



Utilizing TikTok Application in Learning English for EFL University Students in Indonesia

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Abstract. Naturally, in today's digital age, learning also involves keeping up with changes via digital media. Among the most popular new forms of education today, social media is a game-changer. The goal of the TikTok app is to facilitate the development of fresh, engaging, and interactive educational material in English for both students and teachers. Considering this, the objective of this article is to examine if the TikTok app may be used to learn English in the present day. By surveying studies on the subject of how to use the TikTok app to sharpen one's English, this article takes a literature review method. A literature search was conducted using Google Scholar using the keyword "TikTok Application in Learning English" to discover the sources for this research. From 2018 all the way until 2023, the inquiry was underway. In order to get its data, this study used 10 research publications. The findings show that the TikTok app has the potential to be an innovative and accessible resource for ESL instruction and student development. There are several advantages to the app for both students and educators. It may spark students' interest in the topic and encourage them to think creatively, it allows for two-way contact between the two groups, and it lets users view movies with engaging visuals multiple times.

Keywords: *TikTok application, digital era, learning media*

Introduction

Often referred to as the Fourth Industrial Revolution or just the "digital era," this period began with the broad use of digital technologies and AI. The ways people work, interact, and live are changing at this time. In this, the "Era 4.0," phase of industrial and technical development, digital, physical, and biological technologies are coming together.

Businesses, hospitals, and classrooms are just a few areas that have felt the profound impacts of the digital age. Numerous facets of daily life may now be mechanized and integrated with the use of digital technology. This includes transportation networks, health management, and the manufacturing and distribution of products and services. Some examples of such fields include the IoT, blockchain, machine learning, virtual reality, augmented reality, open artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things (IoT).

The existence of AI and robotics also plays an important role in the digital age, with the potential to replace many human jobs with robots and automation systems. On the other hand, AI and related technologies are driving major advances in health medicine and diagnostics, as well as providing new capabilities to support public policies and accelerate scientific discoveries.

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One sector impacted by the digital age is education as well. Through online platforms and applications, the digital age facilitates online learning and remote education while also requiring new competencies in digital literacy and technology. Overall, the digital era is accelerating technological progress and changing the way humans interact with the world around them, with a significant impact on various areas of life. To remain relevant in the digital age, humans need to adapt to new technologies and acquire new skills in terms of technology development and understanding (Marzuki, 2019; Marzuki & Kuliahana, 2021).

Because it is a worldwide language utilized for global communication in a variety of industries, including commerce and technology, English is crucial in the digital age. In the digital era, proficiency in English is becoming increasingly important because many resources and information in technology, business, and science are delivered in English (Marzuki, 2017).

The 21st century, which is quickly turning into an entirely digital age due to rapidly advancing technology, encourages educational innovations that students may utilize and access with ease through social media. Currently, using social media as a learning medium can be a good strategy because social media is highly favored by students. With the emergence of various application platforms that provide video creation with interesting things, given how much video information is shared on social media, it appears that smartphone users are becoming more and more governed by the digital age. (Fahdin, 2020; Hanim, 2021; Fatimah et al., 2021; Mana, 2021). There are four main purposes for using social media applications: entertainment, outreach, information, and academics. From various social media such as Youtube, Instagram, and TikTok applications, TikTok is an application that is often used by students and is much loved by all groups and users, which has increased rapidly over the past two years and is increasingly in demand since the COVID-19 pandemic (Yang, 2020; Zubaidi et al., 2021; Zaitun et al., 2021; Wiranda, 2023). Based on data obtained from the Ministry of Communication and Informatics, or KOMINFO, the number of people using the internet in Indonesia is 64 million, of whom 10 million are users of the TikTok application. The TikTok application is gaining popularity because it has many features that make students not bored and even addicted (Resmini et al., 2021; Waloyo et al., 2022; Khasanah, 2022; Herlisya & Wiratno, 2022). The popularity of the TikTok application community lends credence to this argument because of the platform's many distinctive features, which include the ability to add music, delete comments, block users, voice-changing filters, sticker filters, live features, and video effects. Furthermore, TikTok offers a range of time options, ranging from 15 to 60 seconds to 3 to 5 minutes. With the TikTok app, users can make engaging videos and engage with them through private messages and comments.. (Ramadhan, 2020; Irianto & Al-Amin, 2021; Afidah et al., 2021; Bahri et al., 2022; Duan, 2023).

At first, the TikTok application was seen as a social media that only had a negative impact because it was considered only useful for watching videos that were not useful, so it could make people using the application lose track of time. However, over time, the Tiktok application has also had a positive impact on learning and education. This is because, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergence of teachers or educators also involved in using TikTok and providing education, students can directly learn and gain new knowledge by watching the video for 60 seconds. In education, perhaps the most powerful use of TikTok is teacher-made videos that students can watch over and over again. There have been many videos on social media TikTok containing English material, such as tenses, vocabulary, and pronunciation (Tafonao, 2018; Warini, 2020; Xiuwen & Razali, 2021; Ramdani, 2021; Yovita & Purnamaningsih, 2022; Simanungkalit & Katemba, 2023). Students can learn English material not only at school but also at home by using social media. Just by searching for these keywords, all of the material will appear.

TikTok is a potentially useful educational invention that makes use of social media, which is extensively utilized for both learning and enjoyment. The main issue under investigation in this research is "How do students use the TikTok app to learn English? The

purpose of this study is to determine how English language learners in the digital age can utilize the TikTok app. It is intended that this research will help students learn English and that instructors can employ easily navigable learning resources to enhance instruction in the digital age.

Theoretical Framework

TikTok is among the most widely used social media platforms (Ferstephanie & Pratiwi, 2021). A popular app among young people is TikTok, which allows users to upload short videos. Anyone can view and upload any kind of video on TikTok. TikTok can now be utilized as a resource for English language study materials in addition to being used for amusement. On TikTok, you may find a wide variety of videos, including ones with English content, duet challenges, song lyrics, lip sync videos, cookery videos, and health videos. Although users cannot select which videos to view on TikTok, a variety of factors, including user interactions with an account, hashtag usage, and accounts followed, frequently watched video content, and more, can affect how films show on an account. For instance, if a user of TikTok frequently views and enjoys English-language videos, the homepage of TikTok will consistently feature English-language videos. There are currently a lot of accounts that talk only about English. In order for pupils to use TikTok, an easily accessible English learning platform through gadgets outside of the classroom.

Students can enhance their speaking abilities by utilizing the TikTok application while learning English. Students' auditory comprehension of English can also be enhanced by TikTok content. The second most popular social media site for English language study is TikTok, which is often used by English teachers for remote instruction. This suggests that TikTok can be used to help people improve their English language skills and learn the language (Safitri, 2021).

Similar to other educational materials, TikTok has both benefits and drawbacks for students seeking to enhance their English language skills. Every student views TikTok as a medium for English language study in a different way. Because of this, the purpose of this study is to determine how students use TikTok to learn and how they perceive it as a tool for autonomous English language acquisition. Through the process of transferring information into the brain through perception, humans are still able to interact with their surroundings through their five senses. The process by which individuals organize and make sense of their sensory experiences is known as perception. It is the procedure by which an individual is exposed to a stimuli through their senses. Students' perceptions can offer details or a summary of how they use TikTok for learning, as well as whether or not using the platform to learn English can actually help them become more fluent in the language ((Slameto, 2015).

TikTok is not only a place to share creative short videos, but also has great potential in improving English learning. Some of the important roles of TikTok in the context of English learning are as follows (Yang, 2020; Hanim, 2021; Nur Aziz & Sabella, 2021; Ardiyanti et al., 2021):

Creativity in Learning, TikTok allows users to create creative videos of short duration. In the context of learning English, students can express ideas, tell stories, or practice speaking in English through this video format. Students' enthusiasm in studying English might be boosted by the creative opportunities provided by TikTok. Speaking more fluently is a key component of mastering a new language. Students may use TikTok to make and share movies, which is a great way to practice speaking English. Students' self-assurance and proficiency in public speaking may both benefit from this. In terms of cultural context learning, TikTok has a wide range of material that represents the culture and everyday lives of people from all over the globe. Following stories pertaining to English may help students get a better grasp of the language by exposing them to different accents, expressions, and cultural contexts.

With TikTok, people may work together on projects and engage in social media. Students may form groups and collaborate on video projects or answer English language

difficulties. Students are more likely to participate actively in class and in social activities as a result of this. Among TikTok's many educational features and English lessons are interactive learning resources, which include user-generated videos. This tool is great for educators who want to supplement their lessons with supplementary materials or who want to encourage students to watch films on certain subjects.

By bringing together artistic expression, public speaking, cultural awareness, social cooperation, and interactive educational materials, TikTok has the potential to be a powerful tool for students of English as a second language. It is critical, however, to employ TikTok in educational settings with caution and in line with the intended learning goals. By harnessing the potential of TikTok, English learning can become more interesting and effective for students (Hanim, 2021; Nur Aziz & Sabella, 2021).

Materials and Method

This research uses the library study method by analyzing literature that is related and also related to research, which of course supports the results of research through library research (Fink, 2019). In order to collect data, different publications related to the research topic are gathered. The literature sources used in this research were searched via Google Scholar using the keyword TikTok Application in Learning English. The search was carried out from 2018 to 2023. The stages of the literature study method in the research were: literature search using Google Scholar and obtained 23 journal articles. The search results for the 23 articles were then analyzed based on title, abstract and keywords, resulting in 17 articles that were processed and 6 articles that were not reprocessed, then the 17 journals that were processed were then analyzed again based on the content of the journal. The results of the analysis based on the contents of the journals showed that there were 13 journals that would be reprocessed and 4 journals that were not reprocessed. The 13 journals that were reprocessed are then analyzed again based on the reference list taken from the last 5 years starting from 2018 to 2023. After all this process is carried out, 10 journal articles are obtained that are relevant to this research.

The steps taken in this literature study method are: (1) collecting literature material in the form of data information whose source comes from scientific journals; (2) reading literature with the aim of getting information in the reading material so as to find new ideas related to the research title in order to obtain maximum results; (3) make research notes, read the material and then draw a conclusion in the form of a report; (4) analyzing research notes, the material that has been read is then analyzed to obtain a conclusion which is prepared in the form of a research report.

Results and Discussion

Results

The ever-changing world of social media and digital communication has forced traditional language learning techniques to adapt and include new, captivating platforms that draw in and hold the attention of students. The TikTok app is one such platform that has become extremely popular, particularly among younger people. TikTok, which was first created for short-form video content and amusement, has become a distinctive and unusual English language learning resource.

The incorporation of TikTok into language learning approaches, emphasizing the platform's capacity to improve communication abilities, cultural awareness, and language learning. Teachers and students alike may make language learning an immersive and captivating experience by utilizing TikTok's innovative and interactive features.

The focus of the study is to examine if the TikTok app may be used to learn English in the present day. By surveying studies on the subject of how to use the TikTok app to sharpen one's English, this article takes a literature review method. The results of the analysis can be shown in the following table:

Table 1: Literature Review Results

No.	Articles	Main Results
1.	Article 1 (Lindade, 2020)	With TikTok, it is without a doubt that it holds massive potential, especially for students learning English and developing 21 st century skills. Students using the app are better positioned to develop creativity, speaking, or even editing skill when sharing learning videos.
2.	Article 2 (Ardiyanti et al., 2021)	TikTok has transcended its initial reputation as a platform for dance challenges and viral trends. Educators and learners are increasingly recognizing its potential as a supplementary tool for language acquisition. The platform's user-friendly interface, diverse content, and vast user base make it an attractive medium for language learners seeking authentic and context-rich language experiences.
3.	Article 3 (Karami & Rif'ah, 2021)	The use of TikTok is very easy to access and provides audiovisual features that can be used as an alternative language learning media in this era. Language learning using audio-visual media will attract students' attention so that they do not get bored easily and can easily understand the material presented. Apart from that, not only students benefit in the form of knowledge from the videos they watch, but content creators (video makers) also benefit in the form of money.
4.	Article 4 (Marlisa et al., 2022)	Unlike traditional language learning materials, TikTok provides a platform for authentic language use in real-life situations. Users share content that reflects their daily lives, conversations, and cultural practices. This exposure helps learners develop a more natural grasp of the language, including colloquial expressions and cultural references.
5.	Article 5 (Novitasari & Addinna, 2022)	Learning English by using TikTok can improve students' 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.
6.	Article 6 (Nur Aziz & Sabella, 2021)	TikTok application can encourage the fluency of students speaking ability, that was proven by seeing students' scores before and after giving the treatment that using TikTok as the media of learning was different, the score before giving the treatment was low, but after giving the treatment using TikTok application the students' score was higher than before.
7.	Article 7 (Nurhasanah & Lestari, 2021)	The TikTok application is one of the things that has the most influence on language development. It cannot be denied that everything has a positive or negative influence. Therefore, parents and educators must pay more attention to the language information received by elementary school students so that their language development refers to more positive things.
8.	Article 8 (Syafri & Kulsum, 2021)	Using TikTok as a Civics Learning media really helps teachers to explain lesson material. This can attract students' interest in the learning process. (3) TikTok has become an alternative and attractive learning media. This is in line with Kolb's experiential learning (abstract conceptualization, concrete experience, active experimentation, and reflective observation). Broadly speaking, this application can attract students' interest, creativity and motivation when learning.
9.	Article 9 (Syamsi, 2022)	The use of tiktok media with the Project Based Learning learning model for English subjects can increase the learning motivation of grade 8 MTSS Bontote'ne students with very good results
10.	Article 10 (Pratama & Hastuti, 2023)	TikTok's emphasis on user-generated content encourages learners to create their own videos, fostering a sense of community and collaboration. Peer interaction plays a crucial role in language learning, and TikTok provides a space for learners to engage with one another, share language tips, and receive feedback on their language proficiency.

Discussion

Learning media is a tool for transmitting messages from senders to recipients in order to pique recipients' interest in students' education and to elicit their opinions and feelings. There are many kinds of learning media that can be used by educators, especially teachers today. Various learning media that are carried out online can take advantage of various platforms in the internet network, interaction, and facilitation to support learning services (Lindade, 2020; Ardiyanti et al., 2021; Karami & Rif'ah, 2021; Marlisa et al., 2022; Novitasari & Addinna, 2022). Using online learning resources has the benefit of allowing for independent learning. High levels of interaction also help to improve memory and offer a greater variety of learning opportunities through the use of text, audio, video, and animation as informational mediums (Nur Aziz & Sabella, 2021; Nurhasanah & Lestari, 2021; Syafri & Kulsum, 2021; Syamsi, 2022; Pratama & Hastuti, 2023). Based on this, it can be concluded that learning media is the most important thing for the learning process for students.

The TikTok application was launched and developed by a Chinese company, ByteDance, in 2016. According to Hanim (2021), TikTok is one of the most popular apps worldwide, has the quickest rate of growth, and is ranked seventh in terms of downloads over the past ten years. There are hundreds of millions of users of this app, many of them are kids and teenagers. One way to learn English, specifically listening abilities, is to utilize the TikTok app. It is evident that audio-visual learning materials are required to support listening comprehension, and based on the features provided, the Tik Tok app can meet the characters' audio-visual needs (Pratiwi et al., 2021; Utami, 2021; Yovita & Purnamaningsih, 2022).

The speaking feature of the TikTok app makes it simple and adaptable for users to add background noises. The Tik Tok app can process words that represent or convey goals, ideas, emotions, and feelings that are formed and arranged in accordance with the requirements of listeners using the characteristics that are now in place. It seems that the TikTok app can supplement students' reading with knowledge in addition to amusement, based on the reading objectives, which are separated into two categories: reading for leisure and reading for information collection. Writing is one of the language abilities that gets emphasis in language instruction, especially in Indonesian, because it is so vital. The teacher's job as a classroom learning designer determines the caliber of the writing process and the outcomes of the students' writing abilities. In using the TikTok application as a learning medium, of course, there are advantages and disadvantages, namely: 1. Flexible and practical, which is easy to find and watch anywhere. 2. Videos can be downloaded, and students can watch them repeatedly when they are not using a quota. The weakness is that the videos in the TikTok application have more entertainment content (Karami & Rif'ah, 2021; Marlisa et al., 2022). This suggests that using the TikTok app, which students currently use on a daily basis, could be a new way for them to learn English. In addition, incorporating TikTok into the English language learning curriculum for EFL university students in Indonesia can enhance engagement, foster creativity, and provide an authentic and enjoyable language learning experience. It's important to strike a balance between fun and educational content while addressing any potential challenges or concerns.

According to several research, a lot of respondents utilize the TikTok app for their studies since it offers a lot of advantages, such advice, tricks, and recommendations, and it can help them learn more about conducting business (Tafonao, 2018; Warini, 2020). Because it makes learning simple and enjoyable, people who use the TikTok app have a significant impact. They can conduct business, watch entertaining videos, and readily learn about current events without having to go far. In addition, a lot of respondents reported that their pronunciation had improved; nevertheless, some reported no progress at all as they did not utilize TikTok. Based on his research, it can be said that TikTok can be a useful tool for teaching English pronunciation to students since it offers a lot of advantages and works well for both teachers and learners. A further investigation was carried out to examine the possibilities of TikTok and its influence on English communication proficiency. They said that

TikTok, a company that specializes in teaching English to young people, seized the chance to develop a cutting-edge digital learning platform for EFL students using the TikTok app during or even after the COVID-19 outbreak. (Pratiwi et al., 2021; Utami, 2021). A second study that made use of Classroom Action Research sought to investigate how TikTok affected students' motivation to talk, demonstrating that they were content and enjoyed picking up new abilities from using the app. TikTok has been a very participatory and successful tool for improving student speaking abilities, as evidenced by the sharp rise in student test scores (Zaitun et al., 2021; Wiranda, 2023).

Yang (2020) in his study, the results showed that most of the participants agreed to integrate the social media application TikTok into the EFL class as a video aid because TikTok can increase their interest and motivation in learning English in class, enrich teaching activities in class, and broaden their English knowledge. In addition, most of the participants are willing to use TikTok to learn English outside the classroom as an English learning strategy.

Other research' findings also support the idea that students have of utilizing TikTok to help them learn how to write descriptive writings. Because they are engaged and paying attention, students can become more motivated while using TikTok in the learning process. The TikTok app is enhanced with a variety of tasks that might be created to encourage kids to write in an engaging manner based on their preferences. Students in this study responded positively and at a high level to 15 questionnaire items. There are no questionnaire items at moderate, low, or very low levels. The conclusion from this research is that the use of TikTok provides positive benefits and influences for students in learning to write descriptive text (Syafri & Kulsum, 2021; Syamsi, 2022). Another study with English language education student participants showed that the development of learning media through educational video TikTok content on hortatory exposition texts in writing for professional context classes is something new and can be an alternative for lecturers who want to use this product (Marlisa et al., 2022).

By watching vocabulary material, students will see new vocabulary that they usually don't know, which will increase their vocabulary knowledge. English tenses material is material that students consider to have high difficulty because there are many types of tenses that they have to memorize. However, watching an interesting tenses video like the one below can make them watch the video over and over again.

According to studies by Ardiyanti et al. (2021), students can make the TikTok app an engaging and dynamic learning tool. This application has several aspects that make it useful as a learning tool, including the following: 1. The voice recording feature, which uses the device to capture audio and then uploads it to a user's TikTok account, 2. The device is used to record video, which is subsequently uploaded to a user's TikTok account. 3. Users can add background noises by downloading them from the TikTok application's storage media using the back sound option. 4. The edit option lets you refine and edit videos that have already been drafted. 5. The function sharing feature is used to share videos that are made. 6. The duet feature works to collaborate between TikTok application users.

Conclusion

The TikTok application is a new innovation as a learning medium for the world of education, especially English. TikTok is an application that students use every day and has a variety of features that are easy to use. Students can learn a variety of English language skills at once by using the TikTok app, which offers engaging audio, text, and visual content along with user-friendly features that allow students to watch and interact. These skills include vocabulary, speaking, listening, tenses, reading, and writing. They can also express their creativity by using the TikTok app to create videos. Students must, however, also be able to prioritize and manage their time so that they can view English-language learning or entertainment-related videos. It goes without saying that lecturers also have challenges in mastering various new learning innovations that utilize social media. It is necessary for

educators to be proficient in technology and stay up to date on its advancements in order to generate concepts for developing cutting-edge instructional materials for learners.

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