

NON-ENGLISH STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS ON THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR LEARNING ENGLISH DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract: This study aims to determine the Non-English students' perceptions on the use of social media for learning English during covid-19 pandemic. Non English students are students who are not registered in the English department and take English lesson as general compulsory subject. In this study, the researcher used qualitative approach with a descriptive qualitative design. The participants of this research were 30 students of fourth semester students' who have completed the English subject. The participants are from Indonesian Language and Literature Education Department and Mathematic Education Department in University of Islam Malang. From the two study programs, researcher only choose one class of each study program. To know the non-English students' perceptions on the use of social media for learning English during covid-19 pandemic, an online-based questionnaire and an online-based interview were used as the methods of collecting the data. The finding showed that non-English students had positive perceptions about social media. From the results of the questionnaire, non-English students chose YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp as social media to learn English during the pandemic. They said that social media provides various sources for learning English, these students can use social media to study anywhere and anytime. This situation makes them relaxed and motivated to study English more actively. Non-English students also mentioned some of the challenges when using social media, namely network connection problems, inappropriate content or advertisements that distract them from focusing on studying. In addition, this research was conducted online during pandemic. Therefore, it is suggested for future researchers to investigate students' perception on the use of social media for learning English to conduct face-to-face research to get detailed results.

Key Words: Non-English Students, Social Media, Learning English

INTRODUCTION

These days, social media platforms help students doing communication, sharing information, and creating web content. Students could start their day on social media and even use it as something they shouldn't miss in their daily life. As for the meaning of social media as said by Kaplan and Haenlin (2010), social media is a category of digital applications that utilize the conceptual and technological bases of web 2.0 and enable the development and changes of user Created content material. Social media is a technology for information and

communication tool that humans use to communicate online (Arif, 2019). There are many kinds of social media that we usually use in everyday life such as, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc. (Monica & Anamaria, 2014). Because social media is a free application, several of these social media are widely used by individuals, notably students and workers.

Social media can facilitate the learning process, especially for students who are learning English, social media can also make them study independently and of course they will be more creative. Learning through social media can help individuals enhance their English skills (Arif, 2019), such as Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. Students may get many English lesson from social media such as grammar, vocabularies, pronunciation, idioms, and so on (Erzad & Suciati, 2018). Social media is also a popular platform which is used by people of all ages and levels. According to Handayani, et al (2021), social media is a mobile application and web-based for creating and sharing content. This may include an exchange of words, pictures, videos, quotes, and so on. Through social media people quickly get information and also share information with others without spending a lot of time, they can also be used anytime and anywhere (Ayuningtyas, 2018).

Indonesia experienced a COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. This caused Indonesia to experience a pandemic, so the government imposed social distancing to halt the spread of the disease. Due to the pandemic, both students and teachers switch learning methods from face-to-face learning to online learning (Rerung, 2021). Online learning is one of the solutions needed by educators and students during this pandemic. According to Dhawan (2020) online learning is defined as a gaining knowledge of enjoy in a synchronous or asynchronous surroundings the usage of a selection of gadgets with internet access (mobile phones, laptops, etc). During online learning, students can practice speaking skills via WhatsApp without being besieged by other friends and without being frightened to make faults. Students can also learn through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter by posting or Writing words in English. And they can also learn through TikTok and YouTube to practice Speaking Skills, Grammatical Mastery, and so on. According to Namaziandost and Nasri (2019) who conducted research on Iranian EFL students and teachers that through social media can build a peaceful context for students who learn English freely without feeling awkward.

According to Ngonidzashe (2013) in previous study, the majority of students and educators use social media as a learning and teaching tool. The purpose of this study was

because no one had conducted research in a developing country, namely Zimbabwe, regarding the challenges of social networking and students' perceptions of the use of social media in education. The study used a descriptive research design, with a questionnaire serving as the primary research tool, questions included demographics, challenges and perceptions. That data collected was analyzed using SPSS. From this research, it can be concluded that there are several challenges faced when using social media, namely privacy and the encouragement of unproductive behavior. But despite these two challenges, students in Zimbabwe have a good perception of the use of social media.

Based on the previous research above, it has similarities with the present research, where this research raises the topic of using social media to learn English. However, this research differs slightly from previous studies where this study conducted research on Non-English Students' Perceptions. In this case, non-English students are students who are not registered in the English department, but English is a subject that is obtained in almost all majors. Researcher also wants to know the challenges when learning English through social media. To find out the perceptions and challenges in using social media, the researcher used a questionnaire and interview which was adapted from previous research. Therefore, researcher is interested to conduct the study entitled "Non-English Students' Perceptions on the Use of Social Media for Learning English during Covid-19 Pandemic".

LITERATURE OF REVIEW

Social Media for Learning English

Social media is a platform that everyone can use every day and spend much time on them. There are many kinds of social media that can be used to learn English, as follow:

1) YouTube

YouTube is an application that contains video with various kinds of content that can be shared and viewed anywhere, especially English learning videos.

2) Facebook

Facebook is a social media site created by Mark Zuckerberg as a Harvard student in 2004. Facebook has social and academic capabilities that can enhance social interaction between people.

3) Instagram

Instagram is currently one of the most popular social media sites in the world, almost all students have Instagram app on their mobile. Instagram isn't just about sharing photos and videos, it's about create a community of all disciplines where people can expand their networks and share ideas, knowledge and information

4) Twitter

Twitter allows users to share text, photos, videos, and reply to content posted by others. Studies show that English learners find Twitter particularly useful in reading, vocabulary, grammar, and writing.

5) WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a free application that allows users to send texts, voice messages, documents, images, and make voice or video call.

6) TikTok

TikTok is a social media used as a learning medium because it has many users, full functionality and a variety of content. TikTok is a social media network on ByteDance's video platform, launched by Zhang Yiming in 2016.

Advantages of Social Media

Following are the advantages of social media:

A. Education field

Social media can be a communication tool between teachers and students, students and other students. They can use social media as material for sharing material or others.

B. Enhance creativity

Social media also benefits students because it gives them a place to be creative. It's easier and faster for users to upload images, videos or stories, so more creative work is shared.

C. Easier collaboration

Through social media, it is easier for others to work together both in terms of education and work.

D. Increase engagement and motivation

Some students get bored quickly at home because there are no other activities. Social media tools facilitate to design social, interactive learning activities such as discussions, debates, and group projects.

Challenges of Social Media

Despite the many advantages social media for learning English, there are challenges when using social media for learning:

A. Privacy

Privacy is one of the challenges of using social media when studying. It has become the most concerning thing while using social media because they still do not know what their individual's information is used for. Therefore we must be careful in social media, use social media only for useful activities.

B. Signal interference

Learning online or through social media cannot be predicted that the network will always be smooth, there are some areas that have a poor network when accessing social networks.

C. Inappropriate content

It is undeniable that there is no disturbing content when opening social media such as YouTube, when opening YouTube there must be content that appears when you are focused on viewing videos. Like the appearance of ads that require you to wait after the ad content is complete.

D. Wastes time

By browsing a lot of social media can reduce rest time or less in managing time and this will cause health to decline because facing the computer for too long of course can make you bored and tired.

E. Misuse of tools during instructional time

While using social media that should be used for learning but instead is used to open things that shouldn't be done, such as opening YouTube to learn speaking instead opening online game applications.

METHOD

The researcher used qualitative approach with descriptive qualitative design. According to Creswell (2012), Qualitative methods are characterized by many things, such as: Investigate problems, develop a detailed understanding of phenomena, collect data based on words, analyze data for explanation using text analysis forms, and interpret the larger implications of results. The subject of this study is non-English students from Indonesian Language and Literature Education Department and Mathematics Education Department in University of Islam Malang. The number of participants in this study was 30 participants who were taken randomly. This sample was taken based on social media users, especially for learning English. After getting some information about social media users while studying English, 15 from Indonesian Language and Literature Education Department and 15 from Mathematics Education Department were willing to participate in this research.

To collect the data, the researcher used online questionnaire and semi structure interview. In the online questionnaire there are 26 statements with details of the first 6 statements discussing about social media for learning English, the second 8 statements discussing about students' perceptions, the third 7 statements discussing language development, and the last 5 statements discussing the challenges of learning English using social media. In addition, the questionnaire used in this study is a Likert scale. The data collection of questionnaire was done with the following steps. First, preparing the online questionnaire from Google form. Second, distributing the questionnaire via WhatsApp. Third, asking the students to answer the questionnaire, and the last collecting the online questionnaire. In analyzing the data, the questionnaire data is entered into a table and summarized using frequency and percentage. Frequency and percentage results can be copied from Google form or calculated manually using the percentage formula (Healey, 2012).

The data collection of semi structure interview was done with the following steps. The interview session was done right after the participants fulfil the questionnaire. There were only 5 participants interviewed to represent 30 responses to the questionnaire which selected randomly. In this instrument, the researcher only took 5 questions to be adjusted to the questionnaire. The purpose of this interview was to obtain the necessary data related to students' perceptions of the use of social media to learning English. In this session, researchers conducted online-based interviews via WhatsApp by sending voice notes.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

After analyzing the 30 responses from 4th semester Non-English students of Indonesian Language and Literature Education Department and Mathematic Education Department. Data analysis of social media for learning English from the questionnaire was taken from the highest score, namely the option that strongly agrees.

No	Questions	SA	A	N	D	SD
1	Learning English through Facebook makes me more understand the English material	3,3%	26,7%	43,3%	26,7%	0%
		1	8	13	8	-
2	Learning English through Instagram makes me more understand the English material	16,7%	36,7%	40%	6,7%	0%
		5	11	12	2	-
3	Learning English through Youtube makes me more understand the English material	70%	23,3%	6,7%	0%	0%
		21	7	2	-	-
4	Learning English through Twitter makes me more understand the English material	6,7%	36,7%	50%	6,7%	0%
		2	11	15	2	-
5	Learning English through TikTok makes me more understand the English material	33,3%	46,7%	13,3%	6,7%	0%
		10	14	4	2	-
6	Learning English through WhatsApp makes me more understand the English material	10%	33,3%	33,3%	23,3%	0%
		3	10	10	7	-

Table 1. shows the most often used social media for learning English

The frequency of the use of social media for learning English during covid-19 pandemic, 70% participants chose YouTube for learning English. 33.3% participant chose TikTok for learning English. 16.7% participants chose Instagram for learning English, 6.7 % participants chose Twitter for learning English, and 10% chose WhatsApp for learning English. The minority of participants use Facebook for learning English. The result of data analysis from questionnaire obtained that YouTube is the most often used by the non-English students for learning English.

In this research, there are 5 participants who were interviewed based on the choice of the most frequently used social media to learn English. They were student 1, student 2, student 3, student 4, and student 5.

Kinds of social media resulted from several social media that the participants used for learning English during covid-19 pandemic. From the result of questionnaire, YouTube is the most often used social media for learning English. This participant chose YouTube social

media to learn English, it could also be seen by the way she responded to the question which says:

“I chose YouTube because there are many interesting videos related to English so I don’t get bored” (Student 1)

Besides YouTube, there is also a new social media namely TikTok which is also used by students to learn English. This participant chose TikTok social media to learn English, it could also be seen by the way she responded to the question which says:

“Because, TikTok can teach me English through the content provided by an account, indeed, they created the content to teach those who happened to see the content, to get knowledge of the English language” (Student 2)

The social media used to learn English apart from YouTube and TikTok is Instagram. This participant chose Instagram social media to learn English, it could also be seen by the way she responded to the question which says:

“Because through Instagram I found many accounts that discussed education, especially English, now through these contents I can understand English material” (Student 3)

Next is Twitter, this is a student who chose Twitter as social media for learning English. It could also be seen by the way she responded to the question which says:

“I sometimes use Twitter social media to learn English other than the English material that has been delivered” (Student 4)

WhatsApp is a social media that is often used during a pandemic, here are the answers from participants who chose WhatsApp to learn English:

“I am a WhatsApp user, during this pandemic I often use it when learning English. And through WhatsApp also I can understand English material” (Student 5)

From the second question is about can learning through social media can improve their English skills. The participants say that learning through social media can improve their English skills. As a student mentioned:

“There are several English skills that I have improved such as listening skills, pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammatical mastery” (Student 3)

From the third question is about how to improve English skills through social media. Some social media such as YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp provide several benefits to develop their English skills. For instance, a student mentioned:

“Through YouTube, I looked at the videos delivered by the presenters so that they could improve listening skills, speaking skills and good pronunciation” (Student 1).

“Usually I watch videos on Tiktok, because they are shorter in duration, so I can quickly understand the material presented. Tiktok can also improve my vocabulary and speaking skills. In addition, tiktok also discusses grammatical errors” (Student 2).

“There are several accounts on Instagram that I saw that discussed English material, so I understand a little about English” (Student 3).

“As a twitter user, my reading skills improve when reading English threads” (Student 4).

“Right now it's a pandemic period, so usually lecturers use WhatsApp groups to discuss material. In addition to discussing with lecturers, we can also discuss with other friends” (Student 5).

The fourth question is about advantages when using social media for learning English during covid-19 pandemic. These social media memberikan beberapa manfaat dalam penggunaan media sosial untuk belajar bahasa Inggris, serta memudahkan mereka untuk mengakses materi dimanapun dan kapanpun. As a student mentioned:

“Learn English can anywhere and anytime, without having to bother opening a book” (Student 2).

“There are several advantages such as increasing my English skills and I understand the material better, of course it adds to my knowledge when studying outside of online classes” (Student 3).

And the last question is about challenges when using social media for learning English, they have some challenges when using social media, and they think it bothers them when they are focused on studying. For instance, a students mentioned:

“Misuse social media, when I open that tiktok I open content that I shouldn't watch and signal interference” (Student 2)

“Signal interference, because in my village the signal is often lost and privacy concerns, and also misuse of social media” (Student 3)

Discussion

The purpose of this study is to know about the perceptions of non-English students toward using social media to learn English. The researcher distributed questionnaires and conducted interviews with students to collect the data. This study's research questions are how non-English students perceive the use of social media for learning English during the covid-19 pandemic and what the challenges of using social media for learning English during the covid-19 pandemic are. The findings of this study would be supported by expert theories as well.

Based on the finding above, it was found in this study that students choose social media Youtube, TikTok, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp as the most popular social media platform for learning English during the Covid-19 pandemic. And from the questionnaire, YouTube is the most often used social media for learning English. Through YouTube they can improve listening skills such as listening to songs, and watching movies without subtitles, besides that through YouTube they can improve speaking and pronunciation skills and increase vocabulary by watching videos about English delivered directly by native and non-native speakers.

Through TikTok they can improve speaking skills, increase vocabulary and grammatical mastery. TikTok is an application that has a short duration, making it easier for them to learn and not get bored when watching just one video, they can see videos about other English languages. They can search for other interesting videos that discuss the English language. Instagram is not only for uploading photos and videos about daily life, but through Instagram students can learn English and improve English skills such as listening, pronunciation, adding vocabulary, and grammatical mastery by observing English learning videos delivered by native or non-native speakers on Instagram.

Students agree that learning through twitter can improve reading, writing, increase vocabulary, and improve grammar. Students define Twitter as a free social media platform to express something through writing. Like student 1 wants to make a thread in English and there are some grammatical errors in his tweet, then the other students will correct it into the right sentence form. Through WhatsApp groups where the teacher provides material and if students do not understand the material presented they can ask the lecturer then the lecturer provides feedback from the questions that have been submitted.

Additionally, learning through social media also makes it easier for students to access various sources or content to learn English such as songs, movies, and so on. It makes them independent in learning because social media can be accessed anywhere and anytime they want to use it. As a result, using social media for learning English could benefit for Non-English students in practicing English inside and outside classroom. Students also have a favorable opinion on the use of social media for English learning. It is related by Altam (2020) learners attitude towards social media is positive, they can interact with lecturers and classmate to improve their academic performance. Some students response that using social media also makes it easier for them to communicate with lecturers and other friends.

Besides from the benefits obtained from using social media to learn English, it should be noted that there were several challenges experienced by some participants during the use of social media when learning English. Such as signal interference, privacy concerns, content that is not useful and also misuse of social media. For the first challenge, namely signal interference, this is often experienced by students whose areas are far from network towers, which makes it difficult for them to access the internet. As a result, in facing various challenges when using social media they can avoid or ignore content or advertisements that disturb them while studying and remain careful in using social media.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the finding and discussion, non-English students' have a positive perceptions on the use of social media for learning English during covid-19 pandemic. They stated that YouTube is the most often used social media for learning English, Besides YouTube, there are also social media that are commonly used to learn English, namely TikTok, Instagram, Twitter and WhatsApp. These social media platforms can also improve some English skills. Social

media makes it easier for them to discuss material that they don't understand. Most of students agreed that through social media they understand English material, whether conveyed by lecturers or online teachers on social media. In addition, social media makes it easier for students to access various materials without opening books. Additionally, the various benefits they get when learning to use social media, there are also some challenges in using social media when studying, such as inappropriate content, misuse of social media when learning English, signal interference and privacy concerns.

Based on the conclusion above, the researcher attempts to make some suggestions after completing this research. Hopefully, this research is useful to the readers. These are some helpful suggestions for students, teachers, and future researchers. The suggestion for learners are when using social media to improve their language skills, they must be smart and clever in using social media. In the sense of being smart in managing the use of social media while learning English without opening other content besides learning English content. Besides that, they must also be good at managing time while studying and time when having fun. The suggestion for lecturers are When learning online or offline, lecturers are suggested to utilize more technology, especially social media, into their teaching methods. Social media applications can also be used as a form of online or face-to-face learning to assist students improve their English skills. The suggestion for future researchers are recommended for future research to conduct face-to-face research to get detailed results. Because this research was conducted online during pandemic.

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