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## Students' Perception of TikTok Use on Their Vocabulary Mastery in Learning English at STAI Rakha Amuntai

**Dewi Sinta<sup>1</sup>**

*STAI Rasyidiyah Khalidiyah Amuntai Afiliasi*

Dewisinta12122@gmail.com

**Jumiati<sup>2</sup>**

*STAI Rasyidiyah Khalidiyah Amuntai*

Jumiatim53@gmail.com

**Khairul Washfiah<sup>3</sup>**

*STAI Rasyidiyah Khalidiyah Amuntai*

khairulwashfiah@gmail.com

**Abstract:** This study aims to find out the perception in vocabulary mastery of students who use TikTok in English language learning. Researcher aimed to determine the vocabulary mastery of students who use TikTok in English learning in seventh semester of *Tadris Bahasa Inggris* in STAI Rasyidiyah Khalidiyah Amuntai.

Researcher use qualitative methods. In data collection, researcher used observations, interviews to strengthen results of test obtained from English teacher and documentation supplemented using results of test from English teacher. Results of test from English teacher are useful to reinforce the results of interviews conducted by researcher. The collected data is analyzed by reducing data, presenting data, drawing conclusions and verifying data.

This research found that the perception of students who use TikTok in English language learning in seventh semester of *Tadris Bahasa Inggris* had a positive impact on students' vocabulary mastery. Students who use TikTok show higher levels of participation and engagement, better vocabulary mastery, and more dynamic interaction between teacher and students. In addition, students who use TikTok are more creative in completing assignments and have greater initiative in learning. However, the study also identified several inhibiting factors, such as potential dependence on online content, poor internet quality, and TikTok content that is not always relevant to learning. To optimize the benefits of using TikTok in English language learning, teacher supervision and guidance must also be appropriate.

**Keywords:** Analysis, vocabulary mastery, TikTok Technology, English language learning.

### A. Introduction

Technology and social media is developed, people use many platform for getting many things. TikTok has become a popular platform among teenagers and students. TikTok is not only used for entertainment, but also as a source of information and learning. Many students currently use TikTok as a tool to understand and master various subject matters, including vocabulary (Rahmana.*et.al*, 2022). Some TikTok accounts post a "Word of the Day" series. These creators will explain the meaning, etymology, pronunciation, and usage of a new word. So, students bookmark these videos for later review and try incorporating the words into their own speech or writing.

A person's vocabulary, the more it can be improved, the better the communication and language skills will be. One of the important elements that must be mastered by students in fulfilling the four aspects of language is mastery of the vocabulary itself. The English vocabulary is huge and varied too (I.S.P. Nation, 2013). Therefore, it is very important for students to master vocabulary so that they can speak using the target language they are learning because the more vocabulary in English they master, the easier it will be to learn and understand the target language. However, students who are just starting to learn English definitely really need knowledge of good and correct vocabulary then students will be able to understand the meaning of English both in terms of communication and knowledge.

*Undang-Undang No. 11 Tahun 2019 tentang Sistem Nasional Ilmu Pengetahuan dan Teknologi.* Technology is used as a foundation in the implementation of development policies in order to be able to strengthen the carrying capacity of Science and Technology in order to achieve state goals, as well as increase the competitiveness and independence of the nation.

Smith, in digital era now, technology is increasingly integrated in everyday life, including in education. One social media platform that is very popular among teenagers is TikTok. TikTok provides a variety of short content in the form of videos, and students often use it as an informal entertainment and learning tool (J. Smith, 2020). Some opinions suggest that the use of TikTok might affect students' vocabulary skills. Therefore, it is important to conduct an in-depth analysis related to the extent to which the use of TikTok Technology affects students' vocabulary mastery in educational environments. Johnson, Previous research has tried to uncover the relationship between technology and students' vocabulary mastery. Previous studies have highlighted how the use of social media and mobile apps can affect vocabulary development, including the negative impact if not used wisely. TikTok, as a unique platform in the context of short video-based content, offers the possibility of different approaches in the analysis of its impact on students' vocabulary mastery (Johnson A, n.d). Brown, through the study of the relationship between TikTok use and students' vocabulary mastery, we can better understand this dynamic in an educational context. With TikTok's increasing popularity among learners, this kind of research can provide valuable insights for educators and educational curricula. The results of this analysis can help design more effective educational approaches that utilize technology as a better learning tool (Brown, n.d).

TiTok as an informal and engaging way to expose students to new words, and it allows for contextual, interactive, and personalized learning. Whether through educational videos, trends, or language challenges, TikTok can be a valuable tool for those looking to expand their vocabulary in a fun and dynamic environment. However, for comprehensive language mastery, it should ideally be paired with more traditional language learning methods.

## **B. Methodology**

The research design used in this study is qualitative descriptive research, because the data obtained and the analysis used in this study are qualitative descriptive. Qualitative descriptive research is to comprehensively summarize, in colloquial terms, certain events experienced by individuals or groups of individuals. Phenomenology, grounded theory, and ethnography are also qualitative

descriptive approaches, but basically these approaches are not only in the descriptive realm because these approaches also tend to explain phenomena.<sup>1</sup> The subjects of this study were 7<sup>th</sup> semester students. The object of the research was students' perception of TikTok use on their vocabulary mastery. In this research, observation and interview were conducted to collect students' perception in use TikTok to master vocabulary and supporting and inhibiting factors for students using TikTok in English learning then the researcher were used the score of vocabulary class from the vocabulary lecturer to obtain additional information.

### **C. Finding and Discussion**

Researcher conducted research at STAI Rakha Amuntai by analyzing students who used TikTok in mastering English vocabulary. Researcher made observations to observe students who use TikTok in vocabulary mastery and observe what are the supporting and inhibiting factors of students who use TikTok in English language learning. The following is the analysis of data obtained by researcher

#### **1. Students' perception on Vocabulary mastery by using TikTok in English learning**

Based on the result of interview and observation the vocabulary mastery of student can be seen from discussions and student participation and engagement, Students who use TikTok are more active in class discussions, by asking questions frequently. Vocabulary mastery: Students who use TikTok often use more up-to-date vocabulary, which shows that they are exposed to a wide array of terms and phrases used in TikTok content. As expert says, Fahdin, TikTok often reflects the latest trends and popular phrases, helping learners stay up-to-date with contemporary language usage and slang (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020). In a 2020 study, Jhon Smith emphasized that students tend to be more enthusiastic and actively participate in learning when using platform they already know, such as TikTok (Smith, J, 2020).

Both Teacher and Student interaction, Teacher uses examples from TikTok to explain English concepts, which makes students who use TikTok more interested and enthusiastic. As experts say Fahdin, interesting content in short and entertaining Tik Tok Videos can captivate the attention of learners, making the process of learning a language even more enjoyable (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020). John Smith, also emphasized that TikTok technology can increase students' motivation in learning English (Smith, J, 2020).

Students who use TikTok show greater creativity and initiative in group assignments, often propose new ideas and participate actively. Students who already have a basic understanding of TikTok are more confident to participate in class discussions, ask questions, or answer teacher questions. As expert says Fahdin, Visual and audio creativity on TikTok allows students to convey ideas in a creative format that involves visual and audio aspects and Engaging with TikTok community interaction allows learners to practice their language skills by commenting, responding and participating in discussions (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020). An Education researcher, Sarah Brown stated that TikTok technology provides opportunities for students to learn in a more visual and creative way (Brown, S, n.d).

It can be concluded that using TikTok help student increase the students' vocabulary.

2. Supporting and inhibiting factors for students using TikTok in English learning

The supporting factor for mastering student vocabulary is creativity in completing tasks. Students who use TikTok are more creative to think outside the box and propose innovative ideas when working on group assignments or projects. Independence in learning, students who use TikTok develop self-study skills, searching for information and learning materials independently. When in class, they can show independence in completing assignments and initiative in finding answers to their questions. As expert says Fahdin,, visual and audio creativity on TikTok allows students to convey ideas in a creative format that involves both visual and audio aspects (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020).

Inhibiting factors such as limited practical experience students who commonly use TikTok for English learning may rely on visual content and online interactions. Dependence on entertainment content when in class without a cell phone, they miss the opportunity to practice directly or use the assistive devices they are used to. With a potential reliance on online content, students rely heavily on TikTok for English language learning, not having a phone in class could leave them feeling "disconnected" from their usual way of learning. This can reduce their enthusiasm for learning or participating in class activities. As expert says Fahdin, Dependence on Entertainment allows students to focus more on the entertainment aspect rather than on the purpose of learning English (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020).

Mastery of student vocabulary through students who often access TikTok to learn English vocabulary, watch TikTok while taking notes and listening, ensure the content that is accessed learning is correct and reliable, can distinguish entertainment and learning. The students confessed that they very often access TikTok to learn English. They learn on TikTok because the learning videos are very interesting and creative so that it adds to students' learning motivation to master vocabulary in English. As expert says Fahdin, about TikTok videos that have appeal and creative (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020). The students watch vocabulary learning videos on TikTok while taking notes and listening. Students confess that watching vocabulary learning videos on TikTok while taking notes and listening. Students take notes and listen because the videos they watch have high appeal and the videos they watch for them are very interesting. With diverse learning content, students take notes and listen to topics such as accents and language styles used by speakers in the Video. As expert says, Fahdin high visual appeal with short and engaging video formats can increase students' interest in learning materials and TikTok offers a variety of learning content so as to improve students' overall language comprehension (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020). Ensure that the content accessed is true and reliable learning, the students admitted that they confirmed the content by looking at the purpose of the content accessed, there were students who said they saw from liking learning videos and there were also students who claimed that they were looking for learning content of interest and passing videos that were not learning English vocabulary. As expert says Fahdin, that Short-form Learning, Bite-sized content fits well into busy schedules, offering quick language lessons that can be easily incorporated into daily routines, which can be obtained through the

purpose of content created by creators (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020). Students can distinguish entertainment and learning on TikTok. The students confessed that the way to distinguish between entertainment and learning while using TikTok is to look at the purpose of the video. If the goal is for entertainment, then most likely it is entertainment content, whereas if the goal is learning, then the content is more likely to be learning. In addition, some students also emphasize that entertainment content will be related to having fun, while learning content will be related to learning. Some students also mentioned that viewing the profile of the content, the purpose of the content posted, as well as the content covered in the video can also help distinguish between entertainment and learning. Fahdin, As stated by expert that to see the content you want to target through the purpose of the content (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020).

Unlike previous studies where the results of this study found that students' vocabulary mastery in learning English via TikTok is through students who often access TikTok to learn English vocabulary, watch TikTok while taking notes and listening, ensure the content accessed learning is correct and reliable, can distinguish entertainment and learning. It can be concluded that many students master vocabulary in English learning through TikTok. Unlike previous studies where the results of this study found that students' vocabulary mastery in learning English via TikTok is through students who often access TikTok to learn English vocabulary, watch TikTok while taking notes and listening, ensure the content accessed learning is correct and reliable, can distinguish entertainment and learning. It can be concluded that many students master vocabulary in English learning through TikTok.

In mastering vocabulary in English, students have supporting and inhibiting factors in the learning process. The supporting factor is through the presence of factors that contribute when using TikTok, such as interesting, creative content, students' desire to learn more about English vocabulary.

Mastery of student vocabulary in learning English through TikTok has supporting and inhibiting factors. Researcher found that the supporting factors for students who master vocabulary in learning English through TikTok are factors that contribute when using TikTok, interesting and creative content, students' desire to learn more about English vocabulary, and easy-to-understand learning.

The first factor is the presence of contributing factors when using TikTok. This factor comes from interesting and creative TikTok videos, ease of understanding in learning, content effectiveness, students' desire to deepen vocabulary understanding and also students' curiosity about new things or kepo. So that students are more interested in learning vocabulary in English through TikTok. Fahdin, explained by experts that engaging content through short and entertaining TikTok videos can captivate the attention of learners, making the process of learning English vocabulary more enjoyable (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020).

The second factor is interesting and creative content. Students are interested in learning vocabulary in English through TikTok because the content on TikTok is interesting and creative, which adds to students' enthusiasm to learn vocabulary in English through TikTok. Fahdin, explained by expert that As explained by experts that engaging content through short

and entertaining TikTok videos can captivate the attention of learners, making the process of learning English vocabulary more enjoyable. There are also those who say that the appeal of TikTok as an online English learning medium increases interest in learning for students (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020).

The third factor is the student's desire to learn more deeply about English vocabulary. This factor comes from the students themselves because the factor of students' desire to learn more deeply about English vocabulary is an intrinsic drive that comes from students themselves. When students have a strong desire to learn, they tend to be more active and eager in seeking learning resources, including through platforms like TikTok. This intrinsic drive makes students more engaged and striving to understand the material better, thereby increasing the effectiveness of their learning through TikTok. Fahdin, expert says that TikTok can increase student engagement in the process of learning English vocabulary (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020).

The fourth factor is easy-to-understand learning. This factor is due to the visual and audio on TikTok with image and video media that are easy to understand and interesting so that students can easily understand what is taught on TikTok. Fahdin, explained by expert that visuals and audio on TikTok with image and video media are easy to understand and interesting so that students easily understand what is taught on TikTok (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020).

Mastery of student vocabulary in learning English through TikTok has supporting and inhibiting factors. Researcher found that the inhibiting factors for students who master vocabulary in learning English through TikTok are lack of motivation of classmates, the Internet is not good, through the homepage is not learning content but is entertainment.

The first factor is the lack of motivation of classmates. This factor is due to the lack of interaction between students and other students in learning. They tend to be individual in nature to learn vocabulary in English. So that there is a lack of motivation from classmates. Fahdin, said by expert that students are more individual in learning vocabulary in English because the content that is already interesting and creative makes students do not need the motivation of their classmates (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020).

The second factor of the Internet is not good. This factor is caused by the unstable student network that prevents students from accessing TikTok to learn vocabulary in English. Fahdin, expert says, one of the inhibiting factors in the learning process on TikTok is an unstable network (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020).

The third factor is that the content that passes through the homepage is not learning content but is entertainment in nature. This factor can affect students because content that is entertainment will make students want to watch it continuously so that the intention to learn can be distracted. Fahdin, expert says that students can depend on entertainment, students can focus more on the entertainment aspect than on the purpose of learning English (Fahdin, R. G. P, 2020).

Unlike previous studies that only focused on mastering students' vocabulary. Meanwhile, in this study, researcher found vocabulary mastery of students who use TikTok in English language learning. Like finding that students' vocabulary mastery in learning English through TikTok is through students who often access TikTok to learn English vocabulary, ensuring the content

that is accessed learning is correct and reliable, can distinguish entertainment and learning.

Researcher also found supporting and inhibiting factors for students who use TikTok in English language learning. Researcher found that the supporting factors for students who master vocabulary in learning English through TikTok are factors that contribute when using TikTok, interesting content, creative content, students' desire to learn more about English vocabulary, and easy-to-understand learning. As for the inhibiting factors, researcher found that the inhibiting factors of students who master vocabulary in learning English through TikTok are lack of motivation of classmates, the Internet is not good, through the homepage is not learning content but is entertainment. As Fahdin thinks that learning on TikTok can help students learn vocabulary in English.

#### **D. Conclusion**

The conclusion of this study is that the use of TikTok as an English learning tool has a significant impact on students' vocabulary mastery. Based on the results, the following conclusions can be drawn: The vocabulary mastery of students who use TikTok in English learning has a positive impact on students' vocabulary mastery. The students of seventh semester showed that they managed to master English vocabulary through frequent access to TikTok to learn English vocabulary, ensure the content is accessed correctly and reliably, and can distinguish entertainment and learning on TikTok.

Supporting and inhibiting factors of vocabulary mastery of students who use TikTok in English language learning. The students have supporting and inhibiting factors in learning English through TikTok. Supporting factors include contributing factors when using TikTok, interesting and creative content, students' desire to learn more about English vocabulary, and easy-to-understand learning for students. The inhibiting factors are the lack of motivation of classmates, the internet is not good, which passes through the homepage is not learning content but is entertainment. Therefore, students can master English vocabulary well and pay attention to factors that hinder the vocabulary mastery process of students who use TikTok in English learning.

Based on the conclusion above, the researcher has a several suggestion, they are:

1. For Student

Some TikTok users use visuals or real-life examples to teach new words. This helps to contextualize the vocabulary, making it more memorable.

2. For Teacher

By using these methods, TikTok can become a dynamic and fun tool for expanding your vocabulary in a way that feels more engaging and less formal than traditional methods

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