ELT TEACHER'S OPINION ON THE UTILIZATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN ENGLISH CLASSROOM

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Abstract

Education at this time is inseparable from technological advances; even technology is the result of knowledge that is passed on through the educational process. The use of social media to communicate or simply entertain is one of the technologies that we use the most in our daily lives. Therefore, this study tries to investigate students' opinion on the utilization of social media in English classroom. This study uses qualitative methods through a descriptive approach. Data was collected in two ways: first, by collecting literature related to the use of social media in learning English, and second, by interviewing three English teachers regarding their opinions on the use of social media in teaching English. Data were analyzed through three stages proposed by Miles and Huberman (2013), namely data reduction, data display, and conclusion. The results of the study show that the use of social media in teaching English has a positive impact on learning English, where students would become more confident, creative, innovative, independent, flexible, fun, and it can improve the learning atmosphere, more interactive, and be able to learn from a wide variety of sources so as to encourage them to improve their English skills.

Keywords: Teaching English, Social Media, Technology

1. Introduction

As we know that language is a communication tool that connects one individual to another in order to create good two-way communication. Language is also a tool to connect and unite various people both from the same place and from different places in understanding something. In the world, there are many diverse languages that are difficult to understand if they don't come from the same region, so an international unifying language is needed. As an international language, English become a lingua-franca to connect people and community around the world. English is also very important because it is not only the language of international communication but more than that where English is used more in specific terms in certain fields such as technology, economics, international trade, health and so on. Therefore, the role of mastering English as an international language must be made into an intensive and comprehensive language teaching both in schools and in other educational institutions in order to prepare generations who are able to understand and use English (Afrilliani et al., 2020). Mastering English can help students get broader information, news and knowledge and make it easier for students to understand something in English. As we know that in almost every aspect of our lives we often encounter the use of words or sentences in English (Prayudha, 2022). On the cellphones that we often use, in advertisements, even on the side of the road that we often pass, there are words and sentences in English. This shows that

English has become a part of our daily life which we often encounter wherever we are and it is necessary for us to improve our understanding of English so that we avoid misconception or misunderstanding.

In the practice, some students still have lack of ability in English skills. There are still many students who have low communication skills which cause students' mastery of English to be disrupted. Based on research conducted by Andas (2020) it was found that students tend not to be able to improve their English speaking skills due to various factors. One of these factors is the lack of intensive learning carried out by their teachers. Furthermore, Aprianto & Muhlisin (2022) said that students' English skills would be an important value when they were going to apply for jobs. The researcher also encountered the same thing in various English classes where there were still many students who had low English scores, causing students to not be able to master and use English properly. This should be the focus of the teacher in determining solutions to solving problems related to students' ability to receive information and English materials provided by their teachers. Teachers need to think about the right ways to help students find good ways to improve their communication skills by using English well.

There are many ways that have been done by teachers in providing good English teaching, despite the fact that there are still many students who have not been able to optimize and master the use of English in their daily lives even though they have been studying for years at school, the results are still good. hopefully not optimal. This is one of the tasks that must be completed by many parties, not just the teacher in order to ensure students have good abilities in mastering English skills. Here the teacher is given a very big responsibility to realize good English teaching and ensure students can master and have English communication skills more intensively (Prayudha & Malik, 2021). The teacher as the key in the classroom has the ability, knowledge and competence regarding how to solve problems like this where students are not optimally able to use and understand English so that problems that drag on year after year like this can at least decrease. Therefore teacher needs a way so that students are encouraged and motivated to improve their ability to understand and master English either by using appropriate social media that can push students belief and motivation to develop their skill in learning English. According to Prayudha (2023) using social media can be a solution in improving the learning atmosphere and can also increase students' interest and motivation in developing their English language skills. Therefore, the teacher must be able to determine the right social media-based learning so that students can follow the learning well and have fun.

The teacher as controller of learning and activities in the classroom has the most important role in determining the learning journey that encourages the achievement of fun learning activities or processes (Sandri et al., 2020). Kurniawan et al. (2022) adds that teachers also have great rights and responsibilities to make the class better by carrying out various activities in order to provide fun learning. The method of conveying learning material is also a major key so that what students convey and learn can be easily understood by students. This means that the teacher is the main key in the classroom, he can organize and manage learning so that it becomes more interesting for students to follow. Teachers must also be smarter in managing and controlling the learning process so that they can bring the learning atmosphere to life and can attract students' interest in learning English. Teachers have to be creative to use so many sources in teaching English, especially use the social media technology (Rudy, 2017). Here, the teacher must be able to determine and know what methods to bring into the English learning class so that students can take part in English learning actively and independently want to develop their English language skills. The teacher can do many things in delivering or providing learning activities, but the most important thing before the teacher gives what kind of teaching will be brought the teacher must be aware of what the conditions, interests, and characteristics of students are like. This greatly affects the involvement of students and can encourage student motivation in learning. Knowing the conditions and characteristics of students is a very important element so that teachers can prepare materials and teaching styles that are suitable for application in the classroom so that by determining the right teaching strategy will form a more interesting personal learning. The use of social media in learning is very important in order to increase students' interest and motivation in developing their knowledge and competence in English. Through social media students will also become more open in finding more varied learning to improve

their competence and language skills. In this study, it is necessary for teachers to find out whether to make observations or analyzes related to the situation of students, for example in the 21st century where the development of information and communication technology is very important and widely used and often encountered in everyday life. This technology is also often used and found in the daily lives of students so that in practice the habits and behavior of society in this era are all carried out using technological assistance, including in the educational aspect. Technological developments do not escape from the results of education itself. Many technology experts are competing to develop innovations in the field of technology, one of which is the existence of software technology such as social media. Social media itself is a software application specifically designed for users to carry out a digital interaction, both in providing information in the form of text, images, video and audio. It is undeniable that social media can help solve problems faced by teachers (Veda et al., 2016). Also, social media itself is often used as a means of sharing news, information or experiences and usually just looking for entertainment.

Because the use of social media has become a habit that continues or is often done, it is not surprising that social media users in Indonesia have a very high number. There are around 167 million social media users in Indonesia, which puts Indonesia in fourth place with the most social media users in the world (Celebrities.id, 2021). With so many social media users, especially among school children, language teachers can use this as a means of learning English. Teachers can take advantage of the use of social media such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Tiktok and Instagram as learning tools in English classes. Teachers must be able to find out and take advantage of moments like this in providing more innovative and creative teaching using the help of social media. According to Warini et al. (2020) the teacher can also know the character and condition of students so that he can use teaching strategies and media that are in accordance with the characteristics experienced by students so that they can carry out learning in a more relevant way to encourage students to improve their language skills. Thus, by understanding situations where the use of social media has become a habit that is often carried out, teachers can carry English learning by utilizing the help of social media applications. Therefore, this study will examine the advantages of using social media in teaching English to improve students' English skills.

Social Media

Social media is a tool that can be used by users to carry out interaction activities with each other by creating, sharing and exchanging information and ideas in a virtual network or community. Social media is an online tool where users can easily follow, join, share and create content that can be enjoyed by all other social media users. Social media itself is not just to get information in the form of entertainment or not just as a place to share moments such as photos or videos, but there are many things that can be done through social media such as trading, drawing, designing or learning. Lots of people use social media according to their needs and goals (Ambarita, 2021). Here, social media can be used as a teaching medium where teachers can optimize the use of social media as a tool to support and carry out learning. Social media itself has no limitations in using the application, so there are advantages that can be utilized in using social media, namely as a learning tool. In the classroom, sometimes many teachers are reluctant to use technology to support more active, innovative and creative learning so that students' motivation and encouragement to improve their language skills is felt to be very low. Teachers must be able to create the use of learning media that can support the learning process, one of which is by implementing social media-based learning because the effectiveness and advantages offered by social media can shape the personality and character of students in learning. Prayudha (2022) mentions the need for learning strategies that can foster student enthusiasm for learning, one of which is by utilizing interesting learning media. Thus, we can conclude that it is necessary for a class to apply more interesting teaching by utilizing the use of communication and information technology. There are many types of social media that are most often used by Indonesian people in their daily lives, including the following:

Figure 1. Kind of social media

The advantages of using social media

Social media was formed in order to make it easier to provide communication and information to the general public. Social media is also made with sophisticated features that can make it easier for users to carry out activities to get information and news. With this convenience, many users use and utilize social media as part of their daily life. There are advantages and benefits that can be felt in using social media in learning, including:

- Easy to use

As we know that many technology experts create social media to facilitate human work or activities, one of which is to create applications that are easy to use. Learning applications are designed to attract the interest of users by arranging the ease of operating the performance of the application. Because it is easy to operate, the teacher should be able to take advantage of this in implementing learning activities. The teacher only needs to provide a few learning instructions on how to use and operate the technology so that the teacher does not take a long time to explain the use of the learning application. Teachers should be able to implement the use of social media in an interesting way because basically it's easy to use and can be accessed by anyone without having to study so extra that it can lure students to use it in language learning classes.

- More innovative and creative

As we know that social media is designed in such a way that it is easy to use and access so that it provides a place for users to be able to create, process and shape what kind of content you want to present in class. Social media emphasizes the element of ease of use so that there is a lot of material, information and news that we sometimes encounter in an interesting form that encourages users to read or just view the content. Teachers can also apply this in English learning classes (Sukmawati, 2020). Teachers can use various features, templates or edit and filters in forming interesting learning content for their students. As we understand that students really like things that are interesting, unusual or related to innovation and creativity, so this can encourage them to improve their English learning abilities. Here it is necessary for the teacher not only to teach English material as it is but how to integrate learning in an innovative, creative way so that it can form effective English learning.

- Improving the learning atmosphere

Because basically a lot of people use social media, so there are hundreds of billions of content listed on social media that teachers can use for free or for a fee that can be used as media and learning materials for students (Parlindungan, 2020). The teacher does not just use social media in teaching but how can he change the conditions or atmosphere of learning to be more be lively and appropriate to encourage students to become more active and motivated in learning. Teachers can use videos, infographics, pictures and photos as a tool for learning English. Teachers can also use games, quizzes and puzzles in learning English so students don't feel bored when they are doing assignments and carrying out the learning process. By providing interesting activities and activities contained in social media, it is hoped that the teacher can change the learning atmosphere to be more improved.

- Many of learning resources

Social media is an online tool that is connected to the internet and has so many and large users around the world (Bahri et al., 2022). Social media is also the most widely accessed platform and

provides most of human activity in carrying out any activities there, so it's not surprising that there is so much content on social media that teachers can use as a means of material that can be taught to students. Social media is also a technology that is connected to all sites, meaning that it is connected to the internet so that teachers can implement the use of social media by including learning material or links so that students can access them directly without having to move the link to a search engine, because it directly being connected to the internet is what makes social media make it easy to do something without having to involve other technology to open it. Thus the use of social media can provide opportunities for teachers and students to easily access learning resource material on the internet.

- Interactive

Social media is a virtual device designed so that users can explore themselves, be creative and easily connect with other users easily, practically and effectively so that the implementation of using social media applications is designed very easily so that it certainly will not hinder or dissuade students from simply communicating in using social media. Many social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok and so on provide chat features, both personal and public comment columns that can be used as a means to express oneself so that communicative implementation can run well. Students can provide writing in English using the chat or comments column so that they can develop their writing skills in English. In addition, there is also social media that provides voice message features so that it can train students' speaking skills. Prayudha (2021) states that the Whatsapp application provides an advantage by providing a voice message service where teachers can use it to practice speaking skills.

Its implementation is easy, creating a two-way communication implementation is also an important element in virtual learning. Teachers and students, even though they do not meet each other, can still communicate through the private chat feature or through the comments column which can be seen by all learning participants so that other participants can give their opinions, ideas and suggestions so as to create a discussion forum in learning English by utilizing social media assistance (Prayudha & Malik, 2021). Thus, the teacher does not need to be afraid if the students do not do anything in the virtual classroom, the teacher can provoke students by providing a topic that can be discussed by all students in the class.

- Students can study independently

The use of social media is a tool that can be used by individuals or groups to do many things. Social media is also used as a personal means so that it is almost felt that many people have social media accounts to carry out many activities, one of which is learning English. At this time many students already have personal devices in the form of smartphones or computers, therefore the application of learning using social media should be implemented in language classes. Hardware such as a smartphone is a tool that is intended for communication or just looking for information and entertainment, but this tool can also be used as best as possible for learning. Teachers who apply learning using the help of social media will foster the character of students who can independently access and learn independently in applying their learning. Teachers must be able to give a sense of responsibility to students in participating in learning so that they are able to follow learning well. This method is used so that students avoid being lazy in doing assignments given by their teacher. Giving assignments or material to students through the use of social media will train a sense of responsibility regarding independent learning. Students will be more able to appreciate assignments given by their teachers because basically learning through technology requires individuals who can use and study material independently. Therefore, the use of social media in teaching and learning activities can provide a challenge for students in taking education.

- Flexible and able to increase self-confidence

As we know that social media is a software application that is found on our gadgets or computers, this means that the application can be accessed anytime and anywhere in its use. The same thing can also be done in learning using social media. Teachers can give assignments or material to students but students can access the learning anytime and anywhere. Learning by utilizing social media offers very flexible work so that not only teachers but students can also carry out learning not only at school but also can learn from home. Learning like this, of course, must be really structured and systematic so that students can follow the learning as they should. The teacher must be able to give strict instructions to students so that they can always devote their time to learning English even if they are not directly supervised by the teacher. By giving good instructions, it is certain that what is expected of students can become a responsibility that must be carried out by students.

In addition to students having responsibilities that must be carried out, they can also study independently and express their creative ideas in the form of teaching English. Students can make language products such as podcasts, videos, infographics or mind maps on the topic of the language being studied, so they will be more confident in doing and expressing something. Through learning to use social media can make students more confident by providing their ideas and creativity in expressing a sentence so as to eliminate the feeling of difficulty in practicing speaking in English (Prayudha & Pradana, 2023).

2. Research Method

This study applies qualitative research using a descriptive approach. The descriptive approach was chosen because the researcher wanted to study and describe the use of social media in improving English skills. Cresswell (2013) adds that a qualitative descriptive approach is used to find out social phenomena that occur in more depth related to the object under study. Sugiyono (2014) explains that qualitative descriptive methods can be used to see the situation or condition of the objects studied naturally without data manipulation and also in qualitative descriptive research, the researcher has a key role in conducting qualitative research. Thus, qualitative research is used in order to obtain more detailed information without interference or manipulation of data regarding the object being studied through predetermined steps. Furthermore, data is obtained in two ways, namely first through literature study, namely searching for literature or material related to the object under study in the form of articles, journals or books that match the criteria for the object being discussed. This literature search is based on the subject matter related to the object being studied. According to Zed (2004) said that library research can be carried out through finding reference sources, the intention in carrying out this research is that researchers do not need to go directly to the field, they only need to find and collect material related to the object under study. Therefore, it can be concluded that literature study research is an approach that can be implemented through a review of material and literature related to what is being studied, for example from books, scientific articles and other research results. Second, through interviews conducted with three English teachers regarding their opinions of the application of social media in learning English. Interviews were conducted using the Whatsapp application to obtain more comprehensive information on the use of social media in language classes. Furthermore, the data is analyzed through the stages offered by Miles & Huberman (2013), namely data reduction, data display and conclusion.

3. Results and Discussion

The use of social media as a means of learning English has become part of modern learning that was carried out many years ago. The teacher integrates the use of technology, in this case using social media, into teaching by providing good and clear instructions so that students can operate the maximum use of social media in learning English. The use of social media is also one of the supporting alternatives in teaching English where we can see that most social media use English as the operating machine language so it is actually not difficult to implement social media-based teaching in English classes. Social media is also a tool that is most often opened or used by students, therefore it is not difficult actually if learning English is done using social media. It only takes habit and regularity for teachers and students to use social

media to learn English consistently in order to achieve learning goals and a good understanding of English. Furthermore, further information related to the application of social media in English learning classes has been carried out through interviews with three English teachers. The results of the interview are as follows:

How do you apply learning using social media in English class?

"I always integrate the use of technology in the English class that I teach, usually by providing material and assignments through various social media applications such as Whatsapp or I often use YouTube to provide material in the form of additional videos. Through the use of social media I can teach many things related to English, for example I can instruct students to practice speaking using voice notes or hold discussions, then students can also practice their listening skills by listening to songs or learning videos and there is still much that can be done to improve improve students' English skills. Besides that, usually if the learning that is being done seems boring then I usually use social media which is more creative in compiling or providing teaching material in video form."

Based on the interview results that each teacher has implemented learning using social media. The use of social media in teaching provides opportunities for teachers to be able to compile and create appropriate and interesting teaching materials so that they can encourage students to continue learning English. This is in accordance with the statement made by Hsieh et al. (2021) which states that through social media teachers can find, create and use various sources to be taught to students. Through the provision of this material in order to make the learning atmosphere more meaningful and fun and students can become more actively involved in participating in various activities in learning. Then, Williams & Svensson (2020) states that the use of social media has a good effect on increasing teacher competence in developing and utilizing teaching strategies, so that teachers can become more creative and innovative in teaching and applying various media and learning resources. Therefore, teachers can maximize the proper use of social media in order to foster student motivation and interest in learning properly.

Is there any differences when you don't use social media and use social media in English class?

"When using social media in learning English students tend to look more like and motivated to learn, maybe because social media provides a more fun or enjoyable learning atmosphere coupled with media such as photos, videos or songs which sometimes make students excited in training to improve their English skills."

Designing English language learning requires a lot of time and process, so teachers need to properly develop learning plans by emphasizing the right sources and media so that students can learn better. When carrying out learning through social media, the teacher needs to ensure that students have access and tools that are able to encourage the implementation of learning well (Depi Prihamdani, 2020). There needs to be clear instructions and understanding so that students can understand the understanding and use of social media properly. On the other hand, (Susanti, 2019) stated that when the teacher integrates learning through social media, the teacher must have good competence in implementing these various technologies so that when the implementation is carried out it goes well. There will always be different conditions when teachers use technology and do not use it at all in language classes. Prayudha (2022) states that the application of learning using technology will provide a more interactive and challenging learning atmosphere when compared to conventional learning which is monotonous.

In your opinion, what are the advantages of learning by using social media in English classes?

"There are various conveniences provided by social media so that its use is not difficult and confusing for students, moreover the social media used is the media they use most often in their daily life so there are no barriers they face while learning is carried out using social media. . In addition, the application of social media also has various good impacts on learning English, for example students can learn to be

more independent, more innovative, creative and learning can be carried out more flexibly so that the learning process becomes more enjoyable without any pressure while studying."

The use of technology in learning is a good alternative strategy in developing students' digital abilities and competencies in learning. Various advantages are offered by social media when someone uses it properly. In the field of education, technology has a very important role in encouraging students and teachers to be actively and jointly involved in developing their knowledge and competence in learning. Various studies also reveal a positive influence when a teacher uses social media in his teaching, for example Pahargyan (2021) which stated that English classes became more interactive and students were actively involved in learning. Furthermore, Harwood, (2010) states that students tend to have high interest and motivation in completing projects given by their teachers. Thus, learning to use social media has a good impact in building students' interest and interest in developing their mastery of English.

The results of the interview above show that the use of social media in learning English can be an alternative strategy that can help and generate students' interest in learning motivation. Through this learning can also provide opportunities for students to become more actively involved in learning. Zam Zam Al Arif (2019) argues that using social media social media plays an important role to improve their English language skills. However, the most important thing in the application of this learning is how teachers can instruct and emphasize students to be responsible in learning by using social media so that there is no lack and boredom in learning.

4. Conclusion

Learning English by integrating the use of communication and information technology has become a good alternative in conveying material to students. The use of this technology includes social media applications where almost all people use social media to interact with others. The use of social media provides a wider space in forming wider and more flexible learning groups. In the case of learning English, social media can be used as an intermediary medium for teaching English by considering the more massive aspects of convenience and usability. Teachers as the main key in teaching and learning activities can encourage students to utilize their devices, especially in using social media platforms as a means of learning English, because the use of social media can have a better learning impact such as being innovative, easy accessibility and can be done anytime, more creative and can be used as a varied and unlimited learning resource. Therefore, based on the finding of the research there are some benefits when an English teacher utilize the social media in the learning activity such as students would become more confident, creative, innovative, independent, flexible, fun, and it can improve the learning atmosphere, more interactive, and be able to learn from a wide variety of sources so as to encourage them to improve their English skills, and using social media also can attract students interest and motivation in English learning. Thus, teachers must be able to maximize the use of social media as a learning tool for teaching English for students so that students would become more attractive in learning English.

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