

TIKOBULARY: VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT THE NEW NORM STYLE

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ABSTRACT

The ramification of digital technology during the pandemic era has paved new ways for teachers to adapt and vary teaching strategies to ensure smooth teaching and learning using available resources. Today, social media has become an indispensable part of teenagers' life due to its user-friendly features. Online platform such as Tiktok provides students with a fun learning environment through real-life visualization. The use of Tiktok enables knowledge and information sharing among educators and students which enhances collaborative learning. The innovation of Tikobulary aimed to facilitate matriculation students in acing speaking tasks through a set of vocabulary items commonly used in speaking activities. The ability to speak using correct sentence structure, convey meaning clearly and use appropriate and varied vocabulary in accordance with the social context are the essence of the task. A group of students with low MUET bands (B2-B3) will be recognized and exposed to Tikobulary. The results of the speaking marks before and after the exposure will be compared to identify the effectiveness of Tikobulary in helping the students to improve their speaking skills. It is hoped that with the experience and vocabulary items learned, students will keep their speech going to survive the upcoming MUET speaking test.

Keywords: edutainment, vocabulary enrichment, social media, collaborative learning, digital content

1. INTRODUCTION

The influx of digital technology such as social media during the current pandemic era is a prelude in paving new ways for teachers and school officials to vary and adapt their teaching strategies. The use of social media has high influence in making learning an enjoyable experience, thus, positively affects students' intrinsic and extrinsic motivation (Risnes, 2020). The emergence of Tiktok, a social media platform for creating, sharing and discovering short music videos is now one of the most favored apps among teens that teachers have begun to take notice of the potential of Tiktok in assisting students in their learning. The primary factor that causes Tiktok to become popular is by reason of entertainment (Ahlse, Nilsson and Sandstrom, 2020). As many teenagers use Tiktok to express themselves through singing, dancing and lip-syncing, the app is considered to be useful in helping matriculation students in acing the MUET speaking tasks. MUET speaking test requires students to possess skills to communicate information effectively in different contexts using appropriate range of vocabulary items. This means that the students are not just required to produce grammatically correct utterances, but they also have to make sure that they fulfil the requirement of the task and use proper communicative language in their response (Hafiza, 2015). Results generated from google form to get students' feedback on their problems in MUET Speaking postulated that majority of them have difficulty in finding the right word to express their opinions. This has led to the creation of Tikobulary, which integrates understanding of appropriate vocabulary for MUET speaking tasks through the use of Tiktok. The objectives of Tikobulary is to enable

students to speak correctly and confidently in a fun learning platform and at the same time enrich students' vocabulary with suggested common expression use in speaking activities.

2. THE INNOVATION

Realizing the importance of social media in today's teenagers' life, an innovation utilizing a hybrid of two platforms, the virtual and non-virtual, was created. Undeniably, the advancement of social media has altered traditional learning conventions yet, the gist of the learning outcome such as emotional honesty and self-reflection in learning is still retained (Simmons, 2013). The involvement of digital tools which all students in the target group has accessed to is hoped to encourage participants active involvement in the project as the "openness" offered by social media platforms have positive learning on teaching and learning. After a few discussions and brainstorm sessions, the group pooled together ideas and agreed to come out with "Tikobulary".

2.1. Tikobulary

Tikobulary is created through the coining of "Tiktok", the social media application utilized in this project and "vocabulary", the language input featured. This digital content is specifically developed to help students in vocabulary enrichment and in expressing themselves better in English. The use of social media in improving vocabulary is not new as it is interesting and motivating (Husam Mohamed, 2019). A set of common phrases use in speaking activities are presented as the main language input in the digital content develop. As majority of the students chose "having difficulties in finding the right words to express myself" as their main problems in speaking, the teachers involved in this project will demonstrate how certain phrases can be used to express certain emotions according to the right context. For the first phase of the innovation, students will be exposed to different ways of saying "I think". The demonstration then will be uploaded on the Tiktok application and other social media accounts such as Instagram and Youtube for students to learn and practice on their own.

2.2. The Mini Handbook

To accompany the digital content published on "Tiktok", a mini handbook entitles "In Simple Words" will be produced to give equal opportunities to those who do not have access to social media accounts or to those who prefer conventional learning method rather than digital. Besides, this mini pocket-sized book, includes four parts loaded with useful and fun expressions for students to use not only in the classroom, but also in their daily conversations. Volume 1 of "In Simple Words" handbook comprises compilations of practical expressions such as "I disagree..", "I agree...", "I think.." and " I am sorry to interrupt". The ability to use the right phrases to express the right emotions in the right context would be valuable to students, not only to survive MUET but also to engage in daily speaking activities effectively.

3. CONCLUSION

Anderson (2017) claims that social media and internet train our brain to skim and scan, so social media can be used as an educational tool to facilitate learning by allowing teachers and students to interact through different tools, sites and platforms. Thus, the role of social media such as Tik Tok in English language vocabulary development is a great blessing because social media facilitates the English learners to learn new words and phrases and to improve their vocabulary in a fun and flexible way.

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Kelulusan daripada pihak YBhg. Profesor dalam perkara ini amat dihargai.

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