

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

As an introduction, this chapter consists of six subsections. Those are background of the study, research question, objective of the study, significant of the study, scope of limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the study

Nowadays, technology is an essential component of education. Technology has a huge impact on how students learn in the classroom. The use of technology can serve to support the learning and teaching process. Teachers are advised to integrate technology into the learning process because of its many advantages. The advancement of technology increased the opportunities for the emergence of social media. During the Covid-19 pandemic, social media platforms have become increasingly important in learning English among youngsters due to the closure of schools and the transition to the teaching and learning style (Escamilla-Fajardo et al., 2021).

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, Whatsapp are the platforms that is most frequently used by the teacher as a learning media. However, after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, TikTok has become one of the social media platforms that is often used in a society (Kaye et al., 2021). TikTok is considered as a learning medium because it has many users, complete features, and variety of information (Puspitasari, 2021). Moreover, TikTok is also beneficial for both the teacher and students (Pratiwi et al., 2021a).

TikTok is a social media platforms originally from China which based on short video-making platform launched in 2016 by Zhang Yiming and owned by ByteDance (Darvin, 2022). TikTok was first introduced as “Douyin”. However, the word “Douyin” in China is categorized as violent, so the company changed its name into TikTok. TikTok has been used in Indonesia since 2017. At that time, there were only few people who used this application. Nevertheless, in the recent years, almost fifty percent of indonesian people are using TikTok. At first, people only using TikTok as a social media to interact with others, but later on TikTok is used for academic purposes, especially in language learning.

In learning a language, speaking skill is considered as the most important skill to be mastered by the learner. It is in line with Maulana et al. (2019), mastering speaking is the most central point in language learning. According to Chaney (1998) as cited in Zainurrahman & Sangaji (2019), speaking is a social activity that involves generating and distributing meaning under a variety of conditions. Moreover, Irawati (2014) as cited in Zuhriyah (2017) defined speaking as the act of creating oral expressions in the form of words and sentences for the purpose of interacting with others. Speaking skills serve the purposes of being able to verbally explain an idea, a person's feelings, or a notion.

According to Xiuwen & Razali (2021), the use of TikTok in language learning has the potential to improve students' speaking skill. TikTok provides many fun activities including making a short video which can be used as an activity to improve students' speaking skill. Students can also study English on this platform by watching those brief videos of English native speakers. Additionally, it increased students' understanding of proper English grammar and usage. Numerous studies have looked at the benefits of using social media to help language learners improve their language ability. However, limited researches have examined the perception of EFL learners on TikTok in teaching speaking skill.

Based on the explanations above, it has been claimed that social media, particularly TikTok, is related to language acquisition. Therefore, the researcher is interested to explore the perception of EFL students on TikTok as a learning media. Furthermore, the researcher also wants to know the students' experience of using TikTok in speaking class. The researcher hoped that the use of TikTok as a media in learning process can be effective to enhance students' speaking skill. Due to the limitation on the previous studies, the current research aimed to explore students' perception on TikTok as a learning media in speaking class. Finally students perception towards TikTok depends on the result of the study.

B. Research question

Based on the background of the study mentioned above, the research question of this research is: What is the EFL students' perception on TikTok as a learning media in speaking class?

C. Objective of the study

According to the research question which has been written above, the objective of this research is: To explore the EFL students' perception about TikTok as a learning media in speaking class.

D. Significance of the study

There are several benefits which are expected by this research:

1. For the teachers, this study can be an additional knowledge to perform teaching and learning process using TikTok as a learning media. The use of TikTok as a learning media in a classroom activity, mainly in speaking class serves new learning environment because it can attract the students become actively engaged during class through its various content and features.
2. For the students, the result of this study can help the student become more confident in speaking English. The more confident someone in expressing their minds, the more their speaking ability will be developed.
3. For other researcher, the result of this study can be a reference for conducting other research related to this study.

E. Scope of limitation

In this research, the researcher will only explore senior high school students perception on TikTok as a learning media. Specifically, it explores their perceptions of using TikTok in a classroom activities, particularly in speaking class.

F. Definition of key terms

There might be some difficult terms that have to be explained further in order to make the better comprehension of the reader. There are some definitions that can be considered.

1. TikTok

TikTok is a social media platform commonly used to create and share short videos on any topic.

2. Learning Media

Learning media can be defined as a tool, it can be in the form of physical and non-physical, that is used to support the learning process to be more effective and efficient.

3. Speaking skill

Speaking skill can be defined as the ability to talk and express the idea verbally in a form of communication.

4. EFL students perception

EFL students perception can be defined as a thoughts or mental images students have about an object which is shaped by their background knowledge and life experiences.