

STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE NETFLIX APPLICATION TO IMPROVE THEIR SPEAKING SKILLS

Fajar Nur Islami¹, Ana Maghfiroh^{2*}
^{1,2}Universitas Muhammadiyah Ponorogo

^{*}Corresponding author: ana_maghfiroh@umpo.ac.id
Received date:09-11-2023.; Accepted date: 31-12-2023

Abstract. The use of Netflix as a learning medium for improving speaking skills is widespread among teenagers. The platform has provided a large selection of movies that appeal to learners. This research explores students' perceptions of using the Netflix app to improve speaking skills. The data was analyzed using descriptive qualitative methodology, and several previous studies were used to support the research results. This study observed 27 students at Universitas Muhammadiyah Ponorogo who use the Netflix platform to practice speaking skills. According to the study's findings, the majority of participants were happy utilizing Netflix to hone their communication abilities. The students agreed that the platform improved their speaking abilities. Students can use Netflix episodes and movies to improve their speaking abilities by combining auditory and visual components, using subtitles, and participating in post-viewing activities.

Keywords: netflix; speaking skill; students' perception

INTRODUCTION

Online video streaming services are just one of the numerous innovations. Syahrin and Dharmawan (2022) stated that a sophisticated lifestyle is necessary for today's rapidly expanding movie streaming services to appreciate the music and visuals on everyone's screens fully. Since access is simple in this situation, many people choose to watch movies. Fatihah et al. (2022) claim that in addition to serving as a source of enjoyment, movies are produced with the intention of teaching viewers more about the English language. Developers of movie-watching apps for learning also provide the convenience of switching between subtitles for the appropriate source or foreign language and audio for only hearing the pronunciation of movie actors (Syahrin & Dharmawan, 2022). So, movies can be the right choice for learning media

According to Munawwaroh (2022), employing movies as a learning tool for English gives pupils background information that stimulates past knowledge, which is crucial in fostering the four language abilities. On online channels, there are many different preferences for movie platform providers (Primasari, 2021). One of the most well-known international video streaming services, Netflix, has been hailed in the media as a game-changing resource for language learning (Alm, 2021). Netflix is popular with youngsters who wish to study a foreign language and adults or office professionals looking to unwind after a long day (Syahrin & Dharmawan, 2022). Users frequently identify Netflix with pleasure viewing due to the platform's nature as a movie streaming service rather than using it for second language acquisition (Fatihah et al., 2022).

It is becoming quite typical and frequent among students to learn English while watching Netflix. Beginner students typically view movies with subtitles. According to Fatihah et al. (2022), Netflix movies with subtitles may be very helpful for acquiring general language skills like diction, pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar, as well as for becoming aware of one's cultural heritage and absorbing it with useful phrases, slang, and idiomatic expressions. Suci and Malik (2021) discovered that Netflix, which offers English movies, may also be used as a pedagogical framework for advanced language learning that involves considerable listening and speaking. In addition, they also found that watching Netflix can directly affect students' mastery of speaking skills.

Speaking is one of the crucial abilities that students should acquire in addition to hearing, reading, and writing when learning a language (Rasyid, 2016). Munawwaroh (2022) claims that one of the critical factors determining whether someone is successful or unsuccessful in learning English is their degree of English proficiency. According to Rahmawati et al. (2018), speaking ability is essential for learning and comprehending a language. Speaking, as opposed to other abilities, determines the success of language learning the most; hence, speaking is the most crucial skill in English. Speaking is the most crucial component of learning English; hence, it is decisive to develop speaking abilities.

Speaking instruction can be facilitated through a variety of media. Parmawati and Inayah (2019) assert that using media, namely English movies, can aid in the learning process for speaking. Primasari (2021) demonstrated that students could use movies or web videos to improve their speaking abilities, particularly fluency. The researcher used Netflix to view movies students are likely familiar with to relate them to their speaking skills. Numerous studies highlight how movies may enhance speaking skills. In order to enhance students' speaking skills, the author felt the need to undertake additional research and inquiry into how students perceive the Netflix application.

METHOD

This study used a qualitative method. Respondents were 27 students from Universitas Muhammadiyah Ponorogo who utilized the Netflix application as one of the media to learn to speak, making up the research sample for this study. A questionnaire administered online using the Google Form platform was the type of tool utilized to gather the necessary data. The study's tool was a questionnaire with 17 statements about how Netflix affects students' speaking skills. This study aimed to find out students' perceptions of the Netflix application in improving their speaking skills.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The information was gathered by researchers from the answers to a questionnaire that looked at Netflix consumption and how it affected students' speaking skills. Netflix is viewed as a tool for improving speaking abilities. The first category helps comprehend the participants' demographic backgrounds. There are two inquiries regarding age and gender. Based on the participants' primary demographic data from the questionnaire.

Table 1. Gender of Respondents

Gender	Number of Students	Percentage
Male	10	37%
Female	17	63%
Total	27	100%

Based on Table 1, 17 female students (63%) and ten male students (37%) participated in this study. More female students than male students became respondents in the questionnaires distributed.

Table 2. Age of Respondents

Gender	Number of Students	Percentage
18-20	7	25,9%
21-22	19	70,4%
>22	1	3,7%
Total	27	100%

Table 2 provides an overview of age groups and student participation in research about their perceptions of the Netflix application to improve their speaking skills. This research involves observing and providing assessments of the Netflix application in improving their speaking skills. The research sample consisted of 27 students. Most students are between 21 and 22 years old, with 19 or 70.4% of the total sample. There are also students aged 18-20 years, with seven students or 25.9% of the total sample. Only one student, or 3.7% of the total sample, is over 22 years old.

Table 3. Student's Perception of Netflix Application

Statement	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
The Netflix application has helped me improve my speaking skills.	74,1%	25,9%	0%
Have you ever participated in language exchange activities or discussions related to Netflix content to improve your speaking skills?	29,6%	51,9%	18,5%
Regularly watching shows or movies on Netflix has increased my fluency in the language that I am learning	70,3%	25,9%	3,7%
It is easier to understand different accents or speech patterns after watching shows or movies on Netflix	59,2%	37,1%	3,7%
Engaging in conversations related to shows or movies on Netflix has enhanced my speaking skills.	62,9%	37,1%	0%
I actively practice imitating dialogues and characters from Netflix shows or movies to improve my speaking skills.	40,5%	33,3%	11,1%

Statement	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Using the Netflix application alone is sufficient for significant improvement in speaking skills.	40,7%	44,4%	14,8%
Discussing Netflix content with others in language exchange activities has positively impacted my speaking abilities.	48,1%	51,9%	0%
Selecting specific genres or language options on Netflix has helped me target and improve my speaking skills.	62,9%	29,6%	7,4%
I find it challenging to measure my progress in speaking skills when using the Netflix application.	51,9%	44,4%	3,7%
Using additional resources or techniques alongside Netflix is necessary to improve speaking skills.	51,8%	37,1%	11,1%
I am using subtitles while watching shows or movies on Netflix	77,7%	18,5%	3,7%
Subtitles on Netflix are more of a distraction than a helpful tool for enhancing speaking skills.	62,9%	22,2%	14,8%
I feel more confident speaking in a foreign language after using the Netflix application.	33,3%	59,2%	7,4%
Incorporating Netflix into my language-learning routine has made practicing speaking skills more enjoyable.	44,4%	44,4%	11,1%
The Netflix application has helped me understand cultural nuances and context, which has improved my speaking skills.	62,9%	29,6%	3,7%
I would recommend the Netflix application to other language learners looking to improve their speaking skills.	59,2%	40,7%	0%

1. According to the first statement, 74.1% of students felt that the Netflix application has helped them improve their speaking skills, and 25% are neutral.
2. regarding language exchange activities or discussions related to Netflix content to improve speaking skills, 29.6% of students agreed, 51.9% were neutral, and 18.5% disagreed.
3. Based on the third statement, 70.3% of students agreed that regularly watching shows or movies on Netflix has improved their fluency in speaking, while 25.9% are neutral and 3.7% disagree.
4. Most students (59.2%) agreed with the fourth statement that it is easier to understand different accents or speech patterns after watching shows or movies on Netflix, while 37.1% are neutral.
5. 62.9% of students agreed that discussing Netflix content can be an effective way to practice speaking, and 37.1 students were neutral.

6. 40.5% of students actively practice imitating dialogues and characters from shows or movies on Netflix to improve their speaking skills, while 33.3% of students are neutral, and the other 11.1% disagree. Although the numbers are lower, some individuals use this approach in their speaking practice.
7. Some students (40.7%) agreed that using the Netflix app alone is enough to experience a significant improvement in speaking ability. In comparison, 44.4% of respondents think using additional resources or shared techniques with Netflix is necessary for better results, and 14.8% of other students disagree.
8. Most students (48.1%) felt that discussing Netflix content in language exchange activities positively impacted their speaking skills, and 51.9% were neutral.
9. 62.9% of students feel that choosing a particular genre or language option on Netflix has helped them target and improve speaking skills, 29.6% are neutral, and 7.4% disagree with this statement.
10. 51.9% of students agreed, 44.4% were neutral, and 3.7% disagreed that using the Netflix application makes measuring progress in speaking skills difficult.
11. Most students agreed (51.8%) that using additional resources or techniques other than Netflix is necessary to improve speaking skills optimally. In comparison, others (37.1%) think that Netflix alone is sufficient, and 11.1% of other students disagree.
12. More than half of the student population (77.7%) agreed that using subtitles is quite common in the experience of watching Netflix, while 18.5% of students are neutral, and 3.7% disagree.
13. 62.9% of students agreed that subtitles are more of a distraction than a tool that helps improve speaking skills, 22.2% of respondents think that subtitles are helpful, and 14.8% disagree.
14. 33.3% of students agreed they are more confident speaking a foreign language after using the Netflix application. However, most students (59.2%) feel that Netflix has helped them feel more confident speaking, and 7.4% disagree.
15. 44.4% of students agreed that incorporating Netflix into their language learning routine has made practicing speaking more enjoyable. Meanwhile, the same number of respondents (44.4%) felt no change in their enjoyment and 11.1% disagreed.
16. Most students (62.9%) agreed that Netflix helps them understand cultural nuances and contexts, contributing to improving speaking skills; 28.6% of students are neutral, while 3.7% disagree.
17. The last statement reflected the view of most students (59.2%) who recommend the Netflix app to other language learners who want to improve their speaking skills; the other 40.7% are neutral.

Based on the data above, most students believed that the Netflix app has helped them improve at speaking. This demonstrates that they believe utilizing Netflix to improve their communication skills has been very beneficial. In order to hone their speaking abilities, some students have also taken part in language exchange activities or debates over Netflix material. However, some students have no opinion on the matter. This contradicts the study by Robert and Marpaung (2022), which stated that Netflix is excellent for helping pupils with their language skills, especially their speaking abilities.

According to the questionnaire results, students believe that regularly watching Netflix series or films helps students become more fluent in the language they are learning. Additionally, some students believed that it was simpler for them to understand various accents or speech patterns after watching Netflix series or films. In line with Dizon (2018), his study demonstrates how Netflix may improve viewers' comprehension of different language accents and dialects. Language learners can increase their fluency in the language they are learning by watching Netflix movies or series.

The data above also showed that discussing Netflix programs or films helped pupils' communication skills. Up to half of the students concur with this assertion. Only some students actively practice quoting lines and characters from Netflix television episodes or films to improve their speaking abilities. Pritin et al. (2022) contend that watching films can enhance communication skills by introducing viewers to new words, expressions, and emotional expression techniques. The post also emphasizes how watching movies is an excellent alternative to learning a language in school and is undoubtedly more enjoyable.

While students know the advantages of utilizing Netflix, they also know that extra tools or approaches must be used to improve speaking abilities as effectively as possible. According to Suci & Malik (2021), the benefits are that it makes students listen to native speakers and makes them think faster to respond in English conversation. In addition, Netflix helps them get used to listening to native speakers and also helps them learn different accents from all around the world.

The vast majority of students claimed to utilize subtitles as a help when watching Netflix episodes or movies. However, some students believe subtitles might be annoying rather than helpful in honing speaking abilities. Munawwaroh (2022) claims that by using English subtitles, students can understand the dialogues and learn how to pronounce English vocabulary correctly. The combination of audio and visual elements on Netflix also improves memory retention and facilitates language acquisition. Students can maximize the benefits of Netflix shows and movies for language learning by taking advantage of subtitles and engaging in post-viewing activities.

The research demonstrates that using the Netflix app while learning a language can help pupils develop their speaking abilities. It is crucial to remember that using extra resources and actively participating in communication activities are other elements that contribute to students' speaking abilities improving as much as possible.

CONCLUSION

Certain conclusions can be reached based on the results of a descriptive qualitative study that surveyed Universitas Muhammadiyah Ponorogo students who utilize the Netflix platform to hone their speaking abilities. When learning English, it is essential to improve students speaking ability. As a result, academics have looked into how using Netflix affects language competence and use it as a platform to watch movies that students are likely to be familiar with to relate to their speaking abilities. This study shows that Instagram is a reasonable method for acquiring English vocabulary. Most survey respondents concurred that Netflix helped them improve their speaking. Although sometimes the subtitles on Netflix are a little annoying, most students claim to utilize subtitles as a help when watching Netflix episodes or movies.

In this study, the researchers also discovered that students believed that watching Netflix movies or series regularly helped them improve their fluency and made it easier for them to recognize different English dialects or speech patterns. In addition to being aware of Netflix's benefits, students are also aware that additional tools or strategies must be used if speaking talents are to advance as efficiently as feasible. This study has numerous flaws, including its small sample size and only use of a questionnaire. Future studies can investigate student perspectives using interviews and with a bigger sample size.

REFERENCES

- Alm, A. (2021). Language learning with Netflix: from extensive to intra-formal learning. *The EuroCALL Review*, 29(1), 81-92.
- Dizon, G. (2018). Netflix and L2 learning: A case study. *The EuroCALL Review*, 26(2), 30-40.
- Halawa, V. P. A., Sihombing, M. I., & Nasution, F. T. Z. (2022). The influence of English movie in improving students' speaking skill. *Review of multidisciplinary education, culture and pedagogy*, 1(2), 49-58.
- Munawwaroh, N. M. R. *The Correlation Between Watching English Movies Through Netflix and Students' Speaking Skills During New Normal Era (A Mixed-method Study of the Department of English Education)* (Bachelor's thesis, Jakarta: FITK UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta).
- Parmawati, A., & Inayah, R. (2019). Improving student' speaking skill through English movie in scope of speaking for general communication. *Eltin Journal: Journal of English Language Teaching in Indonesia*, 7(2), 43-53.
- Primasari, D. M. (2021). *The Relationship Among Conversational Gambits on Netflix Movies, Self-Confidence and Students 'English Speaking Fluency* (Master's thesis, Jakarta: FITK UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta).
- Rahmawati, A., Harmanto, B., & Indriastuti, N. R. (2018). The use of vlogging to improve the students' speaking skill. *Edupedia*, 2(1), 87-95.
- Rasyid, S. (2016). Using cartoon movie to improve speaking skill. *Research in English and Education Journal*, 1(2), 161-168
- Robert, C. J., & Marpaung, M. S. (2022). How watching movies from Netflix help students' improving language skills. *International Journal of Education, Information Technology, and Others*, 5(2), 330-336
- Shahril, N. F., & Abdullah, N. E. (2022). University Students' Perceptions on Netflix and Subtitles for English as a Second Language Learning. *Journal of Creative Practices in Language Learning and Teaching (CPLT)*, 10(2), 67-79

Suci, R., & Malik, M. (2021). English Education Department Students' Perception Toward Netflix As Digital Efl Learning Aid On Listening And Speaking Skills Thesis English Education Department Faculty Of Education And Teacher Training.

Syahrin, M. A., & Dharmawan, Y. Y. (2022). The analysis of students' difficulties and factor of using media netflix for listening learning at eleven grade of SMAN 9 Bandar Lampung. *Beyond Linguistika (Journal of Linguistics and Language Education)*, 5(2).