

## Students' Perception of the Use of Social Media as English Learning Media

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### Abstract

Social media is an internet platform that allows users to engage with one another and share content in the form of text, images, and videos. Social media can be used not only to engage with others and share content, but also as a learning tool, particularly for English. As a result, it can help to speed up the process of learning English while also improving language skills. This demonstrates how technology, such as social media, can be utilized to facilitate the English learning process while also improving English language skills. The purpose of this study is to describe students' perceptions on using social media to learn English. This study also seeks to investigate the benefits and drawbacks of social media as an English language learning tool. Thus, it is believed that this study would help to improve understanding of how students use social media in the classroom. According to the findings of this study, students had a positive attitude about using social media to learn English. The findings of this study emphasize the relevance of using social media into English language learning to assist students enhance their English skills.

**Key words:** *English learning media, perception, social media*

### Introduction

Technological advancements have had a significant impact on the subject of education, particularly in the study of English as a foreign language. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is computer and internet-based technology used to display, create and share information. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is more commonly used in learning and teaching, especially English. ICT in English study can assist students in enhancing their language skills (Khaloufi & Laabidi, 2017). In addition, the usage of ICT can empower and motivate kids to study English. This encourages teachers to adopt more active, flexible, effective, and student-centered teaching techniques to improve their critical thinking skills (Asmara et al, 2019).

One example of ICT is social media, which is a product of technological advancement (Liu, 2010). Social media is a technology that is widely used by individuals all over the world, from young students to the elderly. Students use social media in a variety of contexts as part of their daily activities (Al Arif, 2019).

People utilize social media as one of their information and communication technology tools

to communicate online. Social media is another well-known tool that is used by individuals of all ages and educational levels. Social media is a result of contemporary technological advancements (Monica & Anamaria, 2014). According to (Kaplan & Haenlein, 2010), social media is a collection of online applications that allow people all over the world to create various types of content.

Many different types of social media have emerged in the last decade, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube (Monica & Anamaria, 2014). People, particularly college students, like using these types of social media. According to Chou (2014), social media has some features such as interaction, platform quality, and a method for information sharing. As a result, students can do a variety of activities using social media. They can, for example, contact and establish friends with people from all over the world. Students might access photographs or videos regarding the world's predicament on social media platforms such as Instagram as users. Students understand how to update information about what is happening in their environment faster than other media such as newspapers. In addition, students can learn English through social media.

In this study, the researcher focused on discussing the university students who undertake English Education programs. The researcher is motivated to do this research because it is known that the student in an English major has to use English starting from a daily discussion in class, giving explanations, presentations, assignments, tasks, and examinations.

According to Al Arif (2019) most students in English The Education Study Program are not interested in reading English books in the library, discussing English topics with their friends, learn English thoroughly through other media such as watching TV or watching educational videos. However, the fact is that most students in this department like using social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to find some English words and sentences so they can use the words. Sometimes, students can use words and sentences when they talk to their friends. Those words are words that usually appear on social media. Additionally, this may also happen because most of the social media settings are in English. Then, because students mostly use social media, and they use it the most throughout time.

## Methods

This study takes a qualitative descriptive method. According to Sugiyono (2015), qualitative research is a research method based on the philosophy of postpositivism that is used to study the conditions of natural objects (rather than experiments), where the researcher is the key instrument, data collection techniques are carried out using triangulation (combination), data analysis is qualitative inductive, and qualitative research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization.

Qualitative research is described as a study that creates descriptive data in the form of written and spoken words from the persons or objects under observation. This research was used to determine students' perceptions of the use of Social Media as an English learning media for 4th-semester students Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, English Education Department, at Islamic University of Kadiri, Kediri.

## Result and Discussion

### 1. The Types Of Social Media That Are Often Used by the 4<sup>th</sup> students of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education at the Islamic University of Kadiri

To find out the type of social media used by 4th-semester FKIP students at UNISKA, researchers conducted observations. Observations were

carried out by following the social media accounts used by 4th-semester FKIP students at UNISKA.

Apart from making observations, researchers also carry out documentation. Documentation is carried out to strengthen information from the results of observations made by researchers. Documentation in the form of screenshots of social media accounts used by 4th-semester FKIP students at UNISKA. So, from the two techniques above, namely observation and documentation, it can be concluded that the social media used by 4th-semester students of FKIP UNISKA as a medium for learning English is very diverse. Starting from YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter.

In this study, researchers collected data through observation and documentation on the types of social media utilized by fourth-semester FKIP students at UNISKA to learn English. Based on the findings of researchers' observations and documentation, it is possible to conclude that FKIP Semester 4 students at UNISKA use a variety of social media platforms, including YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok, to study English.

This conclusion is very identical to research conducted by Hairul and Nurhayati, (2023), who indicated that social media gives people with sources of English information to practice their English skills, notably listening, speaking, growing their vocabulary, and enhancing their pronunciation knowledge

### 2. Students' Perception Of The Use Of Social Media As English Learning Media by the 4th students of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education at the Islamic University of Kadiri

To find out the perceptions of 4th-semester FKIP students at UNISKA regarding the use of social media as a medium for learning English, the researcher created a questionnaire in the form of a Google Form, then distributed the questionnaire by sending the questionnaire to one of the students, then asked the student to distribute the questionnaire to WA their group, then they can give the answer in class or at home, so they can answer it casually and not in hurry. According to the results of the questionnaire issued by the researcher, 15 pupils answered it. Students' impressions of the usage of social media as a medium for learning English are good. Some students answered in the affirmative and they were interested in using social media as an English learning media. In addition to employing a questionnaire to examine the attitudes of FKIP Semester 4 students at UNISKA regarding the usage of

social media as an English learning medium, researchers conducted interviews with five students. Researchers conducted online interviews on April 29 2024 in the 4th semester class of FKIP at UNISKA. The stated “*I usually use social media during breaks or free time at night to learn English. Because I can focus more on the learning content without distractions*”. Based on the interviews, According to research interviews, students had a positive perspective of using social media to learn English. This is in line with Al Arif, (2019) research, which found that EFL students spend a significant amount of time on activities other than learning English. However, students demonstrate that they have a good attitude towards the usage of social media in learning English.

## Conclusion

This study concludes that students had a positive opinion of using social media to learn English. Using social media to study English can help them enhance their reading, listening, and writing skills. Aside from that, social media has numerous characteristics and provides a variety of English learning content that students may use as their learning resources and can be accessed anywhere and anytime.

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