Students' Perceptions of Using TikTok Application in Improving Pronunciation

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Article Info	Abstract
	The research aims to explore students' respond toward the use of TikTok in mastering English pronounciation skills, to find out students' perception in learning English pronounciation through the use of TikTok, and to know the effectiveness of TikTok in learning pronounciation. The study employed a quantitative approach. The instument used in this study was a questionnaire with 30 statements by using a Likert scal to gather the data from 84 students in various study programs at Universitas Advent Indonesia. The results indicated that students have a positive perception of using TikTok for English pronunciation practice. This is indicated by how the UNAI students responded, 45% of student that TikTok can be used to master English pronunciation. 45% sudent also agree that TikTok can be used to learn English pronunciation. Lastly 45% student also agree that TikTok is effective for learning pronunciation for UNAI students. In conclusion, the findings suggest that TikTok can be an effective tool for improving English pronunciation skills among university students.

Artikel Info	Abstrak
	Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui tanggapan siswa terhadap penggunaan TikTok dalam penguasaan keterampilan pengucapan bahasa Inggris, untuk mengetahui persepsi siswa dalam mempelajari pengucapan bahasa Inggris melalui penggunaan TikTok, dan untuk mengetahui efektivitas TikTok dalam pembelajaran pengucapan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif. Instrumen yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah kuesioner sebanyak 30 pernyataan dengan menggunakan skala Likert untuk mengumpulkan data dari 84 mahasiswa di berbagai program studi di Universitas Advent Indonesia. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa siswa memiliki persepsi positif dalam menggunakan TikTok untuk latihan pengucapan bahasa Inggris. Hal ini ditunjukkan dengan respon mahasiswa UNAI, 45% mahasiswa bahwa TikTok dapat digunakan untuk menguasai pengucapan bahasa Inggris. 45% siswa juga setuju bahwa TikTok dapat digunakan untuk belajar pengucapan bahasa Inggris. Terakhir 45% mahasiswa juga setuju bahwa TikTok efektif untuk pembelajaran pengucapan bagi mahasiswa UNAI. Kesimpulannya, temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa TikTok dapat menjadi alat yang efektif untuk meningkatkan keterampilan pengucapan bahasa Inggris di kalangan mahasiswa.

I. INTRODUCTION

Since 1946, which was a year after Indonesia gained independence in 1945, English has been the primary foreign language taught in secondary schools. It is the most widely taught foreign language in Indonesia, being included in the curriculum of almost every school from elementary to tertiary level (Simanungkalit and Katemba, 2023). English language can be used as one of the languages to speak to other people. Speaking is a tool/way to communicate with others, especially when dealing with foreigners (native speakers) and when speaking, clear pronunciation is needed so that communication can be understood. Having a good pronunciation skill can make it easy to interact to each other. However, correct pronunciation in English is often a challenge for many Indonesians. The main issue may lie in the differences between sounds in Indonesian and English, which can lead to difficulties in producing the right sounds. English pronunciation skills are one of the most difficult skills to develop in Indonesia. One of the difficulties that exist when communicating is improper pronunciation so that this may results in missed communication. Morley (as cited in Pourhosein, 2016) expresses that "pronunciation is a necessary part of communicative competence and without having perfect pronunciation skills learners would not be able to communicate effectively." Morley (1991) expresses that a learner who does not have the correct pronunciation of the words would not be able to communicate successfully. For example, the

pronunciation of long vowels in English such as /iː/ (as in the word "see") or /uː/ (as in the word "blue") may be difficult for Indonesian speakers, who tend to pronounce it shorter.

Moreover, some consonants in English can also pose challenges, such as the sounds /ð/ (as in "this") or /θ/ (as in "think") which do not exist in Indonesian. This can result in words being pronounced in a way that is difficult for native English speakers to understand. The influence of regional dialects in Indonesian can also affect English pronunciation. Dialects such as Javanese, Sundanese, or Minangkabau have distinct pronunciation characteristics, which can affect how someone pronounces words in English. Furthermore, factors such as inadequate knowledge of English grammar rules, habits in daily language use, and a tendency to use sounds that are familiar in Indonesian can also be barriers to mastering correct pronunciation in English.

In addition to the common problems faced by many Indonesians in learning English pronunciation, students at Universitas Advent Indonesia (UNAI) also face specific challenges. One of the main issues is the lack of exposure to an environment that supports active use of English. In the daily environment at Universitas Advent Indonesia, Indonesian is more dominant, both in everyday conversation and in academic contexts. This can result in a lack of opportunities for the students to practice and improve their English-speaking skills, including in terms of correct pronunciation. Not only that, but the lack of access to resources that support learning English pronunciation is also a barrier for the students. Resources such as books, audio materials, or learning applications that focus on English pronunciation may not be as abundant or as effective as those available in environments where English is the main language. This can limit the university students' ability to develop their pronunciation skills effectively. Internal factors such as confidence and a tendency to feel embarrassed or afraid of making mistakes can also affect UNAI students' ability to master English pronunciation. This lack of confidence can arise from a lack of experience in communicating in English or from feeling uncomfortable when having to speak in a language that is not fully mastered. Therefore, an application that is considered to help improve English pronunciation is needed, one of which is TikTok.

TikTok, initially launched as Douyin in China in 2016 and globally as TikTok in 2017, emerged as the most downloaded mobile app in the United States and various countries in 2018. With a presence in over 150 countries and boasting more than 800 million monthly active users, TikTok serves as a social platform that not only entertains with engaging videos but also offers a unique space for concise and effective short educational content. Catering to a predominantly young and global audience, TikTok facilitates the creation of educational videos by expert authors, providing a novel avenue for knowledge dissemination across various scientific fields. The platform's popularity skyrocketed in 2020, making it the second most downloaded app globally.

While TikTok is widely recognized for its users sharing dance, lip-sync, and talent videos, the platform has seen a rise in content featuring users sharing specific knowledge, fueled by initiatives like "learn on TikTok." (Dahliana et al., 2022). TikTok's algorithm uses machine learning to analyze user preferences and tailor the content feed to individual interests, fostering a dynamic and engaging user experience. The platform has become a global phenomenon, particularly among younger audiences, and has played a significant role in shaping internet culture and trends (Ko, 2023). While TikTok has faced scrutiny and controversies related to privacy concerns and its potential impact on users' well-being, it remains a dominant force in the social media landscape.

TikTok offers diverse content that can assist English learners in enhancing their pronunciation and understanding of the language. According to Cajamarca Sailema (2022), previous research indicates that students respond positively to social media. Therefore, Cajamarca Sailema (2022) argue that educators should employ various strategies to reinforce students' speaking skills through interactive methods, enabling them to practice the language regularly. Meanwhile, according to Bulele & Wibowo (2022) in (Dahliana et al., 2022), TikTok is a widely utilized software application, particularly in Indonesia, where it has gained significant popularity. In recent times, TikTok has managed to surpass the popularity of well-known apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and Instagram. This is crucial for non-native speakers who may lack opportunities to practice pronunciation in real-life settings with native speakers. Consequently, TikTok can serve as a platform for improving students' pronunciation of vocabulary found in the app, as

they can repetitively practice words they encounter in videos.

According to Afidah et al (2021), "TikTok is a social networking app, and video music platform where users can create, edit, and share short video clips complete with filters and music as a support" (p.53). In other words, it is a very effective app for users to express their ideas by creating and sharing short videos, both for educational and entertainment purposes. Nowadays, users have also started uploading different video contents and have started uploading educational, scientific, and creative videos. It is also not common for creators to create special content to learn English pronunciation correctly and precisely. Therefore, this platform can also be a positive impact for students in learning educational things, especially learning English.

In Sari's study (2023), it is also explained that most students have a positive perception of using TikTok to learn English outside the classroom. The results of the study indicate that students' first perception is TikTok as a learning media that can improve students' English language skills, especially in listening, speaking, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Second, students' perception of their feelings about using TikTok to learn English, namely learning English using TikTok as something fun, increasing self-confidence, increasing motivation to learn English, and encouraging independent English learning. Third, students' perception of the practicality of using TikTok to learn English, namely TikTok is easy to use for learning English, can be accessed anytime and anywhere, and there are many English content videos on TikTok.

The research by Simanungkalit and Katemba (2023) also strengthens the statement that most students agree that TikTok can be used as an effective learning media. They also agree that learning through TikTok can significantly improve how they learn vocabulary, pronunciation, and conversation while following the example of the speaker in the video. Another perspective on the use of TikTok in learning is that the video can help teachers achieve more while doing something simpler. There are several advantages to using TikTok for learning. First, videos can be used repeatedly without having to wait for a teacher or classmates to be around. Second, the learning experience is not limited because students can use their phones wherever and whenever they are. Third, learning can be enjoyable and stress-free for students to efficiently obtain education. Fourth, the speakers

in the videos are native speakers, making it easier to learn accents as well.

However, Amelinda and Widya's study (2023) state in their research on ELF classes, it is stated that students have a positive perception of using TikTok in English classes. Students feel that: 1) They can discover new phrases by using TikTok content; 2) They can find various content created by various content creators and learn many new words through the use of hashtags; 3) They can acquire new words and improve their skills; 4) They can gain a new understanding of various English accents and vocabulary used internationally; 5) They can showcase their talents and communicate with friends from other countries; and 6) They can acquire new terms from TikTok and use them in real-life situations.

In addition to its entertainment and educational offerings, TikTok also serves as a valuable tool for language learners, offering opportunities to enhance pronunciation and language comprehension. Through its diverse content and global reach, TikTok provides a unique platform for English learners to practice speaking skills, engaging with authentic language use in real-world contexts. This paper also explores the concept of pronunciation, a fundamental aspect of language learning and communication, and examines its significance within the context of TikTok's role as an educational resource. Drawing on diverse perspectives and scholarly insights, we delve into the complexities of pronunciation acquisition, exploring challenges faced by language learners and strategies for improving spoken communication.

Based on the above statement, researchers are interested in further examining whether TikTok can affect the development of English pronunciation according to the perceptions of Universitas Advent Indonesia students. Therefore, the researchers titled this study, "Students' Perceptions of Using TikTok Application in Improving Pronunciation" with the following research questions: How do UNAI students respond to the use of TikTok in mastering English pronunciation skills? What are the perceptions of students in learning English pronunciation through TikTok? Is it effective to use TikTok e-platform in learning pronunciation for UNAI students?

II. METHOD
1. Research Design

This research employs a quantitative approach, utilizing a questionnaire to gather

data. The questionnaire used is a closed questionnaire with a Likert scale consisting of five (5) options: strongly agree (5), agree (4), neutral (3), disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1). This Likert scale method is utilized to collect data and information from respondents (Hartanto, 2023) regarding the perceptions of students at Universitas Advent Indonesia regarding the use of TikTok to enhance English pronunciation skills.

2. Participants

The participants in this study were students from Universitas Advent Indonesia located in Bandung, West Java. In this case the researchers distributed questionnaires to the students and could be answered with the choices listed in the questionnaire.

3. Instrument

The primary instrument employed in this study is a questionnaire with a Likert scale. The questionnaire is a crucial and widely used tool for collecting data in empirical research. Simply put, it consists of a series of questions used to gather information or data from individuals regarding a specific issue. These questions are sent to the respondent via email or other means of communication. The questionnaire is particularly useful when dealing with a large number of respondents who are spread out geographically (Rathi & Ronald, 2022).

Through questionnaires, participants are completing the questionnaire and can read the questions, understand the directions provided on the Google form, and select their responses based on their individual perspectives regarding the value of TikTok in teaching English pronunciation. The questionnaire consisted of thirty questions, all of which could be answered using the Likert scale: strongly agree (5), agree (4), neutral (3), disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1). The researchers requested students to complete the questionnaire by selecting TikTok content based on their viewing experience and providing their opinions. A Google form was used to administer the Likert scale questionnaire to the sample. Respondents were asked to select the response that best describes their TikTok experience out of 30 questions, which influenced how they pronounced words in English. 84 students from batches 1-4 of the following study programs participated in this study: Economics, Philosophy, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Teacher Training and Education, Nursing, and Information Technology.

III. RESULTS AND DICSUSSIONS
A. Results

These findings indicate that a 30-item research questionnaire was used to address 3 research issues. 10 questionnaire items are providing the following information for each research question:

1. Research question 1

"How do UNAI students respond to the use of TikTok in mastering English pronunciation skills?" Table 1 below showed the result to answer research question one. From these questions, the results obtained from the questionnaire are given below:

Table 1. The use of TikTok in Mastering English Pronunciation Skills

No	Statement	Responses by Likert Scale				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	TikTok videos have helped me to improve my English pronunciation.	21%	45%	25%	5%	4%
2	TikTok videos have made me more confident in speaking English.	13%	43%	36%	5%	4%
3	TikTok videos have helped me to learn new English pronunciation rules.	23%	51%	20%	2%	5%
4	TikTok videos have helped me to identify and correct my pronunciation mistakes.	20%	43%	27%	6%	5%
5	TikTok videos are an effective way to practice English pronunciation.	18%	39%	35%	4%	5%
6	TikTok videos are more engaging and fun than traditional methods of pronunciation practice.	27%	38%	30%	1%	4%
7	TikTok can help improve my English-speaking skills.	15%	50%	26%	5%	4%
8	TikTok videos make me feel less self-conscious about speaking English.	12%	42%	35%	8%	4%
9	TikTok videos provide a variety of pronunciation challenges and exercises.	23%	46%	25%	2%	4%
10	TikTok videos are a valuable resource for improving English pronunciation.	20%	48%	26%	2%	4%
	Average Percentage	19%	45%	28%	4%	4%

The usage of TikTok videos to improve users' pronunciation is the main topic of this study question. From the table above showed 45% of respondents said that watching TikTok videos improved their English skill. Participants concurred that TikTok videos assisted them in learning new pronunciation principles (51%) and in recognizing their own pronunciation mistakes (43%).

TikTok application, together with the proper use and method can be used as an interesting, interactive, and innovative learning medium in learning even teaching English (Fitria, 2023). This is supported by the respondents of this study, with 39% of respondents were agreeing that learning from TikTok videos is an effective method. Various types of content are presented to

users, respondents agree that TikTok is a valuable resource for practicing English Pronunciation (48%) which provides a variety of pronunciation challenges and exercises (46%).

From this, respondents agreed that TikTok helped them improve their English pronunciation (45%), and English-speaking skills (50%), which had a positive impact on being confident in speaking English (43%) and reducing being self-conscious in speaking English (42%). This result is supported by the research done by Bernard (2021), TikTok videos can increase attention, interest and understanding of lesson material during English classes.

2. Research Question 2

"What are the perceptions of students in learning English pronunciations through TikTok?" Table 2 below showed the result to answer research question two. From these questions, the results obtained from the questionnaire are given below:

Table 2. Students' Perception in Learning English Pronunciation Through TikTok

No	Question	Responses by Likert Scale				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	TikTok makes learning English more fun and interesting	31%	50%	14%	1%	4%
2	I use TikTok videos to learn English as my second language (ESL)	13%	39%	38%	6%	6%
3	TikTok helps me to better understand the differences in English pronunciation from various countries	23%	48%	26%	0%	4%
4	TikTok helps me to further improve my English vocabulary	14%	58%	24%	0%	4%
5	TikTok helps me to better understand my English grammar	20%	35%	36%	6%	4%
6	TikTok helps me to further develop my English listening skills	25%	45%	26%	0%	4%
7	TikTok helps me to better develop my English reading skills	21%	37%	32%	6%	4%
8	TikTok provides various kinds of content that can help me learn to improving English speaking	23%	42%	27%	5%	4%
9	TikTok has overall enhanced my English-speaking abilities	13%	48%	31%	5%	4%
10	TikTok can help me increase my confidence in speaking English	14%	48%	31%	4%	4%
	Average Percentage	20%	45%	28%	3%	4%

Based on the results from the table of the respondents above regarding feedback from using the TikTok application, it can be decided that 65% of respondents agreed (20% strongly agree and 45% agree) that using TikTok videos helps practice their English language skills while 39% of respondents used TikTok videos as a method of learning English (question 2). This can be seen from the responses to each question that. TikTok helps respondents to understand differences in English pronunciation (48%), and helps to improve English vocabulary (58%). Video media also trains respondents in

developing English listening skills (45%) and reading skills (37%). 48% of respondents agreed that TikTok videos enhance their English-speaking abilities, which positively increases their sense of confidence in speaking English (14% of respondents strongly agree and 48% of respondents agree).

However, TikTok videos are considered neutral in improving respondent's English grammar skills. It is shown by 36% neutral responses as the biggest response. In quantitative research conducted by Revesencio et al. (2022), TikTok videos help students discover and comprehend new grammar, but may occasionally confuse their grammar use.

3. Research Question 3

"Is it effective to use TikTok e-platform in learning pronunciation for Universitas Advent Indonesia students?" Table 3 below showed the result to answer research question three. From these questions, the results obtained from the questionnaire are given below:

Table 3. The effectiveness of TikTok in Learning Pronunciation

No	Question	Responses by Likert Scale				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	I feel that TikTok is an effective medium for English language learning	17%	45%	30%	4%	5%
2	I would recommend TikTok to my friends as an English learning tool.	19%	42%	30%	4%	6%
3	I feel that TikTok can be used to improve students' English skills at all levels.	20%	46%	24%	4%	6%
4	I feel that TikTok can be used to improve students' English skills in all areas.	15%	52%	21%	6%	5%
5	I would recommend using TikTok to others who want to improve their English pronunciation.	18%	42%	36%	0%	5%
6	TikTok can be an effective tool for improving English speaking skills.	13%	58%	23%	1%	5%
7	I have been using TikTok for about 2 years.	26%	30%	17%	12%	7%
8	The quality of educational content on TikTok is generally good	21%	42%	29%	4%	5%
9	It is easy to find high-quality English learning content on TikTok	24%	38%	29%	4%	5%
10	I trust the accuracy of the English language presented on TikTok.	14%	43%	35%	4%	5%
	Average Percentage	19%	45%	27%	4%	5%

From the survey results, there are a number of positive views regarding the use of TikTok as an English language learning platform, especially in improving pronunciation skills for Universitas Advent Indonesia students. In this survey, 19% of respondents strongly agreed and 45% agreed that TikTok is an effective medium for learning English. This is supported by research from Bahri et al (2022) which states that learning English through TikTok seems interesting to the younger genera-tion, as seen from the comments section in

TikTok videos where users feel helped by content creators in understanding English material quickly and easily. Furthermore, 18% of respondents strongly agreed and 42% agreed that they would recommend TikTok to their friends as an English learning tool. The survey results also show that the majority of respondents believe that TikTok can be used to improve Universitas Advent Indonesia students' English skills at all levels, with 20% strongly agreeing and 46% agreeing with this statement. This indicates that TikTok is considered an effective tool for improving language skills, regardless of the current skill level. Additionally, 15% strongly agreed and 52% agreed that TikTok can be used to improve students' English skills in all areas, indicating a positive perception of its ability to develop various language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

From the three research questions discussed above, the results showed a positive view of the use of TikTok as an English language learning platform, especially in improving the students' pronunciation skills. The majority of respondents agreed that TikTok helps them improve pronunciation, learn new pronunciation rules, identify and correct pronunciation mistakes, and feel more confident in speaking English. Additionally, the survey results also show that TikTok is considered a valuable resource for improving speaking skills, with many respondents agreeing that TikTok offers a variety of pronunciation challenges and exercises.

However, some respondents showed a neutral attitude towards TikTok's ability to improve English grammar skills. This indicates that while TikTok may be effective in some aspects of English language learning, such as pronunciation and confidence, there may still be a need to improve content that addresses grammar. Overall, the results indicated that TikTok is considered an interesting, interactive, and innovative learning tool for English language learning, with the potential to help in various aspects of English language skills (Maretha & Anggoro, 2022).

B. Discussions

The summary of research question 1, 45% UNAI students agreed that using Tiktok can improve English pronunciation skills.

The summary of research question 2, 45% of UNAI students' perceptions agreed that learning English pronunciation through TikTok videos helps practice their English skills.
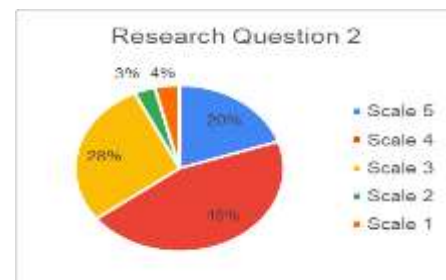
The summary of research question 3, 45% agreed that TikTok is an effective medium for learning English.
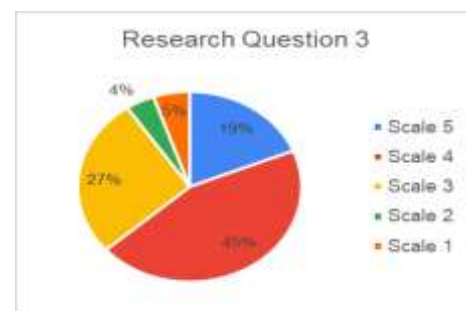
IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION
A. Conclusion

Based on the results, it can be concluded that the use of TikTok as a tool for learning English has a positive impact on pronunciation skills and confidence in speaking English. The majority of respondents agreed that TikTok helped them improve their pronunciation, learn new rules, and increase their confidence in speaking English. TikTok is also seen as a valuable resource for practicing English-speaking skills, with many respon-

dents agreeing that TikTok offers a variety of pronunciation challenges and exercises. However, some respondents remained neutral about the use of TikTok in improving English grammar skills, indicating that there is still room for improvement in content addressing grammar. Overall, the results indicate that TikTok is considered as an engaging, interactive, and innovative tool for learning English, with the potential to help in various aspects of English language skills.

B. Suggestion

The discussion regarding this research is still very limited and requires a lot of input. The suggestion for future authors is to study it more deeply and comprehensively about Students' Perceptions of Using TikTok Application in Improving Pronunciation.

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