Learning English Pronunciation through Social Media Tiktok Account

Lya Novitasari¹, Adityo²

¹² English Language Education Department, Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang
¹ novitasarilya873@gmail.com, ²adityo@umm.ac.id

Abstract: In oral communication, a speaker should be able to produce sounds that other speakers can understand because speaking English requires good pronunciation as it is one of the critical aspects of English that students should learn. This study analyzed how students can learn English Pronunciation through the TikTok application, primarily through Antonio Parlati's videos on his account. Fourteen participants that have been selected in this research are university students from fifth semesters at the English Language Department that are eligible with the researcher's requirement. This study used a quasi-experimental design, considering pre-test, mid-test, and post-test. The test used ten words explained in Antonio Parlati's video on his TikTok. Participants get treatment from the researcher to pronounce the ten words in the pre-test, and before the mid-test and post-test, they should learn the ten words from Antonio's video. The study's findings indicated that learning English Pronunciation from Antonio Parlati's video on his TikTok positively affects the participants' pronunciation. From the explanation from Antonio's video, participants can improve their English pronunciation with the fun and enjoyable method following this study.

Keywords: Pronunciation, Antonio Parlati, Tiktok, Quasi-Experimental.

INTRODUCTION

Learning English Pronunciation is also crucial, and students need to pay attention and have a good understanding when spoken by persons with various accents in natural conditions. Even in technical sectors, good English pronunciation abilities are essential, and graduates' employability suffers as a result. More than 51% of engineering graduates are unemployed due to poor spoken English scores, according to a 2014 national survey by Aspiring Minds, an evaluation and employability consulting firm (Shak et al., 2016). The main issue is pronunciation, fluency abilities, grammar, and sentence construction. Learning English Pronunciation in this digital era has many options with many platforms that learners can use on social media like Tiktok,
Instagram, Youtube, and others (Ubaedillah, 2021). From some social media, learners can choose the social media that make students enjoy learning with it.

In this industry, era 4.0, using social media to develop knowledge and find information is relatively easy. The argument made by Van Dijk in Fuchs (2014) said that social media is a platform for media that focuses on the existence of the user who helps people in activities and collaborates. From this statement, it can be understood how social media significantly impacts the teaching and learning process. According to Verma (2016), social media use is increasing in the learning process. It is hoped that it will have implications for the practice of delivering material in the world of education, especially the involvement of students in using social media to access news and learn new things. Social media can have a big impact on the quantity and quality of teaching and learning because of this. The process of teaching and learning certainly adjoints the development of technology and information. Media social's involvement in the learning process is essential, as educational technologies are expected to be a vital part of developing English ability, especially in learning English Pronunciation.

One media that can be used to develop and learn English Pronunciation is TikTok. According to (Zaitun et al., 2021), he explains that TikTok is a social networking app for learning English that can be used as a medium for creating and sharing videos of many types, such as entertainment, news, educational content, and many more. Additionally, since a mobile phone is required to utilize the TikTok app, it is also referred to as "m-learning." TikTok has become a social media source of information that can be used to learn and understand popular culture, something new, news, and other things (Newman et al., 2021). Therefore, people who use TikTok to learn will get more information and can explore their understanding more because they can manage their TikTok well.

The TikTok account used in this research is Antonio Parlati's account. Antonio Parlati is a content creator from Italy who is passionate about learning English. Antonio is a user of the TikTok platform who helps other keen students advance. According to Antonio's account, he provides a unique perspective on the English language from an Italian native. One of his "Pronunciation challenge" videos became popular at the beginning of 2021, with more than 3 million total views. He routinely solicits duet participation from his viewers for his videos. Therefore, from Antonio's account, people can practice their pronunciation by duetting the video or doing it alone. As a result of the statement above, researchers are interested in knowing how the pronunciation learning videos through Antonio Parlati on his TikTok account can help learners to improve their pronunciation.

As explained by the researcher in the background section, the researcher wants to know to what extent studying "English Pronunciations" through a TikTok application will help students learn. The researcher wants to conduct an experimental study and has prepared a study plan with participants. Using the quasi experimental study, the researcher can analyze how the method used in this research can improve the learner's pronunciation. This research aims to know how students can learn English Pronunciation from Antonio Parlati's videos on TikTok and how they can get a positive effect from it.

This research focuses on the social media TikTok which aims to teach English Pronunciation and use Antonio Parlati's account: https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSdEakEmA. The video TikTok used is when Antonio explains how to pronounce some words. The data collection results are used to answer how students can learn English Pronunciation from TikTok which has limited time, and how it can be effective for learning activities. The video used in this research is from nine videos and used the ten words: Cough, National, Colonel, Clothes, Women, Worm, Warm, Comfortable, Perseverance, and Purchase.
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Concept of Pronunciation

Pronunciation is an essential part of the English language, and it is the most challenging skill to learn. Learners should spend lots of time improving their pronunciation (Pourhossein, 2016). According to Prodanovska & Poposka (2017), Jennifer Jenkins identifies four characteristics as the "common core" of English pronunciation when discussing the techniques used to speak English that are:

- Other than the ‘th’ sound (as in thing and think), all consonants are significant.
- The consonant clusters that appear at the start and center of a word are particularly significant.
- As a quantitative measure of vowels, the distinction between long and short vowels is important.
- Nuclear stress, or placing emphasis on the most crucial word or phrase, is crucial.

The Oxford Learner's Dictionary defines pronunciation as a person's manner of speaking a language or a language's word and how a word is uttered. Sound, stress, and intonation are the components that make up proper pronunciation (Astina, 2020).

Pronunciation is a learning process used by students to form habits in English. The process of conveying meaning through the mouth that can produce sounds in English vocabulary is called pronunciation. When pronouncing a word or sentence in speaking, it must be heard clearly and not hinder communication from the speaker's point of view (Pourhossein, 2016). Pronunciation is related to speaking, listening, and reading as an essential requirement of learners' competence. Good pronunciation helps people to have good communication with others. Good pronunciation can have a good effect on those skills. Therefore, learners need to learn pronunciation correctly and make them understand.

According to Harmer (2001), cited by Pourhossein (2016), said, when speaking, pronunciation is the first thing that native speakers catch. The most critical components in language use are vocabulary and pronunciation, which speakers must pronounce correctly so that what is said can be understood and responded to. When the person speaking can pronounce the correct vocabulary and pronunciation, foreign speakers will also be able to understand where the grammatical error lies. Correct pronunciation can ensure effective communication. People can only claim to fully know the English language with proper pronunciation, which is a crucial communication component. On the other hand, through pronunciation instruction, students develop their speaking ability in addition to learning various sounds and sound characteristics. Because by studying the various sounds and their characters, students will be able to pay attention to where the exact emphasis of the word is according to the pronunciation.

Learn Through TikTok Application

The social media platform TikTok is well known for its 15-second, or around 5 minutes, long, video content. TikTok is a place to create works, learn, share information, and even show talent. However, in its use, many still abuse it, so there are many pros and cons to TikTok. The benefits can be taken from TikTok, one of which is using TikTok as a learning tool. People get appreciation more when they have exciting content, creators, and reasonable confidence. The self-confidence manifested in nature through distinctive and alluring conduct. Users of the Tiktok program similar to other social media, can express themselves freely, test their inventiveness, and present themselves to avoid shame and boost confidence (Bronstein et al., 2014).

TikTok application is not only used as a medium for entertainment to create a video but also it can be used as a medium in the learning process. Tiktok, an interactive learning tool, has aided pupils in comprehending and accepting the information presented by the teacher or lecturer. TikTok as a social media is a learning tool that can express information that has yet to be communicated through learning (Hennessy et al., 2026).
From the explanation above, it can be concluded that TikTok is a good learning tool, especially for learning English. The following are some reviews of why TikTok is said to be able to help effective learning:

1. The TikTok application provides what students need to learn by providing a more pleasant learning atmosphere.
2. The TikTok application attracts students because it offers a lot of features that are useful for learning process.
3. The TikTok application can keep up with information developments and provide views of the latest news and changes from all over the world to millennial students.

Using TikTok for learning media was an exciting experience for students, especially for learning English pronunciation (Pratiwi, 2021). For alternative learning, researchers choose one account to be the media. Antonio Parlati is a native Italian content creator from Italy who has a passion for languages and learning English. The researcher uses Antonio Parlati's account for this study because Antonio's TikTok account uploads more video content about learning English, mainly on pronunciation, spelling the word, grammar, mistakes in speaking, and much more. Furthermore, for the last reason is because the video from Antonio Parlati explains in detail one by one several words that are discussed by him. TikTok is also known as social media that can provide information through short videos and spread innovations, especially in the world of globalization in this millennial era. Not only can you make ordinary videos, but through TikTok, people can create creative video edits by using music on TikTok or filters of various types. Through TikTok, everyone can quickly find out the latest news and information that is spread all over the world. Not only that but TikTok also used as a place to earn income and is also used as an exciting learning medium. The main content creator that used in this study is Antonio Parlati's account. The researcher chose Antonio Parlati's account because Antonio Parlati's account explains learning English quickly and makes TikTok users interested in seeing it. He has 6.1 million followers, and many TikTok users like his content about English material. It can be seen from the large number of likes, which reached 101.7 million.

**METHOD**

This study applied a quasi-experimental research design used pre-test, mid-test, and post-test. This study uses an experimental approach to determine the effectiveness of learning English pronunciations through TikTok. In order to establish a cause-and-effect relationship (Duan, 2014) involving two or more variables—the independent clause and the dependent effect—experimentional research is a powerful research technique (Johnson, 2013). This study used quasi-experimental research with a pre-test, mid-test, and post-test following the research framework of Herron (2019). A quasi-experimental design is a program as an intervention that uses treatment to be evaluated and tested for how well the answer of the research achieves its objectives. According to Waddington et al. (2017), quasi-experimental designs manipulate an independent variable different from randomized experimental designs in that subjects are not randomly assigned to treatment groups.

This research aims to analyze how TikTok applications can help students learn English pronunciation. Using experimental study, the researcher analyses the method used in this research and tries to determine how it influences it. The researcher asked participants personally to take a pre-test activity before they learned from the video on TikTok. Then, the researcher analyzed the participant's pronunciation from the Spell Check and Pronunciation application to get the data from the participant's pre-test. The participants have seven days to learn pronunciation from Antonio's video on TikTok. Then, after the participants had studied all the words from Antonio's video for a week it was time to do the mid-test. Then, for the last step, they should learn the video a week again before doing post-test. After they finished their last learning pronunciation from
Antonio’s account, the researcher did a post-test and ruined for three times with three tests to see how the development of learning pronunciation from TikTok.

As a result, to find the validity and reliability of data, the researcher used a survey from Google Forms in the last step of this research. From this survey, participants fill out the question about this research and ask their opinion about joining it. This survey aims to help the researcher make the participants' last opinion.

**Participants**

To investigate the study question, the participants in this research were students of the class of 2020 that are majoring in the English Language Education Department and had studied Speaking for Informal Interaction class at a university level in Muhammadiyah Malang. The available data shows 156 students in the English Education Department in 2020. The selected students have high scores in speaking for informal interaction class, using the social media TikTok application, and they are eligible from the google form they had filled out. Fourteen participants were already qualified and agreed to join the research after the researcher gave a questionnaire. The selection of the participant has followed the validity of sample of convenient sampling according to Etikan (2016).

**Instrument**

This study used TikTok Application comprehension test as the main instrument, following the guideline of Taherdoost (2016). This application test is a test on the comprehension on social media that is used as a platform for creating videos of short duration with its various features. The test comprised of pre-test, whilst-test, and post-test given in timely manner with the same quality to validate the test itself related to the quality of the test (Yasin, 2016). This study also employed questionnaire as the secondary instrument in collecting the eligible participant as questionnaire is one of the most adequate research instrument for a large number of participant (Pemerger, 2015).

**Data Collection Procedure**

The variables of this research were learning English Pronunciation and learning through Antonio Parlati’s TikTok account. This study uses quasi-experimental research to compare the same group’s pre-test, middle, and post-test scores.

These are the step-by-step for data analysis following Akinode (2018):

1. Giving the questionnaire to students in the English Education Department in 2020 to find eligible participants and explaining to the eligible participants the research. Afterward, the researcher gave the participants ten words with directions via WhatsApp.

2. Doing a pre-test that the participants should pronounce one by one ten words by sending a voice note via WhatsApp and the researcher checking the voice note using Spell Check & Pronunciation Application and get the result data from the pre-test.

3. Sending ten videos about how to pronounce the ten words from Antonio Parlati’s account TikTok and giving a week for participants to learn the video.

4. Doing mid-test with the participant by meeting face to face and directly checking the pronunciation of participation using Spell Check & Pronunciation Application. Then, the researcher gives a week for participants to learn the video.

5. Doing post-test with the participant by meeting face to face and directly checking the pronunciation of participation using Spell Check & Pro According to the expert research that backed up the findings of this study conducted by Aji (2020), TikTok applications can be employed as excellent learning tools pronunciation application with recording their pronunciation via Zoom.

6. Getting the data to result from post-test, then processing all data.

7. Giving a survey participant aimed to survey their opinion about learning through Antonio Parlati’s TikTok account.
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data for this study was obtained from pre-test, mid-test, and post-test. The process for this study is around three weeks for doing the test. The pre-test is given to participants before they get the treatment about pronunciation from Antonio Parlati's video. The data's description can be seen above. The researcher got the score from the participant's test that has been checked in the pronunciation application. Then, the score that researchers give there are rules. Ten words are given in this study, so the researcher gives 10 points for each word. The researcher gave three opportunities to repeat each word to determine the points for participants who still pronounced it wrong. If the participant repeats one time, they will get 6 points; if they repeat twice, participants will get 3 points; and finally, if the participants repeat the word three times, they will get 1 point. Furthermore, the participant is given 0 points if it exceeds three repetitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Subject’s test score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The highest score in the pre-test was 75, achieved by S3, while the lowest score was 40, achieved by three participants that are S5, S6, and S9. In the mid-test, the highest score was 91, achieved by S7 and S8, while the lowest score was 43, which S5 achieved. Then, in the post-test, the highest score, 98, was achieved by S7, while the lowest score, 53, was achieved by S5. According to the data above, participants can improve their pronunciation through this study and by using Antonio Parlati’s video. However, from the data above, participants only slightly changed their pronunciation. The following is an explanation of each word in this study.

1. **COUGH**

   Antonio Parlati explained that COUGH should read "KOF." He gave an example from snippets of speech in the film: "She has got a little cough." Participants used Antonio Parlati's video to pronounce the word "cough" by imitating Antonio's mouth movements and reading the writing for the correct pronunciation. Participants also pause the video to follow the example sentence given by Antonio in his explanation.

2. **National**

   Antonio Parlati explained that National has different pronunciations from Nation. He explained how to pronounce National. How to read National is /næ{.an.al/ and not / nei{.an.al /. The examples for pronouncing this word were "National treasure" and "National champs, baby." These two examples were taken in the footage of the conversation in the film. This word is easier to detect in the Spell Check & Pronunciation application, where participants can be tested immediately. Participants learn this word by practicing the word from the sentence Antonio gives in his video, and they use a dictionary application to check their pronunciation.
3. Colonel
   Antonio Parlati explained that this word did not make sense because many people pronounce it wrong. The correct way to pronounce this word is to say "KUR.nuhl." Antonio Parlati explained how it is pronounced like that because of the influence Middle French had on English. Antonio gives an example from where it was taken in the footage of the conversation in the film. Participants learned these words using the word "KUR.nuhl" that Antonio wrote in his video, and they repeated this word to make their pronunciation similar to Antonio's pronunciation.

4. Clothes
   The next word of this research is clothes which Antonio Parlati described in his video. Antonio said that from the standard dictionary, the pronunciation is /kloudz/ with the /d/ and /z/. He said that many natives pronounce "Cloze" to make it easier when they are talking. That is because it needs to be easier to emphasize /d/ and /z/ when speaking quickly. When the participants said "cloze" in the Spell Check & Pronunciation application, it was "close" because they said it with the firm /z/. Finally, participants learn this word by repeating what Antonio explains, and they read it like "cloze." However, when they tried to check this pronunciation in their application, they found that this word detected "close."

5. Women
   Antonio said that "women" is the plural word that many native speakers still mispronounce this word all the time. The plural of "women" is "wi. Muhn" with its very short have /i/. Furthermore, all participants can pronounce this word correctly in the post-test. To learn this word, participants repeated Antonio's explanation and tried to pronounce it according to the mouth shape exemplified by Antonio.

6. Worm
   The video of this word explanation was the same as "Warm" because Antonio explained how different these two words are pronounced. How to pronounce "worm" is to say "wurm," or in the standard dictionary, the pronunciation is /we'rm/. Participants were confused about pronouncing the correct word for "worm" because when tested using the pronunciation check application, it was detected as "warm." Finally, participants learned this word by imitating the pronunciation of the writing explained according to the shape of the mouth, as exemplified by Antonio. Participants pronounced this word with a reduced "o" like "warm."

7. Warm
   The researcher has described that this word was explained in the same video as "worm" in Antonio's TikTok account. This word still confused the participants to say "warm" because it was almost the same as "worm." Some participants even said it back when they said it. Antonio's video explained how to say this word as "worm" or, in the standard dictionary, pronunciation is /wo'rm/. Finally, participants learned this word by imitating the pronunciation of the writing explained according to the shape of the mouth, as exemplified by Antonio, and differentiating with the term "worm" to get the correct pronunciation.

8. Comfortable
   Antonio Parlati explained how to pronounce this word correctly as clearly as any other word explanation. He said that the stress of this word is in the first pronoun that is "comfortable" and does not enunciate every syllable. That is "KUMF.ter.bl" or people can say "comfy" in some dialogue. Participants understood how to pronounce this word at this word, although some of them have the wrong stress. Finally, participants tried to pronounce this word by looking at the sentence from Antonio Parlati that explains how to pronounce this word, like "KUMF.ter.bl". So, participants repeat this word and pronounce it simultaneously or after Antonio says it.

9. Perseverance
   Antonio Parlati explained that Perseverance should be pronounced carefully because many people pronounce this word. How to pronounce this word is "pr.suh.VEEUH.runhs" and the way to pronounce it in British is "puh.suh.VEEUH.runhs". Finally, participants record their voices to try this pronunciation after seeing what Antonio explains. After recording their voice, they will try
to differentiate their pronunciation from Antonio, whether it is correct. However, if it is still wrong, they will repeat it by checking their pronunciation through their dictionary application.

10. Purchase

In the video, Antonio Parlati explained that he does not say "purCHASE"/"purCEIS" because this word is not used for chasing anything. He explained that this word is pronounced "PUR-chuhs" with the emphasis on "PUR" and /pe'tʃa:/ Finally, participants learn this word using their phone dictionary application and repeat to pronounce the word after Antonio says it.

![Figure 1. Research Participants](image)

From the data above, the most difficult word to pronounce correctly is the word "worm"; it can be seen from each test series that the least number of participants pronounce it. Furthermore, the words that the participants correctly pronounced were mainly the word "women."

Finally, from the participant's test, it can be seen that "worm" is a difficult word to pronounce in the pre-test. In the mid-test, "cough" is the problematic word for participants to pronounce. Furthermore, the "worm" in the post-test still makes participants have difficulties pronouncing it. Furthermore, from this research, participants can fix the correct pronunciation of the ten words that they were learning in the three weeks when they followed this research.

In conclusion, participants could improve their pronunciation from this research, especially the ten words used in this study. Participants can learn their pronunciation by using their dictionary application first when they have practice alone before their test section with the researcher. Many participants try to pronounce each word by trying it in front of the mirror and paying attention to how to pronounce the word with the correct mouth to match what Antonio has explained in his video. Through the study, participants knew where the familiar word was but were wrong in pronouncing it. Then they learn how to pronounce the word correctly through Antonio Parlati's videos. Using Antonio Parlati's video makes them study more relaxed, and even when they have free time to look at TikTok, they can go to Antonio's account to study and view the content simultaneously. However, there was one word that the participants still had difficulty pronouncing, namely the word "worm." Because besides, they have to say the word "worm," they also have to say the word "warm," where the way to say it is almost the same.

According to the expert research that backed up the findings of this study conducted by Aji (2020), TikTok applications can be employed as a suitable learning medium. The first reason is that the TikTok application satisfies students' needs for learning. Second, The TikTok application attracts students' interest because it can be used as a learning medium and can be implemented into fun learning by utilizing some of the features in the application. Finally, the TikTok application can influence a person's growth period by assessing whether they in this millennial era are interested in the digital world. According to Anggi E Pratiwi (2021), the software can offer users a variety of advantages, including recommendations, knowledge-boosting hints, and advantages. Because TikTok is beneficial and offers advantages by making learning simple and enjoyable, its adoption has a significant impact. The TikTok app can be utilized as an interactive teaching tool to help students' communication skills by using the right tactics and techniques.
Learning English Pronunciation through Social Media Tiktok Account

(Zaitun. et al., 2021). The researcher said that the TikTok application could help students, especially participants from this study, to learn, and it can be an effective learning medium when they use it correctly. From the research's survey answers, participants agree that learning from TikTok makes them enjoy it, and they understand more when learning from TikTok, especially from Antonio's account.

It can be inferred from the findings of the research that was done that in Antonio Parlati's account of TikTok, participants got a clear explanation with an example of how to pronounce the word correctly. When participants practice all these words, they try first to check their pronunciation using the application that they have, and they imitate the movement of mouth like Antonio Parlati. They learn the ten words from Antonio Parlati's TikTok account, which makes them see another video from Antonio about English, such as vocabulary, Idioms, Common mistakes when speaking, grammar, and many explanations about learning English. The method used in this study was pre-test, mid-test, and post-test, which improved participants' scores in the test step by step, how participants learned from Antonio Parlati's video as they played the video and pronounced the word after the explanation from the video. The researcher always reminds them to study the video to prepare for the next test. When participants incorrectly pronounce the word more than three times, the researcher gives them an explanation and example with pronunciation and checks it in the application. Based on this study, learning English pronunciation from Antonio Parlati's TikTok account can help improve speaking skills and make learning English enjoyable, making it a fun condition to understand.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The highest pre-test score from ten words is "purchase" because there were ten participants who were correct in pronouncing this word. Even though their pronunciation is not entirely correct, the word "purchase" uttered by these ten participants could be correctly detected by the Spell Check & Pronunciation application. This is acceptable as Indonesia is similar to other EFL country which have difficulty in native like pronunciation (Fouad 2022). While in the mid-test, the word that most participants said correctly was "women," which was said correctly by thirteen participants. Furthermore, in the post-test, "women" is the word most correctly spoken by the fourteen participants. Then, the word that made participants pronounce incorrectly in the pre-test and post-test is "worm." While in the mid-test, the word "cough" was the word spoken by the participants at least seven.

From the data above, the most accessible word to learn from Antonio's video is "women," while the most difficult word is "worm." In Antonio's video, the word "worm" is explained simultaneously with the word "warm"; it was made to explain the difference in pronouncing it. Even though the word "worm" is the most difficult word to pronounce correctly, in a series of tests, the participant's word still gets an increase in pronouncing this word, showing improvement in pronunciation (Kissling, 2013) Through the ten words used in this research, all participants can pronounce them correctly with the step in the test series. Participants tried to pronounce the ten words by paying attention to the explanation from Antonio's video and doing a test for their pronunciation on the application they had. At the same time, they were improving their pronunciation, especially from these ten words, through learning from Antonio Parlati's video on TikTok. As a result, this study hypothesizes that using Antonio Parlati's videos on his TikTok significantly affects the participants' pronunciation. Participants can learn pronunciation by paying attention to the accent explained in the video as video is showing benefit for pronunciation practice (Wisniewska, 2020) and to changes in the mouth for each word pressure; then, participants check their pronunciation on the application they have. During this study, using native speakers' videos on TikTok, Antonio Parlati's videos significantly improve their English pronunciation with fun, enjoyable methods.
REFERENCES


