken and written documents. All language skills, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing, rely heavily on learning vocabulary (Nation, 2001).

Additionally, developing an adequate vocabulary is crucial for effectively using a foreign language since without a wide vocabulary, a language learner will be unable to employ the grammar rules and functions they may have acquired for clear communication (Alqahtani, 2015). For a learner to fully comprehend a language, mastery of the vocabulary is essential. Understanding other people's words and being able to articulate our own views both require a strong vocabulary. Furthermore, according to Alqahtani (2015), acquiring a sufficient vocabulary is crucial for successfully using a foreign language because, without a wide vocabulary, a language learner will be unable to use the structures and functions they may have learned for understandable communication.

From the explanation above, it can be inferred that acquiring a language's word meanings and applications is the process of developing one's vocabulary. Although it may take some time, vocabulary is still a crucial part of language learning. Intentional approaches such as using dictionaries or training can be used to directly teach vocabulary, or it can be indirectly taught through being exposed to spoken and written language. It takes repetition and practice to pick up new words.

TikTok as a Medium of Learning

Social media is used for self-expression and personal branding in addition to communication and interaction. Social networking is a source of entertainment that everyone can use to beat exhaustion or boredom. In addition to social media, which enables message exchange with numerous individuals, there are numerous media that people can use as tools for communication, including news (information), photos (photos), and links. Social media is a platform that allows for the creation of several communication channels and the provision of numerous information sources for all users. Each person has the ability to interact with members of all social groups using social media. TikTok is one of the social media platforms that students can use frequently today. The social media platform TikTok is an audio-visual platform that can be both seen and heard. The fact that TikTok can keep students entertained when they are bored makes them feel enthusiastic to use the platform. On TikTok, students may watch a range of videos on social media with different musical expressions,

especially students. Therefore, it can be said that it is now conceivable to consider TikTok as a tool for language acquisition. Videos on TikTok frequently feature multiple languages. Both in their native tongue and in English, many users produce content. It can be concluded that TikTok is a fun platform for hearing accents and real conversation. Needless to say how many grammatical and vocabulary examples you can find. The best means to learn a language are quickly moving onto social media platforms, and TikTok is no exception. You can communicate with other students by commenting on and sharing videos on the app.

METHOD

This study used a quantitative method to study the perception of Informatics Engineering students at the University of Cendekia Abditama in using TikTok to increase their English vocabulary and how TikTok's video content contributes to their goal of learning vocabulary. An online survey through Google Forms was conducted and the link was spread via WhatsApp. The survey consisted of 20 questions using Likert Scale and was adopted from previous research (Alghameeti, 2022). The participants of this study consisted of 50 students majoring in Informatics Engineering. The data collected was then examined to see how the participants felt about utilizing TikTok to acquire English vocabulary and how this media helped them to enrich their English vocabulary.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The participants were 50 Informatics Engineering students who are in their early 20s. Most of these students have a TikTok account and have actively used the app for around 2 years.

Table 1. Number of Participants in the Study

Population'	Total	Percentage
Male	28	66%
Female	22	34%
Total	50	100%

Table 2. Learner's Attitude and Perception toward Using TikTok in Learning English Vocabulary

No	Question	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Neutral	2 Disagree	1 Strongly Disagree
1.	TikTok effectively accelerated my language study	26 (52%)	15 (30%)	6 (12%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)
2.	TikTok effectively improved my language learning	26 (52%)	14 (28%)	5 (10%)	4 (8%)	1 (2%)
3.	It is convenient for me to study English with TikTok.	35 (70%)	10 (20%)	2 (4%)	2 (4%)	1 (2%)
4.	TikTok application helped my	25	15	7	1	2

	vocabulary retention and usage	(50%)	(30%)	(14%)	(2%)	(4%)
5.	In the future, I will use TikTok to practice my vocabulary	33 (66%)	11 (22%)	2 (4%)	2 (4%)	2 (4%)
6.	I will keep using TikTok to learn new words.	25 (50%)	15 (30%)	7 (14%)	2 (4%)	1 (2%)
7.	I am eager to use TikTok to learn new words.	33 (66%)	12 (24%)	3 (6%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)
8.	I use TikTok to share new vocabulary with friends	20 (40%)	20 (40%)	7 (14%)	2 (4%)	1 (2%)

*Strongly agree=5 Agree=4 Not certain=3 Disagree=2 strongly disagree=1

Table 2 shows the learners' feedback and perceptions on using the TikTok app to learn and improve their English vocabulary. Fifty-two percent of the students strongly felt that TikTok increased their productivity in learning English. They also felt that TikTok has improved their language acquisition. Further, 70% of the participants stated that learning English with TikTok is convenient for them. The use of TikTok aided in language retention, according to more than half of the participants. Furthermore, more than 50% of participants strongly agreed that they would use TikTok to acquire English vocabulary or learn new words in the future. A majority of participants expressed excitement about learning a language using TikTok and sharing new terminology with their friends.

Table 3. TikTok Videos Contribution to Expanding the English Language Vocabulary

No	Item	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Neutral	2 Disagree	1 Strongly Disagree
1.	Using TikTok to study vocabulary is a fun method to learn a language.	28 (56%)	12 (24%)	6 (12%)	4 (8%)	0 (0%)
2.	Using TikTok is simple.	37 (74%)	10 (20%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
3.	I found it simple to find information through TikTok.	32 (64%)	14 (28%)	2 (4%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)
4.	I found some obstacles in learning vocabulary through TikTok	7 (14%)	9 (18%)	9 (18%)	10 (20%)	15 (30%)
5.	The use of TikTok is a waste of time when learning new words.	5 (10%)	8 (18%)	10 (20%)	14 (28%)	13 (26%)
6.	TikTok use enhanced the	24	18	5	3	0

	likelihood of acquiring new words.	(48%)	(36%)	(10%)	(6%)	(0%)
7.	TikTok provided a variety of vocabulary study options.	25 (50%)	20 (40%)	4 (8%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)
8.	TikTok's vocabulary lessons are engaging and interesting for learners.	28 (56%)	18 (36%)	4 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
9.	TikTok makes it quicker to share vocabulary-related information.	25 (50%)	16 (32%)	5 (10%)	2 (4%)	2 (4%)
10.	Vocabulary through TikTok saves the time	25 (50%)	17 (34%)	4 (8%)	4 (8%)	0 (0%)
11.	The difficulty level for learning a language with TikTok varied.	10 (20%)	12 (24%)	16 (32%)	6 (12%)	6 (12%)
12.	TikTok has proven helpful to me as I learn the English language.	25 (50%)	15 (30%)	9 (18%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)

Table 3 shows that 56% of the learners strongly agreed that learning vocabulary on TikTok is an enjoyable way to learn, whereas 8% disagreed. 33 participants (74%) agreed TikTok was simple to use. Significantly, 32 students (64%) stated that they were skilled at finding information on TikTok. Further, in total, there were 25 students (50%) strongly disagreed and disagreed that TikTok might obstruct vocabulary learning and that using the app was a waste of time for vocabulary study. Most students also strongly agreed that the use of TikTok increased their probability of learning new words. They also stated that numerous possibilities for language study were available on TikTok. 92% of the students strongly agreed and agreed that the vocabulary courses on TikTok are exciting and appealing for students. 25 students (50%) strongly agreed that spreading vocabulary-related knowledge via TikTok takes less time, while 2 students (4%) disagreed. In addition, 25 students (50%) also firmly felt that TikTok saved time when learning vocabulary, and four students (8%) were unsure if TikTok saved time when learning vocabulary. Additionally, half of the students (50%) also felt that TikTok is helpful for them to learn English. While one participant (2%) disagreed that TikTok aids them in learning vocabulary.

Discussion

The results of the survey show that students have a positive view toward utilizing TikTok to acquire vocabulary in the English language. Based on the data, it shows that most students agreed that Tiktok can be employed as a learning tool. The majority of the students also acknowledged that

learning through TikTok can significantly enhance their ability to grasp new vocabulary while watching various English content in videos on TikTok. Moreover, due to the various vocabulary levels it offers, TikTok considerably aids in the improvement of learners' English vocabulary (Pratiwi, A. E., Ufairah, N. N., & Sopiah, R. S., 2021). Additionally, TikTok's numerous appealing elements effectively aid in increasing students' vocabularies. Using a video's subtitles and captions, users of TikTok can learn a variety of fresh terms (Adnan, N. I., Ramli, S., & Ismail, I. N., 2021). Additionally, TikTok lets users share movies with their peers, making it simple to disseminate information (Alam, S., 2022). Thus, the majority of students support TikTok and stated that they would use it regularly in the future to pick up new terminology. Similarly, a study conducted by Melvira and Victorine (2023) confirmed that TikTok allows learners to use their phone anywhere and anytime they want, therefore the learning experience is unlimited. Further, videos shared on TikTok help learners recognize and comprehend new terminology and expose them to real-world situations where they can effectively hone their language skills. TikTok is also a time-saving tool for vocabulary learning because it allows users to quickly locate vocabulary material without having to spend a lot of time browsing new words. This is due to the fact that TikTok displays videos according to user interests, which are derived from their likes and searches. This improves opportunities for vocabulary learning (Li, Rodriguez, & Yu, 2020).

With the use of cutting-edge technology, such as TikTok, English vocabulary acquisition becomes a form of unconscious learning. Trendy videos are used to simultaneously engage learners and impart useful knowledge. Because users may bookmark or "like" TikTok videos, which allows them to reopen the videos and recall the new words, learners verified that utilizing TikTok improves vocabulary retention and usage (Abbas, A., Gulzar, R., & Hussain, Z. 2019). TikTok videos frequently feature different images of a word, which helps students memorize new words more quickly. By pausing the movie or turning the volume off as needed, learners can reopen stored films and make an effort to remember words.

Several TikTok videos also contain videos which are English lyrics or popular movie scenes which make students easier to pick up new words by listening to pronunciation cues, reading the phrases, or even imitating the movies. This helps learners efficiently memorize new words and provides the chance for word discovery (Bakeer, A. M., 2018, p.45). Features on most social media today, including TikTok are appealing so that they could easily attract the young generation to use the apps. TikTok allows these users to learn new knowledge and skills. They feel motivated and at the same time entertained to watch videos that are in English.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, TikTok is a technology instrument that strongly impacts many different sectors, including teaching and learning. The usage of TikTok in language learning increases students' motivation to learn, and it is successful in acquiring English vocabulary. The findings of this study

show that Informatics Engineering students at the University of Cendekia Abditama have a positive perception of using TikTok to increase their vocabulary because TikTok offers a variety of features that make it easier to acquire new words. TikTok is a pleasant and appealing approach to learning, therefore it considerably improves and draws the participants to learn unique words. TikTok can be a fun and additional resource for learning vocabulary, but it's crucial to remember that it shouldn't be the only source of language learning. TikTok should always be used alongside with more formal and comprehensive methods of learning, such as books, language learning software, classes, or language exchange with native speakers.

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