

## TIKTOK TRICK: IMPROVING STUDENTS' PRONUNCIATION OF INDONESIAN MIGRANT WORKERS CHILDREN IN MALAYSIA

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Article Info	Abstract
<b>Article History</b> Received: February 2024 Revised: March 2024 Published: April 2024	<i>Pronunciation is the most important thing that non-native speakers must deal with when learning a foreign language. The purpose of this research is to improve students' English pronunciation by using TikTok media. The research method was classroom action research with tests at the end of each cycle. It was conducted in grades IV at Sanggar Bimbingan Sentul, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, for the 2022 academic year. This classroom action research consisted of two cycles with four stages that were planning, action, observation, and reflection. The learning media used was video taken from the TikTok account @learnenglishwithcamille. The results showed that students' English pronunciation increased after using TikTok media. This can be seen from the results of observations at cycle 1 reached 45% in the "enough" category, 55% reached the "good" category, and increased at cycle 2 to 40% students in the category "very good", 45% in the category "good", and 15% in the category "enough". In conclusion, TikTok media can improve students' English, especially in terms of English pronunciation. The implication of the study is that students enjoy learning pronunciation with TikTok media and well improved.</i>
<b>Keywords</b> English pronunciation; TikTok media; Language teaching; Learning media;	
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### INTRODUCTION

Pronunciation is the most important thing that non-native speakers must deal with when learning a foreign language. Pronunciation is the act or outcome of producing sound through speaking; pronunciation, accent, and intonation are known as pronunciation (Wongsuriya, 2020). Achieving good English pronunciation should be the first goal of students, because when students speak English well, of course the listeners can clearly capture the meaning of the spoken words. Pronunciation is one of the speaking skills that students in English language programs need to learn (Saadah & Ardi, 2020), and a crucial component of speaking (Shafwati, 2022), thus, a poor first impression, misunderstandings, and inefficient communication might result from improper pronunciation (Nurullayevna, 2020). Therefore, it is more probable to propose that pronunciation should be covered right away in the English class (Visoni & Marlina, 2020), so that they are more confident in speaking. When the pronunciation is incorrect and done continuously, it will form a habit and make mistakes repeatedly when speaking English.

The close relationship between pronunciation and speaking skills cannot be denied. The ability to speak with good English pronunciation will make it easier for the listener to capture the meaning being spoken. According to Saltri Yudar et al., (2020), to improve a good speaking ability, it is necessary to improve the student's pronunciation. Studying and paying attention to the student's pronunciation can have a major impact on their ability to speak (Adriani Putri et al., 2020).

For that reason, the teacher must be able to help his students to gain proficiency in pronunciation. Acquiring proficiency in proper pronunciation, which enables pupils to communicate with others in the world clearly and efficiently, is the primary factor in a student's ability to acquire English and apply it in communication (Settemi et al., 2021). Therefore, teachers need a learning media that will help them teach pronunciation in class. Learning media was of course very common because learning media can be used to introduce or convey information easily and quickly (Maghfiroh, Anggi, et al., 2024). It is found that most teachers in class use digital media as a learning medium. The use of media, especially digital media, is generally very common in every lesson. This triggers the enthusiasm of students for teaching and learning activities (Maghfiroh, Setyati W, et al., 2024). Therefore, learning media play a significant part in today's society (Hadi S, Indriani D, & Muhammadiyah J, 2021).

Some previous studies found that the use of learning applications is very common in language classrooms. Haryadi S & Aprianoto, (2020) revealed that to being highly recommended for English lecturers teaching pronunciation to beginners learning pronunciation, the English Pronunciation app has attractive features and is simple to use. It also gives students access to a bank of vocabulary that they can use to learn new words or review words they have already learned. Some argue that there is improvement on students' pronunciation skills after being taught using pronunciation software (Shafwati, 2022). Another study showed that TikTok media can be used effectively in learning and was one of popular educational tools in the future (Indriastuti et al., 2023 & Khlaif & Salha, 2021).

In short, this research aims to implement Tiktok as a learning medium in teaching pronunciation to the students of Sanggar Bimbingan Sentul Malaysia. The research questions guiding this study are as follows: (I) How does the implementation of Tiktok as a learning media improve students' pronunciation in Sanggar Bimbingan Sentul Malaysia? (II) What are the impacts of using Tiktok as a learning media in teaching pronunciation? The results of this study will provide input for English teachers in utilizing and integrating digital media in the language classroom.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Teaching and Learning Pronunciation**

Learning a foreign language, especially English, provides many advantages for students (Harmanto, 2020). In English, not missed in learning pronunciation. Generally, pronunciation is required in language teaching, especially in English. Therefore, it is important to study pronunciation, especially because teachers need to pay attention to the accent of English pronunciation when teaching in class. However, as know, the teacher often considers pronunciation to be an unimportant thing in learning English. Therefore, the teaching of pronunciation is often neglected in terms of teaching in class. It must have an impact on the student's future pronunciation. According to Chee M & Hua Tan, (2021), it is said that pronunciation is one of the subskills in speech, but pronouns are often ignored. Pronunciation is the main problem facing students. Unclear pronunciation of words must interfere with both oral and written communication with other speakers (Maulina & Sari, 2022). With that, a teacher needs to pay attention to the teaching of pronunciation while in class.

Learning pronunciation should be done as soon as possible to prevent the student from making mistakes. Learning English pronunciation from an early age will make students more accustomed to correcting pronunciation and more confident when speaking with natives. So, we need teachers who are aware of the importance of English pronunciation to minimize the risk of mistakes. Besides, good pronunciation can improve student English fluency. According to Darcy et al., (2021), It requires an important aspect of specialized teaching that is used to improve English speech. The pronunciation of such English includes articulation, emphasis, and intonation. Therefore, pronunciation in English is very important, especially for non-native speakers. Learning English pronunciation lies in knowing how to pronounce vocal sounds and

consonants correctly. In English, there are many words that have almost the same pronunciation but different writing, so it causes a misunderstanding from the listener. Like the words "sea" and "see" or "by" and "buy," they have different meanings, but the pronunciation of the word is the same. Then there is a need for a clear explanation to avoid misunderstandings. The majority of mistakes in reading or pronouncing this English language are due to the lack of fluency of students in English (Indriastuti, Mustikawati, et al., 2023). Exhaustion in pronunciation will enable students to be able to communicate clearly in their lives. In all situations of speech activity, pronunciation plays an important role in expressing ideas. Many students will face different situations that will definitely require skill and fluency in pronunciation. Because, the English pronunciation will be different from the Indonesian pronunciation. The voices in the English pronunciation are different because they have more voices than the Indonesian pronouns. Therefore, students should learn and practice English pronunciation in detail. In terms of pronunciation, the speech organ is another important factor to pay attention to. As we know, the organ of speech is an important component in producing voices. English pronunciation requires students to use and maximize their speech organs effectively and in detail.

When students are accustomed to the error of pronunciation, there must be a tendency not to be able to give information clearly. Therefore, students should pay attention to the spelling of each word so that the information to be delivered is well received (Reti Indriastuti & Mustikawati, 2021). Therefore, most people, before they can pronounce the sound and intonation correctly, need to find out how to speak the vocabulary by listening to how the foreign speaker pronounces the word. The teacher should be able to give an example of how the speech should be done correctly (Pertiwi et al., 2020). Early spelling will become a habit for students to get used to speaking English. As a result, students will tend to be more confident in communicating because they have been convinced that the words they say match the native speaker's way of speaking. The main obstacle to learning English pronunciation is the lack of interest and motivation among students to keep improving their pronunciation. Besides, learning pronunciation in English is delivered by teachers in a boring way, so students who are experiencing difficulties tend to give up easily. Some students still have difficulties pronouncing several letters of the alphabet, such as the frequently interchangeable spelling of the letters "f" and "v." Achieving effective and understandable English pronunciation is a complex task for students studying English as a foreign language. That's why English is different from other foreign languages because there are many different aspects, especially the sound aspect (Harmanto, 2019). Non-native speakers usually have pronunciation problems, so teachers have to work hard to figure out what strategy is appropriate to teach pronunciation to students. Appropriate strategies can make it easier for students to learn pronunciation.

### **Teaching Language with Digital Technology**

The use of technology in learning is very common today. In this case, the use of technology plays an important role in supporting effective learning. Technology in education can be understood as a tool or device of engineering that is used to enhance instruction in terms of learning in the classroom. The use of digital technology platforms during the learning process is assessed as efficient, especially in foreign language learning (Karsenti et al., 2020).. Digital technology is very important in the field of language learning, especially English in general (Biletska et al., 2021). A good use of digital technology will benefit students in the future. Different kinds of digital technology nowadays demand that teachers master technology, especially in language learning (Karacan & Akoğlu, 2021)..

Digital technology generally has a variety of features that can meet learning needs. Digital technology also provides a wide range of information for interacting with each other and collaborating to sharpen foreign language skills (Sherine et al., 2020). With the presence of digital technology, it will make learning easier. In today's era, many languages use digital

technology in terms of speaking, listening, reading, or even writing. It is estimated to make it easier for teachers to provide material for language learning. In addition, students can also learn independently with digital technology. Students can acquire other knowledge that is not acquired from learning with the use of digital technologies, such as learning searches on the Internet. With the advancement of digital technology, educational fields such as teaching, learning, and research can expand where technological developments provide resources to help teachers and students learn (Rahmania & Mandasari, 2021). Technological advancements that are increasingly advanced and more sophisticated produce breakthroughs in learning, including language learning, which can create learning media that can be applied in the classroom (Sofian Hadi et al., 2021). With the use of digital technologies, it creates a lot of learning media.

### **Social Media for Language Learning**

Today's advanced technologies allow us to complement this learning with a variety of online media, such as social media (Si, 2019). According to research from (Khlaif & Salha, 2021) in this context, social media must be incorporated into the learning process for e-learning in both normal and emergency situations. Social media is not as negative for students as most people see it. Social media can play an important role for the progress of the nation. Students in today's era need to use social media in a positive context. Social media platforms offer numerous benefits for improving learners' English comprehension while they are learning (Desta et al., 2021). Someone will be able to communicate with other people, especially in other countries using social media. With social media, students will be able to explore many things and communicate with friends from various countries. By communicating with friends from various countries, of course, you can broaden students' knowledge and mindset. So, it is very important to introduce students to social media, especially for learning. Students' language skills will increase when they want to explore social media in positive terms. The utilization of social media can help students develop their English language skills, according to a few published research (Dewi K & Arifani, 2021). To master good English, of course, cannot be separated from the role of social media. We know that learning English is very important in today's era. Good pronunciation will affect the quality of one's English. In research (Nurullayevna, 2020). Social media has provided a rich resource for learning English. This is shown by social media, which contributes to speaking, listening, writing, and reading English.

In the context of this study, the researcher chose social media as a process of learning English in terms of pronunciation. According to Afidah et al., (2021) in this day and age, social media is becoming more widely known as one of the informational tools that people use to stay current with events. So, social media can be used for learning, especially English pronunciation.

### **TikTok as a Media for Language Learning**

TikTok is a familiar digital platform that is often encountered in everyday life, including among students. Because, according to (Ferstephanie & Pratiwi, 2021). One of the most used social media platforms is TikTok. Most male and female students use TikTok on a daily basis. TikTok is a popular short-form video platform among teenagers (Addinna, 2022).

Further researched by Alexandro R, (2022) TikTok is a social media platform that millennials can utilize for activism and education, suggesting that it could be a useful tool for today's young people, there are different TikTok hashtags that promote learning. TikTok is a social networking platform with a large user base, comprehensive functionality, and a wide range of content that is utilized as a learning tool (Pratiwi et al., 2021). TikTok also is a social media platform that offers useful educational opportunities to support teaching and learning (Indriastuti, Alviyanti, et al., 2023). TikTok to learn English helps improve skills because it has features and advantages such as interesting, easily accessible content and varied videos. However, TikTok's current challenges are network problems and quota fees (Addinna, 2022).

A number of studies from Pratiwi et al., Hadi S. et al., Dewi K, (2021) also analyze that TikTok is an English learning strategy tool that helps improve basic English skills and increases confidence in pronunciation. TikTok, which was introduced in 2017, is the social media platform with the quickest rate of growth and has users in more than 150 countries Yasmin D, (2022). TikTok also has a popularity that has exploded on a large scale, especially in Asian countries, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and other Asian countries (Dewi K & Arifani, 2021).

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The study used classroom action research methods which is a learning activity that takes place in the classroom with the goal of enhancing the learning process (Addinna, 2022). This study aims to find out whether the use of TikTok media can improve student's English pronunciation or not. From preliminary study, it was found that the most difficulty in learning a foreign language was pronunciation. In this study, the researcher taught students about basic English pronunciation. The media used in this study was TikTok media. The role of the researcher in this classroom action research was that of a facilitator using TikTok media and teaching students about the basics of pronunciation. In learning English, a teacher usually does not emphasize pronunciation in learning, so the local accent of the teacher can affect the skill in English pronunciation. Students Pronunciation was not good enough. Then, by using the TikTok media, which is now trending among children, it is expected to make students interested in learning pronunciation and doing a lot of speaking practice using the media especially improve student pronunciation. The materials were taken from the TikTok of native speaker content account encourages students to improve their English pronunciation correctly and accurately.

In collecting the data, the researcher used observations and tests. Observation was used to investigate the teaching learning processes using TikTok media. Researchers perform observations to see student responses during the teaching learning using TikTok media was going on. In observation activities, researcher can learn and evaluate the process of all events and activities of students in class (Haryadi S & Aprianoto, 2020). In addition to using observations, the researcher also performed tests to measure student learning achievement. Researcher performed tests at the end of each cycle after learning in terms of pronunciation using TikTok media.

The study was conducted at the Sanggar Bimbingan Sentul in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The study was conducted on students of grade IV with a total of 20 students, consisting of 10 male and 10 female students, in the academic year 2022 using two research cycles. The purpose of this research is to improve students' English pronunciation by using TikTok media. The participants were the children of migrant workers who live in Malaysia. Because based on the previously research conducted by Suwanda, Maghfiroh, & Mustikawati, (2023), it was found that students of migrant workers who study in informal schools were also enthusiastic about learning English.

The data collected was the result of each stage of the meeting in classroom action research. The research was completed in two cycles with four meetings. In each cycle, there were two meetings, and in each of the two meetings ended with a test, the results were analyzed and became a reflection of each cycle. Each assessment aims to measure the students' cognitive, affective, and psychomotor achievement.

The score of each test was calculated and grouped into certain categories (table 1). The "Very Good" category includes scores of 90-100, the "Good" category includes scores of 70-89, the "Enough" category includes scores of 50-69, the "Less" category includes values of 30-49, and the last category, "Very Less," includes grades 0-29. The value of the category is taken from the pronunciation assessment rubric.

Table 1  
Pronunciation Rubric and Score Categories

Score	Category	Explanation
90-100	Very Good	Easy to understand and have access to native speakers
70-89	Good	Easy to understand, although with certain access
50-69	Enough	There are pronunciation problems that make listeners have to concentrate fully, and sometimes there are misunderstandings
30-49	Less	Difficult to understand due to pronunciation issues; frequently asked to repeat
0-29	Very Less	Serious pronunciation problems, to the point of incomprehensibility

## RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### The Implementation of TikTok Media in Teaching Pronunciation

In implementing TikTok media for teaching students' pronunciation, researcher took a video from TikTok account @learnenglishwithcamille that has shared content and discussed the use of learning English in everyday life. The researcher took videos about English basics to improve the English pronunciation skills of grade IV students. In the first cycle, the researcher showed TikTok videos about English pronunciation and then the students understood and practised in class. In the first cycle, it was found that students were interested in using TikTok media, but some students still had difficulty focusing when teaching. The results showed that 45% of the 20 students were still in the "enough" category with a score between 50-69, but about 55% of those students were already able to understand and have entered the "good" category. The researcher felt that students' skills could still be improved in terms of English pronunciation. There are still a lot of students who are not good at correct English pronunciation. Therefore, the researcher proceeded to the second cycle by dividing the students into groups. As a result, students' English skills have improved. Where performed in groups, students were also more active and contributed to learning. This increase occurred when they began to get used to speaking English in class at the time of classroom action research. In this second cycle, the student score increased, with 40% of students already reaching the "very good" category and 45% of students reaching "good". Nevertheless, there are still some students who reach the "enough" category, which is about 15% of the 20 students. This is due to the lack of student participation. However, considering that most students already understand how to learn and pronounce English correctly, this study can go well. So, the evaluation of this class's research activities in the second cycle is considered capable and successful in the learning process.

This result was in line with research by Xiuwen & Razali, (2021) also conducted research related to the use of the TikTok application as a media for learning English pronunciation, and the result is that TikTok media provides fun benefits for English learners. In addition, Adnan et. al., (2021) evaluated the use of TikTok media as an educational tool, and the result was that students gave a positive response. Whereas in the Classroom Action Research examined by Herlisya & Wiratno, (2022) that TikTok can increase students' learning activities and skills. This classroom action research method is considered very effective in classroom research.

### The Impact of Using TikTok Media on The Students' Pronunciation

To measure the impact of using TikTok media on students' pronunciation, researcher used tests, researcher can see students' progress in terms of English pronunciation. The impact obtained by students on improved pronunciation is demonstrated by increased test results in each cycle. In addition, the researchers also saw an improvement in the psychomotor skills of students, as demonstrated by their enthusiasm as learning continued using TikTok. Students

also looked very active and enjoyed learning, as the use of the media was judged pleasant in terms of learning. The results of the test are as follows:

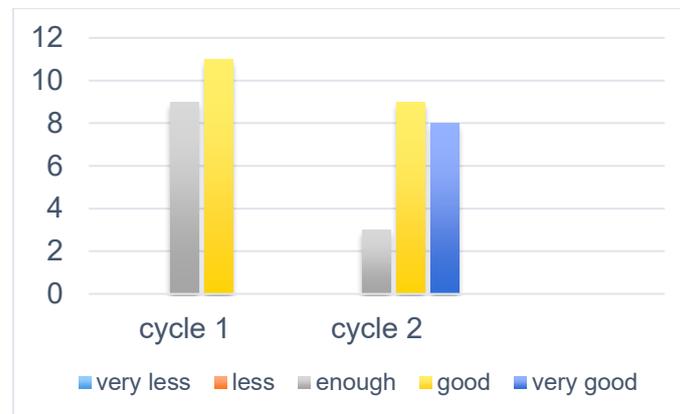


Figure. 2. Students' Improvement on Pronunciation

From the findings above, it can be seen that the effective use of TikTok media can improve students' English pronunciation skills. Various researchers have reviewed previous studies related to the use of TikTok and its impact, especially as an effective learning media (Pratiwi et al., 2021).

In addition, other researchers also revealed that using English-language media applications can improve students' pronunciation skills (Kholis, 2021). Listening and speaking consistently can be used by students to be fluent in English (Scholar & Djurayeva, 2021). Speaking and listening skills can be obtained from the TikTok app feature that provides English language content as a learning media (Duan, 2023; Hanim, 2021). In addition, many studies have revealed that TikTok applications are widely used today as a learning media, especially in distance learning (Otroshchenko & Medvedovska, 2022). In addition to speaking and listening, TikTok can help students add English vocabulary that is necessary when learning English (Simanungkalit & Katemba, 2023).

In this case, students can use TikTok to learn English anywhere and anytime. Moreover, students can create their own video content by using TikTok as a means to train communication in English. With many features available, TikTok can train students' communication skills (Aziz & Sabella, 2021). Therefore, in this study, the researcher conducted research on the use of TikTok as a media to improve student pronunciation skills, where pronunciation ability is very important in learning English. The use of TikTok media is currently unusual, and of course, a lot of people are using it. It can be accessed all over the world, including at Sanggar Bimbingan Sentul Malaysia, which was the reason for researcher to do this research. And the findings of teaching in grade IV proved that TikTok media can help improve students' pronunciation skills.

The difference between this study and previous studies is that for the improvement of English pronunciation for students, many previous researchers used reading and listening techniques. In this case, the researcher (Wahyuni, 2022) found that the use of a reading-aloud technique or a hard-reading technique could improve the student's pronunciation ability. Hard-reading techniques can help students correct their English pronunciation, and repeated reading will correct student pronunciation errors. A study Arfani et al., (2020) revealed that repeated reading, like reading a fairy tale, can improve the ability of students to pronounce English.

## CONCLUSION

The present study can be concluded that the implementation of the use of TikTok media for learning in the IV grade at Sanggar Bimbingan Sentul Malaysia in improving English speaking is done by using a short video taken from one of the TikTok accounts sharing about the basics of English. With the use of TikTok media, the test results increase with each cycle. It turns out that the second cycle increased in proven scores, with 40% of students obtaining the "very good" category, 45% of students obtaining the "good" category, and 15% of students acquiring the "enough" category more than the first cycle, with the student gaining a score of 45% in the "enough" category and 55% reaching the "good" category. Besides, the impact of using TikTok media in learning English pronunciation in class IV is the improvement in pronunciation shown by the test results. At the time of learning, students look very active and enjoy being judged as pleasant. In conclusion, TikTok media can improve students' English, especially in terms of English pronunciation, and the value of each cycle is in the good category. The limitation of this study is that researchers take classes with a small number of subjects. So, with that it's expected that future research will be able to use more subjects.

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