

STUDENT'S PERCEPTION ON THE USE OF YOUTUBE AS A LEARNING MEDIA TO IMPROVE THEIR SPEAKING SKILL

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Abstract: The objective of this research was to investigate the perception of students of English speaking class on using Youtube toward their achievement in speaking skill. The subject of the research was students of English department of Bengkulu University who took Speaking 2 class with 40 students in total. Questionnaire and short interview were used as the way to collect the data. The questionnaire then, was analyzed by using Likert scale while interview data was used to discover new facts/phenomena from the study. The finding generally shows that 1) students consider that the Youtube can help their speaking skill becoming much better. 2) The use of Youtube in speaking class also can trigger them to be much confident to speak English in front of camera and public. 3) Feedbacks/comments coming from other students on the Youtube were useful to improve their speaking skill and video's quality as well. It can be concluded that the use of Youtube as a learning media in speaking class can help students to improve their speaking skill.

Keywords: *Perception, Youtube, Speaking Skill*

It is undeniable that speaking is one of the difficult parts in English (Abrar, 2018; Leong, & Ahmadi, 2017). There are some important elements which should be mastered to be a fluent speaker in English speaking. Pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and understanding are the examples of those elements which influence the quality of English speaking.

In a speaking class, to make students happy and enjoy studying this subject, a teacher or a lecturer should provide an interesting learning activity for them. The activity should encourage all levels of the students from students who are introvert or extrovert traits, and from students who are lower motivation to higher motivation in speaking skills. Moreover, the activity should use technology in order to get much attention from students. The situation of the class can be different if a teacher successfully utilize technology in his or her classroom. The use of technology on learning activity got positive perception from learners as stated in a research's finding done by (Shadiev, Hwang & Liu 2018) who investigated the effectiveness of a learning activity supported by a mobile multimedia learning system to enhance autonomous EFL learning in authentic contexts.

Youtube is well-known platform for internet users especially who want to watch, upload or download videos. The site, not only provides videos like music, movie, sport, and so on, but also contains education matters such as English speaking videos. It is believed that almost of the people have a Youtube account. Therefore, it is a great opportunity for teacher to use this fact as the way to improve their students' speaking skills.

The use of the website in education has been widely recognized by some teachers or researchers over the world Clifton & Mann. (2011); Duffy (2008); Fralinger & Owens (2009); Burke & Snyder (2008); Jaffar (2012); Orús, et.al (2016). They found that Youtube has positive impacts for students on learning achievement, on motivation in studying certain subjects, and so forth. However, the research on the use of Youtube on students' speaking skill was limited. Therefore, in this article, the concern of this research was investigating students' perception on the use of Youtube over their speaking skills.

The nature of speaking class

Among the four skills of English, one of the big problems for Non Native English Speakers (NNESs) in studying English is speaking (Leong & Ahmadi, 2017; (Kurniawan, Syafrizal & Fernandita, 2018). The cause of the issue can be triggered by many factors such lack of vocabulary or personality problems such as be afraid of making mistakes. However, based on the formal interview on some students that researcher conducted during teaching English, most of the students

stated that vocabulary was the biggest problem for them in English speaking. Many efforts have been done by some teachers or researchers to cope that matter. One of them proposes that reading a lot is the main key for students if they have a dream to be a fluent speaker. Other suggestions are by watching many English movies and by listening English songs many times. However, it is hard to find any suggestions which recommend uploading videos as an alternative way to curb the problems.

It is a true fact that practice makes a perfect. By practicing a lot, the students can have better English speaking. However, how to make students more motivated to practice their speaking? Without considering their internal motivation that students might have, as an English teacher who becomes one of external factors for them can create a learning activity which is able to attract them to continually practice their speaking such as the use of video as a learning media.

Activity for Speaking class

In fact, there are many learning activities offered by author or researcher to attract student's attention on speaking class. However, as a teacher, he/she must be selective in determining what activity that is going to be used in his or her class. One important note for selecting an appropriate activity is that it should be meaningful for students and it can strengthen their motivation to improve their level of speaking. If possible, the teacher can involve some people in his teaching activity to see how well the activity is and they can contribute on student's progress through the activity. However, whatever it is, it should be accessible and useful not only for one student but also for other students. I think Youtube answers for the consideration in choosing an activity for speaking. It can give positive impacts for students both on motivation and achievement.

To prepare a class with uploading video activity is simple to do. You, as a teacher, just need to make sure that every student has recognized what Youtube is and they have an account for it. Another thing is that the students should be guided on how to upload the videos on the site. All requirements such as camera, recorder, laptop and more should be prepared by the students themselves. All rules or regulations on the activity are needed to negotiate between you and your students such as what the topics are, how long it will be, rewards and punishment matter, assessment and evaluation. All of those things should be clear and understandable by all students.

In the middle of the learning process, you can check their work by collecting the links of their videos and spend your time to watch the videos. Take some good videos from the students' works to be discussed with students in classroom. Give some feedbacks and ask them to create an English speaking video as good as possible. This is really fun activity for students because they will see themselves on the screen and they realize about the weaknesses of their speaking videos and then they try to make new ones with good quality.

Youtube at Glance

YouTube was established by Jawed Karim, Chad Hurley, and Steve Chen in 2005. This site enables its users to upload, to watch and to share videos. As an open resource for learning, Youtube provides for its users to upload their own learning videos. Of course, before uploading video(s), of course you need to obey all terms and conditions related to the contents of the video(s) issued by Youtube.

To upload a video on Youtube is not difficult at all. After you have prepared a video on your laptop or smartphone. Your next step is just upload it on Youtube. Certainly you have to pay attention too much on your video's content because you will be responsible for your own uploaded video(s). So, you have to be careful with that one because once you make a mistake or any illegal contents of the video(s), you will be, for example, probably charged for copyright matters.

Here are some steps how to upload learning video on Youtube channel, firstly, you have to register on www.Youtube.com. You need an active e-mail for this process. Then, once you have registered and have an account, you are now allowed to upload a video(s). However, keep in your mind that to see the capacity your videos (the length or duration of your videos) may not exceed more than 5MB and the length should not be more than one hour for examples.



Figure 1. The front-page of the Youtube

Youtube as a learning media

Youtube as one of well-known learning platform has some benefits for students to improve their speaking skills. Learning Feedback, through uploading their English speaking videos, the students will get some feedbacks from other users of the Youtube. The feedback can be seen under the uploaded videos on Youtube. The feedback can vary starting from the sum of “like or dislike” to statements appeared on the below of the videos. In addition, youtubers can ask the watchers to subscribe their videos. As users, they can see many people has subscribed the videos and the ratings of the videos. If you have good videos, for instance, your subscribers can be a lot in numbers and certainly, it is a kind of honor for you if your videos has been watched by millions of people around the globe. Of course, to have many subscribers or good feedback from the users, the students should provide perfect videos; its contents, its sound and pictures quality, and its length/duration.

Youtube channel also provides a space for introvert students to be an exist person in cyber worlds. The uploaded videos can be a video which is produced and managed by yourself. You can take your videos everywhere you want with or without any audience or people listening or looking at you. Therefore, it is a good place for introvert students to try to speak English. Maybe, speaking in front of many students can be difficult for them, this uploading videos activity can be an alternative activity for teachers to boost their students to speak English freely without any pressure from their surroundings.

Another possible advantage from Youtube activity in speaking class is encouraging students to create a good English speaking video. As probably we know that to make a good speaking, there are some elements or things that they have to prepare, namely vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and fluency. As good learners, they will study hard to have better those elements of speaking and motivate them to find new words for their next videos. The differences in terms of feedbacks or comments among the students can also trigger them to produce their English videos speaking far better than before.

Method

The subject of the research was students of English department of Bengkulu University who took Speaking 2 class with 40 students in total. Questionnaire and interview were used as the way to collect the data. The questionnaire then, was analyzed by using Likert scale while a semi-structured interview was used to elicit students’ opinions about the implementation of the uploading English speaking activity and how such the activity may enhance their English speaking skills. The interview data were qualitatively analyzed

Result and Discussion

Questionnaire Results

Table 1. The percentage of each statement on accessibility statements

Statements: Accessibility	Responses				
	VA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	DA (%)	VD (%)
1. I have a Youtube account	100	0	0	0	0
2. I usually access Youtube everyday by smartphone	90	10	0	0	0
3. I have no problem at all to access Youtube	10	0	0	75	15
4. I usually use free wifi on accessing Youtube	80	10	0	5	5
5. I have installed internet connection in my home/rent house	5	0	0	5	90
6. I can access Youtube every time and everywhere	80	10	0	5	5
Total	365	30	0	90	115
Average	61	5	0	15	19

From the table above, it was clearly seen that the students gave a positive response on the accessibility of the Youtube (66%). From the sixth items, 100 % students had account for Youtube and they got accustomed to using the youtube by their phone (90%) so that they could easily use it anytime (80%). However, they had problems when accessing youtube (90%), the problems were about internet connection and money to buy credits/internet data.

Table 2. The percentage of statement on usefulness statements

Statements: Usefulness	Responses				
	VA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	DA (%)	VD (%)
1. I access Youtube to study English grammar	10	40	0	30	20
2. I study pronunciation Practice on Youtube	60	20	0	10	10
3. I think Youtube has contributed to my English vocabulary	80	10	0	5	5
4. I learn to be a good English speaker through Youtube channel	40	35	0	20	5
5. I get my fluency in English speaking through Youtube	20	65	0	5	5
6. I get possitive impacts on my Youtube channel.	90	10	0	0	0
Total	300	180	0	70	45
Average	50	30	0	12	8

It was obviously clear that the average of the usefulness of the Youtube for improving students' speaking skills was 80 %, only 20 % stated it was not useful. From the statements of usefulness, 90 % students responded that they got benefit from the activity. Moreover, vocabulary become the most significant effect from the use of the Youtube for English speaking class with the 80 %.

Table 3. The percentage of statements on practicality statements

Question items: Practicality	Responses				
	VA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	DA (%)	VD (%)
1. I think I have no problem to register on Youtube	100	0	0	0	0
2. I think the instruction on Youtube can be followed easily	100	0	0	0	0
3. I think to upload a video on youtube is easy to do	90	10	0	0	0
4. I think Youtube can give me a model of good speakers easily	90	10	0	0	0
5. I think I have uploaded more than 50 English videos for free easily	100	0	0	0	0
Total	480	20	0	0	0
Average	96	4	0	0	0

From the table above, it was clearly seen that all respondents stated that they have no problems with the registration, instruction, uploading process. The average responses indicated that the practicality of the Youtube nearly 100% were very agree for those statements. From the findings above, it could be summarized that the respondents or students generally expressed that Youtube could be a learning media for them to improve their speaking skills because of practicality, usefulness and accessibility factor.

Interview Findings

Question 1. Do you think that Youtube has influenced your speaking skills? If yes, why? If not, why?

For this question, all students stated that they got benefits from uploading videos actively on Youtube. For instance, as stated by one of the students, Fiqri (18 years old), second semester. He told that he experienced a lot of progresses in speaking skills especially in vocabulary. He had a lot of new vocabulary because when he wanted to speak, he would find appropriate words for a certain topic that he wanted to speak. Because of various topics on his speaking videos, he added, made him to find proper phrases or expressions. Different from Fiqri, Daarul, the same semester as Fiqri, expressed that fluency on his speaking was a result of uploading videos that he usually did at home. He got that fluency because of daily practice that he did before uploaded his own English speaking on Youtube. Another big influence caused by this Youtube activity was grammar. Nearly 40-65% of the students said that they have good grammar now after following routine activity(uploading a English speaking video per day). What a great achievement for them.

Question 2. Do you have problem using Youtube while you're uploading videos?

In this question, almost students answered that they did not have problems at all with the Youtube. The biggest problem that when they wanted to make a English video and it took time for them to finish it even just one video a day. The next problem was choosing a good topic for the video. According to them, this problem often happened especially at the beginning of their assignment. But, after the lecturer explained they way how to find the simple topics, gradually the could cope that problem. However, for some students, it was still dominant problem for them.

Question 3. Among the components of speaking skills (grammar, vocabulary, fluency, pronunciation), which one has significantly improved on your speaking?

For this question, the answers vary among the students. Most of the students responded that vocabulary and fluency are the two elements which encountered much progress. When they were asked to explain the reasons more detail, uploading a video a day has made them to think hard about the vocabularies that are going to use for the next videos. Of course, it forced them to read a lot independently. From this reading, they gradually can enrich their vocabulary mastery.

Question 4. Besides speaking, what advantages can you get from uploading speaking videos assignment on Youtube?

Meanwhile, for this question, here are the three benefits from the Youtube activity. Firstly, getting other skills such as video editing. They get used to editing videos that they produce on Youtube. Secondly, responsibility. The activity made the students responsible on their daily works. Thirdly, time management, the students states that they had to manage their time every day to be able to upload a video on Youtube since they have many courses or subjects that they had to take.

Question 5. How many speakings videos have you uploaded on your youtube channel?

The average was about 50 videos for each students. The highest sum was 120 videos and the lowest one was 27 videos. What a great achievement for this activity.

Question 6. What is your suggestion for next English speaking class?

Mostly students suggested the following items below;

- 1) One day one video, it is too hard to do because they have other subjects.
- 2) To provide fixed topics for the videos. Sometimes it takes time to have a good topic

Discussion

From the findings above, there are some important points that are interesting to discuss. The first one is all of the students have a Youtube account and they usually use it everyday for many reasons, such as

listening for music or watching a hot issue at the time. Whatever the reasons they have, it is a great idea for teachers to optimize this student's habitual way to improve their speaking. Moreover, through the videos, new skills can be found as a bonus in this activity. They can edit a video and of course it will be useful for them later as a candidate's teacher. They sometimes need to insert a video in their future teaching and it is relevant because in the future, the virtual class will dominate in teaching so it is a good start for them to have this experience, editing a video.

In addition, another finding is introvert students can freely express themselves on the videos. It can be caused by the absence of audience in front of the extrovert students, so they do not feel distracted at all or ashamed when they speak. The activity enables students to upload their video with or without any audience. This condition gives a space for introvert students to be brave to speak even though it is just in front of a camera.

Finally, students are much more creative in choosing topics for their own videos. It is clearly seen from the topics that they presented on their videos. It covers a wide range of topics starting from simple topics (such as personal details) to complex topics like giving opinion on something. In a summary, the side effects of this activity have contributed to new skills for students.

Conclusion

From the finding above, it could be concluded that 1) students consider that the Youtube can help their speaking skill becoming much better. 2) The use of Youtube in speaking class also can trigger them to be much confident to speak English in front of camera and public. 3) Feedbacks/comments coming from other students on the Youtube were useful to improve their speaking skill and video's quality as well. It can be concluded that the use of Youtube as a learning media in speaking class can help students to improve their speaking skill.

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