

A Study on Parents' Belief: Can YouTube Kids English Channels Make My Children Speak English?

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Abstract. The increase of technology has prompted parents to search for substitute techniques in instructing their offspring the English language. The research aims to explore if English channels on Youtube Kids can improve proficiency in the English language within the child population. In particular, it examines the caregivers' views and their offspring's speech development. The study uses a qualitative research approach and relies on questionnaires to get information from parents who have little formal education. The results of this study shed important light on the potential effects of YouTube Kids English channels on kids' language learning as well as the influence of parental attitudes on children's language learning behaviors. It indicates that although Youtube Kids channels in English can familiarize children with English, it demands more than simply counting on them to fully attain language fluency. Hence, parents need to make use of YouTube Kids channels in English as a complementary tool. It is important for them to encourage active participation their kids in conversing in English. Keywords: language learning; foreign language acquisition; YouTube

INTRODUCTION

In the modern interconnected world, English is now a significant language for effective interaction, learning, and career prospects because it is spoken by more than 350 million people around the world and more than 430 million people used it as a second language ¹. Moreover, English is also as business and cultural spheres domination. Therefore, English is the main requirement for searching career opportunity. Due to English proficiency, it has greater possibility to find out the job in global firm and hopefully Indonesian children can gain English proficiency for collaborating in all kinds of jobs and global business event ^{2,3}.

With regard to the essential of English proficiency, mostly parents are keen on discovering methods to assist their kids grasp English since an early stage. Government in Asia such as, Taiwan and South Korea has policy to put foreign language in curriculum which it is started in early education ⁴. In Indonesia, parents prefer to join in international school or bilingual school because of learning English as foreign or second language. Parents in Indonesia eager to facilitate their children to learn English and support their children to join international partnership in their study ⁵.

Formal education is not only preference for learning English but also a home-based English skill input is preferable. A commonly chosen choice is utilization of YouTube Children channels in English. These networks provide a diverse selection of educational materials developed to instruct youngsters the English language in a lively and interactive fashion. Several researches also reveal that youtube has significant effect. It can develop the student in learning new vocabulary and very applicable in elementary classroom ⁶. Youtube is not only appropriate in elementary, but also in higher education. It play essential role in improving speaking skill ⁷.

Considering the role of youtube, the use of youtube is considerably higher among 0-5 years old children ⁸. Therefore, it needs parent contribution to guide the children in using youtube. Parents' involvement has significant factor in children education, especially when their children start to learn English ⁹. Nevertheless, certain parents might be unsure related to the impact of these platforms. Especially if they hold a lack of education. However, several prior researches focus on the beneficial of youtube ¹⁰⁻¹². There is also research about the parent view in utilizing youtube in early childhood that there is a good and negative side for children development in cognitive and religious value ¹³. Therefore, this study fills the gap in analyzing specifically parent with low education background point of view in how youtube role in acquiring English proficiency.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Earlier studies have indicated that the exposure to media in English language can positively influence the linguistic progress of children. Specifically, research has shown that engaging in English TV watching is capable of boosting the way children speak and understand. Viewing these programs introduces kids to a broad variety of terms and expressions, supporting their expansion their language skills. Moreover, listening to native speakers via TV can strengthen the knowledge pertaining to grammar and sentence construction. In conclusion, paying attention to and copying actors' pronunciation supports young ones refine utterance proficiency. Nevertheless, the research is limited studies on the impact of channels on YouTube Kids for English content in particular. Prior studies have demonstrated that access to English media can benefit the language growth of children. Specifically, investigations have revealed that watching English TV series can develop children's vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Nevertheless, we have scanty studies related to the impact of English channels on YouTube Kids in particular. Nonetheless, research is limited regarding the efficacy of English channels on YouTube Kids in particular.

Regarding the development how to acquire language by using device, it means that language acquisition covers a wide range of topics related to how people learn languages ¹⁴. How children acquire the language is different from the adult. Adult put more awareness in language that it is reflected on the good grammar. However, Children acquire language through a subconscious process and it can be seen in their grammar which it is not as the grammar rule ¹⁵. Moreover, children have long process to acquire the language because it is believed that human equipped with language acquisition device to acquire language and the stages as follow ¹⁶:



FIGURE 1. The Process of LAD

Based on the figure, acquiring language depends on how receive the language input, process it by using language acquisition device, such as cognition and feeling, and the output is based on the formal grammar. This concept is relatively similar to foreign language learning.

Considering foreign language learning, children tend to easily learn language whether it is first, second or foreign language learning ¹⁷. Moreover, early childhood is the best time because the brain hard-wired acquired language naturally and the advantage are children can devote their full time to learn language and their motivation is intense ¹⁸. Therefore, parent prefer to give intense oreign language input in early age.

Foreign language acquisition also acquires certain the language environment. There are four condition factor in acquiring foreign language ¹⁹.

1. Naturalness of the environment
natural environment is better than formal environment
2. The learner's role in communication
enough opportunity for practicing in active communication
3. Availability of concrete reference
A country where target language is spoken on everyday basis is the best environment
4. Target language models
The feature is important. If it is in classroom how teacher bring newspaper, magazine, internet material, youtube. In this study, youtube is used in home as feature for learning target language.

Moreover, the language input is also plays crucial role in foreign language acquisition, especially with the parent in home. It means that the input plays crucial role for language output. In addition, the input has two basic characteristics ²⁰, as follow:

1. comprehensible
the learner can understand by seeing and listening
2. referential meaning
learner can respond the language input.

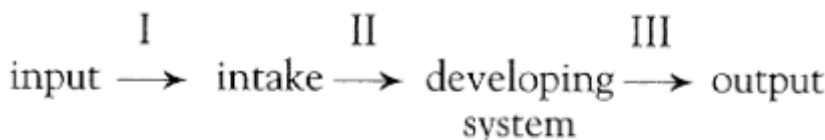


FIGURE 2. Process in foreign language acquisition

The figure reflects that the input and output process is not only the internal factor, such as cognitive, but also external factor, such as media for learning and parent.

Concerning the parent role, social economic background is also prominent in learning foreign language. ²¹ identified four major influential factors, such as:

1. parent, family, neighborhood character which include parental occupation, household income, race, and education
2. parent general beliefs and behavior, it refers to parenting style, child-rearing beliefs, and efficacy beliefs
3. parents' child- specific belief is parent expectation for their child's performance as well as their child abilities and talents.
4. parents-specific behavior is the time they spend with their children, teaching strategies, providing of toys and equipment.

These four factors are related to current children environment. Children are surrounding the sophisticated technology and parent role still the prominent. Therefore, this research is conducted to search how the point of view of low education parent background regarding whether English contents on YouTube Kids are able to assist their little ones acquire the English language.

RESEARCH METHOD

Participants

One hundred Indonesian parents (Mothers $n = 70$; Fathers $n = 30$) with low educational background who possess kids with ages ranging from 3 to 8 were the participants of this study. Parents' beliefs and actions regarding literacy activities with their kids were significantly correlated with their educational levels. The criteria of low education represents upper-secondary education levels in which parents are graduated from elementary school to senior high school (<https://ilostat.ilo.org>). More information about demographic data and their children's current English language proficiency were also collected through survey. The research utilized a questionnaire for gathering information. The questionnaire inquired mothers and fathers about their opinions concerning the efficiency of YouTube Kids channels in English in supporting their sons and daughters in mastering English. The investigation furthermore obtained socioeconomic details. This consisted of the level of the parents of learning and the children's present English skills. The overall from a group of 100 mothers and fathers finished the online poll. Most of participants (seventy percent) finished secondary school or not more. The majority of parents (80%) mentioned that their kids had minimal competence in English.

Design of the study and Instrument

This research employed survey design as technique for gathering data from a sample of people in order to learn more about their beliefs regarding YouTube Kids English channels in helping their children learn English. It entails posing a series of inquiries to respondents and examining their responses to draw inferences or develop conclusions ²³. The questionnaires were administered using google form and spread through WhatsApp group of parents from different schools. Only parents with matched criteria were chosen as the participants. An expert validation and pilot test were provided to improve the reliability of the instrument.

The questionnaire utilized is Likert scale. People's attitudes, opinions, or perceptions about a certain topic are gauged using a Likert scale. It is a rating scale that asks respondents to score a number of statements or things on a scale of agreement or disagreement. A scale of 1 to 5 or 1 to 7 is typically used, with 1 denoting "strongly disagree" and the highest number denoting "strongly agree" ²⁴.

An outline of the questionnaire

The questionnaire was divided into two sections. The first part is generating demographic information from parents. It asks about number of children, the children's range of age, the current education level of the parents, their jobs and salary, and their children English competency. The second part collected information about their belief in:

1. Possible impacts of YouTube Kids English channels on young learners' language acquisition
2. The impact of parenting styles on kids' language learning habits
3. YouTube Kids English channels can help kids practice their English.
4. It necessitates more than relying just on the guidance of teachers for proficiency in a language.
5. Use English-language YouTube Kids channels as an additional resource.
6. They should encourage their children to participate actively in English-language conversations,
7. They should work with them from an early age to help them learn the language.
8. Using the English-language YouTube Kids channels is a popular option.
9. YouTube offers a wide range of educational resources designed to teach children the English language in a fun and interactive way.
10. Some parents might be unsure of how these platforms would affect their children. particularly if they lack an education
11. Parents can help their children learn English by using YouTube Kids.
12. Children's linguistic development can be influenced favorably by exposure to English-language media.

RESULTS

In this section, we present the result of demographic information and the percentage of parents' belief in YouTube can be utilized as a media to help their children speak English. The data were gathered from questionnaires that collected demographic data that show number of children possessed by parents (1 child $n=30$; 2 children $n=43$; 3 children $n=24$; 4 children $n=3$). It is also seen that the children were in the range of age 3-8 years old (3-4yo $n=40$; 5-6yo $n=36$; 7-8yo $n=24$). The most important information obtained was the parents' current education level. It is found that there are four parents who were graduated from elementary school, junior high school graduates are 56 parents, and senior high school graduates are 60 parents. These levels of education is under category of low to upper secondary education (<https://ilostat.ilo.org>).

Furthermore, in the condition of having low level of education, parents acquire belief about YouTube Kids English videos for their children English language acquisition.

TABLE 1 Parents' Belief in YouTube Kids English Videos Can Help their Children Speak English

Parents' Belief	Percentage
Possible impacts of YouTube Kids English channels on young learners' language acquisition	73%
The impact of parenting styles on kids' language learning habits	70%
YouTube Kids English channels can help kids practice their English	74%
It necessitates more than relying just on the guidance of teachers for proficiency in a language	70%
Use English-language YouTube Kids channels as an additional resource	74%
They should encourage their children to participate actively in English-language conversations	70%
Parents should work with children from an early age to help them learn the language	56%
Using the English-language YouTube Kids channels is a popular option	78%
YouTube offers a wide range of educational resources designed to teach children the English language in a fun and Interactive way	70%
Parents sure of how YouTube would not affect their children, particularly if they lack of education	56%
Children's linguistic development can be influenced favorably by exposure to English-language media	73%

TABLE 2 Parents' Belief in YouTube Kids English Videos Can Help their Children Speak English

Parents' Belief	Percentage
Possible impacts of YouTube Kids English channels on young learners' language acquisition	73%
The impact of parenting styles on kids' language learning habits	70%
YouTube Kids English channels can help kids practice their English	74%
It necessitates more than relying just on the guidance of teachers for proficiency in a language	70%
Use English-language YouTube Kids channels as an additional resource	74%
They should encourage their children to participate actively in English-language conversations	70%
Parents should work with children from an early age to help them learn the language	56%
Using the English-language YouTube Kids channels is a popular option	78%
YouTube offers a wide range of educational resources designed to teach children the English language in a fun and Interactive way	70%
Parents sure of how YouTube would not affect their children, particularly if they lack of education	56%
Children's linguistic development can be influenced favorably by exposure to English-language media	73%

DISCUSSION

The findings from this research indicate that parents who have limited educational background think that English channels on YouTube Kids could serve as an efficient method for aiding their sons and daughters acquire the English language. It is in line with prior studies on the advantageous influence of media used in English on the language advancement of children (Alroqi et al., 2022). Nevertheless, it should be emphasized that this research did not assess the genuine influence of channels on YouTube Kids for learning English in boosting children's English language proficiency. Further studies can explore the inquiry through assessing the language aptitude of children prior to and following being exposed to YouTube Kids channels in English. In particular, scientists can evaluate the adolescents' verbal aptitude via standardized assessments or linguistic evaluations. It is possible for them to subsequently show the kids to English channels on YouTube Kids for a specific duration and assess their fluency in language once more after the exposure. That would offer valuable perspectives on the effect associated with YouTube Kids channels in English on the growth of children's language abilities.

Lower parental level of education may affect the learning resources that their kids choose ²⁶. It may have the following effects on the selection of study materials:

1. Inadequate awareness and knowledge: Parents with little educational experience might not be well-versed in the range of learning resources available to their kids. They might not be familiar with the most recent learning resources or they might not have had access to a variety of learning resources themselves.
2. Insufficient economic funds: Parents with low educational backgrounds may also be financially strapped, which may limit their ability to invest in educational materials for their kids. They might not be able to afford learning tools like toys, books, or other resources.
3. Lack of availability of information: Information pertaining to instructional resources may be challenging to obtain for parents with low educational backgrounds. They might not be aware of neighborhood resources like libraries, educational websites, or websites offering learning materials for free or at a moderate cost. Their options may be further constrained by this lack of access.
4. The consequences of cultural and social aspects: The selection of learning materials can also be influenced by cultural and social factors. Cultural norms or social influences that place a higher value on other parts of

a child's development than academic subjects may have an impact on parents with limited educational backgrounds.

It is important to note that these factors are not deterministic and that parents with low educational backgrounds can still make informed choices about learning materials for their children. However, these factors can present challenges that need to be addressed in order to ensure that all children have access to quality learning materials regardless of their parents' educational background. The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in this

CONCLUSION

To sum up, the research discovered that parents who lack formal education commonly hold the belief that English channels on YouTube Kids are able to assist their kids in learning English. Although this belief aligns with previous research regarding the beneficial effects from English media sources in the development of children's language, additional research is required to verify the genuine impact related to English channels on YouTube Kids to boost children's English language proficiency.

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