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## Exploring EFL Students' Responses to Learning Speaking Through Ted Talk Videos: A Case Study Approach

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### ABSTRACT

Effective communication plays a crucial role in daily life, and technology has significantly influenced students' speaking skills by providing engaging and convenient learning tools, such as TED Talk videos. This study explores students' independent learning in speaking and evaluates their responses to using TED Talks as a medium for English as a Foreign Language (EFL) education. A qualitative case study approach was employed, utilizing observations, reflective journals, and semi-structured in-depth interviews for data collection. Thematic analysis was used to interpret the data. The findings indicate that most students responded positively to using TED Talks for learning spoken English. Students reported increased motivation, exposure to new vocabulary, improved pronunciation, and positive learning experiences from the speakers. Furthermore, the variety of topics in TED Talks contributed to an engaging and diverse learning environment. In conclusion, TED Talks serve as an effective tool for enhancing EFL learners' speaking skills.

## 1. Introduction

The importance of effective communication in daily interactions cannot be overstated. Communication is crucial for social interaction and human existence, facilitating the exchange of ideas and convergence of diverse perspectives. Utami (2021) outlines five components of communication: pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Encouraging students to participate in meaningful communication activities not only fosters the development of their language skills but also cultivates their ability to effectively convey ideas and interact with others. By immersing themselves in such tasks, students can gain practical experience that contributes to their overall communicative competence. Students are urged to participate in genuine and significant communication tasks to foster the development of their communicative abilities (Rahmawati, 2020).

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Understanding how native speakers use language in structured interpersonal exchanges is crucial for effective oral communication in various social interactions. However, EFL students in Indonesia often lack speaking skills due to limited class time. To address this, there's a need for progress in learning that fosters student independence. Student independence entails personal development outside the classroom, encouraging critical, creative, and communicative thinking, as well as collaboration with peers (Sari & Margana, 2019). Speaking skills development is influenced by multiple factors, including technology. Students' critical thinking abilities are very necessary to shape students' cognitive strengths (Agustia, 2024).

According to Kristiani & Pradnya Dewi (2021) stated that technological advancements play a crucial role in simplifying daily activities. These advancements offer numerous advantages and positive effects for all individuals. In education, technology enables students to easily access a wealth of learning materials, making the learning process more efficient. Lhamo & Chalerm (2021) reported that technology significantly improves both the efficiency and effectiveness of education by making learning materials more readily available. This advancement also supports student independence by facilitating easier access to resources. These days, many people utilize audiovisual materials as educational media. The use of language and media consumption are closely connected. Indeed, media can support the process of language learning (Fitria, 2022).

Moreover, Karunakar (2019) emphasized that technological tools like TED Talks can alleviate anxiety and foster a supportive learning environment. These platforms actively involve students and provide a variety of learning experiences, enhancing interactivity and making the educational process more enjoyable. Technology plays a significant role in enhancing students' speaking skills, with TED Talks being a powerful tool. TED Talks offer a range of inspirational speakers discussing various topics, providing students with engaging content. These talks also expose students to native speaker styles, helping them develop linguistic and strategic competencies in delivering speeches effectively (Li et al., 2016; Sari et al., 2021; Yaqin & Athena, 2022).

Language is an important tool to express and communicate with the others (Sari, 2023). Incorporating TED Talks into the classroom not only encourages students to engage with topics of interest but also provides subtitles in multiple languages, aiding comprehension and vocabulary expansion. By observing speakers' techniques and speech flow, students can enhance their speaking skills and become independent and effective learners (Karimah et al., 2022; Nursafira, 2020).

Several research studies have been conducted on TED Talk videos. Sailun & Idayani (2018) found that TED Talk videos significantly improved students' speaking skills, including pronunciation, vocabulary, fluency, grammar, and content. TED Talks have shown to be a valuable tool for teaching speaking in speaking classes. Choirunnisa & Sari (2021) reported positive responses from students who felt inspired to become better public speakers through TED Talk

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videos, gaining fluency, critical thinking, and persuasive communication skills. Maria et al. (2018) highlighted how observing speakers' movements and facial expressions in TED Talks enriched students' understanding and vocabulary acquisition. Nursafira (2020) emphasized the boost in students' self-esteem and the realization that effective communication involves more than just pronunciation, such as expressing their ideas, feelings, and viewpoints. Utami & Noviana (2021) noted students' improved pronunciation, fluency, and knowledge acquisition from TED Talks, which were perceived as enjoyable and educational. Karimah et al. (2022) demonstrated enhanced pronunciation and fluency among students after therapy with TED Talk videos, indicating their engaging and beneficial nature. Farid (2019) stated that students expressed enthusiasm for learning and developing public speaking skills with TED Talk videos, appreciating the inspiration, motivation, and diverse learning opportunities they provided.

In summary, TED Talk videos have been found to be highly effective in improving students' speaking skills across various areas such as pronunciation, vocabulary, fluency, grammar, and content comprehension. They inspire students to become better public speakers, fostering critical thinking and persuasive communication skills. Overall, TED Talks are enjoyable and educational, leading to enhanced speaking skills and enthusiasm for learning public speaking. Based on the research context, this study aims to investigate the students' self-regulated speaking learning and their response to utilizing TED Talk videos for learning speaking among EFL learners. The study was conducted within an EFL classroom at a Senior High School, with participants recruited voluntarily.

## **2. Methodology**

This study employed a case study with qualitative approach, focusing on four 12th-grade students. Data collection methods included observations, reflective journal entries, and interviews conducted over two sessions. Following observations during the learning sessions, students completed reflective journals after watching TED Talk videos, and interviews were conducted to triangulate the data. Thematic analysis, based on a six-step process derived from Braun & Clarke (2006), was utilized to analyze the qualitative data.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

This research presents findings derived from conducted research. The researcher systematically employed observation, reflective journal, and interviews as data collection methods to obtain the necessary information. All collected data serve as valuable resources to explore students' responses in speaking learning using TED Talk videos.

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Table 1. Learning Outcome

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<b>After analyzing students' reflective journals and interviews, the researcher found that students:</b>	
Cognitive Response	a. Demonstrate diverse interpretations of TED Talks, but a majority view them as an educational platform offering various English-language presentations on diverse and engaging topics.
Vocabulary	a. Find TED Talks enriching in terms of expanding vocabulary knowledge. b. Can learn new words and apply them through content presented in the videos.
Pronunciation	a. Perceive TED Talks as a positive influence on their pronunciation skills in speaking. b. Recognize the benefit of exposure to various accents and vocabulary pronunciations c. Gain enhanced awareness of correct word pronunciation, which is beneficial for improving proficiency.
Mimicking for Improvement	a. Assess their pronunciation by mimicking TED Talk speakers. b. Directly learn and practice new pronunciations from the video content.
TED Talks as a Learning Medium	a. Most students expressed that integrating TED Talks into the classroom for speaking learning is highly effective. b. TED Talks are perceived as a beneficial tool for improving speaking skills, serving as a valuable medium for learning.

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***Students' responses to utilizing TED Talk videos as a medium for speaking in the EFL classroom.***

**A. Cognitive Responses**

**a. Students' outcomes after learning speaking using TED Talks**

In terms of cognitive response, EFL students demonstrate diversity, yet a majority converge on a shared interpretation or notion regarding TED Talks. Based on data obtained from reflective journals and interviews, it is understood that students perceive TED Talks as an educational platform providing a variety of English-language video presentations, covering diverse and engaging subjects.

However, students encounter several challenges when engaging in speaking learning using TED Talks. They experience limitations in their fluency in English. Additionally, the variety of accents used by speakers poses a barrier to learning, especially when some accents are unfamiliar to students. It can be concluded that a notable drawback of TED Talks stems from the diverse range of accents used by speakers and their speaking pace.

**How students manage to overcome challenges in comprehending TED Talk videos**

After identifying the challenges faced by students when learning with TED Talk videos, the researcher discovered the methods they employed to overcome these obstacles. This is evident in the outcomes of interviews conducted with four EFL students.

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Figure 1. Researcher Explained TED Talk Video

The research, conducted in a classroom setting, involved observing how students managed to deal with comprehension difficulties during TED Talk video viewing. In this context, the researcher noted that students often relied on accessible tools and strategies to enhance their understanding. For example, some students made use of subtitles to help them follow along with the fast-paced speech, while others adjusted the video speed or utilized Google Translate to clarify difficult words or sentences. These findings demonstrate that, when faced with challenges, students were quick to take initiative and adapt their approach to overcome obstacles in understanding the material.

Based on the data, there is a common approach among students in addressing the challenges encountered during TED Talk viewing. This includes using subtitles, adjusting the video speed, or resorting to Google Translate when encountering words or sentences that are incomprehensible. It can be concluded that students demonstrate promptness in taking remedial actions and exhibit creative problem-solving skills when confronted with obstacles

#### **b. Students expose their vocabulary and pronunciation**

Through analysis of reflective journals and interviews, the researcher found that the majority of students expressed the view that TED Talks positively contribute to their pronunciation skills in the speaking learning process. They perceive TED Talks as beneficial due to the presence of speakers with various accents and vocabulary pronunciations, which facilitate the improvement of their pronunciation abilities. This exposure also enhances their awareness of correct word pronunciation, ultimately proving to be genuinely beneficial in enhancing pronunciation proficiency.

It can be concluded that TED Talks have the potential to enrich students' vocabulary and assist in achieving more accurate pronunciation. Students can learn and model from the content presented in the videos. Additionally, students can assess their pronunciation by mimicking the speakers in the video, thereby enabling them to directly learn new pronunciations.

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**c. Students expressed that TED Talks could serve as a medium for learning.**

Most students conveyed that integrating TED Talks into the speaking learning process in the classroom is highly effective. They also expressed the belief that TED Talks are beneficial for improving speaking skills and can serve as a valuable learning medium.

Hence, students hold the belief that TED Talks function as an engaging tool for English learning and are effective when utilized as a learning medium. The integration of TED Talks is perceived to offer several benefits to the students, including aiding students in practicing confident public speaking, improving pronunciation, and acquiring new knowledge from the diverse array of topics presented by speakers across various themes.

The findings indicate that utilizing TED Talks in the learning process facilitates speaking proficiency by introducing new English vocabulary, fostering positive learning experiences from speakers, and enhancing learners' pronunciation skills. This aligns with previous research conducted by Sailun & Idayani (2018) and Choirunnisa & Sari (2021), which demonstrated that TED Talk videos serve as an effective tool for enhancing students' speaking skills, particularly in areas such as pronunciation, vocabulary, fluency, and grammar.

**B. Affective Response**

**Students Feel Enthusiastic and Find it Engaging**

Based on the reflective journals and interviews conducted, the researcher found that the majority of students expressed that incorporating TED Talks as a learning medium is quite engaging, leading them to feel enthusiastic. On the other hand, there was one student who expressed feeling somewhat bored with TED Talks. Based on the data obtained, students enjoy learning through TED Talks because of the wide range of topics addressed by speakers. This diversity prevents speaking learning from becoming tedious and allows learning to be tailored to their own interests.

Students emphasized that the utilization of TED Talks in the learning process aids in speaking development due to the engaging and non-monotonous nature of the medium, attributed to the diverse range of topics discussed. This assertion is consistent with the findings of research conducted by Utami & Noviana (2021) and Karimah et al. (2022), which revealed that a majority of students favor incorporating TED Talk videos into speaking classes as they are perceived as enjoyable and captivating. Following the viewing of these videos, students reported feeling at ease and motivated to learn the language, suggesting that TED Talk videos offer an exciting and enjoyable avenue for practicing spoken English.

**C. Conative Resposns**

Based on the data obtained, it was observed that students experienced an increase in motivation to learn speaking. The utilization of TED Talk presentations helped

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students strengthen their motivation in learning speaking. The data reveals that TED Talks can function as a self-motivating mechanism. Students indicated that TED Talks serve as a platform capable of enhancing their skills and motivation in learning to speak English.

Simultaneously, the researcher also found that students demonstrated a high level of curiosity to explore further while using TED Talk media for learning. Students stated that TED Talks sparked their curiosity because of the way speakers conveyed their messages, as well as the pronunciation and vocabulary used in the talks, which intrigued them and instilled a desire to delve deeper into the subject matter. In sum, after watching TED Talks, students expressed increased motivation and curiosity to enhance their English language skills. This was driven by their desire to speak fluently and emulate the impressive communication style observed in the program.

The research findings also shed light on the students' perspectives regarding the use of TED Talk videos in public speaking. Through interviews and data collected via reflective journals, some students indicated experiencing heightened motivation and a strong desire to enhance their English language proficiency following TED Talk viewings. This motivation stemmed from their aspirations to communicate fluently and emulate the impressive communication styles observed in the talks. This discovery is consistent with Farid's (2019) study, which demonstrated a notable enhancement in students' public speaking abilities following the integration of TED Talk videos into instruction. Furthermore, positive feedback from students regarding the efficacy of TED Talk videos in improving public speaking skills further supports this notion. Additionally, the data revealed that students exhibit enthusiasm for learning in the classroom and are increasingly motivated and inspired to develop their public speaking abilities.

Moreover, students emphasized that TED Talk videos have motivated them to enhance their speaking skills. They highlighted the ability to learn effective expression of ideas, critical thinking, and correct usage of accents, dialects, pronunciation, and fluency. This finding is corroborated by the studies conducted by Maria et al. (2018) and Nursafira (2020), which revealed that through TED Talks, students not only listen to speakers via recordings but also observe their gestures and facial expressions. This additional visual information provides students with a richer understanding of the content being discussed and enables them to acquire a broader and more meaningful vocabulary than they would solely through auditory means. Furthermore, the diverse international representation of TED Talk speakers aids students in comprehending that mastering English encompasses more than just pronunciation; it also involves understanding how to effectively utilize language for communication, whether formally or informally.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The research successfully demonstrated that the integration of TED Talks in EFL speaking education has a positive impact on students. TED Talks serve as an

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effective learning tool, increasing motivation, expanding vocabulary, and improving pronunciation. Students also benefit from the videos by gaining exposure to diverse speakers and accents, which enhance their linguistic and strategic competence in delivering speeches. Moreover, the wide variety of topics available in TED Talks allows students to tailor their learning experiences to their personal interests, making the process both engaging and non-monotonous. These factors contribute to increased confidence in students' speaking abilities and provide positive learning experiences from the speakers in the videos. In conclusion, TED Talks offer both educational and motivational benefits, making them a valuable medium for developing EFL students' speaking skills.

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