

EXAMINING "ENGLISHFESS" FOLLOWERS' ENGLISH VOCABULARY ON THE X (TWITTER) APP

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ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk melihat bagaimana akun Twitter @englishfess_ mempengaruhi pertumbuhan kosakata bahasa Inggris para pengikutnya. Lima pengikut aktif akun @englishfess_ berpartisipasi dalam studi kasus kualitatif sebagai bagian dari metodologi penelitian. Wawancara semi-terstruktur dan kuesioner tertutup digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa @englishfess_ membantu pengguna dalam meningkatkan kosakata mereka, terutama dalam hal diskusi sehari-hari, idiom, dan bahasa gaul. Pengetahuan yang ditawarkan dalam bentuk visual, meme, dan contoh kalimat membuat belajar menjadi lebih menyenangkan dan mudah diingat. Selain itu, interaksi pengguna di kolom komentar menumbuhkan lingkungan belajar yang kontekstual dan kooperatif. Menurut temuan penelitian, @englishfess_ adalah alat pembelajaran yang berguna dan relevan untuk meningkatkan penguasaan kosakata dalam bahasa Inggris.

Kata kunci: Kosakata, Twitter, @englishfess_, Media sosial

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine how the @englishfess_ Twitter account affects its followers' growth in their vocabulary in English. Five active followers of the @englishfess_ account participated in a qualitative case study as part of the research methodology. Semi-structured interviews and closed-ended questionnaires were used to gather data. The outcome demonstrated that @englishfess_ aids users in increasing their vocabulary, particularly when it comes to everyday discussions, idioms, and slang. The knowledge offered on the form of visuals, memes, and sample sentences makes studying more fun and memorable. Furthermore, user interaction in the comment section fosters a contextualized and cooperative learning environment. According to the study's findings, @englishfess_ is a useful and pertinent learning tool for enhancing vocabulary acquisition in English.

Keywords: Vocabulary, Twitter, @englishfess_, Social media

INTRODUCTION

A language is a set of sounds that humans utilize to communicate their ideas and emotions. Language holds an important role in our social life. It is a central part of human existence and social process. Through language we can improve our knowledge. UNESCO states in the Booklet Language Matters for the Millennium Development Goals (2012) that language is very important for human because now it is at the centre of human activity, self-expression and identity.

English is a global language Crystal (2003). A language achieves a genuinely global status when it develops a special role that is recognized in every country (Crystal, 2003). Thus,

it is an international language that has to be mastered to know the information in the different countries in the world. In Indonesia, English is considered in the first foreign language and become compulsory subject learned by all the students from the elementary school to university level.

Vocabulary is an important part of language and always to be first thing to learn a language. Vocabulary is the total number of the words which make up a language (Thornbury, 2002: 6). Vocabulary besides grammar, pronunciation, and spelling is considered one of the important elements in language learning. Without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed (Thornbury, 2002: 13). Vocabulary is a term used in

Indonesian to refer to the collection of words used in a language.

Technology in education refers to the use of various digital tools, software, and systems that aim to improve the teaching and learning process. It includes the utilization of technologies such as computers, tablets, projectors, online learning applications, course management platforms, and other digital resources. Through the integration of technology, learning can be tailored to individual needs, enable access to diverse educational resources, and expand the scope of learning beyond the physical boundaries of the classroom. In addition, technology also assists teachers in managing the classroom, delivering materials in an engaging manner, and providing more effective feedback to students (Roblyer, 2015).

Social media can be broadly defined as a collection of interactive internet applications that enable the creation, management and sharing of user-generated content, either collaboratively or individually. Examples of social media platforms are many and varied, including Facebook, Friendster, Wikipedia, dating sites, Craigslist, recipe sharing sites such as allrecipes.com, YouTube, and Instagram. While these platforms all share interactive and content-sharing characteristics, each is unique in many aspects. In particular, these platforms often differ in their architecture, structure, norms, and user base (Davis, 2016).

Twitter is a social media platform for computer-facilitated online communication, forming an ever-evolving social structure. It has 1.3 billion accounts and 336 million active users who generate 500 million tweets every day. Twitter users can send short messages called "tweets", which were limited to 140 characters before October 2018, and are currently limited to 280 characters (Karami et al., 2020). Twitter also allows users to share information by using @, which is used to direct posts to other user accounts. Twitter also allows users to share information using #, which is used to categorize posts and make them easier to find.

The use of Twitter as a tool for English language learning was conducted by Sudiran (2018). The findings demonstrated that students' attitudes on using Twitter to study English are generally good. Three aspects of the students' attitudes can be separated and are important to take into account: first, they view Twitter

favourably as a means of English communication. Second, students view Twitter favourably as a tool for expanding their vocabulary in English. Lastly, students view Twitter favourably as a medium for honing their skills in translating English material into Indonesian. The above research has to do with Twitter, a component of ICT that facilitates students' access to information regarding English language learning resources. Meanwhile, this study is intended to focus on Twitter users' experiences when following @englishfess_ in expanding English vocabulary. There are two research questions in this study, 1) To what extent "Englishfess" help followers expand their vocabulary? 2) What kind of vocabulary can be learned at "Englishfess"?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Vocabulary refers to the set of words known and used by a person in everyday communication, both spoken and written. Vocabulary includes different types of words, ranging from single words to compound words to idioms, all of which play an important role in facilitating effective and meaningful communication. In addition, a good vocabulary also helps in understanding reading, following conversations, and writing well. Adequate vocabulary mastery is a major foundation in language learning, because without sufficient knowledge of words, a person will have difficulty in communicating effectively and understanding the information received (Richards & Schmidt, 2010). Vocabulary has different roles and functions in language acquisition, so it requires learning strategies that are tailored to the purpose and context of use in order to be mastered effectively.

Twitter is discussed primarily as a social media platform that facilitates communication and interaction in educational settings. Twitter's features like high accessibility, novelty, real-time format, hashtags, mentions, and replies, which make it a useful tool for educational purposes. It is used for gaining information, interacting, engaging with communities of interest, and sharing insights on specific topics. Moreover, Twitter is seen to enhance students' learning capabilities, motivation, and engagement due to its unique features and non-traditional teaching approach (Malik et al., 2019).

Englishfess

@englishfess_ is an automated account that allows its followers to send tweets using a specific code through the direct message feature. This feature allows followers' tweets to be visible to other followers, thus starting a discussion on a particular topic by simply replying to the tweet. At the time of this research, the @englishfess_ Twitter account had 725,000 followers. In addition, it was found that tens to hundreds of tweets are automatically generated on the account every day. Through this account, Twitter users can ask English-related questions, post jokes, or discuss English-related issues (Aljasysyarin, 2022).

METHOD

The researcher used a case study design in this research. A case study is an empirical investigation that looks at a phenomenon in its actual setting. Because case study research requires an in-depth examination of a phenomenon, many data collection techniques are used. case study is not a technique for collecting data, but rather a plan or strategy for researching a social unit (Yin, 2002).

Participants

The participants involved are 5 followers of "Englishfess". The characteristics of the 5 participants are that some of them are English students, and the rest are ordinary people who do not understand English.

Data Collection

The purpose of collecting research data is to enable the researcher to assess the research problem. The data collection process by the researcher consists of two parts. Questionnaires were used by the researcher in the initial stage. To

support the data in the second stage, the researcher conducted interviews.

Data Analysis

The researcher used interviews and questionnaires to collect data in this study. This section provides an explanation of the procedures undertaken by the researcher, particularly with regard to analyzing the data obtained from the questionnaire and interview processes in the field where the data was collected. The researcher conducted several processes in analyzing the data, which were divided into two categories: questionnaires and interviews. The researcher used thematic analysis in processing the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section will provide an explanation of the research findings. The data collection process by the researcher consists of two parts. Questionnaires were used by the researcher in the initial stage. Participants have filled out 15 questionnaires which were divided into parts. To support the data in the second stage, the researcher conducted interviews. The researcher has conducted an interview which consisted of 5 questions.

"Englishfess" Help Followers Expand Their Vocabulary

This section is organized based on two (2) themes; Benefits of @englishfess_ for followers, Content presented by @englishfess_.

Benefits of @englishfess_ for Followers

The benefits of @englishfess_ for followers, followers can expand their vocabulary by learning through @englishfess_ account. The researcher came up with six statements for the questionnaire based on these points.

Table 1. The Result Benefits of @englishfess_ for Followers

Question Number	Statement	Degree of Agreement			
		1	2	3	4
1.	I often learn new vocabulary through @englishfess_.	60%	40%	0	0

3.	@englishfess_ helps me improve my overall command of English vocabulary.	20%	80%	0	0
5.	After following @englishfess_, I find it easier to remember new vocabularies.	20%	80%	0	0
6.	@englishfess_ is effective in introducing more complex or sophisticated vocabulary.	40%	60%	0	0
7.	My English skills have improved in terms of vocabulary after joining @englishfess_.	40%	60%	0	0
9.	@englishfess_ provides examples of vocabulary usage in context that make it easy for me to understand the meaning.	20%	80%	0	0

Based on the data provided, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents strongly agree that the @englishfess_ account plays an important role in improving their English vocabulary. Respondents felt that this account helped them in mastering the vocabulary as a whole, made it easier to remember new vocabulary, and was effective in introducing more complex or sophisticated vocabulary. In addition, the account's presentation of examples of vocabulary usage in context made it easier to understand the meaning. Overall, @englishfess_ is considered a useful and effective learning medium in developing English vocabulary skills..

To support the data above, researchers have conducted interviews with @englishfess_ followers, the following are the answers to the interview process. In this sub-section, the researcher asked to what extent @englishfess_ helps followers expand their vocabulary. The findings showed that all five participants were greatly helped by the @englishfess_ account. This is represented by the following quote:

"It is quite helpful in expanding vocabulary, many significant changes, especially understanding English slang because the average user is still a student." (P-1)

Based on the above statement, we can see that this participant not only learned informal

language but also learned slang. In addition, other participants (P-2 and P-3) also stated the same thing, as quoted below:

"I found @englishfess_ very helpful in expanding my English vocabulary. I gained a lot of new vocabulary, including slang, as well as understanding English usage that I had previously applied incorrectly (matchlogies), so that I can now use it correctly." (P-2)

"@englishfess_ has been very helpful in expanding my vocabulary, especially in the context of daily conversations and slang often used by native speakers." (P-3)

However, (P-4) stated that this account not only presents slang and informal language, but also presents idiom vocabulary.

"Quite helpful. Since following @englishfess_, I've found new words that I never thought of before. I used to only know the basics, now I've started to understand slang or idioms that are often used by Caucasians. So when watching movies or scrolling through TikTok, I'm not so confused anymore." (P-4)

While (P-5) stated that this account makes it easier to learn English, but did not mention any vocabulary.

"I find @englishfess_ very helpful in expanding my English vocabulary. It provides a lot of new vocabulary that I didn't know before,

and its interesting and easy-to-understand presentation makes it easier for me to remember and use the vocabulary.” (P-5)

Based on the above statements, @englishfess_ account is quite helpful in increasing users' English vocabulary, especially in understanding slang and informal language used in daily conversations. Most of the participants (P-1, P-2, and P-3) felt that their vocabulary increased significantly, and the casual way the content was presented made it easy to understand. Some also mentioned that they learned idioms and improved the way they use certain words. Overall, @englishfess_ helps users learn English in a more natural and fun way.

To support the data above, the researcher has conducted interviews with @englishfess_ followers, the following are the answers from the interview process. In this sub-section, the researcher asked how @englishfess_ presents vocabulary so that it makes it easier for followers to remember vocabulary. The findings show that four out of five participants (P-1, P-3, P-4, P-5) showed the same answer which is through pictures or memes. This is represented by the following quote:

“It is easiest to remember if you present it through tables/pictures so it is easier to use. Visualization helps the brain to process and retain information more easily.” (P-1)

“This account presents vocabulary in an interesting way, such as through example sentences, memes, or realistic conversation contexts. The interaction in the comment section is also helpful as many users provide examples of how the word is used in different situations.” (P-3)

“In my opinion, they are really creative. It's usually presented using funny pictures, memes,

or example sentences that relate to everyday life.” (P-4)

“@englishfess_ presents vocabulary in an interesting and easy-to-understand way, such as using example sentences, pictures, and short and clear explanations. This makes it easier for me to remember and use the vocabulary.” (P-5)

While another participant (P-2) had another answer, namely that followers reply to each other in the comments column like a joint discussion, as quoted below:

“@englishfess_ is a Twitter-based account with an open DM system, where followers who have been followed back can send direct messages, and the messages will be published as tweets. Other users can then respond or comment on the tweet. I often scroll through the replies, which allows me to see new vocabulary references in real context.” (P-2)

Based on the statement above, most participants (P-1, P-3, P-4, P-5) stated that the presentation of vocabulary by @englishfess_ through pictures, memes, and example sentences made it easier for them to remember vocabulary. Visualization is considered interesting and facilitates understanding. Meanwhile, participant (P-2) considered that the interaction in the comment section and discussion between users were also effective in helping them remember vocabulary because they were contextual and interactive.

Content Presented by @englishfess_

Content presented by @englishfess_, this account presents varied content so that followers become more enthusiastic about learning. The researcher made three statements for the questionnaire based on these points.

Table 2. The Result of Content Presented @englishfess_

Question Number	Statement	Degree of Agreement			
		1	2	3	4
2.	The vocabulary I learned from @englishfess_ is more varied compared to what I learned before.	40%	60%	0	0

4.	@englishfess_ provides vocabulary that is relevant to my daily needs.	40%	60%	0	0
8.	I often learn general vocabulary, formal vocabulary, or slang through @englishfess_.	20%	80%	0	0

Based the results obtained, it can be seen that all five participants agreed that the “Englishfess” account presents interesting and varied content. The participants revealed that the type of content displayed is not only informative, but also packaged in an entertaining and easy-to-understand way, so as to attract the attention of followers from various circles. The content covers a wide range of English topics, such as idioms, slang, grammar, and personal experiences related to language learning. This diversity makes followers not feel bored and continue to be motivated to follow and interact with existing uploads. This proves that “Englishfess” has succeeded in creating a dynamic and fun learning environment through the presentation of varied and relevant content.

To support the data above, the researcher has conducted interviews with @englishfess_ followers, the following are the answers from the interview process. In this sub-section, the researcher asked what vocabulary they learned most often on this account. The findings show that three participants learn idioms and slang vocabulary more often. This is represented by the following quote:

“I often learn vocabulary related to idioms, slang, and everyday phrases such as “spill the tea” (gossip), “hit the sack” (sleep), and “wrap it up” (get things done). In addition, there are also academic or professional words that sometimes come up in discussions.” (P-3)

“Most often I learn idioms and slang like “spill the tea”, “take a rain check”, “on cloud nine”, and so on. Because words like that are often used in everyday conversation, especially in movies and series.” (P-4)

“The new vocabulary that I learn the most from @englishfess_ is vocabulary related to daily conversation, such as idioms, phrases, and words that are often used in informal situations. I

like it because the vocabulary is very useful and can be used in daily conversations.” (P-5)

Based on the above statement, participants more often learn idioms and slang that are often used for daily conversation. While other participants (P-1) had different answers, as quoted below:

“The most common new vocabulary to learn is verb and noun because many are still confused about the difference. Verbs (verbs) and nouns (nouns) are the basis of sentence formation in English. Understanding the difference and proper usage of these two types of words is essential for good English basics.” (P-1)

However, (P-2) more often learns everyday expressions such as thank you and others.

“The vocabulary I learn the most from @englishfess_ are expressions in daily conversation. Many users ask about alternatives to certain expressions, such as “how to say ‘thank you’ instead of ‘you’re welcome’.” From the discussions in the comment section, I learned many variations of expressions that I had never encountered before, thus enriching the way I communicate in English.” (P-2)

Based on the above statements, participants (P-3, P-4, P-5) learned idioms and slangs from @englishfess_ because they are often used in daily conversations. However, there were also those who focused on basic vocabulary such as verb and noun (P-1), as well as common expressions such as alternative thanks (P-2). This shows that @englishfess_ presents a variety of vocabulary according to the needs of its followers.

Kinds of Vocabulary that can be learned at “Englishfess”

This section is organized around one (1) theme; Types of vocabulary in @englishfess_.

Kinds of Vocabulary in @englishfess_

Kinds of vocabulary in @englishfess_, followers agree that this account presents various types of English vocabulary such as slang, idioms, and

formal vocabulary. The researcher made three statements for the questionnaire based on these points.

Table 3. The Result of Kinds of Vocabulary in @englishfess_

Question Number	Statement	Degree of Agreement			
		1	2	3	4
10.	@englishfess_ also provides vocabulary related to culture or idioms in English.	60%	40%	0	0
11.	The vocabulary I learned on @englishfess_ is very helpful in professional or academic situations.	0	100%	0	0
12.	I find vocabulary related to special or niche topics through @englishfess_ (e.g. technical or scientific vocabulary).	0	100%	0	0
13.	@englishfess_ helps me understand vocabulary used in literary texts or formal articles.	0	100%	0	0
14.	@englishfess_ often introduces vocabulary related to popular trends or topics in society.	20%	80%	0	0
15.	@englishfess_ provides examples of vocabulary usage in context that make it easy for me to understand the meaning.	20%	80%	0	0

Based on the result obtained, it can be concluded that the @englishfess_ account is highly appreciated by the majority of respondents in terms of providing relevant and varied vocabulary. Respondents stated that the vocabulary learned through this account is helpful in both professional and academic situations, and covers specialized topics such as technical or scientific terms, culture, idioms, and language in literary texts or formal articles. In addition, @englishfess_ is also considered responsive to popular trends in society by introducing appropriate vocabulary. The presentation of vocabulary accompanied by the context of its use is also considered very helpful in understanding its meaning. This shows that @englishfess_ is a

rich, relevant and contextual English vocabulary learning resource.

To support the data above, the researcher has conducted interviews with @englishfess_ followers, the following are the answers from the interview process. In this sub-section, the researcher asked whether this account is more focused on displaying vocabulary used daily or formal and professional vocabulary. The findings show that all five participants said that this account focuses more on vocabulary that is used daily. This is represented by the following quote:

"Everyday. The language used in @englishfess_ tends to be everyday language, because the users are mostly students." (P-1)

"I feel that @englishfess_ focuses more on vocabulary used in everyday conversation, especially slang and informal language." (P-2)

"There is more focus on everyday conversational vocabulary, especially those often used in social media and informal interactions. However, occasionally there is also academic or professional vocabulary introduced, especially if there is a discussion about the world of work or education." (P-3)

"It's definitely more about everyday vocabulary. The problem is that there is a lot of discussion about words that often appear in casual conversations, chats, or on social media." (P-4)

"I feel that @englishfess_ focuses more on vocabulary used in daily conversations. This account provides a lot of vocabulary related to informal situations and daily conversations, so it is very useful for improving English skills in everyday situations." (P-5)

Based on the interviews with five followers of @englishfess_, it can be concluded that this account focuses more on presenting vocabulary used in daily conversations, especially in informal contexts such as social media and casual interactions. The participants consistently stated that the vocabulary shared by this account tends to be casual and often includes slang or expressions commonly used by students and young people in daily communication. Despite the occasional appearance of academic or professional vocabulary, the main focus of the account remains on enriching English relevant to everyday life.

To support the data above, the researcher has conducted interviews with @englishfess_ followers, the following are the answers from the interview process. In this sub-section, the researcher asked what kind of vocabulary is most useful and relevant to learn in @englishfess_. The findings show that four out of five participants said that the most useful vocabulary is the vocabulary that is used daily. This is represented by the following quote:

"I think all types of vocabulary have their benefits, depending on the situation in which they are used. However, the most useful vocabulary is that which suits the needs of everyday communication. Informal vocabulary and slang expressions are very useful for casual conversations, while formal and professional

vocabulary remains important for academic and work purposes." (P-2)

"The most useful vocabulary are those that are often used in daily conversations and expressions that help in more natural communication. In addition, idioms and phrasal verbs are also very important because they often appear in spoken and written English." (P-3)

"I personally feel that idioms and everyday expressions are the most useful. It makes us look more fluent and not so textbook. So when we talk to outsiders or watch videos in English, we can connect better and not get lost in translation." (P-4)

"In my opinion, the most useful and relevant vocabulary to learn in @englishfess_ is vocabulary related to daily conversation, such as idioms, phrases, and words that are often used in informal situations. The vocabulary is very useful and can be used in daily conversation, so it is very relevant to learn." (P-5)

However, Participant 1 (P-1) said that the most useful and relevant thing to learn is verb, as quoted below:

"Verb vocabulary. Verbs are very important in conversation, because without verbs, a sentence cannot be said to be a sentence." (P-1)

The results of the interviews showed that the majority of participants rated the most useful and relevant vocabulary to learn in @englishfess_ as everyday vocabulary, including idioms and informal expressions. This was considered to help in more natural communication. However, one participant emphasized the importance of verb vocabulary as a key element in forming sentences.

Discussions

Referring to the research findings above, this section is provided to discuss those findings. This research aims to describe how X (Twitter) users improve English vocabulary learning. This auto-based account is generally used as a learning medium for X (Twitter) users. The findings from this study show that this @englishfess_ account can help expand English vocabulary. The participants agreed that this account can provide new vocabulary for them.

This data supported by (Sudiran, 2018) that Twitter offers various features that can be used to develop language skills, such as following

English accounts, participating in global discussions, and writing tweets in English.

“Englishfess” help followers expand their Vocabulary

The first research finding is the benefits of the @englishfess_ account, researchers found several perceptions regarding vocabulary learning through @englishfess_, namely that this account can help participants in expanding English vocabulary because this account is easy to access and followers can exchange messages through the comments column. This study is in line with the research of (Iman et al., 2024) who found that this account provides opportunities for learners to improve their English language skills, especially in acquiring new English vocabulary. This study also found that learning English vocabulary through this account was fun and easy.

The second research finding shows that one of the main strengths of this account lies in the materials, but also builds an active and supportive community in English learning.

Kinds of Vocabulary that can be learned at “Englishfess”

The results show that the @englishfess_ account is considered by participants as an effective and interesting English learning resource, especially in providing various types of vocabulary. This account presents not only a set of general vocabulary, but also various categories such as informal and formal vocabulary, slang, idioms, and verbs that are often used in everyday life, as well as academic and professional contexts. The interesting and easy-to-understand way of presenting vocabulary through example sentences, illustrations, and memes relevant to real-life situations is another highlighted advantage. This approach is considered to be able to help students understand the meaning of words more easily. It is hoped that this approach will also make it easier for learners to remember words and apply them in their daily communication. It is also seen as an additional learning resource that supports independent learning outside the formal classroom as it is practical, contextual and accessible.

The data is supported by (Iman et al., 2024) that this study also reveals that learners on the @englishfess_ account are aware of various resources shared by other users that can be used as

learning media. These resources include various forms,

such as images, memes, song lyrics, and so on, which contain new vocabulary, idioms, and slang that are useful for enriching learners' English vocabulary.

diversity of its content. Interview participants consistently stated that the @englishfess_ account offers different types of interesting and varied content, such as illustrative images, funny memes relevant to language learning, and tables that make understanding English structures easier. This variety not only makes the learning process more enjoyable, but also helps to reach various learning styles of users, whether visual, kinesthetic, or verbal. This is in line with the findings of (Anandi, 2023), who mentioned that @englishfess_ can be a safe and inclusive learning environment for users who want to improve their English skills. The freedom given to followers to ask and answer questions openly, without fear of being wrong or judged, creates an atmosphere that supports collaborative learning. Thus, this account not only presents learning.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research conducted, it can be concluded that the Twitter account @englishfess_ makes a positive contribution to the development of its followers' English vocabulary. Through an informal, interactive, and fun approach, this account is able to be an effective learning medium, especially in introducing everyday vocabulary, idioms, and slangs that are widely used in real conversations.

Most participants stated that they found it helps in expanding their vocabulary, becoming more confident in communicating, and better understanding the context in which words are used thanks to the presentation of interesting materials such as pictures, memes, and example sentences. In addition, the active discussion in the comment section also supports the collaborative learning process that enriches understanding.

The most frequent and most useful types of vocabulary are those used in everyday communication, such as informal expressions and idioms. However, it also provides some formal and academic vocabulary, so the scope of learning

remains broad and relevant for a variety of communication needs.

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