

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ON THE USE OF INSTAGRAM TO LEARN ENGLISH VOCABULARY

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Abstract: This study aimed to determine students' perceptions on the using of Instagram to learn English vocabulary. This type of research used qualitative research. The subjects used in this research were 20 students of various ages and who have followed an English learning account on Instagram. Data collection techniques in this research used questionnaire, interview, and documentation as supporting data which is needed in triangulation. Based on the research results obtained from students' perceptions of using Instagram for learning English vocabulary, it really helped the participants in adding new vocabulary that they got by following the English vocabulary learning account on Instagram. It can be interpreted that learning English on Instagram got a positive response by the participants and it can be used as a good choice in English learning media

Keywords: *Students' perception, Instagram, Vocabulary*

Vocabulary is one of the language components that need to be considered in learning English and other languages. Several compelling reasons for providing students with instruction to build vocabulary, one of the techniques of teaching vocabulary deals with internet function. The new technology for teaching English as a second language is based on the belief that mastery of the structure of the language is more important than the acquisition of vocabulary. But we cannot learn structures with a few things, we must have enough vocabulary to use them. Obviously, to learn a language, a person needs to master a lot of vocabulary and its basic structure. To help students increase their vocabulary, teachers must provide them with a means of acquiring new vocabulary.

In this era of globalization like today, technology can not be separated from teaching and learning activities. Utilizing technology in classroom learning has become something that needs to be done. Now by relying on smartphones connected to the internet, we can already access several social medias and use them anywhere and anytime as long as it is connected to an internet connection and that makes the information flow bigger and faster. Children and young people dominate the use of the Internet and social networks in the world. Social networks have become one of the most visited applications by people, especially teenagers. Seeing that most young people or students use social networks, it can help students easily acquire courses or knowledge. In addition, learning a foreign language like English requires media as a learning tool.

Using social media to support the learning process in class can be an option. With social

media, we can also increase new vocabulary that we might read in people's posts on social media. One of the students' favorite social networks is Instagram. Instagram is a photo and video sharing application that allows users to take videos, apply digital filters, and share them on various social media services. Users can take, edit and upload photos or videos to the Instagram homepage. The shared photos or videos will be displayed in the feeds of other follower users. In addition, each user can interact through comments and similar responses to shared photos or videos.

The use of Instagram in the learning process It can be an alternative, especially in terms of mastering English vocabulary. Mastering vocabulary is the main basis for learning English. With so much English vocabulary, it is necessary to have a precise method for students to master it effectively and accurately. The younger generation now become celebrities for themselves. Obviously, social media plays a very important role and can attract anyone to spend time on it. Basically, social networks are used to showcase personal lives, but some other users use them in more creative ways, such as sharing comedies, jokes, tutorials, and creating content for learning English.

The learning process does not only occur in the classroom but can anywhere under any conditions, the learning process can be modified with various innovations and technologies, one of the many innovations and technologies that influence the learning process is social media. Students can use social media as a source of their learning or practice their skills, the reason researcher is interested in researching this problem is because people

close to the researcher use Instagram and when someone's post appears on their Instagram homepage and used English captions, she look confused when reading it. Therefore, researcher is interested to find out what students' perception of using Instagram to practice their English language skills. Researcher will examine Instagram users who have followed the English learning account on Instagram. Based on the explanation above, researcher are interested in examining whether students who use social media like Instagram can easily understand and know new words that are shared in posting accounts that teach English.

1. Perception

Perception is a way of looking at a problem that occurs, or a certain point of view used in a phenomenon. Schacter (2011) said that "Perception is the identification, organization, and interpretation of sensory information to represent and understand the information provided, or the environment." Students' perceptions are how students think about situations or problems that occur in a way that makes sense and wisely. Students' perceptions can be defined as respondent's responses either positively or negatively.

According to Sunaryo (2004: 98), the conditions under which perception occurs are the following:

- 1) Existence of recognized items.
- 2) Attention is the beginning of preparation for creating a recognition.
- 3) There are sensors / receivers that can be tools for receiving stimuli.
- 4) Sensory nerves act as a means to send and respond to stimuli to the brain. Everyone has a different opinion in seeing the same thing. The difference that exist can be seen by a variety of factors, including the knowledge, points of view, and experiences that everyone experience. Sugihartono (2007:8) argues that perspective is the process of transmitting these stimuli to the human sense organs, or the brain's ability to transmit stimuli. Accordingly, the capacity of thought and experience that each individual possessed is not the same.

There are factors that can affect an individual's loyal perception of seeing the same things. According to Thoha (2003: 154), the factors that influence someone's perception are:

- 1) Internal factors: wishes or expectations, individual feelings, attitudes and personalities, prejudice, attention (focus), learning method, physical conditions, mental disorders, values and wishes furthermore as interests, and motivation.

- 2) External factors: family background, information obtained, surrounding knowledge and needs, intensity, size, opposites, repetition of motion, new associated acquainted things or the alienation of an object.

From the instruments that the researcher used, namely questionnaires and interviews, the researcher grouped which statements and questions from the questionnaires and interviews were included in internal factors or external factors in knowing students' perceptions on the use of Instagram to learn English vocabulary. In the questionnaire there are 15 statements that fall into internal factors and 3 statements that fall into external factors, while for interview questions there are 4 internal factors and 3 external factors in seeing students' perceptions.

Perception formation is also formed in several stages, According to Thoha (2003: 145) the process of forming perceptions is based on several stages, namely:

- 1) input or stimulation

The incidence of perception begins once someone is exposed to a stimulus / stimulation that's given from the atmosphere.

- 2) Registration

In the registration method, an obvious symptom can be a physical mechanism within someone's senses and condition, which is persuasive through their sense organs. Someone will listen to or read the knowledge that was sent to them, and then they will list all the knowledge that was sent to them.

- 3) Interpretation

Interpretation can be an important psychological aspect of perception, especially the method of giving desire to received information. The method of explanation depends on the person's method of understanding, motivation, and temperament

2. Vocabulary Learning

Learning vocabulary is one of the element that every student must master in learning a language. Without grammar, we can say little, without vocabulary, we have nothing to say (Wilkins, 1972, p. 111). Students who learn English should have a strong foundation on vocabulary in order to make them able to learn English simply. Hornby (1995) describes vocabulary in three senses, covering a) general changes in the words that make up the language, b) all the words someone knows or uses in books, topics, etc. selected, and c) clear words and they the meaning of.

Everyone can learn a new vocabulary every day, from elementary school to college. Increasing vocabulary gives a person an

advantage in speaking, reading, and writing over those who have less vocabulary. In using the language, Students with a rich vocabulary will succeed in two expression skills (speaking and writing) and receptive skills (reading and listening), but students with a small vocabulary will have difficulties in these skills, (Thornbury, 2002: 13).

According to Blachowicz and Fisher (2000: 2) put forward four basic principles to guide vocabulary teaching. First, students must really actively develop their understanding to learn vocabulary. Secondly, students can create their own personalized vocabulary learning methods. Third, students must create multiple sources of information and learn words through repeated contact. Finally, students should actively develop their understanding of words and encourage them to make connections between what they know and the vocabulary concepts they have learned.

3. Social Media

As citizens who are aware of technology, especially social media is no longer foreign to us, the features contained in smartphone also greatly support our activities in social media. According to Ting (2014,p.3) mentioned that "The motives for mistreatment social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter will be classified as info seeking (cognitive), recreation (diversion), social connections (maintaining relationships, social interaction, companionship), passing time and expressive style (identity). Social media removes human limits, space and time limits from social media. With these social networks, people can communicate anytime and anywhere, no matter how far away they are, day or night.

Social media makes us not only know the real world, we also now know the "virtual world", a free world without boundaries that contains people from the real world. Everyone can be anything in cyberspace. Someone can have a really totally different life between the real world and the virtual world, this can be seen especially in social networks. Social media are internet-based application built on the ideological foundation and Web technologies that allow users to create and exchange user-generated content (Kaplan & Haenlein, 2010). Smart people can use these social networks to make their lives easier, making it easier for them to study, find a job, send homework, search for information, and shop.

With the high use of social media, students can further develop their abilities, especially in technical and social matters,

which are very much needed to face developments in the current digital era. They will also find out how to adapt and socialize with their close friends through social media. There will also be formed friendship management which is getting better, Social media is a technological development which is very useful for human life. Social media not only a communications devices but also can be developed as a very effective learning media (Venkatesh et al., 2003), therefore humans can be connected and can also create learning using social media.

In using social media we not only get advantages in using it, but disadvantages can also be obtained on social media. Not only positive social media effects for the users, but social media can also have a negative impact on users. Socialmedia can facilitate a negative interaction, such as sex, online stalking, and cyberbullying (Obar & Wildman, 2015)

4. Instagram

Instagram is an application where users take a photos, take a videos and apply digital filters and can share them on other social services or Instagram itself and can also be stored privately, just save it to our gallery. Instagram was launched in October 2010 as a free online application, the creators of which are Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger. Instagram from time to time is increasing in use, starting from teenagers to adults because Instagram creates a new way of communicating through photos or videos that they share on this application.

Due to the large number of young people who use Instagram and some of them are students, accounts containing lessons have sprung up so that they can increase knowledge for users who follow these accounts,instagram provides a new way for students to learn language and culture critically, while also helping students to reflect on meaningful learning processes (Chun, Smith & Kern, 2016)

Since Instagram has a lot of creator content that contains education, especially English content, teachers must be smarter in utilizing social media now and also be able to see which one suits the student's needs. According to (Mansor & Rahim, 2017), Instagram is called an effective tool that students can interact with when discussing work-related activities. Instagram is not only a place for having fun but it can also be used by people according to their respective needs, such as work or study. Like other social media which has advantages and disadvantages, Instagram also has it.

Advantages : easy to use, has interesting features, making it a social media that quickly attracts the public to use it, gives likes, makes comments on posts, makes it easy to search for hashtags and can be done practically.

Disadvantages : spamming, online scams, hate speech, and bullying that someone can do by commenting on someone's posts or creating an account to do these things.

Features found on Instagram:

a. Camera

Instagram has excellent features that make it popular on people, one of which is the camera, so that users can not only upload from the gallery but can immediately shoot via Instagram it self.

b. Instagram story

Not only sharing photos or videos through the Instagram feed, now Instagram also brings up a feature where users can share stories with followers of the account. People can see the story for 24 hours and if it passes from it will disappear but not for the user who uploaded it, because it will be saved in the draft of the story so that if the account owner wants to share it again they can do it and automatically brings up the date when it was first uploaded.

c. Instagram filters

Instagram filters are on the camera feature, if we open the camera feature, there will be filters that have been made by Instagram and some are made by creative users. Instagram filters are made of various types, started from types for fun to effects that can make users beautiful or handsome. This feature is one of the most favored by Instagram users.

d. Direct message

This feature allows us to chat and video call with our friends on Instagram, to use this feature, users only need to go to the profile page of the friend the user wants to chat with, and click the send message feature.

e. Caption

Captions function is similar to the description, and the user can provide a word or two about the photo uploaded here. Of course, by adding hashtags.

f. Instagram live

Users can not only share their photos or videos on their Instagram feed or their stories, but can also broadcast live. Viewers of this live broadcast can be from their followers or people who don't follow them but if the user's account is not private then non-followers can see. Not only can they do their own live but can invite other people to their broadcast up to 4 people and also people can comment on the live broadcast, users can also use the filters they have.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research conducted what were students' perception in used Instagram as a media in learning English vocabulary. In conducted this research, researcher used a qualitative approach. According to (Creswell, 2012) a qualitative research is a research that discusses phenomena from a perspective, then the data presented is in the form of non-numerical data. To find out the perceptions and contexts studied, qualitative research is the right method to use. The source of this research were 20 respondents that came from various ages that follow english learning account on Instagram. Of the 20 students they were in several universities, 2 from Tadulako University, 1 from Sumbawa University of Technology and 17 from Sintuwu Maroso University. All of them were given the questionnaire and 6 of them were given the interviews.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings and discussion based on the data collected. In this chapter, the researcher collects data based on the results of questionnaires given to 20 random participants and interviews given to 6 participants that follow an English learning account on Instagram. In distributing the questionnaire, the researcher used a google form and the link was shared via whatsapp, after that the researcher distributed it to 20 participants with 18 items of questions held on Sunday, June 13, 2021, to find out the perceptions of students who follow the English learning account on Instagram.

Based on the data collected through questionnaires, students' perception on the use of Instagram to learn English vocabulary and from the results obtained through a questionnaire containing 20 question items and distributed to 20 participants who follow an English learning account on Instagram, it can be said that the participants had an interest in learning vocabulary through Instagram because they saw the choices of those who chose 90% disagreed and 10% strongly disagreed on the statement that they were not interested in learning vocabulary on Instagram. If we look at the statement that they are interested in following more than one English learning educational account on Instagram and it shows that 60% of the participants choose to agree, the researcher can conclude that it makes them easy to learn and different when learning in class.

As it was said (Blachowicz and Fisher, 2000: 2) that students should be very active in developing their vocabulary understanding and should create their own way of learning vocabulary, which the participants agreed with the statement if they were interested in using Instagram to improve their vocabulary learning and feel different when studying with lecturers and teachers, it can be said that they gain vocabulary knowledge not only at school but they make their own way to add insight by using Instagram. The results of the entire questionnaire show the perception of 20 participants having a positive response to the use of Instagram as their social media account in adding vocabulary and making it easy for them to use it in class, it can be seen from the results of the statement from diagram no. 20, in the diagram it can be seen 55 % agree and 45% strongly agree because they want to easily communicate in English class.

In conducting interviews, researcher used WhatsApp to collect the results of interviews with students on Monday, June 14, 2021. All the questions given were related to students' perceptions on the use of Instagram in learning English vocabulary. The number of students who interviewed were 6 students. From the results of the interview, the researcher found various kinds of perceptions from students' perception on the use of Instagram to learn English vocabulary.

The results of the interview also showed that all participants had the same view about the function of social media in their English learning process. The English learning account on Instagram not only teaches vocabulary but also teaches how to pronounce it, knowledge of idioms, and knowledge of slang words. All participants perceive that English learning accounts on Instagram are very influential because they often find new information that can increase their vocabulary. As stated by (Thoha, 2003: 154) that a person's perception can affect a person's internal factors, such as individual feelings and learning methods, in which the participants perceive that they benefit from using Instagram as a learning medium to learn English vocabulary.

Based on the results of questionnaire and interviewes, the researcher can conclude that students easily to understand vocabulary with their experience through an English learning account on Instagram because it has the advantage that it is easily accessible anywhere and anytime.

Instagram is an application for fun so it makes them feel comfortable by using

Instagram to increase their knowledge in learning. From the results obtained, internal factors are more dominant than external factors to see students' perceptions because 18 statements from the questionnaire contained 15 internal factors and 3 external factors. Although internal factors are more dominant than external factors, all answers chosen by participants are in a positive context, as in the statement "the topic in english account on Instagram is not interesting because it is very boring" which is included in the external factor on the information obtained indicator, the participants voted 80% disagree and 20% chose strongly disagree. It can be interpreted that almost all students' perceptions of external factors get a positive response. Seeing also from the results of interviews that there are more internal factors than external factors in looking at students' perceptions of using Instagram to learn English vocabulary, all the questions asked get a positive perception and can answer the problem formulation in this study.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of research and discussion obtained through the collection of questionnaires data and interviews conducted by researcher about what are students' perception on the use of Instagram to learn English vocabulary, it can be concluded that students' perceptions of English learning accounts on Instagram indicate that from internal factors or external factors they are interested and easy to understand to learn vocabulary on the use of Instagram accounts who taught english learning. It really helped the students in adding new vocabullary and other english knowledge and English learning accounts on Instagram can be used as a good choice in English learning medium.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the results of this study, suggestions that can be given regarding students' perception on the use of Instagram to learn English vocabulary are as follows:

1. For students to make more use of other social media, not only Instagram as a medium in increasing their vocabulary knowledge.
2. There needs to be support from lecturers regarding the use of Instagram or other applications in its use.
3. For other researchers to be able to study more about this research because this research is still far from perfect and this research can be used as a reference for further research.

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