



### **Research Article**

# The Use of TikTok Application for Learning Speaking Skills: A Simple Teaching Research

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### Abstract.

Speaking skill is commonly reflected to be the most crucial skill to attain. Many media platforms can be used to learn speaking skills independently such as using the TikTok application. This study is intended to know and describe the students' preferences and learning experiences regarding the use of TikTok application as a supplementary tool for enhancing speaking skills. The study was carried out with 36 students of State School 1 of Tahunan grade XI science program in the academic year 2022/2023 divided into 18 couples. The researcher used a purposive sampling technique in determining the participants. This study used a descriptive method with a qualitative approach and used questionnaires to collect data. The learning material used was a TikTok homepage or account with videos available online. The researchers asked the students to watch the videos within a two weeks time frame. The study found that the students watching the shared videos through TikTok to regularly learn in classes can help improve speaking ability. Learning speaking skills on TikTok is psychologically fun and stress-free. TikTok is relatively easy to access, varied video and interesting content, easy to understand, and the students can learn from native speakers for free. Besides, TikTok can effectively improve the students' speaking ability.

Keywords: TikTok application, a TikTok homepage or account, speaking skill

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# 1. Introduction

The rapid advancement of technology has significantly impacted education and learning, especially in the realm of language learning. Learning English speaking skills is a crucial aspect of language education, and teachers are constantly exploring innovative and effective methods to engage students in language learning the speaking skill. The traditional classroom setting may not always provide sufficient opportunities for most students to practice and develop their speaking abilities in an authentic and engaging manner [1].

Students' ability to speak English will greatly affect their learning process in the classroom. Students have a limited time to learn English inside the classroom, and they still do not have enough encouragement to practice English outside the class in order

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to get familiar with English [2]. TikTok, as an audio-visual social media platform, offers a dynamic and engaging environment for individuals looking to enhance their English speaking skills in a modern and creative way. In fact, to be able to master English well requires a lot of time and continuous practice [3].

In recent years, social media platforms have gained immense popularity. Various applications have emerged as powerful tools for enhancing language skills. 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. It can be accessed easily anywhere and anytime [4].

Effective communication skills, particularly the ability to speak confidently and coherently, have long been regarded as a cornerstone of success in today's interconnected world. Mastery of the spoken word not only facilitates personal and professional growth but also fosters meaningful connections with others. In the digital age, where the boundaries of communication have expanded exponentially, harnessing the power of various media platforms to enhance one's speaking abilities has become increasingly prevalent. Among the myriad of options available, TikTok, a popular short-form video application, has emerged as a unique and innovative tool for individuals seeking to develop their speaking skills independently. This research endeavors to explore the efficacy of TikTok as a platform for enhancing speaking skills, shedding light on its potential benefits and limitations in this educational context. By delving into this intersection of technology and communication, we aim to provide valuable insights into how individuals can harness contemporary media to cultivate their proficiency in spoken communication [5].

One of the most popular applications that has gained immense reputation among the younger generation is TikTok with TikTok being one of the most widely used applications worldwide [6]. TikTok is originally a video-sharing platform that allows users to create and share short videos, often incorporating music, dance, and various visual effects. TikTok is a popular social media platform known for its short-form videos. Social media such as TikTok Application, serves as a powerful supplementary tool for ESL students, offering exposure to real-life language use, cultural insights, and engaging content. When used strategically alongside other language learning methods, media can significantly enhance English language acquisition and fluency [7].



TikTok's unique features and user-friendly interface have made it a potential tool for learning English speaking skills. By utilizing TikTok, students can create and share videos in English, thereby practicing pronunciation, fluency, and expression. The interactive features of TikTok, such as duets and collaborations, also encourage peer-topeer interaction and feedback, fostering a communicative and collaborative learning environment. Its engaging and interactive nature has attracted a large user base, particularly among young people, including students of senior high school level. TikTok can be used for entertainment and 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, students 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 instance, 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, such as @Jagobahasa.com, @LearnMatch, @discoveryenglishjogja and others presents that using TikTok application in learning English can help students to improve their speaking skills [8].

Based on the above explanation, this research is intended to explore the preferences and learning experiences regarding the use of TikTok as a supplementary tool for enhancing speaking skill among the students of State School 1 of Tahunan grade XI science program in the academic year 2022/2023.

The practical benefits of the research finding are expected to be able to contribute to the growing literature on technology-enhanced language learning and provide insights for teachers on the integration of social media platforms like TikTok into the language teaching practices. Understanding the potential benefits and challenges of using TikTok for developing speaking skill can help teachers design more effective and engaging learning materials and challenging learning experiences for the students of senior high school.

Brown [9] states that English Speaking Skill refers to the ability of an individual to effectively communicate and express oneself or ally in the English language. Speaking skill is the capacity to use appropriate vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and discourse patterns to convey meaning and interact with others in various social and communicative contexts. Brown emphasizes that speaking skill involves not only the ability to produce grammatically correct sentences but also to use appropriate language functions (such as requesting, apologizing, suggesting, etc.), engage in meaningful



conversations, understand and respond to different speech acts, and adapt one's language use to different situations and interlocutors [10].

Brown highlights the importance of fluency, accuracy, and appropriateness in speaking skill. Fluency refers to the ability to speak smoothly and effortlessly without unnecessary pauses or hesitations. Accuracy refers to the use of correct grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Appropriateness entails language use that is suitable for the specific social, cultural, and contextual circumstances. In summary, speaking skill encompasses the ability to express oneself effectively, understands and responds to others, uses appropriate language in different communicative situations, and demonstrates fluency, accuracy, and appropriateness [7].

Harmer [11] states that capability to speak fluently by using their knowledge, information and say it by on the spot. It needs the ability to assist in the management of speaking. It occurs in the real condition and has a little time for planning it. The fluency is needed to reach the aim of the conversation. Richards [12] presents that speaking is exploring idea, acquiring something done, subtraction various aspects of world or basically being together. It means that if learners can speak accurately or fluently will help them communicate easily and explore their idea. Speaking English also helps students get up-to-date information field about health, technology and science.

TikTok is a social media platform that allows users to create and share short videos, typically ranging from 15 to 60 seconds. It was developed by the Chinese company Byte Dance and was first launched in September 2016. TikTok is a highly popular and influential app that has revolutionized the way people consume and create content. It has gained massive popularity, particularly among younger demographics, and has become a cultural phenomenon worldwide. TikTok enables users to upload a variety of creative and interactive features for lip synchronization lasting up to 60 seconds. According to www.statista.com, the most recent data available, the most popular content categories on the videos sharing social app TikTok had received more than one billion views as of July 2020, with 535 billion hashtag views combined, the most viewed content category on the app was entertainment content. TikTokers (TikTok users) come up with new slang words every day on TikTok, especially on entertainment content on TikTok, they have established an entirely new culture based on slang words, that's the reason why the author focuses on TikTok platform especially on entertainment contents [13].

TikTok's defining feature is its emphasis on short-form video content, often focused on entertainment, creativity, and recent trends. The platform offers a wide range of tools and filters to enhance videos, enabling users to add music, effects, and visual elements.



It has a highly engaging and interactive interface, encouraging users to participate in challenges, duets, and collaborations with other creators [14].

Additionally, TikTok incorporates various social features, such as likes, comments, and shares, allowing users to interact with content and engage with other users. The app's algorithm promotes viral content, giving rise to viral trends and challenges that can quickly spread across the platform. TikTok is a significant player in the social media landscape, redefining content creation and consumption patterns with its innovative features and Al-driven recommendations. Its success lies in its ability to capture and hold the users' attention through short, visually appealing videos, fostering a highly active and engaged community [15].

# 2. Method

The study used a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. Descriptive research is defined as a research method used to describe the existing phenomena as accurately as possible. The word "existing phenomena" makes descriptive research contrary to experiment research which observes not only the existing phenomena, but also the phenomena after a certain period of treatment. The peculiarities saw in illustrative examination are now accessible. What is fundamental for a specialist to do is gathering the accessible information using research instruments like test, survey, interview, or even perception. The principal objective of elucidating research is to depict deliberately the current peculiarities under the review peculiarities, yet additionally the peculiarities after a specific time of treatment. The peculiarities saw in engagingresearch are as of now accessible. What is fundamental for a specialist to do is gathering the accessible information using research instruments like test, survey, interview, or even perception. The fundamental objective of spellbinding exploration isto depict methodicallly the current peculiarities under the review [16]. The study used purposive sampling technique in determining the participants. The participants of this study were 36 students of State School 1 of Tahunan grade XI of science program in the academic year 2022/2023 who used a TikTok application to learn speaking skill. The instrument to collect data was through research questionnaire. It was distributed to the students online in the form of Google form. The questionnaire used the Guttman scale which contains "Yes" and "No" choices. The data found from the questionnaire is chronologically presented into the form of frequency and percentage tables. The collected data were analyzed using the Miles and Huberman technique, namely data reduction, data display, and conclusion or drawing [17].



The quantitative data which have has been collected are then analyzed by following several scoring steps in data analysis, as follows:

TABLE 1: Scoring Rubric of Speaking Skill.

Scoring Rubric of Speaking Skill			
Aspect	Score	Description	
Speaking	5	The speaking is perfect and the sentences are produced in a manner that is easily understood by regular speakers of the language.	
	4	The sentences are spoken clearly and unambiguously, easy to understand, and clearly understandable.	
	3	There are some problems in utter- ing the sentences and the listeners need more concentration, slightly understandable.	
	2	Unclear speech. The sentences are difficult to understand.	
	1	The sentences are very difficult to understand. The pronunciation is incomprehensible.	

The classification of the students' scores reflects the criteria of students' speaking ability. The classification is then categorized table 2 as follow:

TABLE 2: The criteria of students' speaking ability.

Score	Category
90 - 100	Excellent
80 - 89	Good
70 - 79	Fair
60 - 69	Poor
0 - 59	Very poor

# 3. Result and Discussion

The study is chronologically done through the following steps or stages:

- 1. The researcher randomly divides the students in a group consisting of two students or in couple in the beginning of learning. There are 36 students so there will be 18 couples of students.
- 2. The researcher shares a TikTok homepage or account containing the learning contents of speaking materials or dialogue/conversation materials to the whole students through the class group. The shared TikTok homepage is English@ffaakj in which the homepage has a variety of dialogueue topic conducted by two speakers/participants



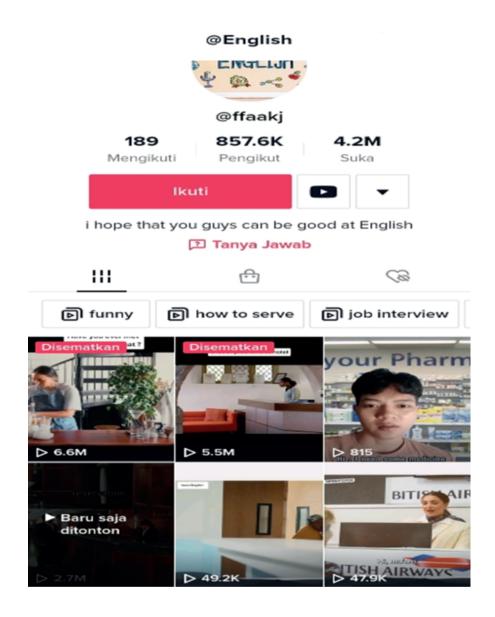


Figure 1: TikTok homepage is English@ffaakj.

- 3. The students are intensely persuaded to independently access the TikTok homepage regarding the contents of speaking materials through their own mobile within the period of two weeks. The videos being accessed have to refer to the English dialogues involving only two participants.
- 4. The students are independently free to choose the videos which are going to practice. They are then persuaded to watch and practice the dialogues videos in couples by imitating or mimicking the videos regarding the contents of speaking materials on the TikTok homepage they self-reliantly want to watch. To facilitate the students in practicing the dialogues, the students are completely permitted to make some notes of the dialogue texts to help them memorize the whole dialogues.



5. The students are truly assigned to record their imitative practices or dialogues on videos and upload the best videos of their dialogue records on the TikTok homepage. They have to upload the videos on YouTube channel as well. In imitating or practicing the dialogues, the students are firmly prohibited to read the speaking materials or their personal notes. they have to practice the dialogue without looking at any personal notes. The main purpose is to persuade the students to create a more effective and authentic learning experience. It fosters active listening, fluency, and memory retention. By forbidding the use of personal notes the students are expected to more focus on active listening during practicing the conversation. Relying on the notes can lead to passive listening, hindering the students' ability in comprehending spoken language in real context.

6. The students are truly expected to individually fill up some questionnaires given by the researcher.

The exposure above principally refers to the communicative language teaching. It belongs to an approach that focuses on developing the learners' ability to communicate in real-life situations (Richards & Rodgers, 2014). The chronological steps or stages can be seen in Figure 1 below:



Figure 2: Model of the communicative language teaching.



The following belong to the research findings regarding the contents of the TikTok homepage and the data of the students' ability of grade XI science program of State School 1 of Tahunan in the academic year 2022/2023 The contents of the shared TikTok homepage; English@ffaakj. It needs to previously present that the whole couples of the students spend two weeks to watch the videos on the TikTok account. The dialogue topics from the shared TikTok homepage includes 13 topics such as a dialogue of hotel reservation, customer service, complain of hotel service, asking for help from a shopkeeper, hospital insurance, flight service, family watching, home conversation, happy birthday, sleeping on parking pot, expressing love, dinning service, and asking for internet connection. The total couples of students who are going to imitate or mimic the dialogue are 18 couples (100 %) in which they are free to choose the intended dialogue to imitate and practice with their couples. The dialogue topics that are chosen by the couples of students to imitate or mimic on their dialogue are as follows: The dialogue are as follows:

1. Couple 1 and 6 choose the topic hotel reservation; Couple 2, 16, 18 chooses the topic customer service; Couple 3, 7, 12 choose the topic complain of hotel service; Couple 4 chooses the topic asking for help from a shopkeeper; Couple 5 chooses the topic flight service; Couple 8 and 17 choose the topic family watching; Couple 9 chooses the topic home conversation; Couple 10 and 14 choose the topic happy birthday; Couple 11 chooses the topic expressing love; Couple 13 chooses the topic dinning service; Couple 15 chooses the topic asking for internet connection

There are two dialogue topics that are not chosen by the couples of students to imitate or mimic on their dialogues namely *hospital insurance and sleeping on parking pot;* The students' ability before using TikTok as the learning medium.

Before using the TikTok application as a learning medium, there are 14 couples of students (78 %) in which the speaking ability are on the category of Very Poor (score: 0 - 59). It means that the sentences spoken by those couples are understandable so that the speech is completely incomprehensible. The sentences are very difficult to understand.

Before using the TikTok application as a learning medium, there are 4 couples of students (22 %) in which the speaking ability are on the category of Poor (score: 60 - 69). It means that those couples can't speak the sentences clearly (unclear speech). The sentences are relatively difficult to understand.



The students' ability after using TikTok as the learning medium, there are 3 couples of students (17%) in which the speaking ability are on the category of Very Poor (score: 0 - 59). It means that the sentences spoken by those couples are understandable so that the speech is completely incomprehensible. The sentences are very difficult to understand.

After using the TikTok application as a learning medium, there are 8 couples of students (44 %) in which the speaking ability are on the category of Poor (score: 60 - 69). It means that those couples can't speak the sentences clearly (unclear speech). The sentences are relatively difficult to understand. After using the TikTok application as a learning medium, there are 7 couples of students (39 %) in which the speaking ability are on the category of Fair (score: 70 - 79). It means that those couples can speak the sentences with only some problems in uttering the sentences so that the listeners need more concentration or slightly understandable. The listener can understand or comprehend the sentences by doing more focus or paying more concentration of listening.

Based on the research findings after two weeks of watching, imitating, practicing, recording the dialogues into the videos and uploading the video records into the TikTok account and YouTube channels, it can be explored that:

- 1. There is a significant increase of the students' ability in speaking skill after using the TikTok application as a learning medium. The TikTok application helps facilitate the students in improving and increasing their speaking ability. It can be seen from the fact that:
- 2. Before using the TikTok application, there are 14 couples of students (78 %) who fulfill the category of Very Poor. After using the TikTok application, there are only 3 couples of students (17 %) who are on the category of Very Poor.
- 3. Before using the TikTok application, there are 4 couples of students (22 %) who fulfill the category of Poor. After using the TikTok application, there are only 8 couples of students (44 %) who are on the category of Poor.
- 4. Before using the TikTok application, there are no couples of students (0 %) who fulfill the category of Fair. After using the TikTok application, there are only 7 couples of students (39 %) who are on the category of Fair.
- 5. All students take much time in determining and choosing the topic of dialogue which is going to imitate or mimic with their couples. It can be understood because most students never use the TikTok application for a learning medium previously.



They feel unsure and feel unconfident that they will able to use the TikTok application for learning the speaking skill. [12]

6. Most students tend to choose the short and simple dialogue to practice. It can be understood because most students will need hard effort if they choose more complicated and long dialogue. The students tend to avoid hard and tiring efforts; they do less effort and choose the short and simple dialogue to practice. They think that choosing the short dialogues to practice is simpler and less intimidating than choosing the longer dialogues. They also feel that they can quickly remember and memorize the short conversation so that they can rapidly memorize.

Furthermore, most students do not want spend much time for memorizing and practicing the longer dialogues. By taking the short dialogues, the students will be more convenient to complete and more quickly to remember because they are forbidden to take some notes when practicing the dialogues.

Besides those, most students lack confidence in speaking abilities so that they may prefer short dialogues. They also fear of making some mistakes or forgetting some words or phrases if they choose the longer dialogues.

1. The fact after the students spend much time and efforts in repeatedly imitating and practicing the dialogues is totally different. Most students feel more confident in imitating, recording, and uploading their dialogues on the best videos of their dialogue records on the TikTok homepage or upload on YouTube channel although in practicing the dialogues, they are firmly prohibited to read their personal notes; they are required to practice the dialogues without looking at or holding any notes.

The students' growing confidence in frequently practicing the dialogues authentically may occur due to the duration of repeatedly training the dialogues in couple, reduced anxiety, improved self-efficacy, enhanced listening skills, and a sense of personal preparedness. Most students feel confident in imitating, recording, and uploading their dialogue on the best videos of their dialogue records on the TikTok homepage or upload on YouTube channel although in imitating the dialogues, the students are firmly prohibited to read the materials or their notes but they have to practice the dialogue without looking at any writing or notes [2]. The repeatedly listening to and practicing a dialog increases the students' speaking skills. They become better at understanding spoken language in real-time, which boosts their confidence in comprehending and giving responds to dialogues. It is reasonable that not taking personal notes during practice can alleviate anxiety associated with making mistakes or forgetting the details



of dialogues. When the students do not feel the pressure to remember and memorize every word, phrase, or sentence, they can focus on the flow of the conversation and their overall communication skills.

Furthermore, the reduced anxiety can lead to increased confidence since the students are less worried about making errors and more focused on accepting and conveying the dialogue messages effectively. Besides, the self-efficacy refers to the students' belief in their ability to perform the particular dialogues successfully. As the students practice, they will become more proficient in a particular dialogue; their self-efficacy in practicing the dialogue will grow as well and the students will perceive that they are capable in using the dialogues

# 4. Conclusion

The technology has significantly impacted the English learning. The traditional classroom setting may not always provide sufficient opportunities for most students to sufficiently practice and develop their speaking abilities in an authentic and engaging manner. The study found that TikTok application can be a supplementary and significant tool for enhancing the students' speaking skill with lot of videos containing important materials that enable them to practice what they have learned through various techniques to promote speaking skill. Those videos shared through TitkTok can effectively function as an imitative form of communication. Those videos shared through TitkTok can effectively function as an imitative form of communication and can be achieved without the help of language since interaction is often conducted through physical gestures, eye contact, and facial expressions to convey meaning [18]. Effective communication skills, particularly the ability to speak confidently and coherently, have long been regarded as a cornerstone of success in today's interconnected world. Mastery of the spoken word not only facilitates personal and professional growth but also fosters meaningful connections with others. In the digital age, where the boundaries of communication have expanded exponentially, harnessing the power of various media platforms to enhance one's speaking abilities has become increasingly prevalent. Among the myriad of options available, TikTok, a popular short-form video application, has emerged as a unique and innovative tool for individuals seeking to develop their speaking skills independently. This research endeavors to explore the efficacy of TikTok as a platform for enhancing speaking skills, shedding light on its potential benefits and limitations in this educational context. By delving into this intersection of technology and communication, we aim to provide valuable insights into how individuals can harness



contemporary media to cultivate their proficiency in spoken communication. Social media such as TikTok Application, serves as a powerful supplementary tool for ESL students, offering exposure to real-life language use, cultural insights, and engaging content. When used strategically alongside other language learning methods, media can significantly enhance English language acquisition and fluency. A wide range of speaking materials enables the students to complete communicative situations by means of the immediate and reachable combination of audio-visual tools. They may have chance to contextualize the speaking skill they have already learned. They can see and hear the speakers' utterances in dialogues such as ages, gender, profession, the relationship to each other, the way of social life and status, what the speakers are doing and even their feelings and emotions. In conclusion, knowing a language means clearly performing productive skills effectively. Speaking skill is one of the most significant skills which the students need to improve. This study shows that the students who watch the online shared videos improve their speaking ability. Using online videos in English classes regularly enables the students to communicate and interact more appropriately. They can achieve the ability to convey plenty of messages more easily and effectually. Online videos shared through TikTok become more accessible and the students will become more convenience to videos, more familiar to communication tools, and have more tendencies to imitate and practice authentic language of English. Besides, learning speaking skill using videos shared through TikTok causes the students have an urge to become digital ones and become more autonomous to find more information. Furthermore, the students also express a strong desire to use TikTok to watch and understand most of the contents associated with basic speaking skills.

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