ENHANCING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IN GRADE 1 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL: THE IMPACT OF YOUTUBE VIDEOS AS A LEARNING TOOL

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Abstract
The purpose of this large-scale study is to comprehensively investigate the effectiveness of adding YouTube videos as a pedagogical tool to improve the English language skills of first-year high school students. The comprehensive research looks into the effectiveness of using YouTube videos as a pedagogical tool to improve first-year high school pupils' English language skills. The study uses in-depth interviews and a qualitative technique to get profound insights into students’ experiences and the transformational impact of YouTube videos on their road to English language competency. The findings highlight YouTube videos' powerful influence on language learning, indicating a significant increase in vocabulary among actively engaged students compared to casual viewers. The study dives into the advantages of incorporating YouTube into language learning curricula, emphasizing its attraction to varied learning styles and the dynamic interaction it promotes. The study emphasizes YouTube’s critical significance in enhancing high school pupils’ English language skills, highlighting not only increased comprehension but also improved vocabulary retention. YouTube videos’ sensory cues boost cognitive processes, allowing for quicker entry and memory of English words. Furthermore, the study underlines the fundamental relevance of creating a digitally enhanced learning environment, increasing digital literacy, and adaptability - all of which are essential qualities in modern education.

This extensive study offers priceless insights into the paradigm-shifting influence of smoothly integrating multimedia information, particularly YouTube videos, into language teaching. The findings highlight the need for additional research in this area, as well as key pedagogical considerations. As technology advances, utilizing platforms such as YouTube emerges as an important technique for creating dynamic, engaging, and highly successful language learning experiences for kids.

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1. INTRODUCTION
In the field of foreign languages taught in Indonesia, English is first-rate in the education of both adults and children. Its importance goes beyond the normal boundaries of the classroom and emerges as a key tool for accessing international trade, promoting cultural exchange and facilitating effective communication around the world. In the multifaceted process of learning English, the development of speaking ability becomes a characteristic and defining indicator of language proficiency (Zyoud, 2016). In addition to the academic dimension, speaking is an important way to share thoughts, ask questions and participate in various interpersonal interactions.

However, the journey to improve speaking skills is not without its challenges for many students. Riswandi (2016) points out several problems that students usually encounter when trying to improve their speaking skills. These challenges include extensive self-consciousness and anxiety when speaking in class, lack of confidence in answering teacher questions, increased anxiety in presentations, and difficulty using correct grammar and vocabulary. In addition, Riswandi argues that the traditional methods used by many professors to teach speaking skills are often mundane and do not encourage active participation in class discussions.

In light of these challenges, Riswandi recommends a paradigm shift in the teaching of speaking skills and emphasizes the need for a new and innovative approach. Traditional methods that are considered boring can be replaced by a more dynamic and interesting strategy that solves of students; progress The study of alternative methods becomes necessary to revive the learning and develop a participatory environment in the classroom. Essentially, the integration of technological development appears as a potential catalyst for transformative change in the field of language learning.

Using the latest technological advances, teachers have the opportunity to introduce new and interactive approaches to solving obstacles to students' performance development. In this context, technology is not only an enabler but a strategic ally in shaping the language learning landscape. The use of technology, such as combining multimedia resources and interactive platforms, promises to overcome the boredom associated with traditional teaching methods. The integration of audio-visual aids, language learning applications and online platforms not only addresses students' lack of self-awareness and confidence, but also gives them a dynamic opportunity to actively participate in class discussions. The interactive nature of these tools fosters an environment where students can interact with the language in a more engaging and enjoyable way, avoiding the challenges associated with traditional approaches.

The importance of English language skills in Indonesia goes far beyond the classroom. It is a gateway to global communication, cultural exchange and international trade. In the context of language teaching, the development of speaking skills plays a central role as a key marker of language proficiency. However, the challenges students face in improving their speaking skills require deviations from traditional teaching methods. Key to addressing these challenges is the adoption of innovative approaches, especially those fueled by technological advances. Integrated technology not only revitalizes language learning, but also empowers students to navigate the complexities of effective communication in today's world. The demand for a new approach is a sign of exciting developments in language learning, paving the way for more dynamic, engaging and effective learning for students.

Communication is an essential part of human existence, and speaking as an expressive skill plays a key role in navigating everyday situations, documenting activities, using certain phrases and expressing thoughts fluently. Acquiring effective speaking skills is paramount and the cornerstone of successful communication. This skill that students have learned gives them the ability to engage in effective communication in a variety of contexts and purposes (Harmer, 2007).

In the realm of language skills, speaking appears as one of the four main language skills that require special attention for people who
want to become fluent in English (Harmer, 2007). Speaking goes beyond just articulating words; it includes nuanced elements such as pronunciation, intonation and skills in both transactional and interpersonal conversation. As Harmer emphasizes, fluency in English requires accurate use of vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation, as well as the ability to maintain spontaneous speech (Derakhshian et al., 2016).

Classifying speech as a production skill divides it into two distinct categories: accuracy and fluency. Accuracy requires precise application of vocabulary, grammar rules and pronunciation throughout the communicative act. This precision ensures that the speaker delivers his message clearly and correctly. On the other hand, fluency refers to the speaker’s ability to maintain a continuous flow of speech, which indicates the ability to express thoughts and ideas smoothly and spontaneously. In recognition of the changing role of media in education, the inclusion of media education is an important part of teaching and learning. Mass media in its various forms act as a channel to convey messages to a wider group of people. In an educational context, media is used to increase the productivity and dynamics of learning. Educational media refers to tools and materials used by teachers to convey information and facilitate learning with the overall goal of achieving specific learning objectives (Azhar Arsyad., 2008).

Educational media includes a wide variety of tools and platforms that educators use to enhance teaching and learning. These media are designed to provide students with rich and engaging content that complements traditional teaching methods. Whether visual aids, audio recordings, interactive presentations or digital platforms, educational media are a valuable resource for creating an engaging and effective learning environment.

In short, it can be stated that the importance of speaking skills in the wider context of language skills cannot be overestimated. The ability to express oneself fluently and accurately is not only the basis of effective communication, but also an important skill that students must master. The multifaceted nature of speech, including pronunciation, intonation, and the balance between accuracy and fluency, underscores the difficulty of achieving this skill. In addition, the integration of learning materials enhances the educational experience by providing dynamic tools that teachers can use to achieve specific learning objectives. As we navigate the evolving landscape of language learning, a comprehensive understanding of speaking skills and the innovative use of learning media emerge as key factors in promoting effective communication and language mastery. (Hermansyah & Natsir, 2023)

The relentless march of technology has ushered in an era of change that has significantly affected various aspects of society from the economy and education to healthcare and beyond (Chitamba, 2014). In this age, children and adults must immerse themselves in a learning environment where the integration of technology has become not only common, but necessary. Advances in technology have changed the landscape of English language learning, providing opportunities for learners to navigate the complexities of the language with modern tools.

In the field of education, technology is a powerful catalyst that shapes the dynamics of learning for students and teachers. The advantages of technology in education are numerous, resulting in a paradigm shift that transcends traditional teaching methodologies. For students, technology acts as a wide gateway to a wealth of information and learning resources, fostering an environment where information is readily available. The training process is simplified and technology acts as a facilitator of effective and efficient learning.

One of the important effects of technology on education is its ability to bring enjoyment and simplicity to the learning process. The availability of a wide variety of interesting materials, made possible by technological innovations, turns the often difficult process of obtaining information into an enjoyable endeavor. Interactive elements, multimedia presentations and game-based learning platforms promote a more dynamic and inclusive teaching environment for different learning styles and preferences.

Advances in information and technology (IT) have emerged as a driving force behind interactive learning, increasing learner engagement through its immersive qualities.
The interactivity promoted by IT development not only attracts students' attention, but also provides them with a more engaging and stimulating learning experience. This interactive dimension is particularly important in the context of language competence, where the complexity of language learning can be more effectively conveyed through engaging and inclusive methods.

The increase in information and technology has provided language learners with a number of resources aimed at strengthening competence, especially in speaking skills (Wael Abdulrahaman, 2016). Technological interventions serve the diverse needs of language learners and offer innovative approaches to language learning that go beyond traditional classrooms. These resources not only address the challenges students face in developing their speaking skills, but also pave the way for more comprehensive and personalized learning.

The symbiotic relationship between technology and education has ushered in an era where language learning, especially English, is undergoing a revolutionary change. The benefits of technology in education go far beyond the mere availability of information; they include creating an engaging, enjoyable and interactive learning environment. As we navigate the intersection of technology and language skills, it becomes clear that combining innovative tools and resources is key to developing proficient speakers. In this technology-filled landscape, the language learning journey evolves into a dynamic and empowering experience that encourages learners to improve language skills and effective communication. YouTube has been recognized as a valuable tool for both teaching and learning English and is a vast repository of educational content, including a wealth of films that students can use in their educational activities. The platform offers a variety of resources, from short films in English to in-depth lessons and videos, all designed to help students in their language learning.

The 2016 findings of Riswand highlight the central role of YouTube in student speaking skills. With the rich selection of videos that YouTube offers, the dynamic environment becomes a way for students to expand and understanding English vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. The platform and its engaging content not only complements traditional learning methods, but also engages students in a more interactive and practical approach to language acquisition. This revelation positions YouTube as an invaluable resource for educators looking to improve their teaching strategies, especially as they focus on student and language skills, especially speaking. Teachers who recognize the pedagogical potential of YouTube can take advantage of its potential as a versatile and engaging learning tool. The platform and its accessibility and user-friendly interface make it conducive to creating a dynamic and interactive learning environment. By incorporating YouTube into language learning, teachers can use the platform and extensive library of educational content to create an enriching experience for students. With curated playlists, targeted videos and interactive content, teachers can tailor their approach to specific aspects of language learning, promoting more holistic and effective learning.

YouTube is a technological powerhouse poised to revolutionize language learning and encourage students to improve their speaking skills. Abdulrahaman's appreciation of YouTube and its usefulness in teaching and learning English is consistent with Riswand's findings of its effectiveness in developing speaking skills. As a versatile repository of educational content, YouTube not only complements traditional educational materials, but also provides an engaging and interactive platform for language learning. Educators who have adapted to its pedagogical advantages can integrate YouTube into their teaching methods and use its rich content to promote more engaging and effective learning for students.

In today's world, smartphones have become ubiquitous tools not only for adults but also for children. The rapid development of information technology has significantly affected the world of education and brought new dimensions to the learning process. YouTube, a ubiquitous phenomenon these days, stands out as an invaluable resource, especially for today and the youth. Its numerous functions provide many advantages
and it offers a diverse selection of videos that serve as effective learning materials.

YouTube and its effectiveness as a learning tool is underlined by its practically proven effectiveness. Visual media, a prominent feature of the platform, is likely to have a significant impact on foreign language learning. Harmer (2007) emphasizes that when students interact with the language through videos, their motivation to learn increases. The visual and audio elements of the video content combined with interesting tasks will fascinate students and an interest that fosters a more engaging language learning experience.

The age of smartphones, together with the technological marvel of YouTube, thus initiated a paradigm shift in education. These tools, once reserved for adults, are now an integral part of children’s and learning journeys. As the world of education adapts to the digital age, YouTube appears not only as an event, but also as an indispensable and very useful resource that transforms student engagement in language learning through dynamic and visually rich content.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of watching English YouTube videos on the language skills of first grade high school students. In addition, it aims to thoroughly examine the advantages and disadvantages of using YouTube videos to improve English in first grade. The focus is on understanding the multiple dynamics of integrating YouTube into language learning, especially for students who are early in their journey.

The importance of this research transcends the boundaries of academic research and aims to convey valuable insights and information for various audiences, including writers, readers, teachers and parents. By examining the effectiveness of English YouTube videos as teaching materials for 1st grade primary school students, the study aims to contribute to the collective understanding of modern language learning methods. One of the main aspects considered is the possible change of language skills due to the use of YouTube videos.

The purpose of the research is to find out if such a multimedia approach based on visual and auditory stimuli can act as a catalyst to improve the language skills of 1st grade primary school students. By examining this specific demographic, the study aims to provide targeted recommendations and findings that can inform pedagogical practices tailored to the unique needs and challenges of these learners.

In addition to the academic impact, the study aims to address concerns and uncertainties of parents regarding the use of smartphones as educational tools. Examining the benefits and harms of YouTube for language learning, the study aims to provide parents with evidence-based information, allay fears and promote more informed views of the role of technology in education.

The overall goal is to bridge the gap between traditional learning methods and modern technological developments, especially in relation to language skills. By exploring in detail the advantages and disadvantages of YouTube as an educational tool, the study aims to facilitate understanding among teachers, parents and stakeholders. It aims to redefine the narrative around the integration of technology into education and positions YouTube as a potentially transformative tool that can positively influence language development. In conclusion, this study aims to investigate the complex relationship between YouTube videos and language skills in the context of first grade high school students. By sharing knowledge and information from research, it aims to empower a diverse audience with the tools to make informed decisions about the use of technology in education. Ultimately, the goal is to promote a more inclusive and technological approach to language learning so that stakeholders are prepared to navigate the changing language learning environment in the digital age.

2. METHOD

2.1. Research Design

The research plan is a comprehensive research plan that includes the things done by the researcher from the formulation of the hypothesis and the discovery of the operation to the final analysis when the materials are decided and the proposals are made.

2.2. Variable Research
In this study there are two variables, namely the independent and dependent variables:

Independent variables are variables that affect the dependent variable; In other words, the independent variable is a variable that affects the dependent variable. Dependent attributes or traits are influenced by independent variables called independent variables (John W, 2009). In this study, the independent variable is a YouTube video.

The dependent variable is a variable that is influenced by the independent variable. The dependent variable is an attribute or characteristic that affects or influences the outcome or dependent variable according to John W (2009). Students’ speaking ability is a variable that depends on this research.

2.3. Population, Sample and Sampling Technique

2.3.1 Population
The population in this study were all 18 grade 1 junior high school students

2.3.2 Sample
The sample in this study will be taken a maximum of 3 class representatives to be the subject.

2.3.3 Sampling Technique
The sampling technique used by researchers is purposive sampling. In this method, the researcher evaluates who should participate in the research. Researchers implicitly choose subjects they believe are representative of the population. Before doing so, however, the researchers performed a fit test so they could choose which sample they chose to use.

2.4. Data Collection Technique
The data collecting by using the procedure below:

2.4.1 Interview
This study used traditional semi-structured interview techniques. Semi-structured interviews are interviews conducted by asking questions to obtain opinions and ideas about a problem from more open sources (Sugiyono, 2014). For this study, interviewers interviewed participants in person or over the phone about the effect of YouTube videos on improving high school students’ English skills.

2.5. Analysis Technique
Data analysis was carried out interactively and took place continuously until it was felt that the data obtained had been completed, so that the data obtained were saturated. Saturated data is characterized by not getting different information. In this study, data analysis uses the Miles and Huberman model which includes:

a. Data Reduction
This phase will focus on the results of his interview data, which have been aggregated to produce data consistent with the topic of this study.

b. Data Display
The next step is the presentation of data to help researchers understand the situation and determine next steps.

c. Data Verification
This is the final step in data analysis, the data validation process. This step aims to draw conclusions from the data obtained during the investigation.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
YouTube stands out as a versatile program that provides a wide range of videos and content across different genres, including educational courses, entertainment, music, and informational resources, all available in multiple languages. This digital platform has evolved into a content consumption powerhouse, offering consumers a diverse selection of options tailored to their interests and needs.

One of YouTube’s most notable advantages is its ability to serve as a helpful educational tool. Users can access a wealth of videos on a variety of topics, transforming the platform into a valuable store of learning materials. YouTube hosts a diverse range of educational content, from academic lectures to DIY tutorials, allowing users to improve their knowledge and abilities in a convenient and accessible setting.

The impact of YouTube on skill development is very notable. For students looking to improve their skills in a variety of areas, the platform is a valuable resource. Notably, English language
learners consider YouTube to be an important resource for improving their speaking abilities. The availability of different information, ranging from language classes to fascinating chats, allows for a more immersive learning experience. Learners can watch videos with native speakers to learn nuances, enhance pronunciation, and extend their vocabulary in a real-world setting.

YouTube’s interactive features increase its influence on language acquisition. Users can interact with content authors by leaving comments, asking questions, seeking clarification, and participating in debates. This dynamic interaction develops a sense of community by providing a virtual environment for language learners to connect, share insights, and learn together. Furthermore, many educational YouTube channels promote active participation by including quizzes, polls, and interactive components in their films, changing passive viewing into an interesting learning experience.

Furthermore, YouTube’s recommendation algorithms play an important part in improving the learning experience. The software uses advanced algorithms to assess user preferences and viewing behaviors and modify content recommendations accordingly. This individualized approach not only exposes students to relevant and fascinating content, but it also introduces them to a variety of perspectives and teaching styles. As a result, users can tailor a learning experience to their specific interests, pace, and objectives.

Beyond language acquisition, YouTube’s influence extends to many areas of personal and professional development. The site features a plethora of channels dedicated to skill development, career assistance, and personal advancement. Users can access a variety of information, including coding courses and life hacks, which contribute to a more comprehensive learning experience. This democratization of knowledge enables individuals to pursue new interests, learn practical skills, and keep current on the latest trends and advancements in their chosen disciplines.

The diverse character of YouTube, together with its user-friendly interface and interactive features, presents it as a dynamic tool for education and skill development. YouTube acts as a democratized platform that transcends geographical boundaries, making learning available to a global audience, from language learners refining their English ability to those seeking various knowledge and experience. As technology advances, YouTube remains at the vanguard, influencing how people approach education and skill development in the digital age. (Sutrisno & Abbas, 2023)

From the research that the researchers have done, there is some important information related to this. Almost all children use YouTube as a medium of learning as well as entertainment. Most of them often watch videos of learning materials or some kind of tutorial videos as well as western songs which can also be used as a tool for students to imitate English words. According to research, after learning several times using YouTube videos, a type of video in English, students are able to catch a few words from the videos they watch and add new vocabulary with pronunciations that can be repeated to make them correct. Not a few of them can imitate English from the videos they have watched. Moreover, according to them, learning English through video media on YouTube is not boring. They can watch the videos they want to watch and by frequently watching English YouTube videos really helps to improve skills.

There are various kinds of videos/content provided by YouTube. There is content that can be useful and there is also something that is not suitable to be used as learning media. Learning English can be done in various ways. One of them is by frequently watching YouTube videos in foreign languages. In the research conducted, there are many benefits of English-language YouTube video content for grade 1 junior high school students. Learning English through videos can make it easier for students to understand because they can repeat the video at any time when a word is missed. Learning through YouTube videos can make the feeling much happier because of the visual images provided by YouTube and students will not feel bored because students can change the video at any time. Learning English through video or illustrated sound can make them hear and see moving pictures according to what video they see and with the subtitles available on YouTube it can make it easier for students to find out the meaning of what is said in the video and students can immediately imitating the
vocabulary and already know the meaning of the vocabulary. The benefits of Youtube can be concluded that using Youtube can make it easier for students to learn, increase the effectiveness of learning to speak English, and can quickly speak English fluently if students often watch YouTube videos in English. This can be seen from the results of several interviews conducted.

From the research conducted, the researcher found no deficiencies in the use of YouTube videos in English to improve students’ English skills. Based on the results of research conducted by researchers using interviews that have been described, the purpose of this research is to test whether YouTube media can improve students’ English speaking skills. And the results have shown that YouTube is very effective in improving students’ English skills. Youtube is used by students as a learning medium so that students can study anywhere to improve their skills in English. There are various benefits of using YouTube as a medium for learning English. (Sutrisno et al., 2023)

Youtube is very influential in improving English language skills. Youtube has various types of videos that students can watch to improve their skills. there are several features provided by youtube which further help make it easier for students to learn, for example, such as subtitles which can help students interpret the vocabulary spoken in the video and can also be used as a tool when students do not hear what is being said in the video students can see the subtitles. Based on the results of the interviews conducted by the researchers, the students strongly agreed with the effectiveness of learning English through YouTube. According to students, learning through YouTube makes it easier for them to add new vocabulary, watching YouTube videos frequently can also help students speak English fluently, and learning with YouTube is not boring.

4. CONCLUSION
The digital era underscores its advantages, such as quick information access and innovations, alongside potential pitfalls like privacy infringement and moral decline. The narrative then delves into teenagers’ moral challenges, emphasizing the impact of extensive digital exposure. The negative consequences include social media addiction, moral degradation, and issues like free sex and online game addiction. Moral education methods for the digital era, ranging from exemplary teaching and habitation to advice, attention, punishment, reward, and surveillance methods. It stresses the need for parents and educators to serve as positive examples, instill good habits, and provide guidance to navigate the complex digital landscape, ensuring the moral development of the younger generation.

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