

UNLEASHING ENGLISH FLUENCY: HARNESSING TIKTOK'S POWER FOR SPEAKING SKILLS

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ABSTRACT

This study explored TikTok's outstanding potential as a popular social media platform for improving English skills. This study applied a qualitative research design and used a phenomenological lens to explore EFL teacher and learner experiences and evaluated TikTok's effectiveness in improving fluency in English speaking skills. Based on the findings of this study, the EFL teacher found TikTok helpful in providing content relevant to the national curriculum. In addition, students reported that their English vocabulary, pronunciation, and motivation to practice English speaking improved, and they were very happy with TikTok. However, the barriers identified included limited internet and mobile phone access for some students. Overall, TikTok was an effective tool for improving English skills, allowing learners to expose themselves to great content and materials across the globe. These findings contribute to the field of language teaching by providing insights for educators and learners looking for innovative ways to improve English proficiency by leveraging technology development.

Keywords: English fluency, Language learning, Speaking skills, Technology-enhanced learning, TikTok

INTRODUCTION

English fluency is a crucial aspect of effective communication in today's globalized world (Parupalli, 2019). Proficiency in spoken English empowers individuals to engage in academic, professional, and social settings with confidence and clarity (Zaman et al., 2023). Traditional language learning methods have predominantly relied on classroom-based instruction, but technological advancements and the proliferation of social media platforms have opened up new avenues for language acquisition (Shadiey, 2020). According to Al-Marouf et al. (2021), TikTok has great potential for improving students' English-speaking skills.

TikTok is a widely popular social media platform that lets users create and share short videos. It was launched in September 2016 and has since become a cultural phenomenon, particularly among young people and the Gen Z generation, with high global popularity (D'souza, 2023). TikTok has over 1 billion active monthly users worldwide, 63% of whom are between the ages of 10 and 29. Even in the US, there are two to one times more

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women on TikTok than men. Due to the popularity of TikTok, Byte Dance is currently considered one of the most valuable startups in the world (Picaro, 2023).

Recent studies have highlighted the positive impact of technology on language learning, emphasizing the value of authentic and engaging resources (Al-Marouf et al., 2021). TikTok, with its vast user base and diverse content, offers a unique opportunity for English learners to immerse themselves in authentic spoken language and cultural contexts (Lu & Qiu, 2022). This statement strengthens the study conducted by Bsharat and Hamarsha (2023), in which integrating technology into the language learning process has resulted in widespread acceptance globally and has been proven to be a practical learning approach for students and teachers globally. An increasing number of EFL learners have recognized the value of utilizing social media as a beneficial tool to enhance their English proficiency. Among the various social media applications, TikTok has become one of the most popular among the learner generation globally. This application can increase and enhance the student's speaking abilities to its widespread application nowadays. By implementing the various features of this application, such as duets with native speakers and interactive comments with others, EFL learners can actively improve and practice their English-speaking skills in a very interactive and dynamic manner (Zhou et al., 2023). Nevertheless, the concrete benefits, effectiveness of utilizing TikTok, challenges for English speaking fluency, and developments of TikTok remain unexplored in the academic literature.

In this study, the researchers addressed the existing research gap concerning the benefits, effectiveness, and challenges in utilizing TikTok for EFL students' English-speaking skills fluency. Even a previous study acknowledged the positive impact of language learning that uses technology, especially social media; TikTok is a fascinating learning resource.

There still needs to be more depth about the experiences and perceptions of every individual who has used TikTok to improve their English skills. To overcome this gap, the researchers employed a qualitative research design. This involved conducting interviews, observations, transcription, and analysis of the results to gain valuable insights into the exciting aspect of enhancing and learning English speaking through the TikTok Application. In addition, this study adopted a phenomenological approach and explored learners' experiences to better understand and evaluate the overall effectiveness of this modern and revolutionary approach.

Additionally, the findings from this research will contribute to a more in-depth science, specifically in language education. Meanwhile, language educators and practitioners can benefit from the insights gained in this study, as they are looking for innovative methods to improve English fluency by utilizing technological advances and meeting the evolving needs of language learners. This study aims to shed light on the immense potential of the TikTok app as a tool for improving English speaking skills. It can offer practical implications for curriculum design and instructional practices in language education, especially English. Furthermore, the purpose of this study is to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the EFL learners' perceptions and experiences regarding TikTok's effectiveness in improving speaking skills, and how do these perceptions align with their actual language development?
2. What specific strategies or techniques can be identified for harnessing TikTok's potential to enhance English speaking proficiency?
3. How does the use of TikTok as a language learning platform impact English fluency and speaking skills among users?

The findings of this study hold significant implications for language educators, curriculum designers, and practitioners seeking innovative ways to enhance English fluency. By understanding the potential of TikTok as a tool for speaking skills development, educators can leverage technology to create engaging and immersive learning environments that cater to the evolving needs and preferences of language learners.

RESEARCH METHOD

Creswell (2013) states that the qualitative research approach is employed to gain insight and investigate the importance of comprehending the intricate nature of a human or social scenario. Furthermore, it is crucial to acknowledge that an individual's encounters can elucidate a particular phenomenon. Phenomenological research methodology seeks to depict the characteristics of the lived experiences shared by a group of individuals who serve as the primary providers of universally applicable information, situation, or event (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

Participants Profiles

The study was conducted at an Islamic Private Senior High School (Madrasah Aliyah) located in Semabung, Jatibanteng, Situbondo, following approval from the headmaster of the school. During our research, we noticed that most of the teachers and students at the school actively used TikTok as one of their social media platforms. It is worth noting that the English program at the school is particularly noteworthy.

In this study, we involved one senior English teacher (n=1), who had teaching experience of 5 > years, and three students from the 2nd grade, chosen as representatives randomly (n=3), communicating in Indonesian, their mother tongue. The researchers conducted individual interviews with a senior English instructor and focus group interviews with randomly selected students, as indicated by the Burner (2016) study.

Data Collection

In the data collection process, we employed a phenomenological interview approach (Henriksen et al., 2022). In this context, data were collected through in-depth interviews to identify the experiences of EFL teachers and students (Yulianti & Mukminin, 2021).

The method chosen by the researchers was face-to-face interviews tailored to the willingness of teachers and students. The researchers also used Indonesian in this interview to explore the issue in more detail and circumvent language barriers (Sudarwati et al., 2022). On the other hand, teachers and students can articulate their experiences, thoughts, and feelings clearly. The interviews took place between 15 and 20 minutes per person. Likewise, the verbal data from the interview were first recorded, transcribed, categorized, and evaluated, as Mahbub (2018) recommends.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study is to explore the potential of TikTok as a powerful tool for improving English speaking skills. The findings from this study are divided into two areas: findings from the semistructured interview with the senior EFL teacher and those from the focus group interview with the students.

Findings

Results of the EFL Teacher Interview

How the EFL Teacher Integrated TikTok into a Class to Enhance Students' Speaking Skills

Before all, the researchers tried to understand one of the significant parts of this study, is that how the teacher integrated TikTok into his class, the findings are pretty interesting; in our observation from the interview, the EFL teacher seems to have used TikTok for an extended period, as he can explain step by step how he integrated the TikTok into his class and managed to find the relevant content to align with the subject as per the national curriculum.

Excerpt 1:

Okay, thanks for the time. I will answer the first question about integrating TikTok into our students' lessons. First, we opened the TikTok app to show a video to our students and students to imitate. First, we play a video with our students. Then, we repeat it to practice it (from videos spoken by

native speakers). After it has been practiced, we usually form a group to make a short video that uses English. It was to develop or integrate the TikTok application into our learning process. (Senior EFL teacher, June 06, 2023).

The participant (EFL Teacher) explained that he found valuable materials to improve his students' speaking skills by presenting them with a great example from a native speaker, as many native speakers use TikTok to share their knowledge and experience worldwide.

Teacher's perceptions of how effective TikTok is in enhancing Student's English-Speaking Skills

Significantly from the EFL teacher's perceptions, he explained part of his experience in integrating the TikTok content into his class; he is happy with the content as there are many resources globally that he can integrate into his class. The flexibility of TikTok to be used anywhere students need it is another positive factor of the TikTok application. The EFL teacher also informed the researchers that the student's motivation is amazingly increased as it is a well-up-to-date method in the learning process rather than just focusing on the textbook.

Excerpt 2:

Of course, there are also many foreign speakers on TikTok, and we can learn directly from them. Therefore, according to my observation, TikTok is naturally very effective in improving the English skills of our students. In addition, these students were motivated by the excellent content on TikTok. Therefore, our students have a special motivation to improve their English skills, especially speaking learners. (Senior EFL teacher, June 06, 2023).

How social media (TikTok) and technology development encouraged and motivated students to learn English, especially speaking English

The findings from this part of the study are aligned with the needs and interests of the students in learning English, specifically in speaking skills, not just focusing on the old method without adapting the technology development, as the previous findings from Excerpt 2. The participant (EFL Teacher) firmly believes that the development of modern technology motivates his students to learn English speaking skills by using TikTok in their daily learning process without any time veil if they have an internet connection. The development of technology is also changing the learning style of our young generation (Gen Z), who like surfing more on their phone than on a textbook. This is one reason why his students love learning to speak English through TikTok because it adapts to students' or millennial interests.

Excerpt 3:

Therefore, with the development of modern technology, students are more interested in learning using the TikTok application. With this application, our students are more interested in learning because the learning is adapted to the interests of today's young people who prefer to play on mobile phones, especially surfing on social media, one of which is more popular, namely TikTok. Especially in English lessons. They are more interested in that way. (Senior EFL teacher, June 06, 2023).

EFL teacher techniques to make the most of TikTok's role in improving the Students' Speaking Skills

Additionally, the participant, from these findings, was constantly encouraging his students to practice their speaking skills in their daily activities as much as possible. This is one way to improve the students' speaking quality as they have learned from the TikTok application. Furthermore, the participant (EFL teacher) was also accompanying his students to be more creative by making videos of their speaking practice as part of the work, and they uploaded them on TikTok as well.

Excerpt 4:

We still apply their habits to keep practicing English speaking. So, what we have implemented is that we often practice it. For example, in our day-to-day activities, we practice speaking English. Of course, it must be 24 hours as much as possible because it can improve students' speaking

quality. Furthermore, we create videos to improve student achievement. That is what we have applied to our students. (Senior EFL teacher, June 06, 2023).

Challenges in utilizing TikTok for learning English-speaking

The challenging part was also explained by the EFL teacher, who used TikTok in his learning process. From the viewpoint of the EFL teacher, the internet connection was one of the significant challenges in using TikTok; as the school is in a rural area, the connection is not that stable enough. Additionally, cell phone access was another challenge for half of the students in the class, as 50% of them stayed in the Islamic Boarding school and needed access to cell phones as outsider students. In addition, the TikTok application is categorized as a heavy app, especially if the cell phone has lower specs.

Excerpt 5:

There are still advantages, of course, but there are also disadvantages to the application. For example, because of this advantage, we can access it whenever we want to make videos for developing our students. Therefore, for the drawbacks there, we usually need to improve on the internet. So, like us, in rural areas, the internet is weak, and there is also a lack of cell phone facilities. Only 50% of the students have cell phones in class because 50% are in boarding schools. Nevertheless, the biggest challenge is that there is limited internet access, and some students need cell phones. The TikTok application is burdensome, especially if the cellphone specs have very low RAM; running this application will be difficult because the video will pause. (Senior EFL teacher, June 06, 2023).

TikTok and the learning process: How an EFL teacher solves the problem

Based on the provided information, a group was created to use the application for learning purposes. The group was formed to ensure that all members could use the application together. The statement “when 50% have these facilities, 50% of us join the 50%, then everything is fulfilled” suggests that the group’s goal is to ensure that once half of the members have access to the necessary facilities (possibly referring to devices or equipment required for using the application), the other half will also join in, completing the participation.

Furthermore, the mention of having a projector in the school implies that it is used for the benefit of the students. The projector is likely to be used as a teaching tool or to enhance the learning experience.

Excerpt 6:

Therefore, we created a group so that all of them could use the application together for learning purposes. So, when 50% have these facilities, 50% of us join the 50%, then everything is fulfilled. In our school, there is a projector. We use it for our students. (Senior EFL teacher, June 06, 2023).

The overall experience of using TikTok to improve English skills

According to the study results, participants were generally satisfied with TikTok’s functionality. There are many benefits, including the ability to access English learning videos quickly and find various sources worldwide, including native and local speakers. In addition, participants appreciated the convenience of accessing these resources at any time and without being limited by space and time.

However, TikTok should be made lighter with respect to resource usage. By doing so, people with lower-end cellphone specifications can access and use the application more smoothly. This is likely due to some participants experiencing performance issues and limitations due to device specifications and believing that optimizing application performance will improve the user experience for a wider audience.

Excerpt 7:

Overall, we are delighted with the TikTok application. However, we can make the application lighter so that even those with low cellphone specs can access the TikTok application smoothly. Nevertheless, we are satisfied with the TikTok application because we can access English learning videos very quickly and find various sources from all over the world, both native and local speakers, without any space and time limitations. That may be how we can explain Mr. (Senior EFL teacher, June 06, 2023).

Results of the Student Interviews

TikTok users' perceptions of improving English speaking skills

Results from the focus group interviews with students are presented according to the areas listed above. The first fact that emerges from the data collection process regarding the features built into this platform is that they rated TikTok as positive, especially in terms of learning English speaking skills. The S1 strongly stated that she is delighted with TikTok, as she can learn English even from the basic materials, a lot of resources, improve vocabularies, practice pronunciation, and learn English with native speakers across the globe. The first finding from the S1 Interview is supported by the statement of the S2 findings, which stated that she is amazingly impressed with TikTok, as she can improve her vocabularies and how to pronounce each word better. Surprisingly, S2 claimed that even though she has no friends with whom she can practice her English, she can still practice with TikTok by following the native speakers. Because in TikTok, the speakers will read first and be continued by the participants with different contexts and situations.

Following the statement from the S2 participant, the S3 participant typically had the same opinion and perception that she agreed with the S2 statement.

Excerpt 8:

The TikTok application is excellent because it can teach English, even from the very basics, as described in the introduction. Even various materials that enrich our vocabulary can also help us learn how to pronounce each word better because many native speakers use TikTok for learning media. (S1, Interview, June 06, 2023)

Excerpt 9:

The TikTok application is perfect because there is a lot of English language learning, both in terms of vocabulary and pronunciation. Even when we have no friends with whom to practice speaking, we can still learn to speak alone by practicing directly with native speakers on TikTok. (S2, Interview, June 06, 2023)

Excerpt 10:

The TikTok application has many uses, not only negative things, but even a lot of material seems to be the addition of vocabulary and everyday expressions that can be learned and memorized, and even I agree that if we are alone, we can still practice and deepen ourselves with TikTok. (S3, Interview, June 06, 2023)

The example that TikTok already helps improve students' English-speaking skills

Because of the previous findings from the first group interview with the participant's perceptions that they were all overall happy in using TikTok, the researchers tried to find more evidence and supporting data on how TikTok helped them improve the students' speaking skills. Amazingly, the participants had almost the same experience as S3 participant, who used to struggle to express even the basic pronunciation, but after repeating and listening to view times from the speakers on TikTok, she found her confidence. The above findings are supported by the finding from the S2 statement that she mostly had the same issue before that, which was about her pronunciation as well. Furthermore, the finding from the S1 participant was quite a different context than the other two participants (S2, S3), but still about the pronunciation uses. S1 found herself more to the use of combination from Vowel to Vocal pronunciation in daily greetings.

Excerpt 11:

So, as a small example, at first, I could not pronounce some basic expressions well; it was still very stiff, but after a few listens and practicing what I got on TikTok, it was smoother. For example, the pronunciation of "How are you" used to be difficult, but now it can connect well, yes like, almost like a native speaker... hee...he (smile). (S3, Interview, June 06, 2023)

Excerpt 12:

At first, it was challenging for me, even during the introductions. I used to say my name often (Name sounds as in Indonesian), but over time I often heard it on TikTok and improved in class to pronounce it better. (S2, Interview, June 06, 2023)

Excerpt 13:

I have learned to combine words that end with vowels. It can be directly combined with vocal letters, for example, by saying “Good afternoon” a good ending in “D,” and afternoon at the beginning of the vocal letters. Then, the pronunciation can be combined in “Good afternoon” so that I feel more confident to practice with the new knowledge I have gained on TikTok. (S1, Interview, June 06, 2023)

As stated by participant S1, the participant agreed that TikTok can be effectively used for learning English, significantly improving speaking skills. The statement suggests that the best times to use TikTok for learning are during recess or after school when students have more free time and can focus on language learning activities.

Furthermore, participant S2 highlights the flexibility of TikTok to find lessons and apply what they learn immediately. Citing the benefit of interacting with native speakers for free, they pointed out that TikTok offers access to authentic English content and the opportunity to practice your English. In addition, participant S3 emphasizes the importance of using her TikTok to increase her vocabulary and improve the quality of her English, especially her speaking skills. They suggest spending 15 minutes listening to English speakers on TikTok to expand your vocabulary and improve your English-speaking skills.

Excerpt 14:

n my opinion, because TikTok is very flexible during break time in the school, we can also use it to find lessons that I can immediately practice. I left this application on the rise and was free to learn with native speakers. (S1, Interview, June 06, 2023).

Excerpt 15:

When we come home from school, using TikTok to increase our vocabulary and practice speaking is better. (Student 2, June 06, 2023)

Excerpt 16:

I think after school, and after the break time at home, it can be like 15 minutes to listen to some English speakers to increase the vocabulary and improve the quality of our English, especially for speaking English. (S3, Interview, June 06, 2023)

Overall, participants find TikTok a valuable platform for learning English, significantly improving their speaking skills. Suggested strategies include

- using TikTok during breaks and after school,
- actively engaging with native speakers, and
- allowing them to listen to English content on the platform on a short but regular basis.

Opinions on the benefits of TikTok and its challenges as an English learning tool

Regarding benefits, one participant (S2) highlighted the benefits of learning directly from native speakers on TikTok for free, believing it more beneficial than engaging in less productive activities on the platform. Another participant (S1) appreciated that TikTok offers a wide range of learning opportunities in English and other subjects, such as the Indonesian language and history. They recognize the potential benefits of TikTok as a diverse educational platform.

However, the participant also recognizes specific challenges and concerns with using her TikTok as an English learning tool. One of the participants (S1) points out that some content may not be suitable for all age groups, so caution should be exercised, especially with content aimed at those over 18. Another participant (S3) emphasized the importance of teacher and parental supervision to ensure TikTok is used wisely and responsibly.

Excerpt 17:

The benefit is that for me, instead of seeing less useful things, we better learn directly with native speakers on TikTok for free rather than just dancing and other things. (S2, Interview, June 06, 2023)

Excerpt 18:

I like it because, on TikTok, there are also many benefits; almost all learning exists, not only English learning; for example, you can learn Indonesian, history, and especially English. Behind that, TikTok should also be wiser because there is some content for people 18+ and above. (S1, Interview, June 06, 2023)

Excerpt 19:

It is okay to use TikTok, but it must also be wiser and better if teachers and parents supervise it. (S3, Interview, June 06, 2023)

Overall, participants recognized the benefits of TikTok as a platform for learning English, primarily through direct interaction with native speakers and access to various educational contents. However, it also highlights challenges such as age-appropriate content and the need for supervision to safely and effectively use TikTok for learning.

Overall experience in using TikTok to improve the students' speaking skills

One of the participants (S1) thanked TikTok for its educational content, highlighting various content that supports the learning process. They also mentioned the opportunity to learn from various experts worldwide, demonstrating the global reach of TikTok as a learning platform. Another participant (S2) also agrees with her TikTok and expresses sympathy but points to internet connectivity limitations, especially in rural areas, as highlights the challenges of accessing TikTok consistently and smoothly, which could impact the overall experience and effectiveness of using the platform to improve her speaking skills. A third participant (S3) shared similar sentiments, emphasizing the importance of being proactive while empathizing with TikTok. This suggests that they recognize TikTok's potential as a tool for improving their speaking skills and the need for responsible use and careful content consumption.

Excerpt 20:

We like and are very grateful for the TikTok content that educates us with various contents. You can also study with various experts from all over the world. (S1, Interview, June 06, 2023)

Excerpt 21:

We agree and really like TikTok, but it will also be constrained if the internet network is better, especially in rural areas like this. (S2, Interview, June 06, 2023).

Excerpt 22:

Yes, more or less the same as our friends, we like TikTok; the point is how we Positively use TikTok. (S3, Interview, June 06, 2023)

Overall, the participants were positive about using TikTok to improve their speaking skills and valued educational content and global learning opportunities. However, challenges such as internet connectivity and the importance of actively using TikTok have also been recognized.

Discussion

This study aims to search and learn more deeply about the great potential of a social media application (Chen & Xiao, 2022) that is trending in various parts of the world, namely TikTok, as a learning tool to improve and support the ability to speak English. This statement also aligned with the study of Duan (2023), who stated that besides traditional uses, social media is also a platform for learning, such as TikTok. There are various English learning applications. These content creators come from many speakers globally, either native speakers or professional teachers from different backgrounds, cultures, and countries.

We, as researchers, intend to multiply the wide variety of findings that have yet to be widely exposed from previous studies. The findings of this study were divided into two areas: the findings from interviews with an EFL senior teacher in the school where we conducted the research and the findings from interviews with students that focused on group interviews.

From the findings of the study, when we conducted semi-structured interviews with senior EFL teachers, we found a fascinating finding about how teachers can integrate a social media application (TikTok) into their learning classrooms and even improve students' English speaking skills (Solomon, 2021). In our study, the participant (EFL teacher) explained that TikTok is also used to display a learning video to all students in the class for English language learning (Kartika Dewi & Arifani, 2021), and then students can imitate both the pronunciation and expression in the video delivered by native speakers, to be directly practised by each student (Martinsen et al., 2017). It can improve students' ability and English-speaking skills generated from the educational content on TikTok (Vizcaíno-Verdú & Abidin, 2023). The EFL teacher also stated that from the advancement of social media technology, TikTok is also considered very effective in increasing students' enthusiasm and motivation to learn English (Gao et al., 2023). TikTok also provides exciting and up-to-date content, which is absolutely in line with the interests of students who are indeed millennials (Vázquez-Herrero, 2022). On the other hand, TikTok also provides unlimited learning by time and space (Vázquez-Herrero, 2022). It is awe-inspiring because it can learn anywhere and is amazingly flexible.

As for the findings from the focus group interviews with the students, the researchers found a positive perception from all the participants about TikTok without any doubt specifically when it is in the context of improving their English-speaking skills (Fahdin, 2020). The participants expressed their satisfaction and happiness with TikTok as a learning medium that provided basic materials, improved vocabulary, and practiced pronunciation. The participants (EFL Students) appreciated the outstanding opportunity to practice their English with many native speakers at no cost (Kadwa & Alshenqeeti, 2020). Even if they have no friends with whom to practice their English, the participants still can practice in their own time of pleasure with TikTok by repeating and following the native speakers (Simanungkalit & Katemba, 2023). TikTok empowers the participants to learn English as a group or as a self-taught.

The focus group interview also showed, with various examples from the participants, how TikTok has helped them improve their English-speaking skills. The participants expressed that the improvement in their pronunciation was significantly remarkable and their ability to combine vowel sounds with vocal sounds when applied in their daily speaking. It is a factor that the participants were motivated and improved their confidence. They found that TikTok is a learning platform that provides flexibility and convenience, especially during break time or after school when students have more free time (Utami, 2018). The participant also emphasizes accessing authentic English content from TikTok and obtaining the best opportunity to learn, practice, and interact with native speakers globally with no limitations and free access.

However, this study identified the challenges in using TikTok in the classroom or with students in daily English learning. The EFL teacher explained the limited internet access in rural areas and the lack of cell phone access for some students. The heaviness of the TikTok application also posed difficulties for lower-spec cell phones. These challenges must be addressed to ensure equal access and smooth usage of TikTok for learning. The ELF Teacher statement also supported the findings from the students' statement that Internet connection limitations, especially in rural areas, highlight the difficulty of consistently and smoothly accessing TikTok, which can affect the overall experience and effectiveness of the app. Use of the TikTok platform to improve their speaking skills.

One of the students also mentioned that some content might not be suitable for different age groups; therefore, caution should be exercised, especially with content intended for people of different ages. Another participant emphasized the importance of teacher and parent supervision to ensure that TikTok is used wisely and responsibly. All these challenges must be handled to ensure equal access for all and filter the best content for educational purposes so that we can obtain the best result and smooth usage of TikTok for the learning process.

CONCLUSION

This study explores TikTok's potential as a tool for improving English skills. The findings show that TikTok can play an essential role in language learning, specifically in integrating learning and materials obtained from TikTok into the learning process, while still being in line with the national curriculum. An interview with an EFL Senior Teacher and a focus group interview with students revealed some positive results related to TikTok use. Research participants (EFL teachers) considered TikTok a valuable resource for providing relevant and engaging content aligned with the national curriculum. Students reported improved vocabulary acquisition, pronunciation, and motivation to practice speaking English through their engagement with the TikTok application. Furthermore, in this study, researchers also identified some challenges in using TikTok, such as the limitation of internet access and mobile phone facilities for some students, which can be obstacles to the effectiveness of TikTok as a language learning tool application. However, tackling these challenges and ensuring equal access to technology resources will be critical for maximizing TikTok's benefits in English education.

Furthermore, the study's findings show that TikTok holds significant promise as an effective tool for improving students' English skills, and these findings are strengthened by the study of Escamilla-Fajardo et al., (2021). By taking advantage of the platform's vast collection of original languages and resources, learners can engage in highly immersive and meaningful language practices. Educators and practitioners should consider integrating TikTok into their teaching methodology to foster a dynamic and engaging language learning environment and boost their students' motivation. However, it is also important to note that this study specifically focused on English language learning in upper middle schools and rural settings and explored the potential of the app TikTok in that context only. Therefore, future research and researchers can explore the TikTok application to learn other languages and investigate its effectiveness at different proficiency levels. In addition, future research should consider TikTok's long-term impact on language acquisition and how it complements or augments traditional classroom-based teaching.

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