Article

The Use of Tiktok Education: The Impact on Student's Vocabulary Acquisition

https://doi.org/10.31004/jele.v9i4.526

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A B S T R A C T

This study is based on the fact that a significant proportion of English education students have a limited vocabulary, and the increasing popularity of TikTok also influences it. This study aims to evaluate the extent to which the utilization of TikTok Education enhances students' English vocabulary acquisition. This study comprised 8 present students enrolled in the English Education Study Program at Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara. The study employed a pre-experimental design known as a one-group pretest-posttest design. Data was collected before and after the test, and descriptive statistics and the paired t-test were employed for analysis. A total of four meetings were conducted during this study. This includes a solitary pre-test meeting that takes place at the beginning of the overall meeting. During the second or third meeting, there will be two therapy sessions and a post-test meeting following the prior session. Each meeting will have an approximate duration of 60 minutes. The children's vocabulary scores showed a substantial improvement from the pre-test to the post-test, with an average rise of 84%. The statistical significance of this improvement was verified by a paired t-test, with a p-value of less than 0.001. Additionally, there was a favorable change in the distribution of students' scores, with the majority achieving scores in the "Good to average" range or above on the post-test. The findings indicate that TikTok Education has the potential to be a valuable resource for enhancing English vocabulary acquisition among university students. However, further investigation, including larger sample sizes and longer durations, is necessary to validate these results.

Keywords: TikTok Education, vocabulary acquisition, English language learning, social media in education, learning technology.

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INTRODUCTION

English has become increasingly significant in the globalized world. Proficiency in the English language is crucial for capitalizing on opportunities in several fields, such as education, work, and international communication. A robust vocabulary is essential for achieving mastery of the English language. Having an ample vocabulary allows individuals to communicate in the English language properly (Mauriza & Siregar, 2022). English is still perceived as a demanding discipline by university students. Obtaining and maintaining new vocabulary can be a difficult and tiring task that often leads to feelings of frustration. However, the digital era has opened up new opportunities for acquiring language. Technology refers to the systematic and consistent use of theoretical knowledge to achieve practical objectives in a reproducible manner (Larasati & Ginting, 2024). Technology is the amalgamation of human action and intelligence to produce physical and abstract entities possessing worth. Similarly, artificial intelligence pertains to the technological applications that can be developed to assist human cognitive functions.

Hence, to enhance the likelihood of acquiring new vocabulary, it is vital to utilize a diverse range of learning techniques. TikTok is a burgeoning platform that has been utilized diversely to facilitate language acquisition, encompassing the utilization of user-generated material in the form of brief videos created by language learners (Wei et al., 2021). TikTok has also facilitated the sharing and accessing language learning resources and other educational information (Cao et al., 2021). Despite its limitations and constraints, TikTok can serve as a valuable instrument for language acquisition, namely for expanding one's vocabulary. TikTok's concise and enjoyable videos might be utilized to introduce and strengthen vocabulary, while users can personalize their vocabulary learning journey with the aid of the platform's analytics (Wei et al., 2021). These brief video apps serve a purpose beyond mere enjoyment. TikTok has emerged as a central platform for creators producing educational videos, particularly those focusing on teaching languages. These video creators utilize humour, music, and relatable environments to present information engagingly and initially.

Vocabulary acquisition can be achieved through various methods, and TikTok Education is one such method (Jessica Ruth Melvira Simanungkalit & Katemba, 2023). Currently, the accessibility of TikTok schooling could perhaps assist students in enhancing their language proficiency. Many TikTok content makers integrate English information into their content to assist their viewers in learning the language at any time and from any location. Conversely, numerous students need more vocabulary to acquire English proficiency.

The most essential element of acquiring English language skills is the continuous expansion of one's vocabulary. Students are currently in the process of acquiring vocabulary efficiently. Students are experiencing enhanced language acquisition through the use of technology. By utilizing their smartphones, pupils will acquire proficiency in the English language. For this study, the researcher utilized TikTok, among the numerous instructional platforms accessible for English language acquisition. College students regularly use this website for their educational purposes. College students frequently employ TikTok to access educational videos on the platform. Furthermore, other than viewing the films, kids listen to music or the commentary provided by the content creators as part of the lesson (Jessica Ruth Melvira Simanungkalit & Katemba, 2023). Students are exposed to unfamiliar foreign terms. Therefore, by learning these new terms, individuals will acquire definitions and expand their lexicon.

Given this situation's pressing nature and importance, a considerable proportion of pupils in English language education programs have a restricted vocabulary, and there is an increasing trend in the use of TikTok. Researchers are currently studying the implementation of TikTok in education for these specific purposes. The Influence on Vocabulary Acquisition in Students. Can language acquisition be enhanced with an interactive and high-speed educational approach using TikTok? As academics explore the potential of new technology to optimize language learning outcomes, it is crucial to examine this matter.

Vocabulary

Language serves as a means to understand, articulate, reason, and communicate. According to Hornby (1989:1452), there are three distinct definitions for vocabulary. First, it refers to the overall amount of words in a language. Second, it encompasses all the terms an individual is familiar with or utilizes in a given context, such as a book or subject. Lastly, it can also refer to a compilation of words with their definitions, especially those found in foreign language textbooks. Harmer (1987) classified vocabulary into two distinct categories.

a. The word "active vocabulary" refers to language that has been or is being taught to pupils, which they are expected to acquire and use.
b. Passive vocabulary refers to words or terms that pupils come across but may be unable to use or produce themselves actively.

Acquisition

Language serves as a means of understanding, articulating, reasoning, and communicating. According to Hornby (1989:1452), there are three distinct definitions for vocabulary. Firstly, it refers to the overall amount of words in a language. Secondly, it encompasses all the terms an individual is familiar with or employs in a particular context, such as a book or subject. It can also refer to a compilation of words with their respective explanations, notably those found in foreign language textbooks. Harmer (1987) classified vocabulary into two distinct categories:

a. Spelling is the act of forming words by combining letters. It entails correctly arranging a word or word's required letters and diacritics in a universally accepted sequence.
b. Pronunciation comprises the fundamental elements of speech that are perceptible to the ear. These components encompass a variety of elements, including the different sounds that constitute speech and the modulation of the voice, which is employed to communicate meaning.
c. Meanings can be classified according to the form in which they are bound. The three categories encompass lexical meaning, morphological meaning, and syntactic meaning.
d. Multiple methods are available to highlight word usage, such as promptly indicating the grammatical category of the word (countable/uncountable, transitive/Intransitive, etc.), offering comparable synonyms, specifying any usage restrictions (formal, informal, impolite, only used with children, etc.), and presenting contrasting or familiar words that exemplify the lexical group or set of words.

The term "acquisition" raises the issue of what qualifies as a legitimately "acquired" word and how to evaluate word comprehension. Possible assessment methods include multiple choice questions, cloze tests, practical evaluation tools, and word lists. Although there is no universally accepted method for acquiring vocabulary, based on the definition provided earlier, it can be deduced that vocabulary learning should include, at a minimum, the following:

a. It is essential to pronounce a word or words accurately.
b. Understand and articulate at least one or two of the most often encountered meanings of the term in everyday language.
c. Take into account the etymology or origin of the words.
d. Emphasize the process of creating words.
e. Retrieve a maximum number of collocations.
f. Engaging in word practice.

Productive language's written and spoken components are linked to a language's auditory and visual systems. Individuals primarily engage in interpersonal communication through verbal language. Accurate pronunciation of words is crucial for acquiring vocabulary; a student who can pronounce words correctly is more inclined to remember them in their memory.

TikTok Education

TikTok, a widely used social networking platform, is employed by young individuals to exchange movies ranging from 3 to 60 seconds in duration. Users can modify films they capture of themselves engaging in silly behaviour or mimicking the words of a song or pre-recorded speech by implementing a range of visual enhancements. Based on (Demmy & Fathul, 2018). TikTok is a recently launched and popular social media platform that allows

users to create engaging videos and engage in private discussions (Nabilah et al., 2021). The most beneficial use of TikTok in education is likely the creation of teacher-made films focussing on vocabulary, tenses, and pronunciation, which students may rewatch. @discoveiryeinglishjogja is a well-liked English learning account on the TikTok platform, boasting a current follower count of 572.6 thousand and continuing to attract more fans. Students can use social media platforms to study English subjects at home and in the classroom. The TikTok app is top-rated due to its practicality and potential to simplify and enhance the learning experience.

METHOD

This study utilised the quantitative technique, precisely the pre-experimental strategy. For this study, a pretest-posttest design with a single group was chosen. In the one-group pre-test and post-test design, a single group undergoes a pre-test, receives therapy, and then takes a post-test (Rahmawati & Anwar, 2022). The research subjects were selected because they were experts in the phenomenon being investigated. All participants in this study had identical age ranges, geographical locations, language competency, and cultural and technological experiences related to TikTok Education. Moreover, they exhibited a high level of cooperation and were easily accessible throughout the research process (Olivia et al., 2023). This work's background is derived from Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, where the research was conducted in June of that year. The researcher selected Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara as the research location due to its large and diverse student population. This enables researchers to collect sufficient and representative research samples, particularly from students who are frequent users of TikTok.

Participants

This study examines the use of TikTok as an educational tool by English education students and its impact on their vocabulary acquisition, both pre and after-intervention. This study involved eight students currently enrolled in the 4th semester of the English education program at Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara. These students actively participated in the pre-and post-tests by completing the Google form and following the treatment plan.

Instruments

Researchers employed tests to acquire data. This study consisted of four meetings. The process involved an initial meeting for the pre-test, followed by two treatment sessions at the second and third meetings and a final meeting for the post-test. Each meeting lasted roughly 60 minutes.

a. Pre-test
   During the initial meeting, the researcher conducted a pre-test using Google Forms, which included 20 multiple-choice vocabulary questions. The researcher disseminated the hyperlink across the students' class cohorts.
b. Treatment
   Opening
   1) The researcher explained the objective of the study.
   2) Subsequently, the researcher elucidated the English material.
   3) The researcher administered a pre-test to the students.

   Learning steps

   1) The researcher provided instructions on acquiring knowledge using the TikTok application.

2) The researcher instructs students to access the video content on TikTok and watch it collectively during class.
3) Students will view a video from the TikTok vocabulary account.
4) The researcher organized a session where questions were asked and answered.

Closure

1) The researcher condensed the English content acquired from TikTok.
2) Assessment

c. Post-test

The researcher administered a post-test to the pupils after they had completed all the treatments. The pupils were instructed to compose and commit to memory the precise verbiage of the pretest. The post-test results were computed to see if the students' vocabulary had improved as a result of learning via TikTok.

Data analysis procedures

Examination The researcher conducted a quantitative analysis of the data acquired from the pre-test and post-test. However, the researcher conducted statistical analysis on the data gathered from the pre-test and post-test. The researcher employed the design outlined by (Gay et al, 2006) in the following manner:

Table 1. One Group Pretest-posttest

Group	Pre-Test	Treatment	Post-Test
N	O_1	X	O_2

(Gay, 2006: 257)

N: Sample

O_1: Pre-test

O_2: Post-test

X: The Treatment

This research also utilises multiple formulas to analyze and manipulate data:

a. Categories' students' scores into the following groups.

Table 2. Classification of Students' Score

No.	Classification	Score
1	Excellent to very good	90-100
2	Good to average	75-85
3	Fair to poor	50-70
4	Very poor	0-45

b. Calculating the mean score of pupils' proficiency in vocabulary.

$$\overline{X} = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$

(Gay, 2006:320)

$\overline{X}$: Average score
$\sum X$: Total sum of scores
N: Represents the total count of pupils.

c. Determine the percentage of student progress by comparing the scores from the pre-test and post-test.

(Gay, 2006:320)

$$P\,(\%) = \frac{X\,X^2 - X^1}{X^1}100\%$$

P: The percentage by which the pupils' scores climbed.
X^1: The cumulative score of preliminary assessments.
X^2: The cumulative score of the post-tests.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This study comprises the pre-and post-test results of the students, together with the percentage representing their score level. Before getting treatment, the pre-test and post-test outcomes of the pupils were compared. The pre-test was conducted to determine the pupils' level of vocabulary proficiency. The test results indicated that the minimum achievable score was 20, while the maximum attainable score was 90. In order to determine the students' level of vocabulary competency, a post-test was given after the instructional intervention. The minimum score achievable was 80, and the maximum score attainable was 100. The table below presents the enhanced percentage as a consequence.

Table 3. The Improvement Percentage of Students' Score

Indicator	Mean Score		Improvement (%)
	Pre-test	**Post-test**	
Vocabulary *(Countable nouns - Uncountable nouns and There is - There are)*	48,13	88,75	84%

The following chart illustrates the enhancement in students' vocabulary following instruction using the TikTok Education approach:
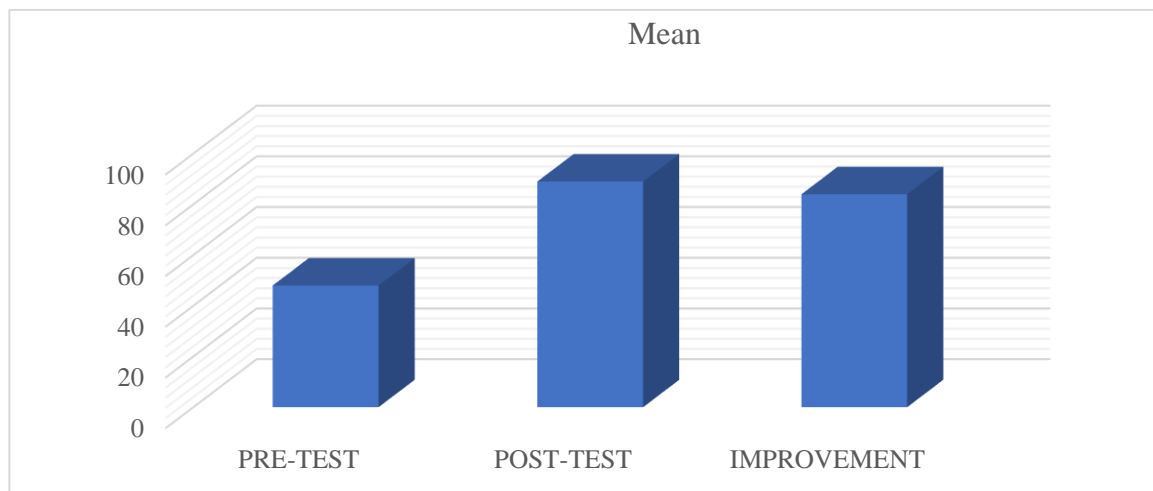
Figure 1. Students Score Improvement Percentage

The graph above illustrates a substantial improvement in the average score of students' vocabulary learning from the pre-test to the post-test. The average score before the test was 48.13, but the average score after the test was 88.75. The pre-test to post-test comparison yielded an 84% increase, indicating the successful attainment of the objective to enhance pupils' vocabulary acquisition.

Percentage of Student Score Level

The table below displays the percentages of students' scores before and after the test:

Table 4. The Rate Percentage of Students' Pre-test and Post-test.

No.	Classification	Score	Pre-test		Post-test	
			F	**%**	**F**	**%**
1	Excellent to very good	90-100	1	11.11%	3	33.33%
2	Good to average	75-85	1	11.11%	5	66.67%
3	Fair to poor	50-70	1	11.11%	--	--
4	Very poor	0-45	5	66.67%	--	--
	$\sum$		**8**	**100%**	**8**	**100%**

Based on the table provided, one participant (11.11%) achieved a "Excellent to very good" rating, one student (11.11%) achieved a "Good to average" rating, and one student (11.11%) achieved a "Fair to poor" rating. During the pre-test, five students (66.67%) achieved a "Very poor" rating. Out of the total number of participants, three children (33.33%) and five students (66.67%) achieved scores that placed them in the "Excellent to very good" and "Good to average" categories on the post-test conducted after the intervention. These individuals can be classified as part of the "good" group. These results suggest that the post-test level has a higher percentage than the pre-test level. In other words, the students' scores after receiving TikTok teaching significantly differed from their scores before the Instruction Method.

Test of Significance (Paired Sample T-test)

Based on the data, the significance (one-tailed) value is 0.001, which is less than the threshold of 0.05. Therefore, there is a statistically significant difference. There is sufficient evidence to reject the Null Hypothesis (H0) and support the Alternative Hypothesis (H1). However, the use of TikTok Education has been demonstrated to effectively impact students' acquisition of vocabulary.

Tests of Normality

Table 5. Test of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov[a]			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
PRE_TEST	.246	8	.168	.867	8	.140
POST_TEST	.208	8	.200*	.855	8	.107

*. This is a lower bound of the true significance.

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

According to the normality test findings depicted in the picture, the data for the Post-test Mean Score follow a normal distribution. This is supported by the p-value obtained via the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test (0.200) and the Lilliefors Significance Correction Test (0.107), both of which are higher than the conventional significance level of 0.05.

Discussion

The 84% increase in students' vocabulary scores following their use of TikTok Education proves the effectiveness of TikTok Education in improving vocabulary. This outcome aligns with a research investigation (Zhu et al., 2022). Using TikTok for learning English has increased student motivation and improved academic performance. They emphasised how TikTok's concise video format can enhance students' understanding and retention of new language. The distribution of student grades has been altered, and the effectiveness of this approach is evidenced by a favourable shift in the distribution of students' grades the field of (Yang et al, 2020). The study found that short video-based training can improve students' ability to remember material and overall academic performance, which supports this idea. During the pre-test, most students (66.67%) fell into the "Very poor" group. However, in the post-test, there was an absence of students belonging to that particular category. By contrast, 33.33% of students attained the "Excellent to very good" classification, while 66.67% fell into the "Good to average" classification. This demonstrates a significant enhancement in students' lexical abilities.

The validity of the findings is strengthened by the statistical significance of the paired t-test results ($p < 0.001$). Consistent with the meta-analysis conducted by (Li et al., 2021), it was found that regular use of social media for language learning has a notable positive effect on several aspects of language proficiency. The statistical analysis's validity is substantiated by the normality of the data and the normal distribution of the post-test results. In his work on statistical methodologies in educational research, Field (2013) emphasizes the need to guarantee the reliability of results. The advantages of incorporating TikTok into educational settings and the consequences of utilizing social media for academic purposes are components of a broader pattern in the use of technology within the school environment. The utilization of social media in education, specifically the positive impact of including TikTok, exemplifies a larger pattern of integrating technology in the classroom. Stockwell (2020) explores the impact of social media platforms on language learning, highlighting their ability to foster a dynamic and engaging educational setting that promotes students' active involvement.

Considering the study's limitations, such as its small sample size of only eight kids and its short length, is essential. In order to validate the results of language education research, it is imperative to reproduce studies using bigger sample sizes and longer durations, as emphasized by (Kao & Craigie, 2023). Future advancements are facilitated by the potential for these promising results to materialize. (Ma, 2021) proposed strengthening the link between the formal curriculum and social media platforms, illustrating the potential for a more extensive and contextualized approach to language acquisition.

Components of Involvement and Drive Utilizing TikTok can enhance pupils' excitement and engagement. Research conducted by (Chen & Wu, 2023) has demonstrated that TikTok's concise and engaging video format has the potential to enhance students'

motivation to learn languages, resulting in improved learning results. Challenges in executing the plan: Despite the positive results, incorporating TikTok into formal schooling has challenges. In order to achieve successful curriculum integration, it is imperative to address problems such as data privacy, inappropriate content, and potential distractions (Wang & Zhang, 2022). The significance of these findings for instructional design becomes apparent when considering the context in which instructional design is applied. (Tay et al., 2024) argue that incorporating social media into language training should adopt a comprehensive approach that priorities creating meaningful and contextually relevant learning tasks.

CONCLUSIONS

This study has assessed the efficacy of TikTok Education in improving students' acquisition of English vocabulary. Based on the results, 84% of users reported significantly improving their vocabulary after using TikTok Education. Most students attained either the "Good to average" or "Excellent to very good" classification on the post-test, suggesting a favorable change in the distribution of scores. The statistical tests confirmed a substantial difference between the results before and after the test. The results demonstrate the positive impact of TikTok Education on students' motivation and engagement in learning the English language. Therefore, it is crucial to consider developing more innovative and captivating language instruction programs that utilize social media platforms. However, the study's restricted sample size and short duration have drawbacks. Moreover, challenges associated with incorporating TikTok into formal education include concerns about data security and the possibility of encountering offensive material. Nevertheless, the study's results provide opportunities for further progress in integrating social media into language training. TikTok Education has the potential to be a very effective and tailored learning method for college students to improve their English language skills through in-depth analysis and reflection.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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