

## **STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TIKTOK DUET CHALLENGE WITH SONG AS MEDIA FOR LEARNING ENGLISH SPEAKING**

<sup>1</sup>Nita Rolita, <sup>2</sup>Eryansyah

<sup>1,2</sup>*A State-Owned University of South Sumatra*

<sup>1</sup>nitarolita93@gmail.com, <sup>2</sup>eryansyah@unsri.ac.id

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### **Abstract**

The integration of social media into education has grown rapidly, offering new opportunities for enhancing language learning. However, limited research has explored the specific use of TikTok Duet Challenges for developing English-speaking skills. This study aims to investigate students' perceptions of using the TikTok Duet Challenge with songs as a medium for learning English-speaking mastery, focusing on its effectiveness, benefits, and challenges within the English Education Study Program of a state-owned university of South Sumatra. A qualitative approach was employed, data were collected through interviews with eight students who had experience with the TikTok Duet Challenge with songs for English learning. The findings revealed that students perceived the TikTok Duet Challenge with songs as an engaging and effective tool for improving pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary in an enjoyable and low-pressure environment, significantly boosting their confidence and motivation. Students also reported that they appreciated the opportunity to engage with authentic language content and receive feedback through social interactions. However, some challenges were identified, including internet connectivity issues, fear of judgment, and difficulty understanding song lyrics. Despite these obstacles, students viewed the experience positively, indicating that TikTok Duet Challenges hold promise as a supplementary tool for enhancing English-speaking mastery. This study contributed to the discourse on technology-enhanced language learning and provides practical insights for educators integrating social media into instruction.

**Keywords:** Student perceptions, TikTok, duet challenge, English-Speaking Mastery

## **INTRODUCTION**

English is a global language that plays an important role in the world of education and employment in Indonesia, making it essential for students to master. However, English-speaking ability is one of the main challenges faced by Indonesian students. As a foreign language, English has significant differences from Indonesian in terms of pronunciation, intonation, and grammar, so students often have difficulty speaking fluently (Geria, 2022). Another common obstacle is limited vocabulary. Another significant challenge is limited vocabulary, which hinders students from effectively expressing their ideas and thoughts (Irma, 2020). Additionally, a lack of self-confidence is a key factor that prevents students from speaking fluently. Feelings of embarrassment or fear of making mistakes often discourage them from practicing (Mubarok, 2017). According to Lund and Winke (2008), the ability to produce spoken language is an essential part of language competence, yet speaking remains one of the most challenging skills for students to master. Supporting this view, Anggrisia and Robah (2023) found that students face both linguistic and psychological challenges in speaking English. Linguistic difficulties include confusion in tense usage,

limited grammatical knowledge, and struggles with vocabulary selection. Meanwhile, psychological barriers encompass nervousness, low confidence, fear of making mistakes, and anxiety about being ridiculed.

English-speaking mastery is a challenge for many Indonesian students because English is not their mother tongue. Various factors contribute to this, such as less interesting learning methods, minimal opportunities to practice, and fear that results in passive behavior in speaking classes (Savasci, 2014). Common mistakes made by students include inappropriate use of vocabulary, pronunciation errors, word stress, word forms, prepositions, and sentence construction (Redjeki & Muhajir 2022). In addition, students often have difficulty distinguishing words that do not exist in Indonesian from words that have similar sounds or pronunciations (Subandowo, 2017). Lack of understanding of the discussion topic is also an obstacle, making students unable to convey ideas clearly and concisely (Leong & Ahmadi, 2017). In addition, anxiety and fear of failure further worsen students' speaking skills (Dansieh et al., 2021). The combination of these factors shows that mastery of English-speaking skills requires special attention in the learning process so that students can be more confident and able to speak fluently. Therefore, identifying effective media and strategies is essential for language learners to improve their English-speaking skills. Various language learning tools and media can be used to support English-speaking mastery. In particular, media that focuses on speaking in the realm of language learning applications plays a major role in improving speaking proficiency (Wagner et al., 2024).

The use of social media in English learning is recognized as an effective strategy to create an interesting and supportive learning atmosphere, especially in improving speaking skills. Social media or mobile-based applications offer innovative solutions to support English learning. These applications allow students to learn independently, anywhere and anytime, and provide a motivating interactive experience (Raj & Baisel, 2022). Students are accustomed to using social media as a learning resource. According to Yang (2020), social media has four main purposes: entertainment, social interaction, information, and education. Social media such as TikTok can be an effective learning medium for gaining knowledge, especially in learning foreign languages. This media is widely used by students, especially for young generations because it is increasingly popular. TikTok is a social media and video platform introduced by Zhang Yiming in 2016 and owned by ByteDance (Brennan, 2020). This application was originally called Douyin which was very popular in China. Douyin then expanded to various countries with a new name, namely TikTok, because of its extraordinary popularity. TikTok began to appear in Indonesia in 2017. Like in other countries, this video application attracts attention from various groups. TikTok is also very popular with students and teenagers today (Juvenile). They can share videos, show their talents, and share knowledge with others through videos and live chats that's interesting and interactive content. One of the features that has the potential to be utilized for learning speaking skills is the "Duet" feature. This feature allows users to interact with other users by creating duet videos based on existing videos. TikTok, with its interactive features, provides an opportunity for students to practice speaking in a fun way.

Several studies related to this study that have been conducted where the findings are positive and negative. Research by Pratama et al. (2024), underlines the importance of innovative learning media in overcoming English learning difficulties in Indonesia. TikTok, with its interactive features, such as duets and short videos, allows students to practice

English independently, improve vocabulary mastery, and increase their confidence in speaking. Furthermore, platforms like TikTok provide a space for students to practice speaking English through duet features that allow collaboration with other users, including peers or even native speakers. As noted by Sarkila et al. (2024), these features encourage student engagement and increase their confidence in speaking. Although some challenges, such as potential distractions, were identified, the benefits of learning through TikTok remain significant. Based on research by Pasaribu et al. (2022), the duet technique on songs using the TikTok platform has shown to help students improve their speaking skills through engaging and interactive activities. This study suggests that using creative media like TikTok can provide a more enjoyable and effective learning experience for students. Several previous studies have shown the potential of using TikTok in English learning. Research by Nurwinda and Ambarwati (2024), showed positive experiences of students using TikTok to practice speaking. Meanwhile, research by Ramadhanti et al. (2023), showed the effectiveness of using the duet feature to improve the speaking skills of Vocational High School (SMK) and Junior High School (SMP) students. Another study by Zhen et al. (2021), also showed that the use of the duet feature in elementary school students is effective in improving the ability to speak English. This research is expected to inspire educators to explore the potential benefits of social media in the English teaching process.

Based on previous research findings that show the potential use of TikTok, especially the duet feature in English language learning, there are still few studies that focus on the use of duet challenges with songs. And no one has ever studied students' perceptions of the use of TikTok duet challenges with songs as a media for learning English-speaking mastery. Therefore, this study focuses on understanding students' perceptions, which is important to find out whether they consider the duet feature to be an effective and enjoyable medium for practicing English-speaking. In this context, this study aims to explore students' perceptions of the use of TikTok, especially through the song duet challenge, as a medium for learning English-speaking mastery. Based on the findings of previous studies, this approach is expected to provide new insights into the effectiveness of social media in English language education. TikTok in particular can be used as an effective and enjoyable learning tool to improve English-speaking mastery among students. In addition, this study also aims to identify the challenges and benefits felt by students in using TikTok as a medium for English language learning.

## **METHOD**

This study employed a qualitative research design to explore students' experiences and perceptions of using the TikTok Duet Challenge with songs as a medium for learning English-speaking mastery. A qualitative approach was selected as it allows for an in-depth understanding of students' subjective experiences, beliefs, and attitudes toward TikTok as an educational tool. By analyzing this qualitative data, the study aimed to provide a nuanced understanding of how the TikTok Duet Challenge contributes to English-speaking improvement among students of a state-owned university in South Sumatra.

In this study, participants were selected based on their use of the TikTok application as part of their media for language learning. The participants of this study were 15 eight-semester students of the English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, of a state-owned university in South Sumatra in the 2024-2025 academic year. To

ensure that these students had sufficient experience with the TikTok application, the researcher distributed a questionnaire containing specific questions to verify their usage history. The questionnaire included items asked whether students had been actively using the application for a long period of time and how often they engaged with it. This process confirmed that all selected participants have been using TikTok consistently, qualifying them as eligible to provide relevant and insightful feedback on its effectiveness as a medium for language learning tool.

Among the 15 participants, only eight students were selected for the interview phase. Each of the eight selected students was invited to participate in an in-depth interview as the primary method of data collection, where they shared their experiences, challenges, and perceived benefits associated with using TikTok's "Duet Challenge with Song" feature for language learning. The researcher will employ a semi-structured interview method and contain open ended questions, interviewing students who have been using a TikTok Duet Challenge with Song feature as part of their language learning tool. The researcher considered four factors to evaluate the study's trustworthiness: credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability. To ensure the findings were credible, the researcher employed member checks and direct quotes from participants (Creswell & Creswell, 2012).

Data collected through interviews were analyzed using a thematic analysis approach, a qualitative data analysis method proposed by Braun and Clarke (2006). The researcher will transcribe and code interview data to identify recurring themes related to speaking proficiency, anxiety levels, and the perceived effectiveness of TikTok duet challenge with song. Such data-driven analysis aligns with an inductive thematic approach, where themes are identified from the data rather than imposed by pre-existing theories.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Student Perceptions of Using TikTok Duet Challenges with Song as a Media for Learning English-Speaking Master**

The participants had varying levels of experience using the TikTok Duet Challenge with Song. All of them were part-time users who utilized the feature both for entertainment and for practicing English. The frequency of usage ranged from two to five times a week. The main focus was on the TikTok duet challenge with songs, which allowed students to practice their English-speaking skills by mimicking lyrics through singing.

#### ***Initial Impressions of Students using TikTok Duet Challenge with Song***

All participants shared positive views on using the TikTok duet challenge with song for enhancing their English-speaking abilities. They expressed that the TikTok Duet Challenge with Song offered an enjoyable, interactive, and informal way to practice speaking. Most participants indicated that the creative and fun nature of the challenge made learning English less stressful, especially when compared to traditional classroom-based speaking practice for improving their English-speaking mastery. However, there were varying levels of comfort depending on their familiarity with the platform. The following are detailed statements from the participants:

#### **1) Enjoyment and Engagement**

Almost all of the participants found that they enjoyed and felt engaged when they used TikTok Duet Challenge with Song, as it brought them joy through their love of singing, serving as both entertainment and a means of self-expression.



*"I feel so happy because personally, I really love singing..."* (Student 1)

*"...because I like sing a song, so I enjoy, I enjoy to do the duet challenge with song in TikTok."* (Student 5)

Two participants found that the duet feature on TikTok was very engaging and provided a unique experience in singing.

*"...I felt that it's kind of interesting feature..."* (Student 3)

*"...If you're asking me about my experience in having duet challenge with songs in TikTok, I feel that it is fun for me..."* (Student 7)

For some participants, the duet challenge was not only fun but also helped them feel more confident in communication, especially in English. Singing along with others felt more comfortable than speaking directly.

*"I found it really fun and engaging. Singing along with others felt less intimidating than speaking directly..."* (Student 6)

*"I think using TikTok duet challenge, it's a fun and easy way to practice English..."* (Student 8)

## 2) Creativity and Innovation

There are two participants found that the TikTok Duet Challenge with Song encouraged creativity and innovation by providing a fun and engaging way to practice English and explore creative activities.

*"...it can make a fun and innovative way to practice English-speaking. ..."* (Student 5)

*"For that, I have experience in the positive fields like studying and more like more creativity activity."* (Student 2)

## **Impact on Specific Speaking Aspects**

All participants reported improvements in three key areas of speaking: pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary. The following are detailed statements from the participants:

### 1) Pronunciation

Several participants mentioned that the TikTok Duet Challenge with Song was generally helpful in enhancing their pronunciation skills.

*"Actually, it helps me it's mostly about pronunciation. ..."* (Student 7)

*"Actually, using TikTok duet challenge is very helpful for my English-speaking, especially in my pronunciation ...."* (Student 4)

*"I think the TikTok duet challenge with song can help my, can improve my pronunciation..."* (Student 5)

Some participants highlighted that TikTok Duet Challenge with Song helped them by providing direct exposure to how words are pronounced.

*"... I can directly hear how some words are pronounced, are spelled. ..."* (Student 1)

*"I think when I use these features or duet songs features in TikTok, it helps me a lot in correcting ... pronunciation. So, that's why I feel like I need to also act like her to correct my pronunciation..."* (Student 3)

Three participants expressed that using the duet feature had significantly improved their pronunciation.

*"So, the duet challenge has significantly improved my pronunciation ..."* (Student 2)

*"Oh, it really helped me. Like, improving my pronunciation..."* (Student 6)

*"TikTok Duet Challenge helped my pronunciation..."* (Student 8)

### 2) Fluency

Some participants found that singing along with lyrics allowed them to practice speaking more smoothly and naturally.

*"... Like, my fluency improved as I practiced singing the lyrics smoothly. ..."* (Student 6)

*"... also helped me improve my fluency because I practiced my speaking friendly to a bit of the song..."* (Student 8)

Several participants highlighted that actively using the duet feature helped them practice and improve their fluency.

*"I think when I use these features or duet songs features in TikTok, it helps me a lot in correcting my fluency.... and make my fluency better."* (Student 3)

*"I think the TikTok duet challenge with song can help my, can improve my ... fluency ..."* (Student 5)

One participant found that listening to songs on TikTok Duet Challenge with Song introduced them to advanced words and helped them become more fluent.

*"... I listen to that song first maybe advanced words that I've never heard before fluently..."* (Student 1)

### 3) Vocabulary

Several participants found that the duet challenge helped them acquire new vocabulary by exposing them to song lyrics.

*"... at the same time, it also offers me opportunity to learn new vocabulary as well."* (Student 1)

*"In TikTok duet challenge, I learned many new meanings of the vocabulary, ...."* (Student 4)

*"... I think I get a lot of vocabulary...."* (Student 5)

One participant highlighted that subtitles in TikTok Duet Challenge with Song helped them learn and understand new words.

*"... Then also sometimes I get new vocabulary from the subtitle that provided there."* (Student 3)

*"... I think it helps me a lot to know new vocabulary. ..."* (Student 3)

A few participants mentioned that learning new words from TikTok Duet Challenge with Song helped them express themselves better in English.

*"... the duet challenge has significantly improved my ... vocabulary. ... And then for the lyrics, I can be more be new vocabulary for the explain my language to use that."* (Student 2)

*"... So, some songs also introduced me to new vocabulary, like especially for idioms or casual expressions."* (Student 6)

*"TikTok Duet Challenge helped my ... vocabulary. ... I also learned new words."* (Student 8)

### **The Impact of Using TikTok Duet Challenge with Song as a Media for Learning English-Speaking Mastery**

The interview results revealed that the TikTok Duet Challenge with Song had a positive impact on participants' confidence and motivation. Many participants expressed that the enjoyable and informal nature of TikTok Duet Challenge with Song provided them with an

opportunity to practice speaking without the pressure they usually experienced in formal language lessons.

### ***Impacts on Confidence in Speaking English***

TikTok Duet Challenge with Song helped students feel more confident in speaking English, both in class and in social situations. Participants noted that the ability to practice in a relaxed, non-threatening environment allowed them to develop greater self-assurance in speaking. The following are the statements from the participants:

*"I feel like I get my confidence increase. point I became more confident in singing English songs than Indonesian songs ... TikTok influenced my confidence and motivations to speak English more often well it's amazing."* (Student 1)

*"... TikTok duet challenge can boost my confidence because of I can see my progress, my project progress and positive feedback from that. ...."* (Student 2)

*"I think this feature does affect my confidence to speak. Because when I sing this song ... I feel like I'm the center of these songs. That's why I need to feel like I am the singer and I need to be expressive in singing the song. ..."* (Student 3)

*"I think because I like to sing a song, so it can make me feel confident to do it. ..."* (Student 5)

*"... it boosts my confidence a lot because I could practice without any fear of being judged by someone. ..."* (Student 6)

*"I think this challenge boosts my confidence because I was speaking out loud and it felt less stressful than speaking practice. ..."* (Student 8)

One participant mentioned that using the TikTok Duet Challenge with Song was not particularly significant in building confidence for improving English-speaking mastery. She expressed her thoughts as follows:

*"... about confidence, I don't think so because whenever I make the video challenge, I mean the video of duet challenge, I never post it because I don't have any confidence to post it. So, I just drop it and I will save it for myself."* (Student 7)

### ***Impacts on Motivation in Speaking English***

All participants reported a significant increase in motivation due to the fun, non-traditional nature of TikTok Duet Challenge with Song. The gamified learning approach kept them engaged and encouraged them to practice more. The following are the statements from the participants:

Some participants felt motivated by the TikTok community, seeing others' duets, and receiving feedback, which encouraged them to keep improving.

*"... The TikTok community is also motivate me to be keep practicing and improving from that to do a challenge."* (Student 2)

*"... Seeing other people's duets also motivates me to keep trying and improving. So, posting my own duets and receiving positive feedback gives me a sense of accomplishment."* (Student 6)

*"... And it can motivate me to practice the challenge."* (Student 5)

Others mentioned that the TikTok Duet Challenge with Song helped boost their confidence and motivation to speak English more accurately.

*"... I think these kinds of features can improve my confidence and my motivation to speak properly, something like that."* (Student 3)

*“Participating in the TikTok duet challenge with songs has a positive impact on my practicing English. The interactive nature of the challenge makes my speaking practice feel less intimidating and more enjoyable. ...”* (Student 4)

Some participants stated that hearing others' pronunciation, especially from native speakers, inspired them to improve their own pronunciation.

*“I have a motivation when I duet songs with people from another country, their pronunciation is so good. And this makes me want to have a pronunciation like them.”* (Student 4)

*“If talking about motivation because I really like to listen to the song so that it makes me interested to be able to sing the song. So, it motivated me to be able to pronounce the word also. ...”* (Student 7)

One participant noted that the challenge aspect of TikTok Duet Challenge with Song made learning feel like a game, which encouraged them to practice more.

*“... But the challenge aspect made it more motivating because it was like a game, maybe, which made us want to practice more.”* (Student 8)

### **The Challenges Faced by Students while Using TikTok Duet Challenge with Song as a Media for Learning English-Speaking Mastery**

While the TikTok Duet Challenge with Song has proven to be an engaging and effective tool for improving English-speaking skills, students also encountered several challenges in its implementation. These obstacles range from technical difficulties to language-related struggles, which sometimes hinder their learning progress. Understanding these challenges is crucial in assessing the limitations of this method and identifying ways to optimize its effectiveness. The key difficulties reported by participants are discussed below.

#### **Technical Barriers**

Several participants faced challenges such as poor internet connection, low audio quality or syncing during recording, and app-related issues when using TikTok Duet Challenge with Song for language learning. The following are the statements from the participants:

Several participants mentioned that weak or unstable connections made it difficult to record or upload videos properly.

*“... TikTok is a social media that requires internet connections and its data I think it also sometimes become use TikTok um as many if I at the place with good internet connection.”* (Student 1)

*“... The internet connection is also the challenge too. So, if we don't have a good connection, so we can put the audio in TikTok.”* (Student 5)

*“... sometimes when I don't know, it's like just randomly when I want to post it to TikTok, the internet usually like stop or even dead, you know?”* (Student 6)

Some participants faced difficulties related to their phone storage, app performance, and synchronization between audio and video.

*“I think the problems that sometimes occurred or I faced while I use these features is like connections or network settings and then or phone problems. ... these features need big size to make the video ... I need to put extra clear connections and clear memory in my phone. ...”* (Student 3)

*“... Another issue was the technical aspect, like I'm syncing my voice with the video. It is about the lyrics going too fast and then our system of our phone.”* (Student 6)



One participant found that maintaining audio quality and syncing the voice with the lyrics was another technical difficulty faced while using it.

*"... I think the challenges is like including a financing audio and maintaining the flow. So, it is tricky for some users. So, it I think that is because of the challenge."* (Student 5)

#### ***Fear of Judgment and Lack of Confidence***

Two participants experienced psychological barriers, such as shyness and fear of judgment, making them feel self-conscious and hesitant to post videos online.

*"Actually, one of my challenges when I do the TikTok duet challenge is I'm pressure of the recording. Sometimes I feel nervous about making mistakes."* (Student 4)

*"... I never post it because I don't have any confidence to post it. So, I just drop it and I will save it for myself."* (Student 7)

#### ***Difficulty Keeping Up with Song Rhythm and Lyrics***

Two participants encountered difficulties in keeping up with the rhythm and lyrics of the songs while doing TikTok Duet Challenge with Song.

*"... keeping up with the pace of the song can be difficult from that, especially the lyrics. So, like a little bit for faster like that."* (Student 2)

*"... when the creator doesn't put the subtitle or the full lyrics of the song. So, that's why when I don't know the lyrics of the song, I think it makes me hard to speak properly because I don't know the lyrics."* (Student 3)

*"... Actually, I also have difficult when I search that song, I want to do it in the TikTok challenge."* (Student 4)

*"Well, sometimes the lyrics were too fast, which made it hard to keep it up. ..."* (Student 6)

#### ***Difficulty Understanding Accents and Slang***

Another challenge faced by participants was understanding different accents and slang words used in songs. Some found it difficult to comprehend informal language or regional expressions, making it harder for them to grasp the meaning of certain lyrics. Here are the following statements:

*"... I also struggle with understanding slang or informal words in some songs."* (Student 6)

*"The accent is very different. Like British, American, Australian."* (Student 8)

#### ***Difficulty in Maintaining Pronunciation Consistency***

Two participants stated that they sometimes struggled to maintain correct pronunciation throughout a song due to its melody and pace.

*"... Actually, the specific challenges that I ... What is that? I faced whenever I have the duet challenge sometimes, I forgot about the pronunciation. So, it's the biggest challenge. ..."* (Student 7)

*"Sometimes, I struggle with certain words or pronunciations that are hard to follow because the accent is different .... The words or pronunciations are pronounced differently."* (Student 8)

### **The Benefits of Using TikTok Duet Challenges with Song as a Media for Learning English-Speaking Mastery**

TikTok Duet Challenge with Song provide various benefits for improving English-speaking skills. All participants reported improvements in pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary while also gaining confidence and motivation to speak. The interactive and enjoyable nature of this method makes learning feel less like formal studying and more like an engaging activity.

Additionally, exposure to native pronunciation, intonation, and cultural nuances allows learners to develop a more natural speaking style. Many participants also highlighted that using TikTok Duet Challenge with Song helped them enjoy the learning process, making them more eager to practice. Following are statements from participants, categorized based on the specific benefits they experienced:

### **Improvement in Pronunciation**

Several participants highlighted that TikTok Duet Challenge with Song helped them improve their pronunciation by mimicking native speakers and listening to correct word articulation. The following are the statements from the participants:

Many participants found that listening to songs and mimicking native speakers helped them improve their pronunciation accuracy.

*"... I can directly hear how some words are pronounced, are spelled. And I also know how some words are written in a good or in a right way. ..."* (Student 1)

*"... I feel like my pronunciation ... is good or it's increasing because I need to act like I'm the native speaker."* (Student 3)

*"... I become more familiar with native pronunciation ..."* (Student 6)

Several participants specifically mentioned that their pronunciation improved significantly through TikTok Duet Challenges.

*"... I can improve my pronunciation ..."* (Student 2)

*"... I can improve my pronunciations and ... my vocabulary. ... it makes me feel enjoy to learn about that from the song."* (Student 5)

*"... the most benefit that I've gained from having TikTok duet challenge with songs ... it's about pronunciation. ... I could know the correct pronunciation, especially if the content creator or the owner of the video is from a native speaker. ..."* (Student 7)

### **Confidence and Motivation in Speaking English**

Some participants stated that using TikTok Duet Challenge with Song boosted their confidence and improve their fluency by encouraging consistent speaking practice.

*"... I got is the confidence to speak English in public. ..."* (Student 1)

*"... my level of confidence is increasing and my motivation is increasing in speaking. ... I feel like my fluency ... and then my motivation to speak is good or it's increasing because I need to act like I'm the native speaker."* (Student 3)

*"... I become more familiar with native ... intonation. It also made practicing English more enjoyable. So, I spend more time in learning without realizing it. Plus, it encouraged me to express myself and not worry too much about making mistakes."* (Student 6)

*"... it's fun to me to practice speaking without feeling like I'm studying. It's just so fun not studying."* (Student 8)

### **Vocabulary Expansion**

Two participants mentioned that singing duets songs on TikTok Duet Challenge with Song introduced them to new words and phrases, helping them expand their vocabulary in an engaging way.

*"... the benefits when I use the TikTok duet challenge ... like vocabulary, many songs have new words and phrases. ..."* (Student 4)

*"... for example, it is a great big bang. Yeah. And then more benefit is my learning is more engaging and then more fun."* (Student 4)

*“... I can ... increase my vocabulary and then improving my enhanced learning skill so it also great to learn the culture and nuance and expression to use English every day.” (Student 2)*

## **DISCUSSION**

Based on the findings, the most dominant aspect of students' perceptions regarding the use of TikTok Duet Challenge with Song and its effectiveness was the sense of enjoyment and engagement that the platform offered. Participants consistently described the experience as enjoyable, interactive, and informal, which created a relaxed atmosphere for practicing English. This environment was particularly beneficial for speaking practice, as it helped reduce the anxiety that often associated with traditional classroom-based learning. This finding aligned with Richards and Schmidt (2013), who argued that a supportive and low-stress environment significantly enhanced second language acquisition. The positive experiences reported by students highlighted the effectiveness of TikTok in providing a communicative approach to language learning, which allowed for meaningful interaction and practice (MacIntyre & Gregersen, 2012). In line with the findings of Novitasari and Addinna (2022), this study affirmed that students perceived TikTok not only as an entertaining platform but also as an effective tool for improving their language skills in a more enjoyable context. They acknowledged that TikTok enhanced their language abilities while offering a stress-free and engaging learning environment. These consistent positive perceptions further reinforced TikTok's potential as a powerful medium for English language learning.

Another important factor that emerged as a significant contributor to students' success in improving their speaking skills through the TikTok Duet Challenge with Song was increased self-confidence and motivation. Participants noted that TikTok's informal environment allowed them to practice speaking without fear of being judged, which was especially important considering the anxiety and low self-esteem frequently experienced by language learners (Horwitz et al., 1995). Many participants expressed that the platform's supportive and relaxed nature made them more comfortable expressing themselves in English. The ability to record multiple takes before posting and autonomy in selecting content gave students a stronger sense of control over their learning. Moreover, TikTok's social features, such as views, likes, and comments, served as forms of positive reinforcement, which boosted their self-esteem and encouraged continued participation. This finding was supported by prior studies that emphasized the role of digital engagement in enhancing motivation and involvement in language learning (Nurwinda & Ambarwati, 2024). The platform's sense of community also inspired learners to improve their performance by observing and collaborating with peers.

The benefits of TikTok Duet Challenge with Song extend beyond enjoyment and engagement; it also contributed significantly to students' improvements in pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary. This finding aligned with Pasaribu et al. (2022), which demonstrated the effectiveness of TikTok duet techniques with songs in improving pronunciation, fluency, and comprehension in speaking English among high school students. Several participants indicated that mimicking the pronunciation of native speakers through song lyrics helped them refine articulation and heightened their awareness of correct pronunciation. This was consistent with previous literature that underscored the importance of authentic language exposure for developing speaking skills (Savignon, 2018). TikTok's interactive multimodal features facilitated this exposure, making practice more natural and enjoyable. Additionally,

participants noted that singing along to lyrics enhanced their fluency by requiring them to follow rhythm and tempo without hesitation. This corroborated findings from Ramadhanti et al. (2023), who emphasized the impact of TikTok duet challenges on improving aspects of speaking fluency in vocational high schools. The repeated practice enabled learners to articulate more fluidly and reduced speech hesitations. Furthermore, interacting through songs expanded students' vocabulary. Repetition of lyrics supported incidental vocabulary acquisition, reinforcing Simaibang's (2016) assertion that regular English communication was essential for mastering speaking skills. Similarly, Pratama et al. (2024) highlighted the role of song lyrics on TikTok in promoting vocabulary mastery, which indirectly supported speaking proficiency, although their focus was primarily on vocabulary development among senior high school students.

Regardless of the many benefits, this study also identified several challenges that students encountered while using TikTok Duet Challenges with Songs as a learning medium for English proficiency. The most frequently reported issue was technical in nature, such as unstable internet connections and limitations of the application itself. These problems occasionally disrupted students' ability to record or upload videos, thereby hindering the learning process. This finding aligned with Novitasari and Addinna (2022), who identified the technical constraints in using TikTok as an educational tool. Such challenges emphasized the importance of equitable access to reliable technology, as also pointed out by Mahdi (2023). In addition to technical issues, students also faced psychological barriers. Fear of judgment, lack of confidence, and anxiety about making mistakes often prevented full participation. This aligned with MacIntyre and Gregersen, (2012), who stated that learners often struggled with fear of errors and limited opportunities for authentic communication. Likewise, a study by Mubarak (2017) explained that embarrassment and fear of making mistakes frequently hindered learners from speaking. While many students felt empowered by the informal nature of TikTok Duet Challenges, some struggled with self-consciousness, particularly regarding the public aspect of uploading videos. These internal fears limited the extent to which they could fully engage with the platform's interactive features.

Overall, the findings of this study confirmed that enjoyment, engagement, confidence, and motivation were key factors shaping students' positive perceptions of TikTok Duet Challenges with Songs as a medium for developing English-speaking proficiency. The study suggested that the TikTok Duet Challenge with Song had a significant positive impact on students by offering an engaging and low-stress environment for speaking practice. This interactive experience provided opportunities for improvement in real-world communication, especially in professional contexts related to their field of study. The practice environment fostered by TikTok supported pronunciation improvement and vocabulary expansion—two critical aspects of language acquisition (Savignon, 2018). While challenges such as technical issues and performance anxiety remained, the overall influence of TikTok was strongly positive. The duet challenge feature, in particular, offered an innovative approach to speaking practice that complemented formal learning and addressed common barriers to language acquisition. As students prepared for professional communication, integrating familiar digital tools like TikTok into language instruction presented a practical and effective strategy. With sufficient support from educators and institutions, students could continue leveraging this medium to improve their speaking skills in meaningful, enjoyable, and confidence-building ways.



## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that students of the English Education Study Program of a state-owned university of South Sumatra hold generally positive perceptions toward the use of TikTok Duet Challenges with Songs as a medium for learning English-speaking mastery. The most dominant finding reveals that students perceive the platform as enjoyable, engaging, and effective, particularly due to its informal and interactive nature, which significantly reduces learning anxiety and fosters a more relaxed environment for speaking practice. This finding answers the first research problem, namely how students view the use and the effectiveness of using TikTok Duet Challenge with Song for learning English speaking skills. Students feel that the relaxed and interactive environment on TikTok helps them reduce anxiety and increase engagement in the learning process. Furthermore, the second most prominent result highlights that the use of TikTok Duet Challenges with song contributes to increasing students' self-confidence and motivation. Many students feel more empowered to express themselves in English without the fear of being judged, which supports the psychological readiness essential for successful language learning. The autonomy to create and edit content, combined with social validation through likes and comments, reinforces their motivation to continue improving their speaking skills. Another significant outcome is the improvement of pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary acquisition through repeated exposure to authentic language use in songs. Mimicking native speakers via the duet feature allows students to internalize correct pronunciation and rhythm, while repeated singing supports vocabulary retention and speaking fluency. However, this study also identified several challenges faced by students in using TikTok Duet Challenge with Song as a learning medium. Technical barriers, such as internet connection problems and difficulty in understanding song lyrics, as well as psychological barriers, such as fear of judgment, are challenges that need to be overcome. Instead, they highlight the need for appropriate support from educators and institutions in guiding students to maximize the educational potential of social media-based learning tools. In conclusion, TikTok Duet Challenges with Songs represent an innovative and impactful supplementary medium that aligns with students' digital habits and learning preferences. It facilitates meaningful speaking practice in an enjoyable and low-stress setting, thereby enhancing both linguistic and psychological aspects essential for English-speaking mastery.

Based on the findings and conclusions above, some suggestions can be given to improve the use of TikTok Duet Challenge with Song as a learning medium in mastering English speaking. Lecturers should consider using TikTok Duet Challenge with Song as a creative tool to support students in speaking practice, while helping them overcome fear and technical issues. Students are encouraged to practice more by collaborating through duets and sharing their videos to build confidence. Future research can further explore how interactive tools like TikTok improve speaking skills and support language learning.

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