ANALYSIS OF IMPROVING ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' TIKTOK CONTENT

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Kata Kunci: *TikTok, English speaking skills, high school students, language learning, social media*

Abstract
This study explores the use of TikTok to enhance English speaking skills among high school students. TikTok's interactive platform offers opportunities for practicing pronunciation, acquiring vocabulary, and building confidence in speaking English. A literature review method was employed to analyze existing research, highlighting TikTok's effectiveness in language learning despite challenges such as content quality and screen time management. Best practices include curated content selection and promoting digital citizenship. Case studies demonstrate positive outcomes in student engagement and language proficiency. The findings underscore TikTok's potential as a supplementary tool in modern language education, aligning with communicative language teaching principles. Further research should investigate long-term impacts and comparative effectiveness to refine educational strategies.

Keywords: TikTok, English speaking skills, high school students, language learning, social media

INTRODUCTION

English is widely recognized as a global language, playing a crucial role in various spheres of life including education, business, and technology. For the younger generation, particularly high school students, mastering English has become increasingly important. As globalization continues to influence the world, the ability to speak English fluently is a key skill that can open doors to numerous opportunities, whether in higher education or the job market (Atasheva, 2024). Proficiency in English can enhance students' academic performance, expand their career prospects, and enable them to participate in global conversations. In addition, it provides access to a vast array of information and resources available in English, facilitating lifelong learning and personal growth (Mehrajuddin, 2022).

Despite its importance, many high school students face significant challenges in improving their English speaking abilities. Traditional classroom methods often focus on grammar, reading, and writing, which, while essential, may not adequately prepare students for real-world conversational English (Arta, 2019). This gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application can result in students feeling unconfident and anxious about speaking English in public or during examinations.

Additionally, students may lack exposure to native or fluent English speakers, limiting their ability to practice and refine their speaking skills. Pronunciation, intonation, and colloquial expressions are often areas where students struggle, further hindering their ability to communicate effectively (Sabrina, 2024).

The pressure to perform well academically can also contribute to students' reluctance to practice speaking. Fear of making mistakes, embarrassment, and peer judgment can create a stressful environment, discouraging students from actively participating in speaking activities. Moreover, limited opportunities for immersive language experiences, such as speaking with native speakers or participating in language exchange programs, can impede students' progress in developing fluent and natural-sounding English (Ningrum, 2022).

In recent years, social media platforms have revolutionized the way people interact and learn new skills. TikTok, in particular, has emerged as a popular platform among teenagers and young adults. Known for its short, engaging videos, TikTok offers a unique and interactive way for users to create and consume content. This has opened up new avenues for learning, including language acquisition (Sun, 2024). The platform's user-friendly interface and diverse content make it an ideal tool for language learners looking to improve their speaking skills in an engaging and entertaining manner.

TikTok's format, which encourages creativity and self-expression, can be harnessed to improve English speaking skills among high school students. By creating and engaging with English-speaking content, students can practice their language skills in a fun and relaxed environment. This approach not only makes learning more enjoyable but also helps students build confidence in their speaking abilities (Ferguson, 2021). The interactive nature of TikTok allows students to participate in challenges, collaborate with peers, and receive feedback from a global audience, enhancing their learning experience and motivating them to improve.

TikTok's algorithm promotes content that matches the user's interests and engagement patterns. This can be leveraged to provide students with a personalized learning experience, exposing them to diverse accents, vocabularies, and conversational styles. Interactive challenges, duet videos, and language-focused hashtags can further enhance the learning process, making it more dynamic and comprehensive (Wang, 2022). For example, students can participate in pronunciation challenges, where they mimic native speakers and receive feedback on their accuracy. They can also create duet videos, collaborating with fluent English speakers to practice conversational skills in a supportive and interactive manner.

Additionally, TikTok's emphasis on short-form content encourages frequent and consistent practice, which is essential for language acquisition. The platform's visual and auditory elements aid in reinforcing learning, as students can see and hear how words are pronounced and used in context. This multimodal approach caters to different learning styles and helps students retain information more effectively. Furthermore, the social aspect of TikTok fosters a sense of community among language learners, providing opportunities for peer support, motivation, and collaboration.

In this context, the potential of TikTok as a tool for improving English speaking abilities in high school students warrants a closer examination. This study aims to explore how TikTok can be effectively used to enhance English speaking skills, identify the specific benefits and challenges associated with this approach, and provide insights into best practices for educators and students (Farisca, 2023). By integrating TikTok into language learning strategies, educators can tap into a platform that is not only popular among students but also inherently conducive to language practice.

The findings of this study could pave the way for innovative educational practices that align with the interests and habits of the digital generation, ultimately contributing to better language proficiency and global competitiveness. As educators

seek to create engaging and effective learning environments, leveraging TikTok's potential can help bridge the gap between traditional language instruction and the evolving needs of students in the digital age.

The implications of this study are significant for both educators and students. For educators, the findings can inform the development of innovative language teaching strategies that incorporate social media platforms like TikTok. By understanding the benefits and challenges associated with this approach, educators can design more engaging and effective language learning experiences that resonate with students' interests and habits. Additionally, the study can provide guidelines and best practices for integrating TikTok into the curriculum, ensuring that it complements rather than replaces traditional language instruction.

For students, the study highlights the potential of TikTok as a valuable tool for improving English speaking skills. By actively participating in TikTok's language learning community, students can enhance their pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary in a fun and interactive manner. The study also emphasizes the importance of consistent practice and self-expression in language acquisition, encouraging students to take an active role in their learning journey.

The emergence of TikTok as a popular social media platform presents a unique opportunity to enhance English speaking skills among high school students. Its interactive and engaging format, personalized content recommendations, and emphasis on creativity and self-expression make it an ideal tool for language learning. By leveraging TikTok's potential, educators can create innovative and effective language learning experiences that align with the interests and habits of the digital generation. The findings of this study can pave the way for new educational practices, ultimately contributing to better language proficiency and global competitiveness among high school students.

METHOD

This study employs a literature review method to investigate the potential of TikTok in enhancing English speaking skills among high school students. A literature review allows for a comprehensive analysis of existing research, theories, and findings related to the topic. This method provides a solid foundation for understanding the current state of knowledge, identifying gaps in the literature, and formulating new research questions.

The literature review will focus on peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, books, and reputable online sources published within the last ten years. Databases such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, PubMed, and ERIC will be utilized to gather relevant literature. Keywords for the search will include "TikTok and language learning," "social media and language acquisition," "English speaking skills," "high school students and English proficiency," and "innovative language teaching methods."

The collected literature will be analyzed through thematic analysis. Key themes and patterns related to the effectiveness of TikTok in language learning, challenges, benefits, and best practices will be identified. The analysis will synthesize findings from multiple studies to draw comprehensive conclusions about the potential of TikTok in enhancing English speaking skills.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
1. Overview of Selected Literature
The literature review yielded a diverse array of studies examining the intersection of social media, language learning, and specifically the use of TikTok to enhance English speaking skills. The selected literature encompasses both empirical studies and

theoretical analyses, providing a robust foundation for understanding the efficacy of TikTok in educational contexts.

2. Impact of TikTok on Language Learning

2.1. Enhancing Pronunciation and Fluency

Several studies highlight the positive impact of TikTok on improving pronunciation and fluency among English learners. For instance, research by Chen and Li (2020) demonstrated that students who regularly engaged with English-speaking content on TikTok showed significant improvements in their pronunciation accuracy and fluency. The short-form video format allows students to practice speaking in manageable segments, reducing the cognitive load and making the learning process less intimidating.

Additionally, the interactive nature of TikTok encourages students to mimic native speakers, participate in pronunciation challenges, and receive feedback from a global audience. This continuous practice helps students develop better control over their speech, leading to more natural and fluent communication.

2.2. Vocabulary Acquisition and Usage

TikTok also facilitates vocabulary acquisition by exposing students to a wide range of lexical items in context. Studies such as those by Zhang (2021) found that students who used TikTok for language learning demonstrated a richer vocabulary and better contextual understanding of new words. The platform's content diversity, spanning various topics and genres, allows students to encounter and practice using vocabulary relevant to different real-life scenarios.

Furthermore, TikTok's algorithm promotes content that aligns with users' interests, ensuring that students are continually engaged and motivated to learn new words. The use of hashtags and challenges related to specific vocabulary themes further enhances students' lexical knowledge and their ability to use new words appropriately in conversations.

2.3. Confidence and Public Speaking Skills

Confidence in speaking English is a critical factor for language learners, and TikTok's emphasis on creativity and self-expression plays a vital role in building this confidence. Research by Wang (2022) indicates that students who create and share videos on TikTok experience a boost in their self-confidence and public speaking skills. The platform's supportive community provides positive reinforcement, encouraging students to take risks and experiment with their language use.

Moreover, the ability to review and reflect on their own videos allows students to self-assess their speaking abilities and identify areas for improvement. This iterative process of creation, reflection, and feedback fosters a growth mindset, enabling students to overcome the fear of making mistakes and become more comfortable with public speaking.

3. Challenges and Limitations

3.1. Content Quality and Educational Value

One of the primary challenges identified in the literature is the variability in content quality and its educational value. While TikTok offers a plethora of engaging and informative content, not all videos are suitable for educational purposes. Studies by Kim and Park (2023) emphasize the need for educators to curate and recommend high-quality content that aligns with learning objectives. Without proper guidance, students might be exposed to misleading or irrelevant information, which could hinder their language development.

3.2. Screen Time and Distraction

Excessive screen time and potential distractions are also significant concerns associated with using TikTok for language learning. Research by Lim and Lee (2021) highlights that while TikTok can be an effective learning tool, it also poses the risk of students

spending too much time on non-educational content. Balancing screen time and ensuring that students remain focused on language learning activities require careful monitoring and structured guidance from educators and parents.

3.3. Privacy and Safety Issues

Privacy and safety issues are inherent in any social media platform, and TikTok is no exception. Studies by Miller and Rodriguez (2022) discuss the importance of teaching students about digital citizenship and responsible online behavior. Educators must ensure that students are aware of the potential risks, such as cyberbullying and data privacy concerns, and provide strategies to protect themselves online. Establishing clear guidelines and fostering a safe online environment are crucial for maximizing the benefits of TikTok while minimizing its risks.

4. Best Practices for Integrating TikTok in Language Learning

4.1. Curated Content and Guided Use

To address the challenge of content quality, educators should curate and recommend specific TikTok accounts, hashtags, and challenges that offer high educational value. Creating a list of verified content creators who specialize in English language instruction can help ensure that students are exposed to reliable and useful material. Additionally, providing students with structured activities and assignments related to TikTok content can guide their learning process and keep them focused on educational goals.

4.2. Balancing Screen Time

To mitigate the risks associated with excessive screen time, educators and parents should establish clear guidelines for TikTok usage. Limiting the amount of time spent on the platform and integrating TikTok activities with other forms of language practice, such as speaking exercises and reading assignments, can create a balanced learning routine. Encouraging students to use TikTok as a supplementary tool rather than the primary method of language learning can help maintain a healthy balance.

4.3. Promoting Digital Citizenship

Educating students about digital citizenship and responsible online behavior is essential for safe and effective use of TikTok. This includes teaching them about privacy settings, the importance of respectful interactions, and how to report inappropriate content. By fostering a sense of responsibility and awareness, educators can help students navigate the digital landscape safely and confidently.

5. Case Studies and Examples

5.1. Successful Implementation in Schools

Several case studies illustrate successful implementation of TikTok in school language programs. For example, a study by Nguyen (2022) documented a high school in Vietnam that integrated TikTok into its English curriculum. Students were tasked with creating weekly videos on various topics, ranging from personal interests to cultural discussions. The project resulted in noticeable improvements in students' speaking skills, increased engagement, and higher levels of confidence in using English.

Another case study by Patel (2023) in India highlighted a similar initiative where students participated in pronunciation challenges and collaborated on duet videos with peers from different schools. This cross-institutional collaboration not only enhanced language skills but also fostered a sense of community and cultural exchange.

5.2. Student Feedback and Perceptions

Feedback from students who participated in these initiatives has been overwhelmingly positive. They reported enjoying the creative freedom that TikTok offers and appreciated the opportunity to practice English in a less formal and more enjoyable context. Many students mentioned that the ability to receive instant feedback from peers and native speakers was particularly beneficial for their learning process.

Students also valued the diverse range of content available on TikTok, which allowed them to explore different accents, dialects, and cultural nuances. This exposure helped them develop a more comprehensive understanding of the English language and its variations.

6. Theoretical Implications

The findings from the literature review have several theoretical implications for language learning and pedagogy. The use of TikTok aligns with the principles of communicative language teaching (CLT), which emphasizes the importance of interaction and authentic communication in language learning. TikTok's interactive features and emphasis on real-world language use make it a valuable tool for implementing CLT in modern classrooms.

Moreover, the platform supports the concept of learner autonomy, where students take an active role in their learning process. By creating and engaging with content on TikTok, students can set their own learning goals, monitor their progress, and seek feedback, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for their language development.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights TikTok's potential as an effective tool for enhancing English speaking skills among high school students. The platform's engaging and interactive features support pronunciation, vocabulary acquisition, and confidence in public speaking. Despite challenges such as content quality and screen time, careful curation and guided use can mitigate these issues. Integrating TikTok into language education aligns with modern pedagogical approaches and can significantly enhance learning outcomes. Future research should explore long-term impacts and comparative effectiveness to further validate these findings and refine best practices for educators and learners.

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