

ESP Students' Perception toward the Utilization of Tik Tok Application for Improving English Skills

Eka Wulandari

Poltekkes Kemenkes Malang

Ekawulan09@gmail.com

Yuyun Putri Mandasari

Poltekkes Kemenkes Malang

yuyun_putri@poltekkes-malang.ac.id

Abstract:

Students' 21st-century talents, including their English language skills, must be cultivated in this increasingly globalized period. According to previous studies, this application is one of the finest approaches for English education. It is also popular for facilitating successful English learning, however, research on the usage of Tik Tok in the context of ESP, notably in English for Midwifery courses, is still lacking. The purpose of this study was to determine students' perceptions of utilizing Tik Tok for English learning in the post-pandemic era. This study included 61 students from the Midwifery Department at Poltekkes Kemenkes Malang during the academic year of 2022/2023. To collect data, online questionnaires and written interviews were provided to the students. The findings revealed that the students had a favorable attitude toward using Tik Tok to learn English. This study examined students' perspectives on Tik Tok in English language acquisition in the context of ESP, specifically English for Midwifery. It is also suggested that Tik Tok be used as a learning media because it has been shown to be useful in assisting students in getting the chunk of learning objectives that positively impact their English skills, particularly in the ESP environment.

Keywords: ESP, Tik Tok, Students' Perception

INTRODUCTION

Teaching and learning English in the context of ESP during the pandemic of COVID-19 is getting more and more challenging for students and teachers. Lots of problems emerge and they demand fast and exact solutions. Many types of learning methodologies and

strategies are applied, tested, and evaluated to get a comprehensive portrait to help the students achieve their learning goals in better ways, as well as keep their safety due to the virus. ESP teaching for years is one of the biggest concerns among teachers due to some challenges and limitations of learning resources.

Hutchinson & Waters (1987) have already identified that the nature of ESP is focusing on the learners, the needs, and English for real settings of jobs rather than the linguistics issues. Asfihana (2017) explored more and argued that the success of teaching ESP was based on the learners' needs in which the students use various strategies in relation to their interest in work life to acquire a language. Bui (2022) also added that teachers must concern about ESP teaching and facilitate the gaps between the needs and expectations of students. Pointing to those points of view, designing the courses and finding the best media based on students' needs to learn English in the context of ESP are the most prominent ones. In dealing with the educational impacts of COVID-19, various technology tools are introduced to educators/teachers to support online courses, including English for ESP. One of them is Tik Tok, a video-sharing platform used widely by the millennial generation.

The 21st century is the era of technological communication development marked by the use of computers, laptops, or smartphones in many aspects of life (Oktafiani & Haryanto, 2022), including in the process of language teaching and learning. Using different techniques and methods to meet the changes and help the students achieve their language is very important. As we know, in the 21st century, students must be able to master some skills or competencies, such as communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking, known as 4C, to survive in the real world. Teachers must have pedagogical competency to select meaningful and interesting media to motivate the students in the situation of emergency. It becomes the biggest challenge during and post-pandemic, and Tik Tok is one solution.

Tik Tok is an application made in China in 2018 and is widely used by people around the world. Wu (2020) reported that there were 518 million users with 400 million daily active users. Mahardika et al (2021) argued that Tik Tok users in Indonesia were in fourth place in the world rank and dominated by generations Y and Z (Rakhmayanti, 2020). It is the most interesting and popular video-sharing platform among Chinese international undergraduate students and has an essential role in English communication competence during the pandemic (Xiuwen & Razali, 2021). Therefore, it is beneficial to be applied in the language learning process to improve English competence, especially for ESP students.

A study figured out that Tik Tok can help students enhance English vocabulary and pronunciation. A study revealed that English Department students' perception of STKIP Bandar Lampung in the use of Tik Tok for Vocabulary was very positive. According to their opinion, TikTok video allows to select the topic of vocabulary that they want to enhance, and they approve TikTok helps the students simply remember the new English words (Hastomo et al, 2022). Pratiwi et.al (2021) reported that the students of the English Department at Suryakencana University also had a good perception of Tik Tok application. They agreed that Tik Tok can enhance their ability in literacy and speaking skills with the English content. It can be inferred that Tik Tok can be one of the alternative tools to help students learn and improve English skills.

Up to this point, research about ESP is very limited, particularly in association with ESP teaching and learning. All the findings of previous research were in the area of general English, not in the context of ESP. therefore, the writer employed the research to find out students' perception of the Midwifery Department towards the use of Tik Tok in improving English skills. The research question is how the students' perception of the Midwifery Department of Poltekkes Kemenkes Malang in the use of Tik Tok.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was a survey-research-design to reveal the question of the research, "how was the students' perception of Tik Tok in improving English skills in the context of ESP during the pandemic?" According to Creswell (2014), a survey design provided a plan for quantitative or a numerical description of a trend, attitude, or belief by investigating a population sample. A survey study also measured or analyzed perceptions, views, or accomplishments collected by delivering questions to a group of individuals. Latief (2011) also stated that survey research was commonly used to portray opinions, attitudes, preferences, and perspectives of a large population of interest to the researcher. In this study, the researchers used questionnaires as the main instrument dan written interviews to support the primary data.

The questionnaire was adopted from previous research with the same issue about finding the students' perceptions on the use of learning media. It was divided into four sections, namely demographic information with eight questions, Tik Tok features with seven questions, the utilization of Tik Tok with thirteen questions, and five open-ended questions as written interviews. The questionnaire was created using the Indonesian language to make the students easily understand each of item. It was also in the form of multiple choice, Linkert scale, and open-ended question types regarding the time effectiveness of the participants filling out the form and easy analysis. The participants of the research were 61 students of the Midwifery Department, Poltekkes Kemenkes Malang in the 4th grade of the academic year 2022/2023. They took a course of English in Midwifery Practice II with one of the topics of Health Education".

The data collected from the questionnaire were analyzed using a percentage or quantitative way and explained descriptively to draw a conclusion. The explanation showed the proportion of the group of population (Latief, 2011) was one of the characteristics of this research.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the study revealed some findings regarding the students' perspective of Tik Tok as learning media to improve English skills, especially for ESP students of the Midwifery Department, Poltekkes Kemenkes Malang. The findings involved demographic information, Tik Tok features, the utilization of Tik Tok, and interview results.

Demographic Data

The questionnaire employed eight questions in the form of multiple-choice type and they covered information about gender, age, place of living description, department, grade, internet access description, technology devices, and source of internet access. The data presented in the form of percentages in Table 1 was as follow:

Table: 1 Demographic Data

Item	N	(%)
Gender		
- Female	61	100%
- Male	0	0%
	1	2
Age		
- 18 years old	0	0%
- 19 years old	0	0%
- 20 years old	11	18%
- Above 20 years old	50	50%
	1	3
Place of Living Description		
- Town center	27	44.2%
- Rural area	34	55.7%
Department		
- Midwifery	61	100%
Grade		
- 4th grade	61	100%
Internet Access Description		
- Stable and fast	34	55.7%
- Stable but slow	18	29.5%
- Unstable and slow	1	1.6%
- Unstable but fast	8	13.1%
Devices		
- Laptop	52	85.2%
- Smartphone	7	11.5%
- Laptop & HP	2	3.3%
Source of Internet Access		
- Wifi	38	62.2%

-	Internet Package Data	20	33%
-	Hotspot tethering	2	3.2%
-	Package Data & wifi	1	1.6%
The package internet data for Tik Tok			
-	High	25	41%
-	Medium	32	52.5%
-	Low	4	6.6%

According to Table 1. all the participants were female students (100%) in the Midwifery Department and most of them were above 20 years old since they were in the 4th grade. Besides, the data also presented the description of the place of living and internet access. 55.7% of the students lived in the rural area around East Java and 44.2% of them lived in the town center. This information was very important to know how well the area was connected to internet access. It was supported by the next data about the description of internet access. It was found that 55.7% of the respondents had a stable and fast internet connection. The remaining showed that 29.5% of the students had a stable but slow, 13.1% had an unstable but fast, and 1.6% of respondents had an unstable and slow internet connection to join and access the learning materials of English for Nursing.

Table 1. also reported the data about the source of Internet access used by the students to join the learning process. Based on the table, 62.2% of the students used Wifi to connect their devices to the internet, 33% of the students used internet package data, 3.2% of the students used hotspot tethering, and 1.6% of the students used the combination of package data and Wifi. To connect to the internet, according to the table, most of the students used Laptop devices (85.2%), smartphones (11.5%), and both laptops and smartphones (3.3%). Since this study regarding the use of Tik Tok application for English learning, Table 1 showed information that the internet package data for Tik Tok was medium (52.5%) and high (41%).

Demographic data of the research was very important to find out the characteristics of the participants. As mentioned by Veroff (2023) demographic data is information on the size, development, or spreading of the population and can help give a basis for understanding groups as they are now, where they've been, and where they're headed. He also pointed out that it can be a powerful device for tracking transformation and for detecting the requirements or strengths of a community to guide planning or decision-making.

In the context of this study, the availability of internet connection, the devices that students used, the age of the participants were very important to know the spread of the population and affected the valid result of this study.

The Utilization Of Tik Tok

In this sub-section of findings, the writer presented the data taken from the questionnaire in relation to the utilization

Table 2 The Features of Tik Tok

Item	SD	D	A	SA
Creating and editing videos using Tik Tok is easy, fun, and simple	1.6	1.6	55.7	41
The latest music improving my motivation in learning English	1.6	1.6	37.7	59
Filter, Emoticons, and Animations on Tik Tok are really useful to help me learn English	1.6	1.6	45.9	50.8
The process of uploading video through Tik Tok is easy and fast	1.6	0	47.5	50.8
Tik Tok application is easily accessed using Laptop or Smartphone	1.6	1.6	31.1	65.6
Tik Tok application can be accessed anytime and anywhere	1.6	0	24.6	73.8

Table 2 presented information about students' points of view in relation to the features of Tik Tok for English learning in the context of ESP. According to the table, the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that creating and editing videos using Tik Tok is easy, fun, and simple (96.7%). The second item showed that they also agreed and strongly agreed that the latest music or back-sound on Tik Tok can keep their motivation in learning English, particularly for midwifery topics (96.7%). In addition, the features of filters, emoticons, and animations on Tik Tok are really useful to help students learn English. More than 96% of respondents agreed about that. Still, on the features of Tik Tok, other data reported that 98.3% of midwifery students agree and strongly agreed that the process of uploading videos through Tik Tok is very simple and quick. The next feature is the main support for the use of Tik Tok for learning media, which is easily accessed using smartphones or laptops (96.7% agreed & strongly agreed). The last data showed that the Tik Tok application can be flexibly accessed. The midwifery students of Poltekkes Kemenkes Malang (98.4%) can use it based on their own pace to maximize the learning process and result.

Based on the data above, the result of this study supported the findings of the previous research in relation to the use of Tik Tok in English language learning. All the features on Tik Tok allow the students to explore more information and develop their creativity in learning the language. The learning motivation is also increasing because the students can engage in the activity of creating videos through Tik Tok. It is in line with the last finding that Tik Tok had a useful effect on the learner's performance as well as self-apparent engagement in an introductory statistics course (Jacobs et.al, 2022).

In addition to that, Tik Tok is claimed as the most fun and simple application as well as motivated enough to be used by the millennials. It is in line with the previous result that Tik Tok could improve the students' participation during classroom activities (Awang et.al, 2022). According to these findings, it is believed that the use of Tik Tok as English learning media is still considerably by the teachers to achieve the bite size of learning goals.

Table: 3 The Use of Tik Tok

Item	SD	D	A	SA
Tik Tok is very popular among young people	1.6	1.6	8.2	88.5
Through Tik Tok, I got lots of information about news, culture, language, and many more in a fun way	0	3.3	9.8	86.9
I like watching Tik Tok Videos about English	0	3.3	37.7	59
Through Tik Tok, I can learn English from the native in a fun way	0	6.6	32.8	60.7
Tik Tok application helps me to improve my English learning motivation	1.6	3.3	39.3	55.7
Tik Tok encourages me to be more creative in learning English	1.6	3.3	39.3	55.7
Tik Tok helps me to improve my speaking skill regarding health topics	1.6	0	32.8	65.6
Tik Tok helps me to improve my listening skill regarding health topics	1.6	1.6	26.2	70.5
Tik Tok helps me to improve my reading skill regarding health topics	1.6	1.6	31.1	65.6
Tik Tok helps me to improve my writing skill regarding health topics	1.6	1.6	36.1	60.7
Creating videos of health education is a challenging and new experience for me	1.6	1.6	32.8	63.9
Videos of Health Education through Tik Tok is effective and efficient	1.6	0	29.5	68.9

Table 3 provided information about the students' perspective on the utilization of Tik Tok as a learning media for English courses in the context of ESP materials. The first item showed that 96.7% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that Tik Tok is well-known among youngsters. The second item showed 96.7% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that through Tik Tok they got lots of information about news, culture, and language in such an attractive way. The third item showed 96.7% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that they are fond of watching videos of Tik Tok. The fourth item showed 93.5% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that they can learn English from the natives in a fun way. The fifth item showed 95% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that Tik Tok can

keep them motivated during the learning process. The sixth item showed 95% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that Tik Tok promotes their creativity in making videos while learning English.

Table 3 also provided other data regarding the use of Tik Tok in relation to English language skills, particularly in health topics. The seventh item showed 98.4% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that Tik Tok can improve their speaking skills. The eight-item showed 96.7% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that Tik Tok can improve their listening skills. The ninth item showed 96.7% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that Tik Tok can increase their reading skills. The tenth item showed 96.8% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that Tik Tok can increase their writing skills. The last two data presented general perceptions of Tik Tok. 96.7% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that creating videos with the topics of health using Tik Tok is very challenging and such a new experience. Besides, 98.4% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that presenting videos about women's health education through Tik Tok is very effective and efficient.

Based on the result above, the utilization of Tik Tok to improve English language skills is considerable. Tik Tok was claimed to be helpful in improving students' writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills as well as vocabulary and pronunciation (Pratiwi et al, 2021). Through Tik Tok, students can explore the wide range of information in an attractive and fun way. They can learn from the natives, clubs, or others without any limitation and this situation automatically creates a different learning atmosphere for the students both in self-study or in the classroom. These findings were in line with the previous research which stated that Tik Tok was very beneficial for improving speaking, writing, reading, and listening (Mandasari et al, 2022; Zaitun et al, 2021).

Overall, the findings of this study reported that the students' perception towards the utilization of Tik Tok was very significant and positive in relation the the chances of the students in exploring and learning an English language. Afidal et al (2021) added that the utilization of Tik Tok as an instructional media in distance learning during the pandemic was very positive, good, and helpful. She also reported that the students were expected to use Tik Tok for another language skill, especially speaking, in the future.

CONCLUSION

This study intended to find out the students' perception towards the use of Tik Tok to improve English skills, especially in the context of Midwifery. Their perspective included utilizing Tik Tok features, satisfaction, and its good and bad sides. The result showed that more than 95% of research participants had a highly positive perception of Tik Tok for learning media in the context of English for Midwifery and agreed that Tik Tok was a beneficial application supporting English language learning during the pandemic or post-pandemic.

Another finding reported the positive and negative sides of the Tik Tok application. Since it is a very popular social media, it not only brings useful things to the users but also has drawbacks. Using Tik Tok, the students got lots of new information about English,

different academic atmospheres, avoiding boredom, building confidence, pronunciation practice, and last but not least according to the participants increasing confidence. Issues such as the difficulty of internet access, inappropriate content, eyesore, tiredness, taking a long time, and costly data package. As teachers, we should carefully consider the learning model or strategy as best practice to help them achieve learning objectives. Besides, optimizing the strengths and minimizing the weaknesses of learning media demanded high teaching skills of the teachers.

The last finding was the students' satisfaction with using Tik Tok as English learning media in the context of ESP during the pandemic. The students of the Midwifery Department, Poltekkes Kemenkes Malang, were satisfied with the learning experience using Tik Tok for the topic of learning "Health Education". They said that they got lots of enthusiasm, information, knowledge, and fun experience. The participants also gave some suggestions that teachers may explore more the use of Tik Tok for other topics and use other applications to improve English skills, such as Instagram. Using technology media as learning tools can help students to increase their creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking which are prominent in the 21st century.

The study about the use of Tik Tok to improve English skills of ESP students needs further research to have a comprehensive result and description. So, further study may explore more the effectiveness of social media, not only Tik Tok, but also others, such as Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp, to help students, especially ESP students to achieve better learning goals as well as provide them with meaningful learning experiences regarding their background of the study.

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