# LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

## *BELAJAR BAHASA INGGRIS MELALUI MEDIA SOSIAL*

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**Abstract**

The purpose of this study is to determine social media users' perspectives on learning English using social media. This study collects data using a qualitative descriptive approach, with questionnaires distributed to 26 social media users who are learning English through social media. The data collected through a set of questionnaires can be summarized as follows: 1) The majority of respondents agreed that their English skills improved as a result of using social media; 2) The majority of respondents agreed that they frequently get new vocabulary from social media; 3) The majority of respondents agreed that they can improve their speaking using the duet feature on social media; and 4) The majority of respondents agreed that they can get English material on social media; 5) The majority of respondents agree they enjoy learning English using social media; 6) The majority of respondent use of social media makes it easier to learn English. Therefore, the use of social media provides benefits for its user to learn English.

**Keywords: Social media, learning English, social media users**.

### *Abstrak*

*Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui perspektif pengguna media sosial dalam belajar bahasa Inggris menggunakan media sosial. Penelitian ini mengumpulkan data menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, dengan kuesioner yang didistribusikan kepada 26 pengguna media sosial yang sedang belajar bahasa Inggris melalui media sosial. Data yang dikumpulkan melalui serangkaian kuesioner dapat dirangkum sebagai berikut: 1) Mayoritas responden setuju bahwa kemampuan bahasa Inggris mereka meningkat sebagai hasil dari penggunaan media sosial; 2) Mayoritas responden setuju bahwa mereka sering mendapatkan kosakata baru dari media sosial; 3) Mayoritas responden sepakat bahwa mereka dapat meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara mereka menggunakan fitur duet di media sosial; dan 4) mayoritas responden setuju bahwa mereka bisa mendapatkan materi bahasa Inggris di media sosial; 5) Mayoritas responden setuju bahwa mereka menikmati belajar bahasa Inggris menggunakan media sosial; 6) Mayoritas responden menggunakan media sosial membuatnya lebih mudah untuk belajar bahasa Inggris. Mayoritas responden menggunakan media sosial membuatnya lebih mudah untuk belajar bahasa Inggris. Oleh karena itu, penggunaan media sosial memberikan manfaat bagi penggunanya untuk belajar bahasa Inggris.*

*Kata kunci: Media sosial, belajar bahasa Inggris, pengguna media sosial*

## INTRODUCTION

Does social media can help us in learning English? The development of information technology brings a significant change in society. Social media is a medium for socializing with each other, and done online that allows people to interact with each other without being limited by space and time (Rustian, 2012) as well as in  (Djamdjuri, Suseno, Tajuddin, Lustyantie, &

Chaeruman, 2021). The existence of social media has influenced social life in society. The rapid development of social media is now because everyone can have their own media. If to have traditional media such as television, radio, or newspapers requires large capital and a lot of labor, then its is different from social media. With social media one can acces anything, use the internet network access without a large cost, even if the network slows down.

Language is a significant source of communication. There are thousands of languages in this world. Each country has their peculiar nationwide language spoken and understood by the people in different regions (Nurwahyuningtyas, 2021). English is very important to learn because English is the language of International Communication, according to the British Council, by 2023 about two billion people in the world will learnd English. It will help us to understand the other languages (Rumsey, 2020). English is one of the easiest languages to learn with its simple alphabet.

The growing world of technmology in the digital era today, is very influential in the development of various lives, as well as the world of Education. A very important aspect of life is played by English as an international language. In addition to functioning as a means of communication, English also serves as a means of learning technology that being developed (Helmiana, 2023). One way that can be used for technological learning facilities is by utilizing media as a means for learning English. Such as YouTube, Instagram, Tiktok, and Facebook.

In this article, the writer explained how social media can be a means for learning English.

## Literature Review

### Social Media in Learning English

In this era, social media is one of the means that can be used by educators in learning English. There are many social media in this world that are available with different benefits and advantages. Not all social media can be used for learning English, especially in junior high or senior high school students. Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and WhatsApp are social media that are often used for learning English (Helmiana, 2023). Teachers and students can take advantages of these media application for learning English media. For example: there are many educators using YouTube as a means to convey material by uploading learning videos that have been made. Then students can use YouTube to search for the English material they are studying, and it can increase their knowledge.

The use of social media in learning English has the aim that students can more easily understand the material and make learning more fun. Following the development of technology at this time, we are required to know and learn English well, so that we can follow the development of the world. Because English is the second language after the mother tongue, namely Indonesian, we already have to learn and master English to deal with globalization (Helmiana, 2023).

**The Advantages Of Social Media In learning English**

Social media plays a very strong role in the use of English. According to Dharmawangsa Sudjana University (2002:2), as quoted in the journal (Helmiana, 2023), the main purpose of utilizing social media in learning English is:

1. To motivates the students by attracting more of their attention through teaching using social media.
2. There will be more learning activities that can be done by students.
3. There will be more variety in learning methods.
4. Learning materials will have a clearer meaning to be easily understood.

From the explanation above, we can see that social media has good benefits in learning English. Through social media, we can improve our ability in English. In addition, there are many social media content creators who create content about learning English, such as vocabulary, grammar, conversation, pronunciation, reading, and so on. This shows that the use of social media is beneficial in improving language skills (N, Fitri, & Darmawangsa, 2023).

Casual and less formal communication is becoming the norm in social media. Social media tends to use an informal style of language (Admin, 2023). Informal forms of English such as slang, acronyms and others, are often used in comments, posts, and private massages. It reflects a desire to connect directly with other social media users and create familiarity. In addition, there is also a duet feature, with the duet feature, it can present cooperative listening and speaking learning (Aji, 2018.Therefore, social media can create for users to expand English vocabulary.

**The Challenges of Using Social Media for learning English**

The popularity of social media affects the style of writing in English, users often write in a more concise and attention-grabbing style (Admin, 2023). Social media users often convey messages in a more concise format, such as using images, 60-second videos, sometimes using captions with acronyms such as 'LOL' which means *Loud of Laugh,* and much more. This makes English users have to develop effective writing and explaining skills to captivate the audiences attention.

Apart from the benefits of social media in learning English, as explained in the previous discussion, there are several challenges that limit the use of social media in learning English. As quoted in the journal (N, Fitri, & Darmawangsa, 2023), that researches found the existence of cyberbullying in using social media, this happens because there are no strong laws and effective steps to protect young people when using social media. It is true that the rapid development of technology has resulted in weak self-control over the use of technology which can lead to open privacy, so anyone can be bullied on social media.

In addition, due to the presence of inappropriate devices can affect the learning process in the use of social media. An application can become *buggy* due to design flaws that come from the device so that it affects the social media application that is being used (Herlisya & Wiratno, 2022).

All of these obstacles are challenges foe teachers to be able to overcome these problems so that learning continues to run effectively.

**METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted using descriptive qualitative approach (Creswell, 2012). Regarding this, a survey using a questionnaire involves some of the social media users, which makes social media as one of the media to learn English. The data derived from 26 users were analyze to provide conclusions based on the result of questionnaires on social media users.

**FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

As noted, the data were obtained from questionnaires and verified through interviews on social media users in learning English. There are 26 social media users who learn English through social media. Based on the data obtained, the authors analyze the result of this study into main parts, the results of questionnaires about social media users learn English through social media.

*Social media in learning English.*

From the results of data collection, the following data was obtained from the questionnaire.

Question number 1: My English skills improved because using social media

The data from figure 1 shows a total of 26 responses. It can be broken down into the following categories based on 26 respondents who responded: A total of 11 people or 42.3% of respondents expressed that they were strongly agree in. There were 15 respondents or 57.7% stated that they were agree in. From this data, the researchers concluded that most of respondents or 57.7% were agree in. Moreover, there were 11 respondents or 42.3% were strongly agree in English skills improved because using social media. From the calculation of the data, it can be concluded that most of the respondents or 100% were attracted to English skills improved because using social media, as it was supported by (N, Fitri, & Darmawangsa, 2023) who said that the use social media is beneficial in improving language skills. As It can be apparent from the following figure 1:
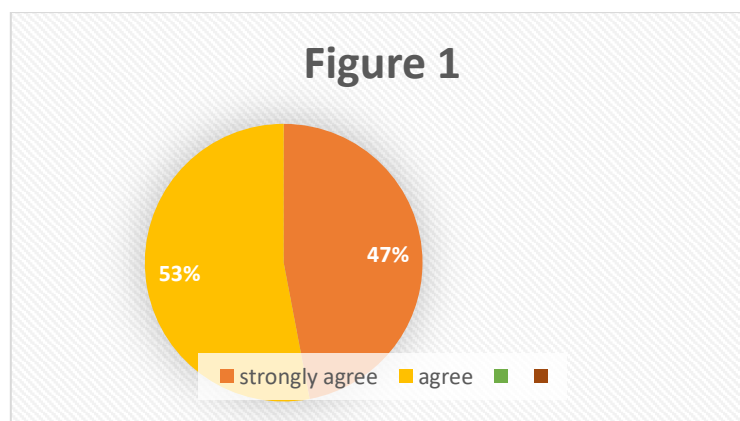


Figure 1. English skills improved because using social media.

Question number 2: I often used social media to enhance my English skills

The following figure 2 shows the 26 respondents who gave responses. It can be broken down into the following categories. There were 11 respondents or 42.3% stated they strongly agree that they often use social media to enhance their English skills. A total of 12 or 46.2% of respondents stated they agree that they often use social media to enhance their English skills. Then there were 3 or 11.5% stated that those were neutral. From this data, the researches concluded that most of the respondents or 88.5% stated that they often use social media to enhance their English skills, as it was supported by (Admin, 2023) who said that social media can be an effective tool to improve students English skills. As it can be perceived from the following figure 2:
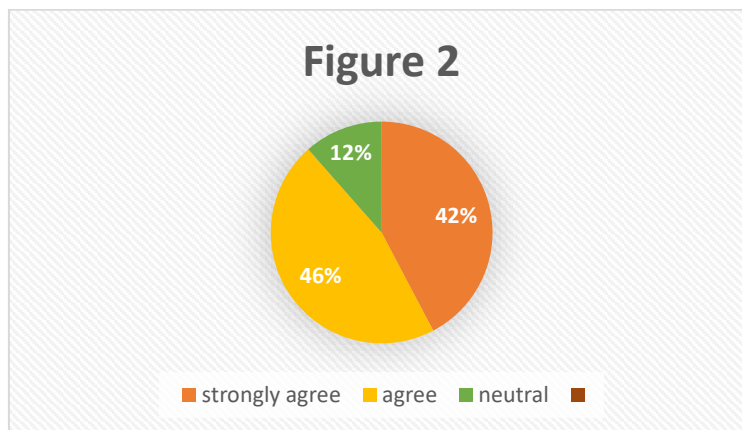


Figure 2. Social media users often used social media to enhance their English skills.

Question number 3: I often get new vocabularies on social media

The data from figure 3 shows a total of 26 responses. It can be broken down into the following categories based on 26 respondents who responded: A total of 11 people or 42.3% of respondents expressed that they were strongly agree in. There were 15 respondents or 57.7% stated that they were agree in. From this data, the researchers concluded that most of respondents or 57.7% were agree in. Moreover, there were 11 respondents or 42.3% were strongly agree in their often get new vocabularies on social media. From the calculation of the data, it can be concluded that most of the respondents or 100% were attracted to often get new vocabularies on social media, as it was supported by  (Helmiana, 2023) who said that social media can create for users to expand English vocabularies. It can be apparent from the following figure 3:
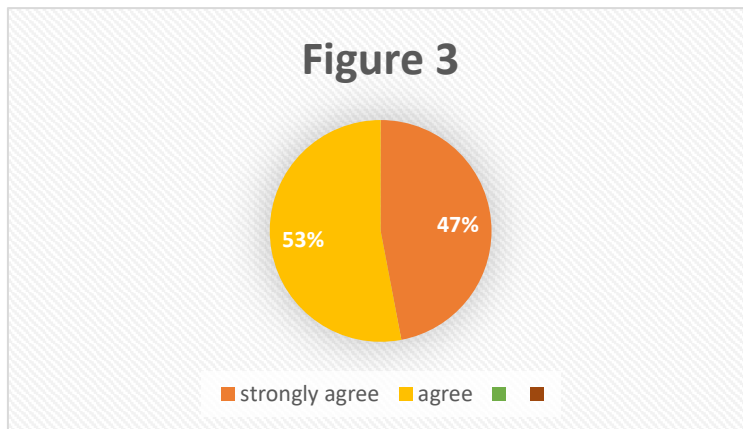
Figure 3. Social media users often get new vocabularies on social media.

Question number 4: I can learn to speak English using social media in duet feature on Tik Tok / Instagram

The following figure 4 shows the 26 respondents who gave responses. It can be broken down into the following categories. There were 8 respondents or 30.8% stated they strongly agree that they can learn to speak English using social media in duet feature. A total of 14 or 53.8% of respondents stated they agree that they can learn to speak English using social media in duet feature. Then there were 4 or 15.4% stated that those were neutral. From this data, the researches concluded that most of the respondents or 84.6% stated that they can learn to speak English using social media in duet feature, as it was supported by  (Aji, 2018) who said that duet feature can present a cooperative listening and speaking leaning. As it can be perceived from the following figure 4:
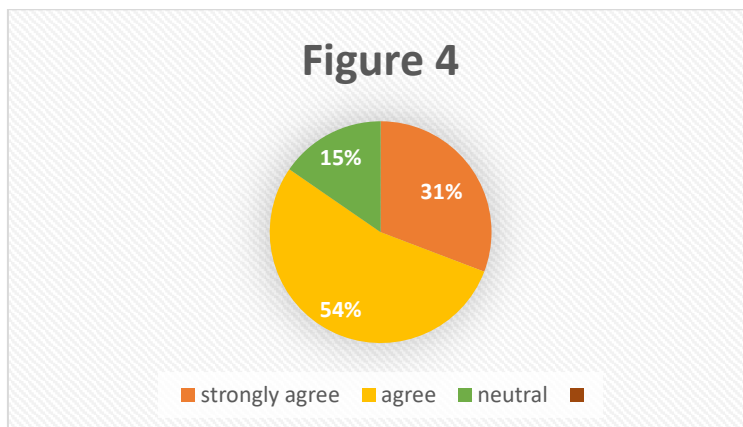


Figure 4. Social media users can learn to speak English using social media in duet feature.

Question number 5: I can get material on social media

The following figure 5 shows the 26 respondents who gave responses. It can be broken down into the following categories. There were 11 respondents or 42.3% stated they strongly agree that they can get material on social media. A total of 14 or 53.8% of respondents  stated they agree that they can get material on social media. Then there was 1 or 3.8% stated that those were neutral. From this data, the researches concluded that most of the respondents or 96.1% stated that they can get

material on social media, as it was supported by (N, Fitri, & Darmawangsa, 2023) who said there are many social media content creators who create content about learning English, such as vocabulary, grammar, conversation, pronunciation, reading and so on. Then, the students can use social media to search for the English material they are studying, and it can increase their knowledge. As it can be perceived from the following figure 5:
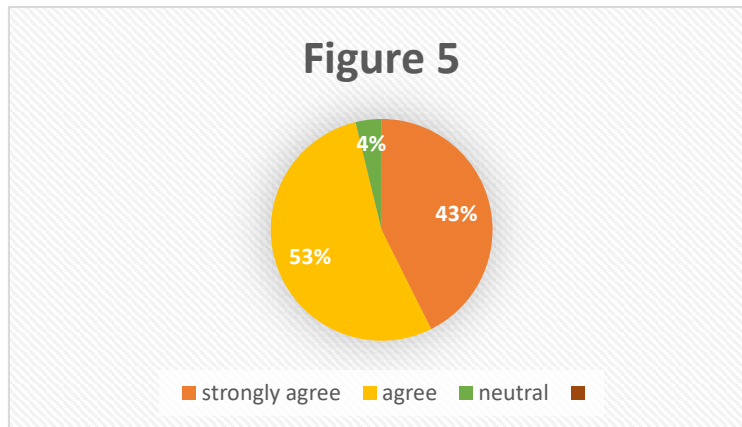


Figure 5. Social media users can get material on social media.

Questioner number 6: I enjoy learning English using social media

The following figure 6 shows the 26 respondents who gave responses. It can be broken down into the following categories. There were 11 respondents or 42.3% stated they strongly agree that they enjoy learning in using social media. A total of 13 or 50% of respondents stated they agree that they enjoy learning English using social media. Then there was 2 or 7.7% stated that those were neutral. From this data, the researches concluded that most of the respondents or 92.3% stated that they enjoy learning English using social media, as it was supported by (Helmiana, 2023) who said that the use social media in learning English has the aim that students can more easily understand the material and make learning more fun. As it can be perceived from the following figure 6:
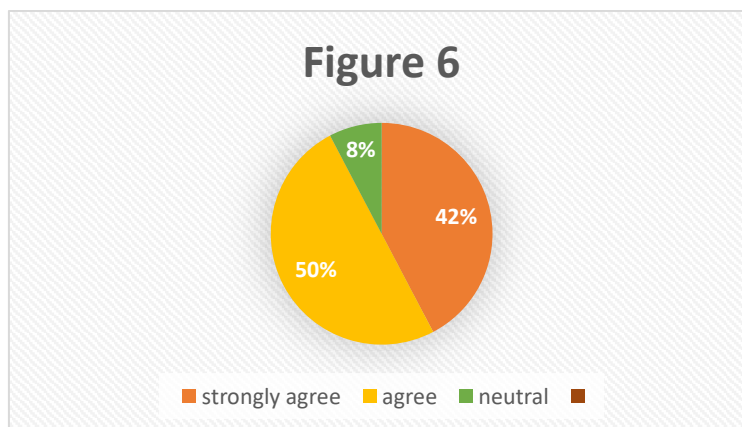


Figure 6. Social media users enjoy learning English using social media

Questioner number 7: I don't worry about making mistakes during learning English.

The data from figure 7 shows a total of 26 responses. It can be broken down into the following categories based on 26 respondents who responded: A total of 8 people or 30.8% of respondents expressed that they were strongly agree in. There were 9 respondents or 34.6% stated that they were agree in. There were 5 or 23.1% stated that those were neutral. Then there were 3 or 11.5% stated that those were disagree. From this data, the researches concluded that most of the respondents or 65.45% stated that they not worry about making mistakes during learning, as it can be perceived from the following figure 7:
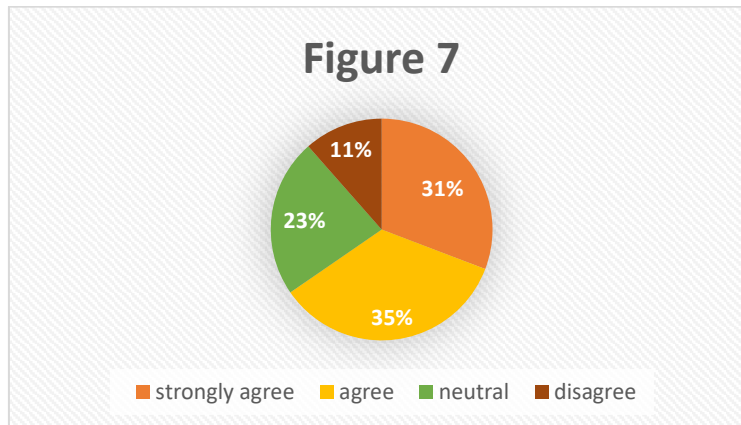


Figure 7. Social media users not worry about making mistakes during learning English.

Question number 8: I can freely repeat learning English in social media

The data from figure 8 shows a total of 26 responses. It can be broken down into the following categories based on 26 respondents who responded: A total of 11 people or 42.3% of respondents expressed that they were strongly agree in. There were 12 respondents or 46.2% stated that they were agree in. There were 2 or 7.7% stated that those were neutral. Then there was 1 or 3.8% stated that those were disagree. From this data, the researches concluded that most of the respondents or 88.5% stated that they can freely repeat learning English in social media, as it can be perceived from the following figure 8:
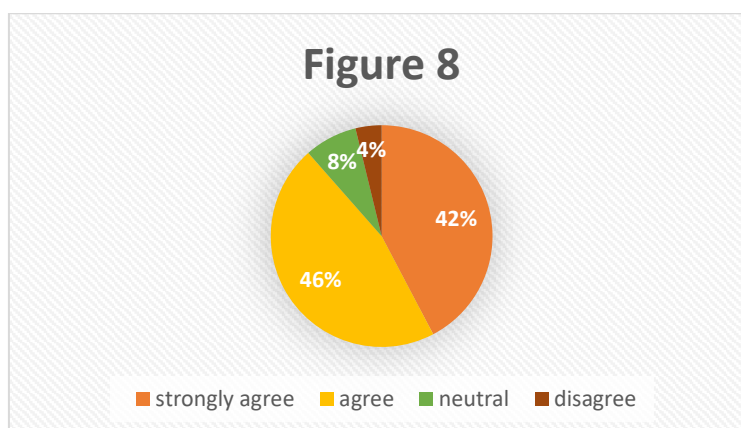


Figure 8. Social media users can freely repeat learning English in social media.

Question number 9: Social media users sometimes motivate me to learn English

The data from figure 9 shows a total of 26 responses. It can be broken down into the following categories based on 26 respondents who responded: A total of 12 people or 46.2% of respondents expressed that they were strongly agree in. There were 8 respondents or 30.8% stated that they were agree in. There were 5 or 19.2% stated that those were neutral. Then there was 1 or 3.8% stated that those were disagree. From this data, the researches concluded that most of the respondents or 78% stated that social media users sometime motivate them to learn English. As it can be perceived from the following figure 9:
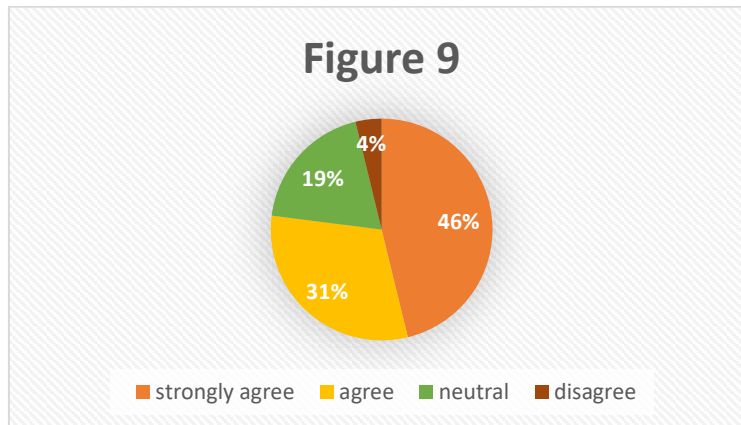


Figure 9. Social media users sometimes motivate them to learn English.

Question number 10: I think the user of social media helps a lot in learning English

The following figure 4 shows the 26 respondents who gave responses. It can be broken down into the following categories. There were 11 respondents or 42.3% stated they strongly agree that the user social media helps a lot in learning English. A total of 13 or 50% of respondents stated that they agree the user of social media helps a lot in learning English. Then there were 2 or 7.7% stated that those were neutral. From this data, the researches concluded that most of the respondents or 92.3% stated that the user of social media helps a lot in learning English, as it was supported by (Rumsey, 2020) who said that social media help us to understand the other languages. Then, English is one of the easiest languages to learn with its simple alphabet. As it can be perceived from the following figure 10:
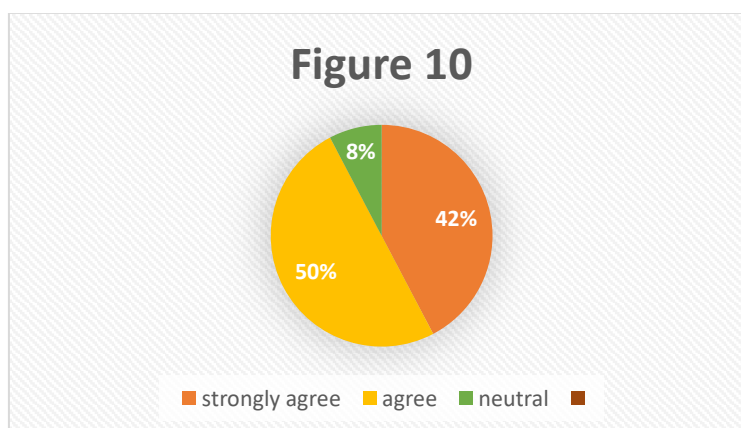
Figure 10. Social media users think the use of social media helps a lot in learning English.

## CONCLUSION

This study aims to determine how the perspective of social media users in learning English using social media. From the data analysis that has been completed from the results of the questionnaire regarding the responses of social media users to the use of social media in learning English, it can be concluded that, 1) The majority of respondents agreed that their English skills improved because of using social media; 2) The majority of respondents agree they often get new vocabulary from social media; 3) The majority of respondents agree they can improve their speaking using duet feature on social media; 4) The majority of respondents agree they can get English material on social media; 5) The majority of respondents agree they enjoy learning English using social media; 6) The majority of respondent use of social media makes it easier to learn English.

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