

## FROM TIKTOK TRENDS TO ENGLISH FLUENCY: STUDENTS' DYNAMIC PATH TO VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

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### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi seberapa efektif TikTok sebagai teknik untuk meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa Inggris siswa, dengan penekanan pada pertumbuhan kosakata. Dengan menggunakan metode studi kualitatif, para ilmuwan mengumpulkan data dari sekelompok siswa yang aktif menggunakan TikTok untuk meningkatkan bahasa Inggris mereka. Hasilnya menunjukkan bagaimana siswa secara aktif berpartisipasi dalam pengalaman belajar yang bermanfaat dengan memanfaatkan tren TikTok, yang menghasilkan pertumbuhan kosakata yang signifikan. Setelah melakukan penyelidikan menyeluruh terhadap pengalaman para siswa, terlihat beberapa pola penting terkait penggunaan TikTok untuk meningkatkan kemahiran bahasa mereka serta kesulitan yang mereka hadapi selama proses tersebut. Temuan ini memberikan informasi mendalam tentang bagaimana platform media sosial dapat digunakan dalam lingkungan pembelajaran bahasa, yang akan membantu pendidik menciptakan sumber daya pengajaran yang lebih relevan dan menarik. Studi ini menyoroti nilai TikTok sebagai sumber belajar yang canggih dan menarik yang memenuhi kebutuhan pelajar yang ingin meningkatkan keterampilan bahasa Inggris mereka. Hal ini juga memperjelas karakter dinamis pembelajaran bahasa kontemporer, menekankan pentingnya menggabungkan platform digital mutakhir ke dalam metode pengajaran untuk memenuhi tuntutan siswa yang terus berubah di dunia teknologi yang maju saat ini.

**Kata Kunci:** pengalaman siswa, pendidikan digital, kosakata, TikTok, dan pembelajaran bahasa Inggris

### ABSTRACT

*This study explores how effective TikTok is as a technique for improving students' English language skills, with an emphasis on vocabulary growth. Using qualitative study methods, scientists collected data from a group of students who were actively using TikTok to improve their English. The results demonstrated how students actively participated in worthwhile learning experiences by utilizing TikTok trends, which resulted in appreciable vocabulary growth. After conducting a thorough investigation of the experiences of the students, some noteworthy patterns concerning their use of TikTok to improve their language proficiency as well as the difficulties they faced during the process were apparent. These findings provide insightful information about how social media platforms could be used in language learning environments, which will help educators create more pertinent and interesting teaching resources. This study highlights the value of TikTok as an advanced and engaging learning resource which fulfills the needs*

*of learners who want to improve their English language skills. It also clarifies the dynamic character of contemporary language learning, emphasizing the significance of incorporating cutting-edge digital platforms into teaching methods to satisfy students' changing demands in the technologically advanced world of today.*

**Keywords:** *student experience, digital education, vocabulary, TikTok, and English language learning*

## INTRODUCTION

Since the COVID-19 epidemic, there was a significant change in the world of education with a focus on digital platforms that allowed for remote study. TikTok is a social media video-sharing platform that enables users to create, share, and watch short videos. The platform has grown in appeal among young people and has been used for a variety of purposes such as entertainment, education, and activism (Suh et al., 2021). TikTok has become a major player on these platforms, providing an interesting and different way to distribute instructional content. TikTok swiftly became well-known after its launch in 2016 and subsequent rise in popularity, particularly among younger audiences. Millions of people around the world were drawn to its interactive format, which featured short-form movies and popular challenges. Among them were educators looking for innovative materials to enhance conventional teaching techniques. The need to respond to the pandemic's unexpected challenges—such as social distance and school closures—led to a move towards digital platforms like TikTok. Li and Chen's (2020) research looked at how TikTok affected college students' language learning results. The study's conclusions showed that using TikTok considerably raised language learners' interest and engagement levels, highlighting the app's potential as a useful teaching tool in light of the COVID-19 pandemic's issues.

As academic institutions struggled with the shift to distance learning, TikTok became known as a flexible platform that was able to inform as well as entertain. Teachers started using TikTok's viral content and accessible interface to produce instructional materials on a range of topics, including literature. TikTok was enthusiastically utilized by students as a way to access quick educational materials that enhanced their distance learning encounters. By offering material that matches users' interests and choices, the platform's algorithmic content distribution system further personalizes learning experiences. As a result, TikTok changed from being

just a social networking app to a dynamic educational tool that encourages participation from students of all ages and helps spread information.

Language learning has experienced an important change in the last few years due to the introduction of digital platforms, especially social media, as innovative approaches for improving education. TikTok is one of these apps that has become very popular, especially with younger users because of its interactive and entertaining format. TikTok, which is known for its short-form videos and trending challenges, provides language learners with a dynamic and immersive environment that allows them to communicate with peers in real-time and engage with authentic content. The present study aims to investigate the possible contribution of TikTok to the process of English language learning, with a particular emphasis on how it can improve students' vocabulary skills.

The development of vocabulary is one of the key components of language learning, which is well acknowledged to have a substantial influence on communication abilities and general language proficiency (Nation, 2001). Multiple studies highlight the strong relationship that exists between vocabulary depth and language competency in a variety of linguistic contexts (Schmitt, 2010). thereby, teachers must use innovative and creative approaches to vocabulary enrichment in order to support their students' language development and effectively raise their level of proficiency. These approaches seek to develop higher-level linguistic abilities in kids by not only increasing their vocabulary but also helping them comprehend words in context (Ellis, 1994). Through the adoption of dynamic and contextualized approaches to vocabulary instruction, teachers can craft attractive learning opportunities that enable learners to become more proficient communicators in their target language.

As a result of its algorithmic content delivery system, which guarantees that users receive a variety of English language resources catered to their interests and preferences, TikTok is a useful medium for language acquisition (e.g., Lee et al., 2020). likewise, peer-to-peer learning and authentic language practice are facilitated by its interactive elements, which include likes, comments, and shares, which encourage a sense of community and collaboration among learners (Junco et al., 2012). TikTok's social component makes a big difference in creating a dynamic

and interesting language learning environment, which is essential for maintaining student motivation and active engagement (Benson & Reinders, 2011). Overall, TikTok's multi-modal strategy improves language acquisition by giving users access to a variety of content, encouraging social interaction, and encouraging long-term engagement.

The objective of this study is to find out the variations of vocabulary enrichment using TikTok trends and how it may improve students' English fluency. Through the use of qualitative research approaches, including interviews, the study seeks to clarify the various experiences of students who use TikTok as a language learning tool. Its main goal is to clarify the strategies that students use to use TikTok for vocabulary learning and understanding, as well as to highlight the difficulties they face along the way. The study attempts to offer subtle insights on the effectiveness of TikTok as a vocabulary enrichment tool in the field of language learning through a thorough analysis of these factors. These observations have important implications for teachers who want to include cutting-edge internet tools like TikTok into their language-learning curricula. According to Wang, Chen, and Liang (2021), social media can provide learners with an authentic environment to practice their language skills, which can improve their proficiency and confidence in using the language. Teachers can effectively utilize TikTok to improve students' language competence and fluency in English by customizing their instructional approaches and comprehending the dynamics of the platform's function in vocabulary learning. As a result, this study is an invaluable tool for teachers who want to modify their teaching approaches according to the changing requirements and preferences of modern, digital learners.

The findings from the study of Lai and Zheng (2017), which looked into how digital technology affected language learning outcomes, complement Benson and Reinders' (2011) investigation of language acquisition beyond typical classroom settings. Their study sheds light on the larger implications of technology in teaching languages, even though it did not exclusively focus on TikTok. According to Lai and Zheng's research, social media platforms and other digital technologies have the ability to improve language learning experiences by offering interesting and dynamic chances for practice and immersion. Their results reflect the idea that

Benson and Reinders' dynamic and interactive learning settings are compatible with the potential of platforms such as TikTok to enhance language practice and vocabulary enrichment.

Li and Wang's (2018) study provide insightful information about how well social media integration works in language learning environments. Their research highlights the advantageous impact of social media on language learning motivation, engagement, and competency, even though it mainly focused on the use of WeChat, a different social media platform than TikTok. According to Li and Wang's research, social media platforms' interactive and collaborative features can foster the development of beneficial settings for language practice and vocabulary acquisition. These results are in line with TikTok's potential as a tool for vocabulary enrichment and improving English fluency due to its dynamic and interactive characteristics that encourage peer connection and active engagement. Consequently, Li and Wang's study offers a fundamental comprehension of the advantages of social media in language learning, supporting the argument for exploring TikTok's role in facilitating vocabulary acquisition and language practice.

Benson and Reinders (2011) explored the idea of language learning outside of the conventional classroom and looked at different methods of language acquisition, like incorporating digital resources. Although their research is not directly associated with TikTok, their understanding of the value of developing dynamic and captivating learning environments is relevant to the ways in which platforms like TikTok may be used to improve vocabulary and practice language skills. Benson and Reinders establish the foundation for investigating the impact of digital platforms in promoting vocabulary acquisition and language competency by highlighting the need for creative approaches to improve language learning experiences. Their conversation emphasizes how crucial it is to use digital tools to build immersive and dynamic learning environments that encourage students to actively participate and collaborate with one another. As a result, a theoretical framework that supports the use of websites like TikTok as instruments for improving vocabulary enrichment and language practice outside of the usual classroom context is provided by Benson and Reinders' investigation of alternative language learning methodologies.

Li and Chen (2020) investigated the way college students' language learning results were influenced by social media, particularly TikTok. Their research concluded that social media usage significantly increased language learning motivation and engagement, even though it did not specifically focus on vocabulary enrichment. The study from Li and Chen offers up-to-date proof of the possible advantages of social media sites like TikTok in language learning environments. Their findings offer greater support to the idea that learner engagement and motivation can be fostered via dynamic and interactive platforms such as TikTok, which might help in vocabulary learning and language practice. Consequently, the study conducted by Li and Chen provides strong evidence of the applicability and efficacy of digital platforms such as TikTok in language learning contexts, highlighting the significance of investigating TikTok's function in vocabulary enrichment.

## **METHODS**

This study applies a descriptive qualitative methodology to investigate how using TikTok can enhance students' development of vocabulary and other English language proficiency in high school. Eight 12th graders were interviewed in-person as part of the data collection process. The researcher sought to obtain an in-depth understanding of students' experiences and perspectives regarding the utilization of TikTok as a tool for English language learning through one-on-one interviews. The purpose of the interview process was to gather information regarding the students' use of TikTok, trends they followed, beneficial strategies for expanding their vocabulary on the platform, and any challenges or obstacles they might have experienced while learning. Research guidelines regarding ethics were followed in the conduct of this study, which included getting participants' written agreement and making sure the data obtained was secure and kept private. It is therefore anticipated that by using this strategy, the researcher will be able to significantly advance our knowledge of TikTok's potential as an interesting and useful English learning resource for high school students.

The research sample consisted of Eight high school students in their 12th year who are active TikTok users and want to get better at English. The degree of English proficiency and the regularity with which each student used TikTok were taken into

account during the screening process. The addition of this step provided to guarantee participant diversity in terms of English language proficiency and experience, allowing the research findings to incorporate a range of opinions and contributions from various student backgrounds. As a result, it is anticipated that the research sample will represent the range of student points of view and experiences regarding TikTok use in the context of learning English. As a means for the data collected to provide a thorough knowledge of the impact of TikTok on students' English competence, an extensive selection procedure was implemented to guarantee a suitable representation of varying levels of English proficiency and intensity of TikTok use.

Each participant was interviewed in-person to gain their viewpoint on the experience of utilizing TikTok to expand their vocabulary in English. The researcher created a set of structured questions centered on how users of TikTok are learning English, what trends they follow, practical methods they employ, and challenges they encounter. To specifically record the kids' comments, every interview was videotaped. The researcher will make sure that there is a warm and honest environment during the interviews so that participants feel comfortable expressing their experiences using TikTok to learn English. To learn more about the participants' experiences and perceptions, the researcher will observe their nonverbal cues and vocal inflections. Furthermore, the researcher will ensure that questions are formulated in an unambiguous and non-prescriptive design, allowing participants to freely express their viewpoints. As a result, this study will make sure that the information gathered about students' use of TikTok in the context of learning English is reliable and representative.

Students were questioned in order to learn more about their experiences using TikTok as a tool for English language acquisition. Their individual approaches to learning English were revealed by the first inquiry on how they use TikTok. The variety of information students examine is highlighted by the second question, which relates to the TikTok trends they follow to expand their vocabulary in English. Additionally, the third question asked about their opinions on how using TikTok has enhanced their overall proficiency in speaking and understanding English. In the fourth question, students were asked to compare learning via TikTok

with traditional techniques, demonstrating their ability to critically analyse the benefits of each strategy. The fifth and final question aimed to determine how much TikTok had improved students' comprehension of the situations in which English is utilized in daily life. Through the collection of answers to each of these inquiries, this study will be able to provide a thorough overview of TikTok's function in teaching the English language.

This study employed content analysis tools in addition to structured interviews to examine the interview data. Each of the five questions' replies was methodically examined and grouped in order to find recurring themes and patterns pertaining to the students' experiences using TikTok as a language learning tool for English. Without being explicit, this content analysis method enabled an in-depth examination of the data. Furthermore, the fact that all participants agreed that TikTok was an effective teaching tool was further supported by validation and cross-referencing of interviewees' responses. This study confirmed the consensus among researchers and ensured a thorough and nuanced investigation of TikTok's role in assisting language acquisition by including content analysis with the interview methodology.

## **DISCUSSION**

The study findings indicate that all eight participants had a unified agreement on the usefulness of TikTok in supporting their language development. Considering their varied origins and degrees of English competence, every participant concurred that TikTok was an invaluable tool for increasing their vocabulary and improving their language abilities. Every participant discussed many different aspects of TikTok's contribution to their language learning process, highlighting the platform's lively and interesting elements as a major element in their satisfying experiences. Also, the participants elaborated upon the various features of TikTok that strengthened its efficacy as a tool for acquiring vocabulary.

Many emphasized the platform's wide selection of content, which included everything from humorous challenges to instructional films. Fromm & Read (2018), and others. Plus, TikTok videos are shorter, making it easier to attract more users. This makes it easier to succeed in attracting and gives them a variety of chances to interact with the English language in context. The diversity of subjects



addressed on TikTok was valued by the participants, as it enabled them to delve into vocabulary associated with their individual passions and fields of study. Participants also praised the platform's intuitive design and user-friendly interface, which made it easy to navigate and access relevant language learning resources. Through the simplification of the learning process and the removal of obstacles to participation, TikTok enabled users to completely engage in the language learning process. Participants' favourable opinions of this method were further supported by its accessibility and user-centricity.

Participants emphasized TikTok's function as an interface between traditional classroom education and everyday language use. TikTok provides a more genuine and contextualized language learning experience, in contrast to standard language learning approaches that frequently concentrate on vocabulary lists and grammar rules. The study's participants reported that engaging in conversations with fluent English speakers and witnessing genuine language use on TikTok contributed to their enhanced comprehension of slang terms, idiomatic expressions, and cultural complexities. Participants were able to make connections between their language learning process and real-life communication settings by engaging themselves in actual English language content, which improved their overall competency in the language. TikTok's applicability as an additional resource for language learners looking for relevant and hands-on language learning experiences is highlighted by the connection of its content with real-world language use. Made Dwija, (2020) states that TikTok can be an effective and enjoyable language learning media

Participants acknowledged TikTok's contribution to the development of ongoing and lifetime learning habits outside of traditional educational environments. Bahri et al. (2022) stated that numerous social media sites, such as TikTok, YouTube and Instagram, which have amassed a sizable Indonesian user base over the past two years—have started to be utilized as educational tools including TikTok. A number of participants said that TikTok had become an essential component of their daily schedule, offering them an accessible and easily available platform for continuous language practice and skill enhancement. The platform's ability to easily fit into their daily routines and enable them to interact with English-language information whenever and whenever they choose was highly

valued by the participants. Furthermore, the participants highlighted the significance of TikTok as a source of inspiration and motivation in their language learning journey, attributing their sustained engagement with the English language to the platform's varied and imaginative content. TikTok enabled users to pursue their language learning objectives with enthusiasm and commitment by creating a culture of curiosity and lifelong learning, which eventually improved users' long-term language ability and fluency.

The participants emphasized TikTok's many advantages as a dynamic and adaptable tool for learning English and expanding one's vocabulary. Khalaif & Salha, (2021). As a result, using the TikTok app to learn is engaging for students. TikTok has become a useful tool for people trying to get better at language because of its capacity to offer a wide range of easily available language learning options as well as its contribution to building community and connections among language learners. Furthermore, TikTok's adaptability, flexibility, and encouragement of lifetime learning practices highlight its value as an extra resource for language learners of all skill levels and backgrounds. TikTok is a creative and entertaining tool that supports and improves language learning in the digital era, helping instructors navigate the constantly changing field of language education. Through its entertaining and innovative short video style, TikTok also provides a more enjoyable and engaged learning experience. TikTok makes language learning easier to follow and more interesting by including features like music, visual effects, and viral challenges. This encourages users to actively participate in their language learning process.

The significance of TikTok in promoting a feeling of community and cooperation among language learners was highlighted by the participants. Reported (Luisandrith, 2020), the TikTok application can develop student creativity and help students express themselves. Users communicate with one another through likes, comments, and shares, offering feedback, exchanging thoughts, and encouraging one another's language learning efforts. Participants are encouraged to take chances, make mistakes, and actively engage in language practice because they feel like they belong and are a part of the group. Through the utilization of TikTok's social feature, users improve not just their vocabulary but also acquire crucial socio-

cultural skills necessary for proficient communication in English-speaking environments. TikTok is therefore a tool for language learning as well as a catalyst for creating a lively and welcoming learning community.

The findings of the study highlight how important TikTok is to improving pupils' vocabulary growth and English language skills. Participants' agreement on TikTok's efficacy highlights the platform's appeal as an entertaining and adaptable language learning tool. The users emphasized multiple aspects of TikTok that enhanced their positive educational encounters, such as its wide range of content offerings, user-friendly layout, and easy incorporation into everyday activities. Together with its interactive capabilities, TikTok's capacity to offer real-world language use situations promoted active learning and peer-to-peer learning. Participants also stressed how TikTok's imaginative and motivating material helps to promote lifetime learning habits and maintain motivation.

These results highlight how dynamic language learning is in the modern day and validate the value of TikTok as an additional resource for students of all backgrounds and skill levels. (Bsharat & Hamarsha, 2023). According to the findings of the study, English majors who use TikTok may practice English more frequently and engage in a range of classes that interest them, thus improving their learning experience. Teachers may use TikTok's ability to build immersive and engaging learning environments that cater to the changing demands of digital learners by integrating it into language learning programs. In general, this study emphasizes how TikTok may significantly impact language learning experiences and emphasizes how it has the ability to completely change conventional teaching techniques in the age of technology.

The study highlights how TikTok acts as a link between traditional classroom instruction and language use in everyday situations. TikTok gives students a genuine opportunity to interact with English in context, in contrast to traditional techniques that frequently emphasize rote memorization. This helps students better understand slang, idiomatic idioms, and cultural nuances. According to participant experiences, exposure to authentic language conversations on TikTok improves users' overall language ability by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge of language and effective communication techniques. Khazaei and colleagues

(2021), TikTok may be used as a tool for learner-centered training, giving students the ability to take control of their learning process. In addition, TikTok's incorporation into everyday routines fosters a culture of lifelong learning, empowering users to pursue language learning objectives outside of official learning environments with enthusiasm and dedication. This feature emphasizes how TikTok may help learners develop lifelong learning habits and maintain motivation throughout their language learning process. Overall, the study highlights TikTok's numerous advantages as a flexible and dynamic instrument for vocabulary expansion and English language acquisition, highlighting its importance in the modern language teaching environment.

The study also highlights TikTok's exceptional capacity to promote a feeling of community and cooperation among language learners. TikTok encourages peer interaction and feedback through features like likes, comments, and shares. (Rama, Hamdani, and Prihatini, 2023). findings from surveys and test analyses indicate that the application encourages more interaction, therefore providing students with confidence in their job of utilizing English in face-to-face conversation and other kinds of expression. This creates a safe space where users feel comfortable taking chances and actively practicing their language skills. Together with improving vocabulary acquisition, this feeling of community and camaraderie fosters the development of critical socio-cultural competencies required for successful communication in English-speaking settings. Through the use of TikTok's social features, students can improve their language competence and social integration while also increasing their vocabulary and developing critical interpersonal skills. As a result, TikTok is revealed as a tool for language learning as well as a catalyst for creating lively, welcoming learning communities, thus strengthening its significance in modern language education practices.

The study emphasizes TikTok's contribution to addressing the changing requirements of students in the digital era. TikTok is a welcome departure from conventional language learning techniques, matching the needs and learning preferences of modern pupils with its creative features and captivating structure. TikTok makes language learning fun and engaging by adding multimedia components like music, visual effects, and viral challenges. This encourages users

to take an active role in their language growth. This emphasis on learner-centered approaches and tailored learning experiences is in line with current pedagogical trends, which highlight the significance of active engagement in education. As a result of this, TikTok not only improves vocabulary and language skills but also cultivates a love of learning, setting the stage for lifetime learning and ongoing self-improvement. To sum up, TikTok's dynamic and adaptable features make it a wonderful tool for educators attempting to fulfil the varied demands of students in the digital age.

## **CONCLUSION**

This research concludes by highlighting the critical impact that TikTok plays in improving students' vocabulary enrichment and English language ability. The study shows how students, regardless of their backgrounds or proficiency levels, actively engage with TikTok trends to greatly enhance their language abilities through qualitative analysis. TikTok's wide range of content, user-friendly interface, and easy integration into regular activities support peer-to-peer learning and real-world language practice, encouraging learners to stay motivated and develop lifetime learning habits. These results highlight the transformative potential of TikTok as an additional tool for language learning, providing teachers with a flexible platform to design immersive and interesting learning environments that meet the demands of online learners.

The study highlights how TikTok might help close the gap between traditional classroom learning and language use in everyday situations by giving students real-world opportunities to interact with English. TikTok improves language proficiency and communication abilities by introducing users to slang, idioms, and cultural idioms. Through peer engagement and feedback, the interactive aspects of the platform foster a sense of community and collaboration among language learners. This encourages the acquisition of critical sociocultural skills required for effective communication in contexts where English is the primary language. All things considered, TikTok proves to be a useful instrument for expanding one's vocabulary and learning a language, but it also serves as a spark for the development of vibrant, encouraging learning communities, which transforms the way that language instruction.

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