The Help of Social Media In Improving The English Skills of EFL Students

I Gst Pt Ngr Arya Garbha Anandaska
Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha
aryagarbha123@gmail.com

Abstract

The research analyzes the use of social media for EFL students to learn English in this era where everyone is familiar with the internet. This is also because, during a pandemic situation, most schools implement an online learning system. (Shim & Lee, 2020) said that Covid-19 has significantly changed every sector, including the educational sector. So, the government provided a solution of social distancing to suppress the spread of the covid-19 virus.. Fifteen students from the SPEAK UP English course were participants in this article. The instrument used is through interviews and also provides questionnaires to participants. The researcher will act according to the instrument to obtain data that follows the research objectives. This research aimed to see how useful social media can be in supporting learning progress. The findings of this research indicated that a range of social media commonly used by students is Instagram, blogs, and Twitter. The EFL participants believe that social media can help them enhance their English language skills. Furthermore, Blogs are the most commonly used social media by students in the SPEAK UP English course for learning English and finding information or new vocabulary

Keywords: Social Media; Technology ; EFL Student.

INTRODUCTION

First, what is language? There is a lot of article or proposals for the definition of language. Words are combined into a sentence, similar to how many concepts are incorporated into thoughts." A Language has long been known as a media or means of communication among people of all religions, colors, and races worldwide. Humans need language the same way they require oxygen, water, and food. Without that channel that connects people, there would be no existence, as it is the major means of spoken communication between organizations and individuals (Darancik, 2018; Siddiqui, 2018).

According to Kristiawan et al. (2021), The only option for school learning in Indonesia is still running, except online learning in the current situation. Almost all the schools already used the online learning method during this crisis. The combination of technology and education already gives many new types of assessments known as e-assessment. It is called ICT (Information and Communication Technology). According to Khaloufi & Laabidi (2017), it is apparent that computers or technology have become an essential aspect of our everyday life. The assessment evaluates students using various digital tools, including social media. This research aims to find out how social media, as the one part of e-assessment media, affects EFL learners' English skills. There are many ways to learn English using social media, especially Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Blogs. According to Kaplan & Haenlein (2010), People can create many contents with any variations they want by using the internet, especially social media. Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, blogs, and line messages are a few examples of social media. These media are commonly free to access. That's why many people use social media to find information or learn something. Many blogs on the internet contain English education. Many educators make an Instagram account with very educative English learning content. Same as Facebook and Twitter.

Based on previous studies (Fromkin, 2018; Siddiqui, 2018; Yu, 2019), language is more than speaking; deaf people can understand what other people are saying through the sign language expressed by the other person. From this, we know that language is a communication tool related to human activities, one of which is in the field of work. In working in certain areas, workers must use a language that is not from their own country or what is commonly called a foreign language. As we know, a foreign language that all countries recognize is English which many people worldwide already use, which is called an international language. From there, English began to be studied as a second language in various countries. For example, Indonesia (Barreto & Whitehair, 2017) says that social media is a type of interaction and transmission technological tool that allows users to share information anytime. It is fashionable among people of all ages and socioeconomic levels worldwide. Apart from being a means for interaction, social media helps to create virtual communities where people may exchange ideas, concepts, private chats, and perhaps even photos and videos.

METHOD
Research Design

Because this research aims to explore how social media might help EFL students enhance their English skills, a case study was used. In this article, the research is conducted or held in one of the English courses in Singaraja, Bali. The method that is used is a qualitative method by using an interview with the student as the way to collect the data. According to Miles and Huberman (1994), qualitative data is a source from a broad description based on solid and contains an explanation of the processes that occur in an object of research. so qualitative data will be used in this study to collect data

Qualitative data also adheres to and comprehends the chronological progression of occurrences to obtain relevant information to support this research. Because of this, the study's data collection method of choice was qualitative data. The idea behind this qualitative approach is used in the data analysis that researchers conduct after data collection. The technique employed is comprehending the interview's flow to get data supporting the study's goals. In this research, data was collected by doing interviews. The first method of data collection would be through an interview. An interview is a conversation in which the interviewer asks questions, and the interviewee responds to the questions asked by more than one person to gather information (Bolderston, 2018) (Chahal, 2021). The interview questions do not have to be the same as those in the guide. Everything can be modified based on the respondents' responses (Bird, 2016). an interview will be conducted to know the student's answers about how social media can improve their English skills. The discussion was conducted in a very well-structured way by using a few relevant questions that had been prepared.

Table 1. Interview Questions for the student

Category	Purpose	Interview questions
Introduction to social media	To find the information on whether all the participants know and have social media	Do you know about social media?
		Do you have social media?
		Do you use Instagram, Twitter, blogs, and Facebook?
Impact of social media on their learning process.	To find out whether they are using social media to learn English or not.	Can you learn English with the social media that you have?
		How often do you use social media to learn English?
Importance of social media.	To find the information about the importance of social media for them to learn English.	How important is social media to learn English?
The help of social media in improving their English skills	To find out how social media is helping them to improve their English skills.	Is social media help you to improve your English skills?
		Is social media effective in helping you in improving your English?

According to (O'Malley et al., 1985; Palloan & Swandi, 2019; Retnawati et al., 2018) Alyani (2019), the right learning strategy is very important for a class or students to achieve language learning goals. The questions above will be used to conduct interviews with the

EFL student through Google Meeting. Then the answer will be collected as data and will be discussed.

Participants

The participant involved in this study were the 1st grade EFL students at the Speak Up English Course. They all are college students who have been studying English for maybe two years to find out whether social media can help them learn English. The total of participants involved is 15 students. All participants were interviewed Online Through Google Meet. The researcher adhered to the pre-written interview question parameters throughout the interview. Before the interview, the researcher conducted an observational search for data regarding the English course

Result and Discussion

From the interview results, the research can conclude that social media has become a part of our life. Almost all EFL students have social media. This is not bad because we can't fight technological advances, including many EFL students who use social media daily. Social media will be very useful and beneficial if these students use it properly. They can learn many languages through social media. But in fact, there are still many students who use social media to play games and be stylish. After we collected data through the method we used, by conducting interviews via google meet at the speak up English language course, which is a place that has been used as research, after the interview was completed, it was found that in the reach of EFL students who had graduated from high school, all from they use social media. 100% of them use social media. The most reason why they use social media is to communicate with others. There are still few of them who use social media effectively. The interview session went smoothly and was conducive. All participants answered questions clearly and confidently. As for other data, Instagram and blogs are the social media they use most often to learn English. The overall responses point out that they can learn English with social media, especially on finding new vocab. Next, further explanations and findings showed in the discussion section. More details it is summarized in the following table:

Table 2. Interview response

No	Question	Responses
1	Do you know about social media?	Yes, we know about social media. (All participants)
2	Do you have social media?	Yes, we have. (All participants)
3	Do you use Instagram, Twitter, blogs, and Facebook?	I use all of that social media, but mainly I only use Instagram and blogs. (5 participants) I use three of them often. (10 participants)
4	Can you learn English with the social media that you have?	Yes, I can. There are a lot of things and materials that we can find through social media. (All participants)
5	How often do you use social media to learn English?	Almost every day (3 participants) I use social media to learn English 3 times a week (11 participants) I use social media to learn English 1 time a week. (1 participant)
6	How important is social media to learn English?	I think it's very important because we all need to improve our English skills, and social media is like a bridge to enhance our skills. (All participants)

7	Is social media help you to improve your English skills?	Social media help us learn English, especially finding new words and other material. (All participants)
8	Is social media effetive in helping you in improving your English?	Yes, because social media can find much information about what we need in such a very short time, it is very effective (10 participants)
		I think it's not that effective because it also can disturb our time by using social media to play, not learn. (5 participants)

DISCUSSION

From the respondents' perception because they all have and know social media. The respondents who participated in the interview also agreed that social media could help them improve their English. But from the three applications, all participants answered that blogs are the most effective and easy-to-use social media for learning English. It can't be denied that blogs are the most flexible social sites and have all the information. So, it is possible to improve English skills through the blog. Furthermore, we found that social media is important for EFL students to learn English because, according to the data, students can improve vocabulary through social media (Kessler, 2013; Li, 2017). They can find foreign friends on social media to practice their speaking skills. And so far, social media has helped them practice communication skills in English because they can find foreign friends through social media. The bad impact of social media is that there are often scams or fraud on the platform. This is also very wary of the students we interviewed. They said they were worried about using social media because so many fraud cases were heard on television or other media, but some of them are not concerned at all because they already understand the scenarios of fraud and scams on social media (Lee, 2014). Thus, with sufficient knowledge, there is no need to worry about using social media anymore. They also concluded that English is very important to their quality as students because it is an international language, and there are many ways to improve English skills, one of which is through social media. Social media is a very effective and easy tool to help EFL students improve their English skills.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and things that have been found. Social media has become a part of the daily life of EFL students participating in this research. However, after being interviewed with questions that the researchers have compiled, it is undeniable that they all have social media to communicate with others and find other information. Using social media to learn English is also very possible. This we can from the results of our research. Where the data shows that all these students use social media to learn English, they know how important English is for their future. Considering that English is an international language. As for the difficulty for them to learn English through social media, namely the many frauds and dangerous sites that can harm users if they are not careful. But this difficulty can be easily overcome by continuing to use legal sites to access information. From the data obtained after conducting interviews and questionnaires, it can be concluded that social media is very helpful for EFL students in learning English. They all admit that the existence of social media greatly helps them. Lots of information and things that can be accessed. It will be safe and secure if you remain careful and use a legal site.

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