

# **Dacotu TikTok Account to Master English: EFL Students' Perspective**

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## **Abstract**

TikTok is an application that may be utilized as a learning medium as long as it is used appropriately. In this study, TikTok can be an effective tool for EFL students to master English skills. One of the TikTok recommendation for English learning is Dacotu. Therefore, the study aims to investigate advantages and disadvantages Dacotu TikTok account as learning medium to master English language through students' perspective. This research applied qualitative descriptive method. To collect the data, the researcher used questionnaire to consider EFL students' perspectives of English Language Education in English Language Education Department at Universitas PGRI Adi Buana Surabaya. The finding of research revealed Dacotu TikTok account can be a supporting to master English for EFL students. Dacotu TikTok account have positive and negative impacts for EFL students during English learning. In addition, the researcher also suggests English influencer in TikTok to perform English learning that can encourage EFL students learn English as well.

**Keywords:** *English Language, Dacotu TikTok Account, EFL Students' Perspective*

## Introduction

English has gained immense popularity among individuals and professionals alike. English serves as a medium for conveying thoughts and exchanging knowledge among individuals from diverse backgrounds (Ratika et al., 2021) and (Maji et al., 2022). English proficiency is important, particularly for students who are specializing in the language. These students are required to be proficient in four skills to actively participate in learning activities. The ability to effectively communicate in English has a significant role to determine successful learning outcomes for students (Renandya et al., 2018). In this study, the researcher discovered a phenomenon that a significant number of students encountered difficulties to learn English into proficient level. Consequently, these difficulties posed a challenge for students within the English Language Teaching (ELT) classroom. Hence, the students must understand a learning medium that can effectively motivate them to overcome the challenge and attain improved learning outcomes. The presence of a powerful motivation nurtures a deep-seated passion, unwavering enthusiasm, and an infectious excitement for the process of acquiring knowledge (Situmorang & Andanty, 2023).

There are various ways to cope the language learning problems for students. Jannah & Wardah (2022) asserted that language learning challenges can be effectively addressed by implementing learning strategies during educational activities. To cultivate students' motivation, teacher can leverage technology in teaching. One of technology role for teaching is teachers utilize various applications and learning platforms to enhance students' proficiency in the English language (Prayudha, 2023). To address the time constraints, certain teachers also adopt the role of technology as a solution (Agustina & Cahyono, 2017). Technology can be referring to social media. On the other hand, Herlisya & Wiratno (2022) argued that people utilize social media applications for four main reasons: enjoyment, sociability, informativeness, and academics. It means social media has contribution for education. In the context of the study, it implies that social media can be utilized as a tool for language learning.

The integration of social media into the field of education is not a recent phenomenon. Social media can engage the students with materials that are relevant to their daily lives. For instance, in their study, Herlisya & Wiratno (2022) employed Instagram as a platform to teach English writing skills. Similarly, Nurmy (2017) utilized Facebook as a medium for English language learning, while Sah (2015) employed Twitter as a language tool in the ESL/EFL classroom. Furthermore, Yang (2020) claimed TikTok as a medium for learning English. The TikTok platform that we are familiar today has evolved from a series of

different applications. Originally introduced as A.me, the app was later rebranded as Douyin in 2016. Subsequently, Bytdance launched the platform globally under the name TikTok in 2018 (Haslem, 2022).

Yulita & Hertiki (2023) claimed approximately half of the Indonesian population has embraced TikTok in recent times. Initially utilized solely for social networking, TikTok has now found its way into academic settings, particularly language learning. It was supported the research by Farisca Adhani et al., (2023). The study explained that TikTok provides students with a platform to enhance their English language skills through English content creators. Native speakers on TikTok are essential in offering exposure to various elements of the English language, including pronunciation, syntax, and vocabulary. Acquiring a wide range of English vocabulary is vital for enhancing communication skills and achieving success in language learning (Andanty et al., 2024). In Indonesia, it is commonly believed that the optimal method for acquiring proficiency in the English language is by engaging with native speakers or immersing oneself in the environment where the language originated (Nurbani & Syahria, 2022). Based on the own researcher experience used TikTok, one of account recommend that sharing for English language learning is Dacotu TikTok account. On January 17-18, 2024, Dacotu TikTok account had 2.1 million followers and 1926 video posts. Thus, Dacotu TikTok account can be convenient TikTok account to master English for EFL students.

As with other learning media, TikTok as a medium for learning English also has advantages and disadvantages in helping students to improve their English. Every student has a different perception of using TikTok as a medium for learning English. Therefore, the study aims to investigate advantages and disadvantages Dacotu TikTok account as learning medium to master English language through students' perspective. Here is the research question: How are students' perspectives regarding English mastering using Dacotu TikTok account?

## **Literature Review**

TikTok is an application that may be utilized as a learning medium as long as it is used appropriately. This is corroborated by several previous research. The first researcher to use the TikTok app as a teaching tool which refers to Zaitun et al., (2021) mentioned that TikTok can be used as an interactive learning medium to improve students' speaking ability with the use of appropriate methods and techniques. This research investigated students' speaking skill in junior high school level. The result of study revealed that the utilization of

the TikTok application in English has proven to be an exceptionally interactive and effective method for enhancing students' confidence in speaking English. Moreover, the students' scores exhibited a remarkable and substantial improvement. The diverse features offered by the TikTok application provide students with a positive orientation towards English learning. Additionally, the application facilitated the acquisition of information for both teachers and students, fostering a joyful learning experience as students engage in English learning through an unconventional method.

Furthermore, the research conducted by Pratiwi et al., (2021). The research collected the data through observation and questionnaire about the use of TikTok based on the student's perception, while the participants was the students in university. This research finding showed that the respondents had a positive attitude toward the TikTok application as an English language learning strategy to enhance literacy and speaking skills.

Another research was carried out by Manggo et al., (2022). The research focused to explore about TikTok as learning media for middle school level. The finding of study explained that the effectiveness of the Tik Tok application depends on how the user uses the Tik Tok application. This assertion is further corroborated by the responses of the research participants who expressed their agreement with the idea that TikTok can facilitate English language learning, particularly in terms of enhancing creative speaking skills. When the platform is utilized effectively, it can prove beneficial for a wide range of individuals and vice versa.

## **Method**

### **Research Design**

The study applied qualitative descriptive. Qualitative refers to the exploration and understanding of the meaning of an individual or group that originates from human social problems. The descriptive method revealed detailed description of phenomena as they occur in the natural setting. In addition, the descriptive method allows researchers to capture the complexities of human experiences and social processes in a way that is both accessible and insightful (Creswell, John W.Poth, 2018).

### **Participants**

The participant of the study was students of English Language Education with totally 40 students at Universitas PGRI Adi Buana Surabaya. Furthermore, the participant captured based on the qualification of respondent were; (1) EFL students concern to learn English (2)

Familiar with online learning media to master English language skills (3) Willing to share their perspective about how English learning process using TikTok application, especially Dacotu TikTok account.

### Data Collection and Analysis Methods

The research of data was obtained by EFL students' perspective which following influencers learning English in TikTok, especially Dacotu TikTok account. The instruments used in this research is a questionnaire to find out EFL students' perspective. The questionnaire was designed by noticing some factors such as learning content, how Dacotu TikTok account encourage EFL students learn English, and anything what EFL students getting through Dacotu TikTok account. It means the questionnaire arranged depends on possibilities happened when EFL students learn English through Dacotu TikTok account.

Furthermore, this study applied thematic analysis to explore what really happens for EFL students' since using TikTok as learning media to improve language proficiency. Braun & Clarke (2018) stated that thematic analysis is a flexible, systematic method for identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns within qualitative data. There are six phases for thematic analysis in this study. First, familiarization with the data based on the questionnaire. Furthermore, generating initial codes and determine the themes which connected into advantages and disadvantages Dacotu TikTok account through reading again what EFL students' responses. Thus, the researcher defines the theme clearly regarding the result of questionnaire. The last phase is showing finding with explanations which support with EFL students' perspectives through questionnaire.

### Findings and Discussion

#### *The Advantages TikTok Dacotu Account for EFL Students*

The following table presents the most advantages of learning English through Dacotu TikTok account. It shows that Dacotu TikTok account is perceived positively as English learning media for EFL students as research participants.

**Table 1.**

*The Advantages TikTok Dacotu Account for EFL Students*

No	The positive impact of Dacotu TikTok account	Percentages
1.	Learning English is more efficient and easier to understand	14,6 %

2.	Dacotu TikTok account offers exciting and engaging English learning content, such as English learning quizzes and tips	17,1 %
3.	Dacotu TikTok account provide English learning contents with a wide range of topics related to listening, reading, writing and speaking	7,3 %
4.	Dacotu TikTok account encourages you to enhance your English language abilities	22 %
5.	Other students' perspectives:	39 %
	a. Feeling satisfying for how English influencer in Dacotu TikTok account giving explanation about English lesson	
	b. Encouraging well interaction with audience through comments	

Based on the above data, it is known that there are several advantages of TikTok Dacotu account for EFL students. First, learning English with the Dacotu TikTok account showed more efficient and easier to understand due to its engaging, interactive short-form video content that simplifies learning complex concepts through multimedia elements. This format not only enhanced comprehension but also increases retention. In a study conducted by Novitasari & Addinna (2022), it was discovered that students consider learning English on TikTok to be a pleasurable, relaxed, and convenient process. The platform provided a wide range of interesting content, including chances to engage with native speakers, thus making it an effective tool for enhancing English language abilities.

Additionally, Dacotu TikTok account had English learning content, including quizzes and tips, adds a unique and engaging dimension to its platform, catering to a diverse audience interested in improving their language skills. According Tan et al., (2022) stated that integrating educational content into social media channels has the potential to greatly increase user engagement and satisfaction, particularly for those interested in self-improvement. Dacotu TikTok account, through its provision of valuable and interactive English learning resources, not only draws in language learners but also fosters active involvement and knowledge exchange among its users, thereby strengthening its reputation as a platform that is both educational and entertaining.

The Dacotu TikTok account provided comprehensive English learning content that encompasses listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. This diverse approach caters to various aspects of language acquisition, making the learning process more engaging and

effective. Fitria (2023) emphasized the efficacy of incorporating TikTok into educational settings, underscoring how its interactive and multimedia features can greatly enhance students' proficiency in the four language domains. This comprehensive approach guarantees that learners can enhance their English language skills in a well-rounded and cohesive way.

Furthermore, Dacotu TikTok account contributed an innovative tool for enhancing English language abilities. By providing engaging and creative content, it motivates users to practice and improve their language skills in an enjoyable manner. TikTok's short had visually appealing videos cater to a wide range of learning styles, making it easier for EFL students to absorb new vocabulary and language structures. The utilization of TikTok in English language education facilitated interactive communication and provides students with the opportunity to review educational content repeatedly, thereby enhancing their learning and retention. This strategy not only developed language skills but also bolsters students' confidence and interest in mastering the English language (Pratiwi et al., 2022).

The feeling of satisfaction learner experience from English influencers on the Dacotu TikTok account can be attributed to several factors. Influencers who provide clear, engaging explanations of English lessons significantly enhance user satisfaction. The results of a study conducted by Sharabati et al., (2022) align with this observation, indicating that the provision of informative content and fostering a sense of belonging are pivotal elements that significantly impact user satisfaction on platforms such as TikTok. These factors had a crucial role in enhancing the learning experience, making it both enjoyable and effective, thereby promoting sustained user engagement with the platform's content.

Another previous study also supported the advantages using TikTok for learning process. The student's learning experience was not limited by location, as educational content can be accessed on their phone from various places. Furthermore, utilizing the video multiple times was possible without the need for the teacher or peers to be present, promoting independent learning. Additionally, incorporating enjoyable elements in the learning process alleviated stress for students, resulting in more efficient education. Lastly, the presence of a native speaker in the video facilitated accent acquisition, enhancing the overall language learning process (Laili, 2023).

The last of the result shows TikTok had effectively encourage strong interactions with its audience which refers to EFL students through comments, creating a dynamic and engaging environment for users. This interactive feature allowed users to engage directly with content creators and other viewers, fostering a sense of community and active participation. The design of TikTok emphasized social interaction, which significantly

contributes to its popularity and user engagement. Bimo (2020) argued that TikTok different from other social media platforms through its unique approach to social interaction, which is made possible by interactive functions like commenting. This particular feature fostered a distinct form of user interaction and representation of identity.

*The Disadvantages TikTok Dacotu Account for EFL Students*

The results of the survey reveal several disadvantages faced by the students while using Dacotu TikTok to learn English, which are summarized in Table 2 below.

**Table 2.**

*The Disadvantages TikTok Dacotu Account for EFL Students*

No	The difficulties and obstacles of Dacotu TikTok Account	Percentages
1.	Dacotu TikTok account does not provide English learning contents with a wide range of topics related to listening, reading, writing and speaking	4,9 %
2.	Learning English seems boring because the content presented is less interesting	14,6 %
3.	Other students' perspectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Having unstable network learn English when using Dacotu TikTok account</li> <li>b. Limited in the depth of the material because the learning video has a short format</li> <li>c. Dacotu TikTok account does not provide direct interaction with the audience</li> <li>d. Most lessons have a tendency for beginners</li> </ul>	80,5 %

A significant number of educational institutions have introduced the English Proficiency Test (EPT) to evaluate the English language skills of students who are not native English speakers and wish to pursue higher education at the college level particularly in Indonesia. The EPT is divided into three sections which consist of listening, reading, and grammar. English is extensively utilized in various aspects of human life, and many individuals learn it to stay informed about global advancements in fields like education, technology, tourism, health, and economics. For speaking aspects, English proficiency can facilitate smoother communication with individuals from different countries (Gultom &

Oktaviani, 2022). In other context, EFL students' needs grammar lessons for writing assignments. There are many advantages for EFL students when having English proficiency. Unfortunately, EFL students had complain that Dacotu TikTok account has limited topics for each English skill. It means, EFL students does not opportunities to master English language skills.

Moreover, EFL students felt boring due to the English learning contents by Dacotu TikTok account. Whereas TikTok some features can used maximum to perform interesting learning contents. TikTok supports learners by offering a wide range of features, including sharing music videos, short musical clips, special effects, notifications, search box video feeds, settings, likes, comments, duets, reactions, and video editing and sharing capabilities, along with opportunities for monetization. Students utilized TikTok because of its engaging content, allowing them to consume short videos more efficiently and effortlessly for enhanced learning experiences. Users of all ages got advantage of this platform, accessing it anytime and anywhere. This highlights the educational methodologies employed, such as collaborative learning, digital learning, and digital assignments, which align with the features like the TikTok duet challenge. These functionalities complement the teaching strategies utilized, ensuring that TikTok employed for educational advancement rather than being seen as a mere fad or trend (Tan et al., 2022).

This study also showed one of the obstacles for EFL students refers to trouble with the network. Erlangga (2022) mentioned many locations are still plagued by inadequate internet access, resulting in disruptions to online learning caused by buffering, pauses, and disconnections. As a result, these obstacles interfered with concentration during learning and impede the grasp of the material. In addition, TikTok served as a social media platform where influencers have the opportunity to produce short videos ranging from 15 to 60 seconds. These videos can be enhanced with a diverse array of features including music, sticker filters, and various other tools (Adawiyah, 2020). In short time contents, appearing EFL students had unsatisfied to learn English deeply based on video in Dacotu TikTok account. Hence, EFL students had perspective Dacotu TikTok account less match as learning medium to master English into proficient level.

Furthermore, online learning offered unparalleled flexibility and accessibility, allowing individuals to learn anywhere and anytime. However, despite its convenience, there were also challenges that need to be considered for online learning to be effective. According to Kamraju et al., (2024) stated that the act of passively consuming online educational content can have adverse effects on one's ability to concentrate and maintain motivation to learn,

especially for those individuals who are accustomed to the dynamic interactions that occur within a traditional classroom setting. The statements from previous study related with the phenomena in this research. EFL students revealed Dacotu TikTok account unavailable direct interaction during learning. It caused decreasing students' motivation for English learning. The absence of a comprehensive learning path was a potential limitation of online learning platforms. To address this, an ideal platform should incorporate multiple stages of learning, ensuring a holistic educational experience for learners (Vydia et al., 2022).

On the other hand, this study discovered that most English lessons which performed by Dacotu TikTok tended for beginner level. In other words, another levels which refers to intermediate and advanced level unable to master English skills. According to Yessica et al., (2024) explained that continued learning holds great significance as it enables individuals to enhance their knowledge and skills over time. To ensure effective learning, an ideal online platform should offer dedicated sections for intermediate and advanced levels. This way, beginners who have already grasped the fundamentals can be motivated to further expand their understanding and achieve higher levels of proficiency.

#### *Suggestion For English Learning Influencer*

Based on the explanation for advantage and disadvantages above, this study mentioned some suggestions for Dacotu TikTok Influencer from EFL students' perspective.

**Table. 3**

*Suggestion for Dacotu TikTok Influencer*

No	Suggestions
1.	English learning influencer explains English lessons with interesting ways through TikTok features
2.	Encouraging interactive communication through live streaming and comments
3.	English learning influencer concern to share English lesson for any levels

EFL students complained that English learning contents in Dacotu TikTok account was boring. To overcome the problem, English learning influencer creatively should use TikTok's features to make English lessons engaging and fun. English learning influencer can produce short, dynamic videos that capture attention and break down information into manageable pieces. By incorporating trending sounds, effects, and filters, these influencers enhance the appeal and relatability of their content. This innovative approach transforms

traditional language lessons into entertaining and accessible experiences. Thus, making the process learn English enjoyable and effective for EFL students. Additionally, features like duets and stitches enable interactive lessons, allowing EFL students to practice and participate directly in the content, further boosting engagement.

English learning influencer also can leverage TikTok's interactive capabilities to build a community and facilitate real-time learning. Encouraging interactive communication through live streaming and comments is a key strategy for English learning influencers on TikTok. Live streaming sessions allow them to interact directly with viewers, answer questions, and provide immediate feedback, making the learning process more interactive and personalized. The comment section offers a platform for learners to ask questions, share insights, and engage with both the influencer and fellow learners. This interactive environment not only supports real-time learning but also creates a supportive community where learners of all levels can connect and grow together.

This combination of live streaming and interactive commenting fosters a sense of community among learners. It creates a supportive environment where learners can connect with others who share similar goals and challenges. This community aspect is crucial for maintaining motivation and engagement, as learners can encourage and support each other. In this study, it means EFL students can motivated to improve English proficiency. By facilitating interactive communication, English learning influencer not only enhance the educational experience but also build a network of learners who can collaborate and grow together. This supportive community helps learners feel more connected and enjoying in their language learning journey, ultimately contributing to their success learning outcomes.

Furthermore, English learning influencer are dedicated to providing lessons that cater to learners of all proficiency levels. They create content that is accessible to beginners just starting their language journey as well as advanced learners seeking to refine their skills. By organizing their videos into series or playlists that target specific levels, these influencers ensure that each learner can find material suited to their current abilities. This structured approach allows learners to progress at their own pace, building confidence as they master foundational concepts before moving on to more complex topics.

Moreover, it is important for English learning influencer frequently to update the content that reflect the evolving needs of audience. Actively seeking feedback through comments and direct interactions, allowing them to identify common challenges and areas where learners may need additional support. By responding to this feedback, influencers can adapt their lessons and introduce new topics that address the specific demands of their

followers. This ongoing adaptation and responsiveness help maintain a high level of engagement and effectiveness in their teaching. Ultimately, by prioritizing content for all levels, English learning influencers create a comprehensive educational experience that accommodates the unique learning paths of each individual.

## **Conclusion**

Dacotu TikTok account is an effective tool for improving English language skills through engaging short-form video content, engaging native speakers, and comprehensive content. Its innovative approach ensures learners develop well-rounded skills, caters to various learning styles, and provides clear explanations from English influencers. The platform's unique approach to social interaction contributes to its popularity and user engagement, making it an effective tool for language learning. However, EFL students complain about limited topics and boredom for English learning content in Dacotu TikTok account. To improve motivation, platforms should offer dedicated sections for intermediate and advanced levels, and incorporate multiple stages of learning. Online learning offers flexibility and accessibility, but must consider its limitations for EFL students.

English learning influencers can change the boring English learning content into interesting videos on Dacotu TikTok account by using its features to make lessons engaging and fun. By creating short, dynamic videos, incorporating trending sounds, effects, and filters, these influencers can make traditional language lessons more appealing and effective. They can also leverage TikTok's interactive capabilities to build a community and facilitate real-time learning. Live streaming sessions allow influencers to interact with viewers, answer questions, and provide immediate feedback, making the learning process more interactive and personalized. This fosters a sense of community among learners, fostering motivation and engagement. Influencers should cater to learners of all proficiency levels by organizing their videos into series or playlists that target specific levels. They should tailor their teaching methods to address the diverse needs of their audience, using a variety of techniques and resources. Regularly updating content reflects the evolving needs of the audience, allowing influencers to adapt their lessons and introduce new topics to meet the specific demands of their followers.

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