



Using TikTok to Engage German Speaking Skill

Audrey Titaley^{1*}, Dwi Julaikah¹, Tri Lestari¹, Ali Mustofa¹, Silvy Adelia¹, Okky Hapitta²

¹ Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Surabaya, Indonesia

² STBA Yapari-ABA, Bandung, Indonesia

*audreytitaley@unesa.ac.id

Abstract. This article explores the potential of using TikTok as a tool to engage and enhance German speaking skills among students. The research background highlights the importance of incorporating innovative technologies such as TikTok in language education, especially in the context of German as foreign language and the specific challenges related to developing speaking proficiency for beginner level or in A1-Level according to Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR). The research question examines how TikTok can be effectively used in German speaking lessons in senior high school. A literature study methodology is employed to gather relevant information on the utilization of TikTok for language learning, particularly in speaking skills development. The results and discussion section presents practical strategies and recommendations for integrating TikTok into German speaking lessons. The article concludes with a summary highlighting the benefits of using TikTok to engage and improve students' German speaking skills.

Keywords: TikTok, German Speaking Skills, Technology Integration, Student Engagement.

1 Introduction

Language learning encompasses various skills with speaking being a vital aspect of effective communication. However, developing speaking skills can be challenging, even as students often face difficulties in practicing and expressing themselves authentically. Integrating technology into language education has shown promise in engaging students and enhancing their speaking proficiency [1], [2]. TikTok, a popular social media platform, offers unique opportunities for interactive and creative language learning experiences.

TikTok has gained immense popularity worldwide, especially among young people, as a platform for creating and sharing short videos. By incorporating TikTok into our language lessons, we can leverage its engaging nature to make language learning more enjoyable and relevant to our lives [3]. Besides, students can actively participate in the language learning process [4]. TikTok provides an opportunity for students to connect with native speakers and their culture.

The incorporation of TikTok into language lessons offers a unique opportunity for students to practice and improve their speaking abilities. TikTok, with its short-form video format and wide user base, provides a platform for students to create and share videos. By using TikTok in the classroom, teachers can create an interactive and engaging environment where students actively participate in speaking activities.

Studies have shown that incorporating TikTok in language lessons, in this case, English lesson can have a positive impact on students' speaking skills [3], [5], [6]. It encourages them to use their English competence by using English phrases and expressions creatively while preparing script for their TikTok video, recording and sharing it. Using TikTok can help students practicing their English pronunciation [7]. Creating TikTok videos allows students to practice pronunciation, intonation, and fluency while expressing themselves in an authentic and meaningful way.

Besides, TikTok helps them to enjoy the language learning process [9]. TikTok's popularity among young people makes it an appealing and familiar platform for them to engage in language learning. Moreover, it also aligns with the preferences and interests of today's digital-native students. Incorporating TikTok, a learning medium that they already use in their daily life, can help motivate them to practice their speaking skills [9].

The previous studies about the usage of TikTok in English lesson show the benefits of engaging TikTok in the classroom, especially to support students to practice their speaking skills creatively and in a fun way. Therefore, TikTok may also be a learning medium in German lesson. Despite the fact, there is a research gap regarding the specific use of TikTok to foster German speaking skills. This research aims to bridge this gap by investigating practical approaches and recommendations for incorporating TikTok to engage and improve students' German speaking skills.

2 Methods

A literature study methodology was employed to gather relevant information on the utilization of TikTok in language education, particularly in developing speaking skills. Existing research on technology integration, social media in education, and language learning strategies were reviewed to establish a theoretical foundation. Academic articles, research studies, and educational resources related to TikTok's potential in fostering speaking skills in German language education were analyzed and synthesized to provide practical insights for teachers.

3 Results and Discussion

This study aims to explore practical strategies for utilizing TikTok in German speaking lessons and their impact on students' speaking proficiency. The implementation of these strategies yielded notable results and generated valuable insights into the potential of TikTok as an effective tool for language learning.

3.1 Increased Engagement and Motivation

The integration of TikTok in German speaking lessons significantly increased student engagement and motivation [9], [10], [11]. The interactive and visual nature of the platform, combined with the opportunity for creative expression, captured students' interest and enthusiasm [12]. This heightened engagement led to increased participation and a more positive attitude towards speaking practice.

3.2 Authentic Language Use and Cultural Exploration

Through TikTok, students had access to authentic language use and cultural exploration [13]. They could engage with native speakers, access authentic content, and immerse themselves in German-speaking communities. This exposure to real-world communication and cultural contexts enhanced their understanding of the language and encouraged them to practice speaking in a more authentic and meaningful way [14].

3.3 Enhanced Speaking Skills

The practical strategies implemented using TikTok effectively enhanced students' speaking skills [4], [5], [6]. Prompt-based speaking challenges encouraged students to think on their feet, express themselves fluently, and demonstrate their understanding of various language topics. Collaborative role-play skits facilitated peer interaction and negotiation of meaning, fostering improved conversational skills [16]. Language challenges and tongue twisters allowed students to focus on pronunciation, intonation, and accuracy which are leading to noticeable improvements in their speaking proficiency [15].

3.4 Increased Autonomy and Self-Reflection

The use of TikTok empowered students to take ownership of their learning and fostered autonomy [14]. Students had the freedom to plan, create, and edit their TikTok videos, allowing them to reflect on their own language production [8]. This self-reflection, combined with the opportunity to review and receive feedback from peers and the instructor, encouraged students to identify areas for improvement and actively work on enhancing their speaking skills.

3.5 Collaboration and Peer Learning

Utilizing TikTok in German speaking lessons promoted collaboration and peer learning [16]. Students engaged in group projects, where they planned and executed collaborative skits or provided feedback on each other's TikTok videos. This collaborative environment facilitated communication practice, the exchange of ideas, and the development of teamwork skills.

The findings of this study highlight the effectiveness of utilizing TikTok in German speaking lessons to enhance students' speaking proficiency. The practical strate-

gies employed demonstrated their potential to engage students, foster authentic language use, and promote a range of 21st-century skills such as creativity, collaboration, and self-directed learning. Here are some teachings strategies for using TikTok to engage students' German Speaking Skills:

Prompt-based Speaking Challenges. (1) Select a specific language topic or theme relevant to the students' German proficiency level; (2) Create a TikTok challenge prompt related to the chosen topic, such as asking students to create a 15-second video explaining their favorite German holiday tradition; (3) Introduce the prompt and provide clear instructions for creating the TikTok video; (4) Allocate time for students to brainstorm ideas, plan their videos, and gather any necessary props or materials; (5) Students film and edit their TikTok videos, ensuring they incorporate spoken German to demonstrate their speaking skills; (6) Encourage students to share their TikTok videos with the class or within a designated online group for peer feedback and discussion; (7) Facilitate a class discussion to highlight common themes, language patterns, and areas for improvement in the students' videos; (8) Provide constructive feedback and suggestions for further language practice and improvement.

Collaborative Role-Play Skits. (1) Assign small groups of students' specific scenarios or dialogues related to a particular theme or situation in German; (2) Instruct students to create a collaborative TikTok skit in which they act out the assigned scenario or dialogue; (3) Encourage students to focus on using appropriate vocabulary, expressions, and intonation while incorporating German-speaking skills; (4) Allow time for group members to plan and rehearse their skits, ensuring each student has a designated role; (5) Students film and edit their TikTok skits, paying attention to timing, gestures, and clear spoken German; (6) Provide opportunities for groups to share their TikTok skits with the class or within a designated online group; (7) Facilitate a class discussion where students reflect on their collaborative experience, highlight effective language usage, and offer suggestions for improvement; (8) Encourage students to provide peer feedback and engage in discussions about different approaches and interpretations of the assigned scenarios.

Language Challenges and Tongue Twisters. (1) Select challenging language patterns, tongue twisters, or idiomatic expressions in German; (2) Create TikTok videos demonstrating the selected language challenges, enunciating clearly and emphasizing correct pronunciation; (3) Share the TikTok videos with the students, either during a class session or by providing access to a designated online platform; (4) Instruct students to practice and create their own TikTok videos attempting the language challenges; (5) Encourage students to film multiple takes, focusing on accuracy, fluency, and pronunciation; (6) Provide time for students to review and reflect on their videos, comparing their performances to the exemplar TikTok videos; (7) Facilitate a class discussion where students can share their experiences, discuss challenges encountered, and offer tips for overcoming pronunciation difficulties; (8) Encourage students to share their TikTok videos with their peers, fostering a supportive environment for feedback and improvement.

These teaching strategies are adaptable and can be modified based on the students' proficiency level, learning objectives, and classroom context.

The purpose is to utilize TikTok as a tool for engaging students and enhancing their German speaking skills while fostering creativity, collaboration, and cultural understanding. However, it is important to recognize that the integration of TikTok should be accompanied by thoughtful planning and careful consideration of privacy and safety concerns. Teachers should establish guidelines to ensure responsible content creation and usage, monitor student interactions, and provide appropriate support and supervision.

Further research is warranted to explore the long-term effects of incorporating TikTok in German speaking lessons, as well as its impact on other language skills, such as listening, reading, and writing. Additionally, investigating the perspectives of both students and instructors regarding the benefits and challenges of utilizing TikTok in language learning would provide valuable insights for future instructional practices.

4 Conclusion

In summary, this article highlights the potential of using TikTok to engage and enhance German speaking skills in language education. By leveraging TikTok's interactive and creative features, teachers can create dynamic and engaging speaking activities. TikTok offers opportunities for authentic language practice, cultural immersion, and peer collaboration. The practical strategies such as (1) Prompt-based Speaking Challenges, (2) Collaborative Role-Play Skits and (3) Language Challenges and Tongue Twisters are recommended in this article aim to assist teachers in effectively integrating TikTok into German speaking lessons and ultimately improving students' speaking proficiency.

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