

## Indonesian University Learners' Views on Optimizing English Speaking Skills through the Use of OME TV Media

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### ABSTRACT

The present study aims to explore the students' voices in using OME TV media to improve English speaking skills among students and their reasons for using OME TV media in learning English. Following the qualitative case study method, the research data of this study were collected through semi-structured interviews with six students in Indonesian higher education. The findings revealed that most students view the use of OME TV as beneficial for them in shaping their English-speaking skills, enriching insights through English conversation with foreigners, showing self-existence using English, obtaining information about English, looking for relationships, and networking. In addition, the reasons for using OME TV include having entertainment, looking for friends to play games together, and building relationships and communication with friends. This study presents an implication of the need for learners to make use of technology including social media as a platform for learning English.

**Keywords:** college students; English speaking skills; Indonesian higher education; media; Ome TV

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## INTRODUCTION

Speaking is one of the pivotal skills in English acquisition especially in building communication with interlocutors. In addition, the success of English learners is measured by their ability to use English to communicate effectively (Gunada, 2018; Santyasa et al., 2017). As a matter of fact, some EFL students particularly in Indonesia encountered some problems in speaking English. As asserted by previous scholars some problems mostly found by Indonesian EFL learners include a lack of vocabulary acquisition, lack of pronunciation acquisition, lack of English exposure outside the classroom, and lack of motivation to learn English (Gan, 2012; Wahyuningsih & Afandi, 2020).

Considering these problems, it could be deduced that speaking is a productive skill requiring more practice and some important aspects such as commitment and motivation during the study. By developing these skills, students can more effectively engage in small talk, negotiate, persuade, and collaborate (Asyrofi & Wati, 2024). Furthermore, other aspects such as social and cultural agreements are needed to support speaking acquisition. In accordance with technological advancement, several tools can be used in learning English, especially speaking skills. This is in line with the previous study that due to the importance of English in non-native English-speaking countries, the adoption of modern tools to support

learners in learning English is an important solution (Elaish et al., 2017).

Some learning media and resources that can be used in learning English particularly speaking include mobile applications such as Online Dictionary, Language Translator, YouTube, Speak English, English Grammar, Speech to Text, and so on. The impact of mobile applications as learning aids to help students improve their skills like Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing in learning English (Kusmaryani et al., 2019).

More interestingly, in this increasingly modern era, students utilize the Internet to access information and data including accessing English learning resources. In addition, social media platforms are beneficial for learning and improving English. This leads them to access home learning and schoolwork easily (Ribeiro-Soriano, 2017).

Several social media like Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Twitter, Line, Snap Chat, and OME TV have gone viral lately (Wahyuningsih, 2021; Wahyuningsih & Afandi, 2020, 2022). One of the media that can be used by people to build communication is OmeTV. OME TV has a lot of innovative features. It helps English learners improve their learning skills using the latest technology (Kharbe, 2019). It can be used as a tool to improve language learning by increasing contact with native speakers (Nofianto et al., 2020). Users can chat with people from different countries using the video calling feature. It is important to use methods and media that

are interesting and motivate students to speak English (Maslahah, 2021). OmeTV is easily accessible via the Internet, so students can use it anytime, anywhere with the Internet and a smartphone or laptop.

In relation to the use of social media in learning English, some scholars have undertaken the study of using media in English teaching. (Wahyuningsih & Dewi Malaiha, 2019) investigate enhancing the English speaking skills of undergraduate students using YouTube. The findings of their study concluded that most students have a positive response towards the utilization of YouTube in encouraging English speaking skills in broadcasting. In addition, other media including video have been utilized as project-based learning in English foreign language among students (Wahyuningsih, 2018). In a more specific field, (Taufik et al., 2021) examined the use of OME TV to teach English to Indonesian secondary schools.

Referring to the above descriptions, some media have been utilized by scholars in EFL classrooms. However, the use of OME TV as a medium in optimizing English speaking for Indonesian university students has not been widely investigated. Therefore, the present study aims to explore Indonesian university learners' voices on optimizing English speaking skills through OME TV media and their reasons for using OME TV media in learning English.

## **METHOD**

### **Research Design**

The present study aims to explore the students' voices in using OME TV media to improve English speaking skills among students and their reasons for using OME TV media in learning English. The study employed a qualitative case study. As asserted by (Creswell, 2013), qualitative is used to engage participants to reveal their experiences and voices in line with the study. Furthermore, it could shape the authors in obtaining pivotal aspects including how knowledge is constructed and how data is interpreted. In addition, the study presents an implication to give a contribution to English language teaching.

### **Participants**

This study utilized a purposive sampling including five students in an Indonesian higher education. Moreover, they were selected because of their willingness to express their views and experiences in utilizing OME TV media to improve their English speaking skills. To protect integrity, the names of the students were anonymized. Data were collected from December 20 to December 25, 2022. This selection is meaningful because it shapes crucial data on how students experienced the utilization of OME TV in fostering speaking skills.

They were selected for their availability of data collection. To keep the data privacy of the students, the names were anonymized. The table of

demographic information of the students is presented below to provide clarity.

**Table 1. Demographic Attributes of University Students**

No	Participants	Age	Sex	semester
1	Student 1	19	Female	4
2	Student 2	19	female	4
3	Student 3	19	female	4
4	Student 4	20	male	4
5	Student 5	20	male	4

### Instruments

Dealing with the instrument, the authors utilized an interview guide consisting of a set of questions in line with the topic of study. Particularly, some listed questions were validated by experts in EFL and teaching media.

### Data Collection

Semi-structured interviews were utilized to collect the data, especially in unlocking the experiences and views of students on the utilization of OME TV media in improving English speaking skills. In relation to the ethics of the study, the authors first asked for permission from the students and provided them with explanations dealing with the purpose of the study.

### Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the authors utilized some procedures proposed by (Widodo, 2014) comprising listening to voices of interviews, a transcription of the data to get an understanding and views of the students, interpreting data, and establishing interaction with the students to

check the accuracy of data by having some feedback. To achieve the credibility of data, the authors utilized triangulation to ensure the views of students on optimizing English speaking skills through the use of OME TV media.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### University Learners' Views on Optimizing English Speaking Skills through the Use of OME TV Media

The results of interviews revealed that university students have positive views on the use of OME TV in optimizing English speaking skills. These views include:

#### *The use of OME TV can Enrich insights through English Conversations with Foreigners*

The use of OME TV can promote open-mindedness or insight with outsiders. The existence of the latest media makes people easier to interact with others. In addition, this allows people to open their horizons because of interactions with outsiders. This was evidenced through the following excerpts:

Student 4:

*I think it was difficult to meet individuals to discuss things or to obtain information, especially with foreigners. However, with the advent of new social media especially the use of OME TV, it is easy for me to want to interact with outsiders. I can also exchange opinions with people there, sometimes I also get to know*

*interesting information in areas out there” (Student 4, 2022)*

Student 3:

*Usually, at the last time, I only interacted with my friends who lived close to me, because before there was no social media. Since I actively play OmeTV social media, I can directly have a video call with foreigners to exchange opinions or broaden my horizons” (Student3, 2022).*

Student 2

*“I think by using OME TV, I can easily interact with foreigners. I also often exchange opinions with strangers I meet in the media. Therefore, I can practice speaking English” (Student 2, 2022).*

Student 1

*“I usually use OmeTV social media. Besides making new friends, I also like to exchange opinions, sometimes I also like to hear suggestions from some of my friends when I want to do something. In other words, I can practice speaking English” (Student1, 2022).*

Student 5

*“I usually use OmeTV Media to interact with new people. Besides being able to add friends, I can start chatting and also exchange opinions with that person. Moreover, I like asking questions about their countries and cultures. Therefore, through the use of OME TV, I can add insight through English conversation” (Student 5, 2022).*

The above elaborations reveal that most students pinpoint that they can have more insight and knowledge with outsiders around the world through speaking in English like daily conversations using English. Thus, the OME TV application

could be a medium for them to practice their speaking in English with foreigners.

Referring to the above elaborations, it could be deduced that the use of OME TV provides them with meaningful insight, knowledge, and information. Before utilizing the OME TV as media to practice speaking English, they have problems speaking English. As strengthened by (Wahyuningsih & Afandi, 2020) some problems commonly encountered by EFL students cover grammar inaccuracy, incorrect pronunciation, and lack of exposure.

By utilizing media and the integration of technology such as OME TV, students tend to have a better performance in speaking English through conversation with foreigners. The finding of the study is in accordance with the study conducted by (Hamzaoğlu & Koçoğlu, 2016) that students who utilized media or technology tend to have better oral performance than those who did not utilize media. The study demonstrates that the mastery of English especially speaking becomes a necessity for students nowadays and the need for using some teaching media and strategies (Kurucova et al., 2018).

### ***Having an opportunity to show self-existence using English***

The motive for the existence of students when using OmeTV social media is as a place to express something in English. It



can be seen that the students who use social media OME TV want to get praise from the virtual world. The motive is known based on the results of interviews. In this regard, the following are the results of the students' interviews:

Student 2:

*"My goal is to express myself just for fun. I sometimes like to join the content in the form of photos when I'm actively playing OmeTV so that people will know that I'm playing OmeTV. I got inspiration from one of the YouTubers Fiki Naki which is where he actively plays social media OmeTV and enters content about OmeTV into other social media. Now this is what I enjoy doing when I actively play OmeTV, I like to up some content on other social media so that I sometimes get compliments from people who see my status, this is what I can feel in cyberspace but not in the real world"* (Student2, 2022).

Student 1:

*"I also like to express myself and I do this to attract the attention of new people that I know, that way I feel happy with myself and I also like to share on my social media if I am active in playing OME TV"* (Student1, 2022).

Student 5:

*"Sometimes I also like to express myself to random people I meet on OME TV, but not everyone I meet, because I express myself to people who I think have the same frequency as myself"* (Student 5, 2022).

Referring to the elaborations above, most students have a positive response to the use of OME TV in enhancing their English speaking skills and showing their self-existence to people around the world.

Self-existence and confidence are crucial in English mastery particularly speaking. In other words, lack of confidence can impede English language development (Hiew, 2012).

The findings indicate that some training and programs including internal and external efforts are crucial in fostering English speaking mastery. By utilizing OME TV media, students can improve their self-existence and confidence when posting something and speaking English with foreigners. As emphasized by (Chou, 2018) students obtaining full full-program of EMI tend to show good performance than those joining a partial EMI program. Moreover, the utilization of technology promotes more chances for students to have good self-expression including speaking English (Ifinedo & Kankaanranta, 2021; Liu & Wu, 2020).

### ***Looking for new friends***

Using OmeTV social media can make it easier for students to get new friends and even partners so that they can provide new experiences that have not been obtained with old friends. With regard to adolescents stated as follows:

Student 4:

*"The motivating factor is that I can make more friends, I don't have to meet to make new friends on social media, now I have many friends on OmeTV"* (Student4, 2022).

### ***Obtaining Information***

Having OmeTV can make it easier for students to get information from outsiders because it can increase their knowledge and get information that is considered useful in life. In this regard, the student eager stated as follows:

Student 2:

*“Not only making friends, but this can also add information for myself, for example, when I meet people out there and they tell me about their area, it lets me know how the information or conditions are in the city out there. This problem makes my thinking broader, not only knowing the information in my area”* (Student 2, 2022).

Social media especially OME TV offers benefits and drawbacks, depending on the individual. Students will utilize social media for something positive and helpful if they take a stand that is firm and reasonable. People must be aware of themselves. In addition, it is vital to have outside supervision.

According to the data analysis findings, employing the OmeTV application strategy has a considerable impact on students' speaking skills. This finding is in accordance with the study conducted by (Taufik et al., 2021), that the use of OME TV can foster students to speak. In addition, joining groups that are related to the types of content you are interested in, such as English content types, photography, interior projects, and others, can help increase the reach of content with

the aid of tools on social media sites TikTok and OmeTV (Suryadi et al., 2021). In this matter, the OmeTV application is used by students for communication. Further, they can immediately practice speaking English with native speakers and communicate with them incredibly (Afdillah & Arrasyid, 2021).

OME TV social media is also strictly supervised in playing social media, it is not allowed to provide negative content carelessly because it will have fatal consequences where that party's account will be permanently banned. This is done to maintain the good name of the media and also maintain the comfort of other active users. Apart from that, the OME TV application also has such a thing as a customer monitoring system and automatic chat rules. The task of this application is to report or ban automatically if someone violates the rules, such as saying harsh words or other negative things, they will be banned. With convenience like this, all users must be more careful when conducting camera-to-camera chats with people we don't know.

OME TV helps a student to learn to speak and improve his speaking skills. It investigates how OME TV programs can result in vocabulary learning (S. Al-Harbi, 2015). Vocabulary is an important part of learning a foreign language and is therefore a major concern (Pujadas & Muñoz, 2019). This can happen because students practice speaking constantly and know many words without memorizing them. That way they naturally understand not only vocabulary

but also grammar and pronunciation through conversations with foreigners, as well as the structure of vocabulary and how to pronounce sentences correctly. OME TV allows students to meet face-to-face with people from different countries, thus boosting students' confidence in speaking English and forcing them to speak English to communicate.

### **The Reasons for Using OME TV Social Media among Students**

Some university students have certain reasons for using OME TV media. These include:

#### *As a place of entertainment*

Entertainment is anything that can be a consolation and solace. The dense activity of students today makes entertainment one of their needs. This is in line with individual needs where humans need release and entertainment to fulfill the desire to release the burden of thoughts and efforts to escape from boredom to get pleasure.

In accordance with the results of the interviews conducted, it turns out that many students use OME TV social media to seek their pleasure so that they entertain themselves on social media. It is known from interviews with students that when these students feel bored and need entertainment, OME TV social media is used as a place of entertainment, both by video calling and chatting. The following is the result of the interview with the students:

Student 1:

*"My motive is just to share entertainment and fun with the way I actively play OME TV and communicate with people from different regions out there, I enjoy interacting with them and I also like to say funny things for our entertainment, such as joking the small ones like that"* (Student1, 2022).

Student 2:

*"I use social media OmeTV as a place of entertainment to fill my free time, usually I often have funny chats with other users"* (Student2, 2022).

Student 3:

*"I'm usually actively playing OmeTV when I have free time, I do it for my entertainment, because I meet lots of random people and they like to talk about funny things too"* (Student3, 2022).

Student 4:

*"I frequently run into witty strangers who occasionally enjoy sharing prank films for laughs. This provides me with entertainment and allows me to actively play OmeTV in my spare time"* (Student 4, 2022).

Student 5:

*"In my own opinion, this media besides being able to add friends, in that case I can also be entertained because I also often start funny or absurd conversations with people I meet on this OmeTV media"* (Student5, 2022).

According to the results of the interviews with the students above, they admitted that OME TV social media is not only for making friends but also as a place of entertainment in their free time which contains funny conversations in the informants' conversations.



***Looking for friends to play games together***

Besides that, it also relates to the experience of looking for friends to play games. Before social media was easy to get friends, usually playing games was the most basic thing to find fun, but this did not fulfill individual satisfaction because it was found in the lack of friends to play with. By having lots of playmates, they will get a more satisfied feeling. This statement was found by the following interview results:

Student 2:

*“So as you can see, I fall into the category of introverts and prefer to have pleasure playing video games online rather than playing them personally, but after I started actively playing social media OmeTV I started to find people who play online games similar to the online games I play, and after getting to know some foreigners from outside, I invite them to play games together. This makes my gaming experience more satisfying than before”* (Student2, 2022).

Student 1:

*“Yes, I was looking for gaming buddies as well. As a result, I use social media regularly, especially OME TV, where it's simple to meet people who enjoy the same games as me and play them together online”* (Student1, 2022).

Student 3:

*“I do not focus on that, because I do not like playing online games, I only use social media to make friends and interact with strangers”* (Student 3, 2022).

Student 4:

*“I have never thought of finding friends to play online games on Ome TV, because in my opinion to find friends to play online games I can find friends to play in those games, I am also*

*one of those people who has a hobby of playing games, but I am more just focus on finding friends to interact or exchange opinions”* (Student 4, 2022).

Student 5:

*“I have never done that because I do not like playing online games, but I prefer to find friends to chat with to fill my free time when I get bored”* (Student 5, 2022).

According to the interview results from the students above, there are several opinions regarding finding friends in the media, in which they have different opinions. Some of them use the OmeTV social media to find friends to play online games, discuss, or just do brainstorming. Apart from that, OME TV media can be used in various circles because this media is easily used to interact online with foreigners.

Moreover, the technology development has led people to find new friends and interact with them easily. Through the use of OME TV, students can find new friends and have interaction to play games together. This also leads them to practice speaking English better. As advocated by (Wahyuningsih & Untsa, 2023) in the globalization era, people can easily have connections with others through technology including finding some friends to speak English in many aspects. In addition, by utilizing OME TV media, students can practice expressing themselves as self-actualization (Kumar & Kumar, 2018).

***Building relationships and communication with friends***

OmeTV is also often used by many people to build relationships and communicate with friends outside. This makes students active on OmeTV social media and they can find people from different regions and even abroad. In addition, they can choose the right type of conversation. The following statement was obtained from interviews:

Student 5:

*“So I started playing OmeTV because I found several platforms from various backgrounds, where one of the social media that I know is OmeTV social media, the reason I chose this social media as a tool to find a mate is because OmeTV is easier to play even for common people. And because I'm active on social media, I can interact directly with people from various regions through video calls so I can choose the type of person with frequency”* (Student 5, 2022).

Student 3:

*“I've never looked for a mate through OmeTV, even though most users are active in that media looking for a mate, but I didn't do that, I just added friends, because I'm not too sure about what is called a virtual match”* (Student 3, 2022).

Student 2:

*“In addition to looking for friends, I am also looking for a partner on OmeTV, but I also pick the kind of person that uses the same frequency as me. I judge this from casual chats, so I know which ones to befriend and which ones to approach”* (Student2, 2022).

Student 4:

*“I do not give it much attention because I'm simply adding friends, I'm not very interested in finding a partner through the media, and I don't particularly love virtual connections”* (Student 4, 2022).

Student 1:

*“I am not too interested in looking for a mate on OmeTV media because in this media, we meet random people, and I happen to meet guys more often than girls, and guys' conversations are freer, in a chat, for example, jokes because guys are less sensitive if they make light or heavy jokes, different from girls who get emotional easily”* (Student 1, 2022).

Referring to the above elaborations, it shows that by getting accustomed to communicating with foreigners through OME TV, students become more experienced and flexible in speaking English. This is in accordance with the study conducted by (Braunmüller, 2013) that those who have good frequency with foreigners tend to have flexibility and better insights into English communication.

**CONCLUSION**

There are various methods and media for practicing English speaking skills, one of which is by using the OmeTV application. Besides being easy to use this application, students can immediately have the opportunity to use it to practice English speaking skills with native English speakers, thus creating a speaking environment. The findings demonstrate that using social media, including OME TV, offers benefits and drawbacks, depending

on the individual. Students have utilized OME TV for something positive and helpful including having entertainment, looking for friends to play games together, and building relationships and communication with people around the world using English. In addition, they reported that OME TV is beneficial for obtaining insights with outsiders, expressing something using English, looking for new friends, and enriching information and knowledge. By conducting this study, readers can gain insights related to the use of media particularly OME TV to enhance English speaking skills for college students. It is kindly suggested that future research conduct the same topic of the study using different disciplines and wider perspectives.

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#### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

SW and ALN collaborated to conduct this study. SW designed the conceptual idea and wrote the manuscript. Then, ALN collected data and analyzed the data. Finally, SW discussed the findings of the

study and its contribution to the final article.

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