Implementing X (Twitter) to Increase Student Vocabulary Mastery (Qualitative Descriptive Study)

Eka Puspita Anggraini[1]✉, Haura Tuhfah Aziziya[2], Keisya Marezka Asyuranissa Jumantara Putri[3], Eisha Nur Ilmi Dessanda[4], Fahriany[5], Didin Nuruddin Hidayat[6]
Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah jakarta, Indonesia[1,2,3,4,5,6]
e-mail : eka.puspitaanggraini21@mhs.uinjkt.ac.id[1], haura.tuhfah21@mhs.uinjkt.ac.id[2],
keisya.marezka21@mhs.uinjkt.ac.id[3], eishanurilmi.dessanda21@mhs.uinjkt.ac.id[4], fahriany@uinjkt.ac.id[5],
didin.nuruddin@uinjkt.ac.id[6]

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan apakah X (Twitter) dapat meningkatkan penguasaan kosakata mahasiswa semester 5 Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris di Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, kosakata yang banyak membuat mahasiswa lebih mudah mengkomunikasikan ide-ide mereka dan lebih memahami apa yang diucapkan dan ditulis. Meskipun banyak penelitian tentang X (Twitter) yang tersedia dalam literatur, masih sedikit perhatian yang diberikan pada studi kosakata siswa. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan penggunaan X (Twitter) dalam pembelajaran slang bahasa Inggris untuk mahasiswa Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan menggunakan kuesioner untuk mengumpulkan data. Penelitian ini melibatkan mahasiswa semester lima Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris di Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. Berdasarkan analisis data, ditemukan bahwa kata-kata Slang di X (Twitter) membantu siswa untuk mempertahankan variasi bahasa, dan menyediakan sarana yang signifikan untuk meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa dan kemampuan kosakata seseorang. Jadi, dapat disimpulkan X (Twitter) dapat meningkatkan penguasaan kosakata mahasiswa semester 5 Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Fakultas Ilmu Tarbiyah Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta.
Kata Kunci: Bahasa gaul, Kosa kata, X (Twitter), Siswa, Sosial media.

Abstract

This research describes whether X (Twitter) can increase students' vocabulary mastery of student's in the 5th semester of English Education Major at the State Islamic University of Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. An extensive vocabulary makes it easier for students to communicate their ideas and better understand what is being spoken and written. Although abundant studies on X (Twitter) are available in the literature, less attention has been given to the study of student's vocabulary. This study aims to shed light on using X (Twitter) to learn English slang for English Education students. This research uses qualitative descriptive methods using questionnaires to collect data. This study incorporated students from the fifth semester of the English Education Study Program at the State Islamic University of Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. Based on the data analysis, it is found that slang words on X (Twitter) help students maintain a variety of languages and provide a significant means for increasing a person's language abilities and vocabulary skills. So, it can be concluded that X (Twitter) can improve students' vocabulary mastery in the 5th semester of the English Education Department Faculty Tarbiyah State Islamic University Of Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta.
Keywords: Slang, Vocabulary, X (Twitter), Students, Social media.

INTRODUCTION

In the digital age, there is growing interest in examining the possibilities of social media platforms like X (Twitter) as educational aids because they have become so pervasive in student's lives. X (Twitter), which can be categorized as a specific type of social media activity referred to as microblogging, was founded in 2006 and is one of the leading social media platforms (others include Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube) worldwide (Alhabash & Ma, 2017). Among other well-known social media platforms, X (Twitter) is one that people use to make communication easier. In the digital age, X (Twitter) became particularly interesting to college students. Social media is utilized not just for personal usage but also to boost sales, establish a reputation, and even raise awareness of current concerns. For instance, over the past ten years, celebrities, businesses, and organizations have used X (Twitter) as a vehicle for information transmission that is quick and has an effect similar to word-of-mouth marketing (Jansen et al., 2009).

An extensive vocabulary makes it easier for students to communicate their ideas and better understand what is being spoken and written. The foundation for improving EFL abilities is vocabulary knowledge Robani & Majid (2014). The vocabulary growth of young people is one key area of concern, as a strong vocabulary is necessary for efficient communication, academic performance, and cognitive development (Nation, 2006). According to Tosun (2015) vocabulary is the building block of all languages. Due to the limited number of familiar words, many foreign language students become irritated when they need help to recall the appropriate phrase in a conversation quickly. Therefore, even those who exhibit a command of grammar may experience communication breakdowns if they lack basic vocabulary knowledge.

The X (Twitter) character limit (Twitter) forces users to communicate succinctly. In this limited setting, innovation flourishes, and people often invent new terms to communicate complex ideas quickly. Variations of the language become popular and spread among other users. X (Twitter) does not create a new language but evolves into slang. According to Allan, Keith Burridge (2006), slang is a popular and modern language stylistically inferior to formal language and polite, casual words. Due to the need for this, slang has evolved to various abbreviations, acronyms, and humorous linguistic inventions. However, X (Twitter) continues to significantly impact vocabulary use, influencing how we communicate and changing the evolution of language in the digital age. Therefore, the use of slang continues to change over time, bringing it to the attention of researchers to analyze various slang to improve vocabulary mastery.

Because it paves the way for improving English as a Foreign Language (EFL) abilities, vocabulary development is a significant area of focus in language instruction Robani & Majid (2014). A robust vocabulary is essential for clear communication, academic success, and cognitive development (Nation, 2006). Studies on improving vocabulary and slang comprehension have found that Twitter is a cutting-edge environment. Utilizing X's (Twitter) ability to study and enhance linguistic variation, researchers have urged users to trade and discuss slang terms and their meanings through dedicated accounts and hashtags. This technique helps one increase vocabulary and explains the social and cultural context of slang usage. X (Twitter) also fosters the interchange of language and slang amongst varied populations from various origins by connecting them. Users learn new words and expressions from all around the world, which aids in the blending of slang from various origins.

One of the previous studies related to this research was by Rankin (2009). In the spring 2009 semester, she adopted Twitter in her introductory U.S. History II overview course at U.T. Dallas. She designed a weekly teaching program that maintained a regular format. The plan was to bring up all of the students on Twitter while they were still in class, intending to have them tweet, exchange ideas and questions, and answer the other students. The results indicate that the X (Twitter) study was compelling primarily since it engaged those

students who would have yet to decide to participate. Many who participated are satisfied using the latest technological innovations to engage in reading materials.

Another recent study, namely Maharani & Addinna (2023), found that people who use X (Twitter) have a positive perception of the use of autobase (an automatic direct message service feature) as a medium for acquiring vocabulary. The respondents stated that learning English Vocabulary on Twitter was fun and stress-free, and they could enjoy further learning. They can access it quickly, and it is open to everyone. It can increase learning motivation and enable users to learn independently. Interacting with each other makes it easier for them to learn and master new vocabulary.

X (Twitter)

Recently, social media platforms have drawn much interest as educational intervention tools. Twitter, referred to as "X" for this review, is one of these sites that has gained popularity as a possible tool for improving students' vocabulary. Several research studies have already evaluated the effectiveness of Twitter-based options to encourage language growth in teenagers and young adults. "X" has several benefits, such as easy access and young people's appeal, making it suitable for providing vocabulary-building material.

According to Smith (2019), daily vocabulary hardships offered by "X" kept young users engaged and increased their vocabulary knowledge significantly as time passed. Jones and Brown (2020) observed similar outcomes since they noticed that Twitter's interactive elements, such as hashtags and interactions between users, encouraged the creation of communities and engaged participation, which helped in the acquisition and retention of vocabulary. Fortunately, these research investigations offer positive findings; remembering that "X" is an intricate system with negative aspects, such as exposure to unsuitable content and divergence, is essential. More thorough research is required to comprehend the function and significance of Twitter-based interventions on students' vocabulary development completely.

Slang Word

According to Holmes (2013), slang is another component of a person's language that indicates age. Younger groups of people, or teenagers, understand slang better since it develops in line with trends, and they have the mastery to do the same (Yule, 2006). In another definition, slang is a type of language that specific communities employ that frequently replaces words from the common lexicon (Steven, 2005). Slang, a new form of vocabulary, has superseded chiefly the traditional lexicon. Particularly among teenagers, using new words as slang is more appealing than using words from the dictionary. The primary purpose of slang is to define the identity of its users (Brown & Attardo, 2005). He explains that slang is used to share ideas and attitudes to set oneself apart from other groups, which is supported by other linguists (Yule, 2006). These two viewpoints indicate that slang can be utilized as a language variant to describe the various identities of its users.

Furthermore, slang has the potential to significantly impact the evolution of language because it exposes students to innovative words and expressions that are not typically used in standard English speech. Slang can help students understand the impact of social media platforms on language development and acquisition. With students' increasing use of social media sites, it is crucial to understand how these platforms can be applied for learning purposes. This research aims to explain the use of X (Twitter) in learning English slang for English Language Education Students. Therefore, this research aims to explain how English Language Education students utilize X (Twitter) to learn English slang. Based on this research, the questions that will form the basis of this research are:
1. What are the long-term effects of X (Twitter) on students' vocabulary mastery?
2. How does X (Twitter) improve students' vocabulary mastery?

3.   What is the effect of the X (Twitter) on language learning and based on student perception?

METHODS

Method and Design of the Research

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. The research design used in this research is survey research. This research approach uses descriptive qualitative. This research uses qualitative methods because it describes the primary data's situations, events, or occurrences. Descriptive qualitative research that focuses on vocabulary-building strategies in teaching vocabulary to students. According to Crowe et al. (2011), qualitative research can be a phenomenon by focusing on the overall picture rather than breaking it down into variables. The goal can be an extensive overview and depth of understanding rather than examining numerical data.

Place and Time of the Research

The participants in this study are 15 students from the 5th-semester English Education Department at Syarif Hidayatullah Islamic State University Jakarta who have taken vocabulary classes in the previous semester. This research was conducted online through a questionnaire. The time needed for data collection and data analysis was four weeks.

Research Instrument

In this study, the researcher used a questionnaire as part of the research instrument, and the questionnaire was divided into close-ended and open-ended questions. In the first part, there are five close-ended questions to explore respondent information related to the use of X (Twitter), which are close-ended questions in the form of multiple choice. The second part, the open-ended question, contains ten questions related to respondents' opinions regarding the influence of X (Twitter) in improving their vocabulary. The survey was conducted using Google Forms. Filling out the form takes between 15-20 minutes.

Technique of Data Analysis

This data research uses a descriptive analysis approach. One way researchers collect data is by using a questionnaire. To ensure that this research produced reliable results, the authors checked the questionnaire sources as often as necessary. Ghozali (2016) states that descriptive analysis aims to collect, handle, and examine data to be displayed more attractively. Throughout the study process, the sources for the questionnaire must be regularly verified and checked.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result
X (Twitter) Usage

How can you know X (Twitter)?
- From friends
- From family
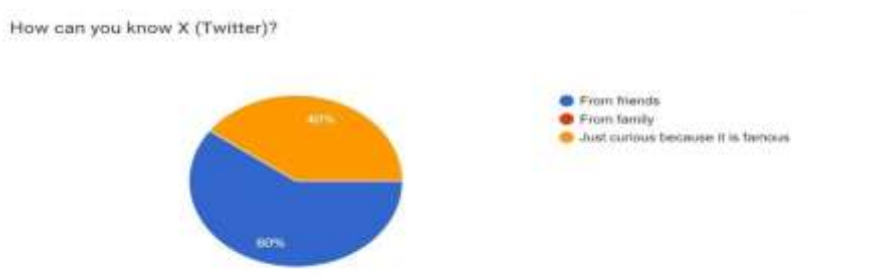- Just curious because it is famous

Diagram 1

The data analysis shows that App X (Twitter), in this case, X (Twitter), has gained widespread recognition primarily through recommendations from friends; it is proven that 60% of the responses indicate that they know X (Twitter) through their friends. It demonstrates the power of personal networks and social circles in driving app adoption, highlighting the influence of peer groups in shaping our digital preferences. It underscores the potency of word-of-mouth marketing and emphasizes the significance of social connections in steering individual choices within the digital sphere. This phenomenon clarifies the significant influence that interpersonal relationships have on app adoption. It also confirms that recommendations and experiences shared among friends significantly impact the state of technology and user preferences, shedding light on the complex relationships between social networks and the digital world. Furthermore, X (Twitter) is considered a popular app among students. It underscores its appeal to this demographic due to its features that allow real-time information sharing and social connectivity.
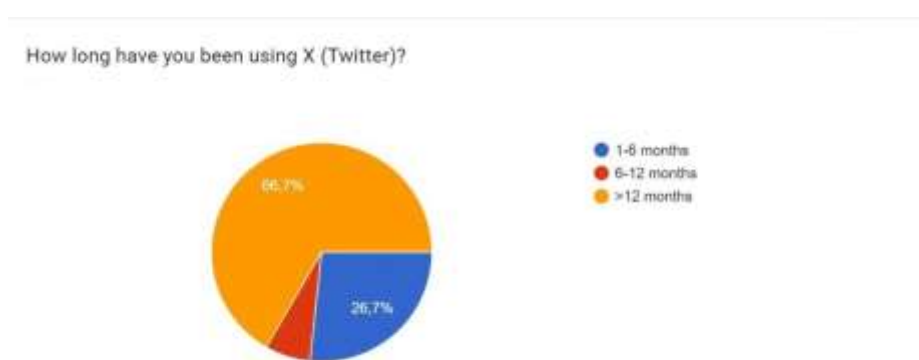

Diagram 2

In addition, the data also revealed that the average duration of app usage among participants exceeded one year, which means that 66,7% of the total respondents responded—indicating a high level of loyalty and attachment to X (Twitter). Such extended periods of app usage signify habitual interaction and denote a profound connection users have developed with the platform. The data shows volumes about the app's capacity to continually meet users' demands, maintain relevance, and establish an atmosphere that fosters enduring relationships, resulting in astonishing longevity in their involvement with X (Twitter). This degree of prolonged usage validates the platform's capacity to engage and retain users consistently, indicating the profound attachment and loyalty developed within its user base. Furthermore, the average daily use of two hours highlights the app's important role in its users' daily lives, serving as an essential medium for communication, information consumption, and entertainment. Interestingly, while X (Twitter) is mainly used for entertainment and news-seeking, some participants reported using it as a platform to learn English. This aspect emphasizes the global reach of X (Twitter) and the choice of English as the primary language of communication, making it a valuable tool for language acquisition and cross-cultural interaction.

Long-Term Effect of X (Twitter) on Vocabulary

Based on the results of this study, the respondents were exposed to slang words in their daily lives through X (Twitter). They read English-related content and sometimes incorporate it into their own words. However, they do not actively seek to learn slang English phrases and idioms but are exposed to English content by watching or reading content from native English. They use slang words as written language and know them occasionally, but only sometimes. Therefore, respondents feel that figuring out slang allows them to look similar to native speakers and boosts their self-assurance when speaking English. They also

highlighted the necessity of staying up-to-date and acting with care when applying slang. Slang, based on the respondents, makes the language easy to understand and fun when used at times.

The Improvement of Students' Vocabulary Mastery by Using X (Twitter)

Students' confidence level with applying English slang expressions and idioms varied from 4/5 to 8/10, with some individuals feeling confident yet unsure how to use it. Although they used it sometimes, many people were sure of their capacity to use slang. The respondents stated an interest in learning and employing British slang, due mainly to their enthusiasm for films with slang dialogue and their anxiety of unraveling behind when compared with others. Slang, they state, is enjoyable and more straightforward to keep in mind than scholastic vocabulary. The slang word acronyms often used these days are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Slang Words (Acronym)

Respondent	Slang Vocabulary (Acronym)	Stands for
Student 2	IJBOL	I just burst out laughing
Student 3	TBF	T be fair
Student 4	IYKYK	If you know, you know
Student 9	ICYMI	In case you missed it
Student 10	TW	Trigger warnings
Student 11	NSFW	Not safe for work

Table 2. Slang Word (Idiom)

Respondent	Slang Vocabulary (Abbreviation)	Definition
Student 4	An apple in my eyes	It is a metaphor about something that catches our attention
Student 12	Tea / Spill the tea	It is usually used to start gossiping or talking about something.
Student 13	Snatched	To describe something remarkable, especially style.

The Effect of the X (Twitter) in Language Learning Based on Student Perception

Slang expands and extends the English language by providing a means for conveying complex thoughts and emotions and ensuring interaction is more superficial and pleasant. It additionally allows foreign speakers to gain accents and word meanings. Slang, helping maintain the variety of languages, supplies a significant means for increasing a person's language abilities and vocabulary skills. Slang is a communal reflection, conveying the fundamentals of contemporary culture, patterns, and communities. It is essential to understand. Nevertheless, slang grows mainly in spoken language, as it is often defined by its constantly evolving and transient nature. This establishes a captivating dilemma: While it boosts language variability, it could also result in the slow disappearance of dialects and local languages. This is a challenging issue since it depends on the steady development of language as time passes.

Discussion

Based on the data from the respondents, they use X (Twitter) because it is one of the most popular applications, and along with the times, the use of social media applications such as X (Twitter) as a platform for learning is not a strange thing anymore, especially in learning vocabulary. According to Gnoinska (1998), many learners believe that searching phrases in a bilingual dictionary to find out what these words mean allows them to learn vocabulary. However, because it focuses solely on memory, this traditional method of learning vocabulary has turned out unhelpful for many learners. Social media introduces learners to the most contemporary word use trends. It also teaches learners how to employ words in an actual real-life environment. The widespread use of social media has also resulted in positive advantages such as pronunciation improvement and broadening of vocabulary (Abbasova, 2016).

The results of this study indicate that students can improve their English vocabulary by using X (Twitter). This is following Zainal & Rahmat (2020) who discovered that the study's participants learned new words through social media utilization; the outcomes of their research indicate that social media is a powerful tool for introducing people to a wide range of new vocabulary, which contributes significantly to language enrichment, and that the applications encouraged them to engage with the language more often as they became given actual and meaningful English content such as videos, posts, captions, and tweets. According to Malik et al. (2019), students have used X (Twitter) as a communication tool or source of information because this platform allows users to express their thoughts and opinions through tweets; know that X (Twitter) can help students improve their language proficiency, students can understand more deeply the meaning and function of words by using X (Twitter).

Based on the result of the study, students feel more confident when using slang words in daily communication. It has the same line as Hasanah (2020), slang helps students express themselves more easily while minimizing the English language's sophisticated vocabulary and restricted structure. Some respondents also think using slang makes the conversation fun because the usage and word form seem unique. In addition, slang is also easy to apply in daily life because it seems easy to remember. Thus, using social media sites like X (Twitter) is a practical modern method for students to learn vocabulary in the English language. In addition, using social media, such as X (Twitter), can increase students' self-confidence. Social media has a significant impact on students' language development. One exciting result of social media's beneficial impact on language learning is that learners' self-assurance, behavior, and motivation are significantly raised. Students said that participating in social media platforms helped foster a more optimistic mindset toward learning English because these forms of communication supplied them with opportunities for improving their language skills (Kabilan et al., 2010). Numerous studies have demonstrated that X (Twitter) can be an excellent and motivating tool for language acquisition because of its effectiveness, authenticity, and accessibility.

According to Mishra (2013), social networking sites benefit language acquisition by encouraging and engaging students to utilize the target language. Social media platforms, such as X (Twitter), additionally, the quantity of websites created especially for language learning is growing. These websites allow language students to converse with native speakers and with each other. They also frequently include exercises for language learners to practice. Individuals can establish non-geographic informal networks using these social media platforms. They provide access to a significantly more comprehensive range of experiences than would be available without them, and they are casual, enjoyable, and simple to use. Based on Boylu & Kardaş (2020) slang words that do not know their meaning of slang words can cause problems in social life. This agrees with the respondents' statements that using slang is enjoyable. Still, things like this can also cause misunderstandings if the other person needs to learn the slang word and they need to learn the context of using the slang words themselves. Despite all that, the widespread use of social networks, especially X (Twitter), can have a positive impact, such as the spread of accents that were not initially noticed; this certainly has a

positive impact from a social and cultural perspective. In addition, thanks to the slang spread on the X (Twitter) platform, the language is much more varied and diverse.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research, Twitter (X) can be a valuable tool for students to expand their vocabulary and improve their English usage. It can be used for more than just fun and networking; it should be used for constructive practice in educational activities that increase students' understanding. X (Twitter) can be an effective and engaging tool for teaching vocabulary and other subjects, especially in understanding and applying English slang. The study confirms the significant advantages of X (Twitter) as a cutting-edge teaching tool for improving vocabulary, developing language proficiency, and promoting cross-cultural communication. Students can use X (Twitter) search to find English vocabulary, and it also allows them to express their emotions and circumstances. Many X (Twitter) accounts post English quotes on various topics, such as motivation, love, humor, and medicine. However, many users need help understanding some of the terms used on these accounts, as they are meant to attract users to check the meaning of complex or poorly understood terms in a dictionary.

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