Social Media Influence on Enhancing EFL Learners' Speaking Skills

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Abstract:

This research paper explores the impact of using social media on improving English speaking skills as a Foreign Language (EFL), with a specific focus on students at the Faculty of Languages at Benghazi University in all branches. The study aims to investigate how the integration of social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, Telegram and Twitter, can enhance EFL learners' speaking proficiency. Also, the research employs a case study approach to gather quantitative data from EFL students at the Faculty of Languages at Benghazi University. The findings of this study will contribute to the existing literature on language learning and technology integration, providing insights into the potential benefits and challenges of using social media to improve EFL speaking skills. This research has implications for language educators, curriculum developers, and policymakers seeking to enhance language learning opportunities through digital platforms.

Keywords: Platforms, Social Media, Speaking Proficiency.

تأثير استخدام وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي على تطوير مهارة المحادثة لدى متعلمين اللغة الإنجليزية

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الملخص

يدرس هذا البحث تأثير استخدام وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي على تحسين مهارات الكلام باللغة الإنجليزية لدى متعلميها كلغة أجنبية (EFL)، مع التركيز بشكل خاص على طلاب كلية اللغات بجميع اقسامها في جامعة بنغازي. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التحقيق في كيفية تحسين مهارة التحدث باللغة الإنجليزية لمتعلميها كلغة اجنبية EFL من خلال دمج منصات وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي مثل فيسبوك وإنستغرام والتيليجرام وتويتر. يستخدم البحث نهج دراسة حالة لجمع البيانات الكمية من طلاب كلية اللغات في جامعة بنغازي. يحمل هذا البحث آثارًا على المربين في مجال تعلم اللغات، ومطوري المنهج، وصانعي السياسات الذين يسعون إلى تعزيز فرص تعلم اللغات من خلال المنصات الرقمية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: منصات، منصات التواصل الاجتماعي، طلاقة التحدث.

1. Introduction

Technology and communication have become a requirement for every individual throughout his or her career. Because to this need some scholars found that the media made the time-consuming and successful decision to develop what are now known as social networks/Social Media Platforms. In actuality, people frequently favor social networking sites for interpersonal communication. People have different preferences, and one of them is to communicate in other languages like English to practice speaking it with native and non-native speakers in order to sharpen their language abilities. This idea is a key strategy for learning English and improving English skills. Social networks may play an important role in EFL learner's exposure to the language. Therefore, this research intends to determine the significance of social networks on improving EFL learners speaking skill.

2. Statement of The Problem

The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of social media, specifically using Facebook in improving the speaking skill. Moreover, the results are hoped to discover the effect of Facebook on enhancing students 'English speaking skills.

3.   Research Questions
1. To what extent does social media influence students 'speaking skill?
2. How can social media be helpful in EFL context to enhance students' speaking proficiency?

4.   Research Aims
The study aims to show the impact of using social media in developing the learners speaking skills.

5.   Methodology
This study uses a questionnaire to extract student's experiences in using social media in improving their speaking skills.

6.   Scope
Students of all departments at the Faculty of Languages at Benghazi University.

7. Literature Review
7.1 Definitions of Speaking
Speaking is a main factor which is used between people to communicate in the social context and everyday language like shopping, work, school and simple conversation. Many scholars like (Chaney, 1998, p. 13) [1]. (Brown, 1994) and (Burns & Joyce, 1997) define Speaking as "the process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols, in a variety of contexts".[2],[3].

Speaking is an important language skill for learners, it plays a crucial part in foreign/second language learning, It has occupied an important position through the history of language teaching, Also, teaching speaking has been undervalued and it is just in the last two decades that has gained its right to be an independent branch of teaching (Hosseini, Nasri, & Afghari, 2017).Speaking does not depend on merely pronouncing words, Speaking is the skill by which EFL are most frequently judged and through which they may take or lose opportunities in life (Namaziandost, Abdi Saray, & Rahimi Esfahani, 2018)[4],[5]. It is the vehicle of social solidarity, of social ranking, of professional advancement and of business.

7.2 Improving Speaking Skills Through social media
The overwhelming spread of social media among learners seems as a successful tool to education and improving their speaking skill. The main aim behind learning a language is to speak it fluently and accurately which means that understanding a language should not necessarily construct the assumption that he/she knows the language (Namaziandost, Nasri, & Rahimi Esfahani, 2019; Nasri & Biria, 2017) [8].

Learner should reach a great level of proficiency in the four language skills of the language including speaking; however, speaking a foreign language does not sound to be an easy mission and it is definitely not as easy as speaking a mother tongue. Many scholars believe that the appropriate use of social media can reduce the impediments that prevent EFL learners from the mastery of the speaking skill.

7.3 The Appropriate Use of social media in Improving Speaking Skill
According to Bruns (2010),[9] Social media users in general and EFL in particular are not only passively getting information from using social media, but also, they can create their own content such as making videos sharing their experience with language learning and then of course share it online. The appropriate use of social media in improving speaking skill depends on the learners and the way each learner decides to deal with it.

Using Facebook makes communication easier from peer-to-peer to ask about academic topics, or participate in group discussions and assignments. There are many pages on Facebook uploading pictures or videos that includes many ways to be a good speaker either a mini vlog for someone who's studying abroad and tries to explain the differences between using the language in different situations and what are the suitable words to choose and how to pronounce them.

In addition, there are many pages on Instagram that the learners could follow to improve their speaking skills. Instagram can give students the authority to create their own digital content and publish it online. Instagram allows for collaboration between students and educators on certain projects or tasks for learning purposes (Bexheti, 2014) [10]. to find out whether the learner benefited from the use of Instagram some pages testing the learners by uploading questions on the "Instagram story" so the learner can check if he/she knows the answer by voting on the correct answer. According to Ebner, Lienhardt, Rohs and Meyer (2010) Sharing information means sharing knowledge [11].

Twitter does not share that big amount of information considering language learning, but rather, the opportunity to be part of someone else's process by reading, commenting, discussing or simply enhancing it, the learners also can join twitter space and talk to native speakers so they can better learn and improve their speaking skill.

Telegram on the other hand helps students improve their speaking skill either by joining different channels and watching videos made by natives or by making group video calls with other learners and practice their speaking skill, pronunciation, and grammatical correctness.

8. The Questionnaire

The main aim of the questionnaire is to show/investigate the opinions of students about using social media in the field of education specially in improving their speaking skill through social media sites as Facebook. The questionnaire includes15 questions divided into three sections, The First section talks about general information about the students at faculty of Languages including their gender, age and their experience of language. The Second section consist of questions related to social networks and technology and the third section consists of questions about the role of social networks in improving speaking skills.

9. Analysis and Results of the Questionnaire
9.1 Section One

section one talks about general information about the students. It consists of four questions; the first question has two points gender and number of students.

Table 1 General Information about the Scope of the Study.

Gender	Male	Female		
	1	39		
Age	17-22	23-26		
	8	32		
Evaluating Experience in Learning English	Positive	Negative	Hard	
	40	0	0	
Speaking Level	Good	Average	Less than Average	I do not know
	24	13	1	2

This table shows that the majority of students are Females which resembles (98%) of the total sample and the rest are Males which represents (2%), The second question was about the age of the students from 17-22 were 8 students which resemble (20%) from the total sample and the rest are between 23-26 were 32 students represented (80%) from the total sample. The third question was about the experience of students in learning English which has three options a. Positive, b. Negative, c. Hard gets 40 identical answers which were a. Positive and it is represent (100%). The last question in section one was about how students evaluate their level in speaking 24 students said good (60%), 13 students said average (33%), 1 student said less than average (2%) 2 students said I don't know (5%).

9.2 Section Two

The second section which consists of five questions talk about social networks and technology.

Tabel 2 Social Networks and Technology.

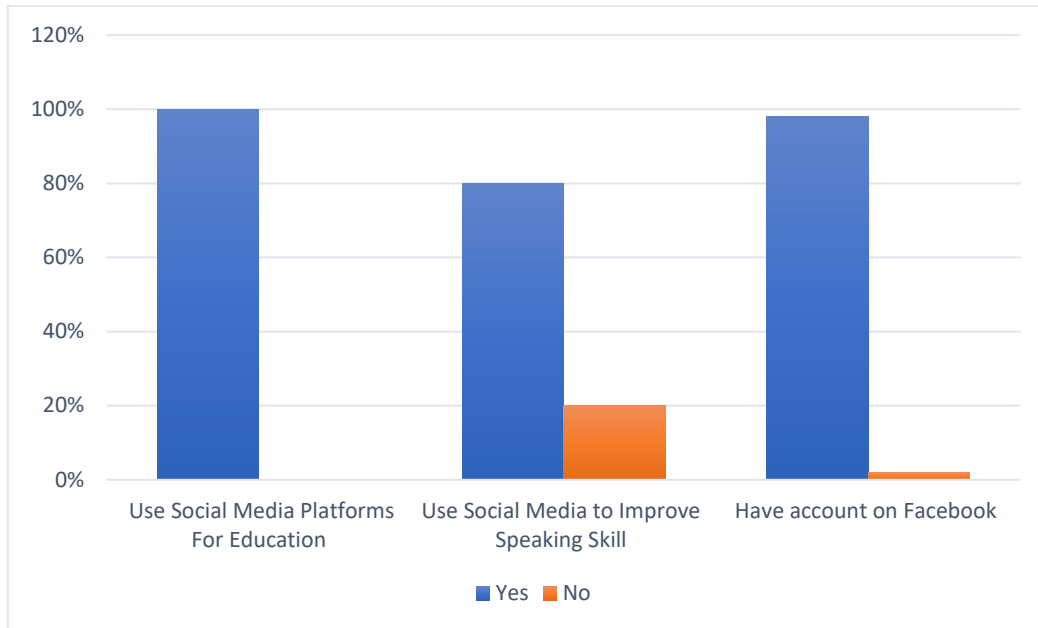|	Yes	No		
Use Social Media Platforms for Education	40	0		
Use social media to Improve Speaking Skills	32	8		
Have a Facebook Account	39	1		
which platform used to Learn	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram	Telegram
	11	4	4	21
Time Consumed on Social Network per day	one Time	Twice	hree Times	More
	0	6	2	32

Figure 1 Participants Use of Social Network and Technology.

From the results of first question in section two, it can be noticed that all of the participants or students (100%) like to use Social Networks for educational purposes, the results of the second question show that (80%) think that social media makes the learning process easier for them and it is a good way to improve their speaking skill, and (20%) do not like to use social media platforms to improve their speaking skill. The third question in this section was do you have a Facebook account or not, 39 students which resembles the most of the sample (98%) have, While 1 student don't have (2%).
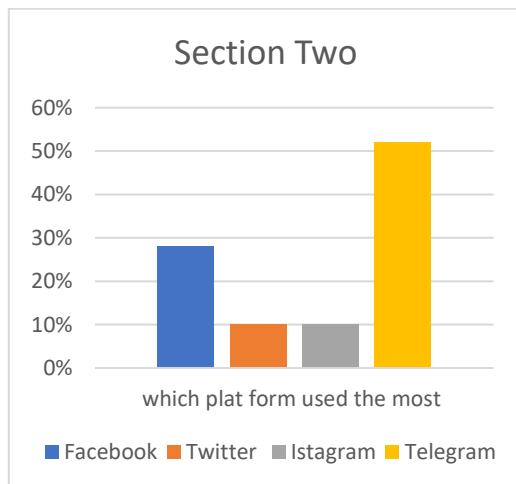

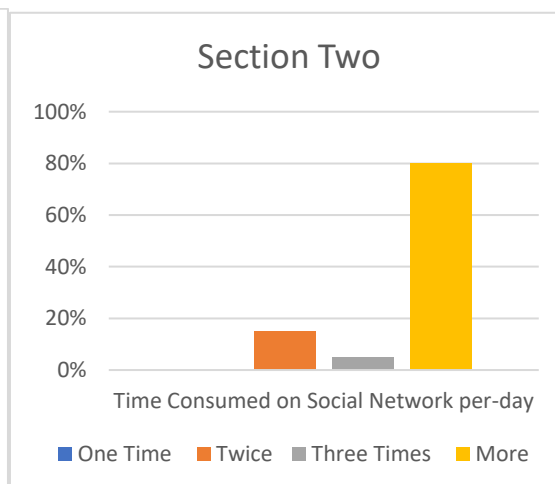**Figure 2** The most used platform

Figure 3 Time consumed on Social Networks per-day.

The fourth question asks which platform do students use the most to learn, the results were (28%) Facebook, (10%) Twitter, (10%) Instagram, (52%) Telegram so, it is noticed that the majority of students prefer to use telegram and Facebook, because these two applications of social networks are the most famous and useful more than the others. The results of the last question which is the time consumed on social networks per-day was (15%) twice, (5%) three time and the majority of them (80%) more.

9.3 Section Three

The third section which uses social networks to improve speaking skill includes six questions

Table 3 Social Network in Speaking Skill

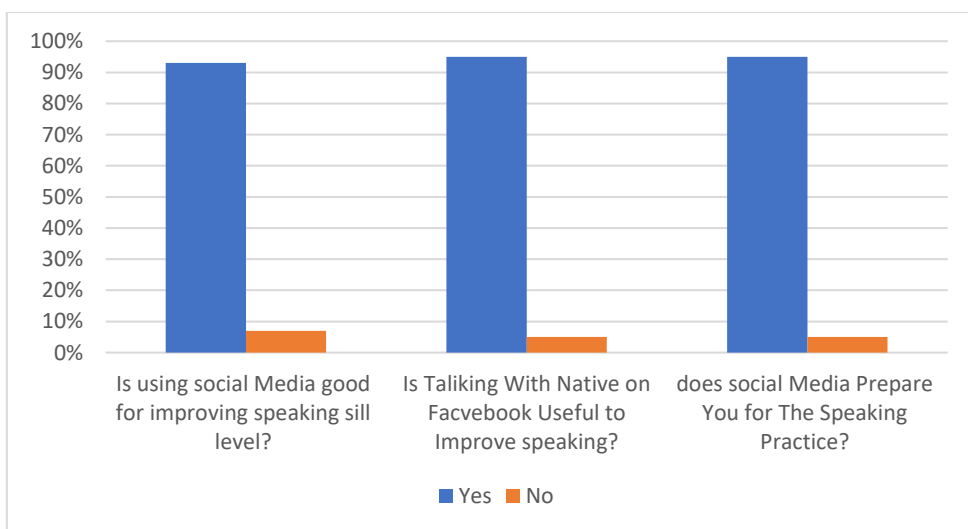|	Yes	No		
Is using social media good for improving speaking skill levels?	37	3		
Is Talking with Native on Facebook Useful to Improve speaking?	38	2		
Does Social Media Prepare You for The Speaking Practice?	38	2		
The most Influential Technique to Improve Speaking through social media	Talking with Native Speakers	Watching Videos	Texting with Native Speakers	
	10	25	5	
Improving the level of students in Speaking When connecting with Native	high	medium	Low	
	13	27	0	
Topics that Stimulate Speaking	Culture	Art	History	Literature
	26	10	1	3

Figure 4 Using Social Networks in Improving Speaking Skills.

The first three questions were yes/ No questions. The first one, Is Using social media good for improving speaking skill level, the results were (93%) Yes while (7%) No, it can be noticed that most of students agree that

the use of social networks is a good way to improve their speaking skills. The second question, is whether talking with native speakers on Facebook is useful to improve speaking, (95%) Yes, (5%) No. The results of the third question, does social media prepare you for speaking practice, get (95%) Yes and (5%) No.
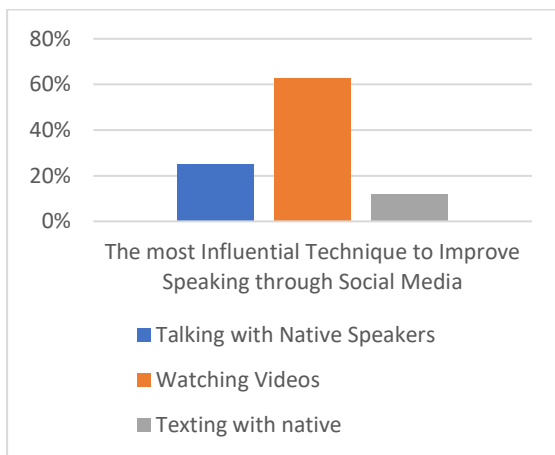

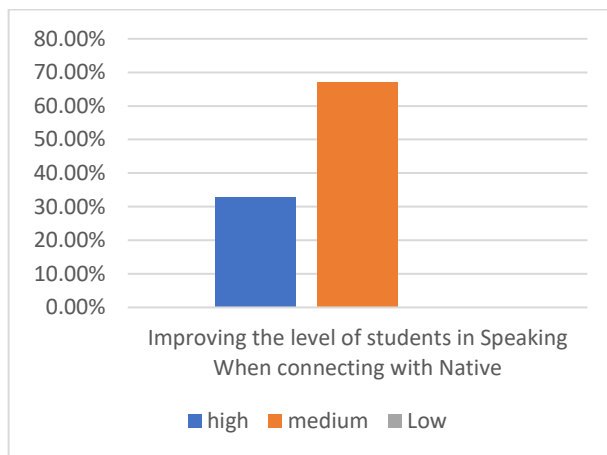**Figure 5** The Most Influential Technique to Improve Speaking Through Social Media.

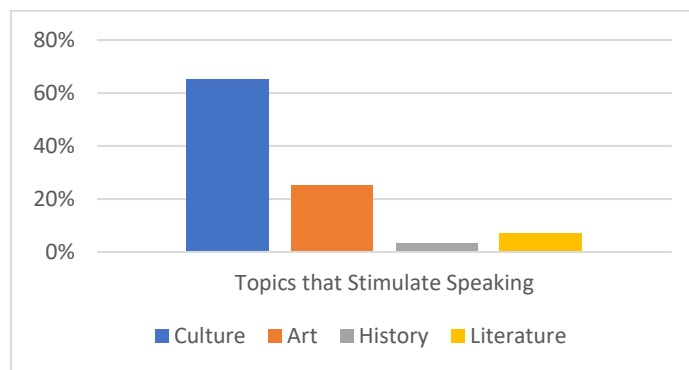**Figure 6** Improving the level of students in speaking when connecting with Native.

Figure 7 Topics that Stimulate Students in Speaking.

The last three questions in section three were, the first question, the most influential technique used to improve speaking through social media, it has three choices 10 students select a. Talking with native which resembles (25%) from the sample, 25 students select b. Watching videos for native speakers which resembles (63%) from the sample and 5 students select c. Texting with native which resembles (12%) from the sample. So, from the results it can be noticed that the opinion of the most students was that watching videos for a native speaker is the most influential way to improve their speaking skills. The next question was, improving the level of students in speaking when connecting with native It also has three choices, a. High, b. Medium, c. Low The majority of students (67%) selected (b) and the rest (33%) selected (a) no one of the students selected (c) so, it can be noticed that all students "Sample" get benefit when connecting with native speakers through social media. The last question was, topics that stimulate speaking when connecting with native speakers through social media, the results was (65%) from the sample select Culture, (25%) select Art, (3%) select History and (7%) select literature.

10. Conclusion

In the recent century, technology played a magnificent role in all human life and in different aspects, which led to a big change, so communication has become a requirement for every individual throughout his or her career. Social media platforms as one of the technology aspects are considered very useful tools to be used by EFL to improve their skills, especially spoken skills and that is shown by the percentage presented, which shows different platforms used by learners like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Telegram.

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