



A Study of the Relationship between EFL Students' Perception of Using Facebook and Grammatical Competence

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Abstract

With the massive use of social media such as Facebook worldwide, this study was done to explore whether Facebook can be used not only for entertainment but also for language learning purposes.

Specifically, the study addressed: (a) students' perception of using Facebook as a platform for learning grammar; and (b) the correlation between the students' perception of using Facebook in learning grammar and their grammatical competence. The sample of this study was 42 university students majoring in English literature at Halu Oleo University, Indonesia. This study was done quantitatively with a questionnaire comprising four aspects (language improvement, confidence, motivation, and attitude) and students' grammatical results as the instruments. The questionnaire was used to measure the students' perceptions, while the grammatical competence was taken from a test result. Before giving the students the questionnaire, students were given a 4-week treatment to use Facebook to learn grammar to gain background knowledge. The result revealed that most students had a positive perception in all aspects, and there was a positive correlation between their perception and grammatical competence. The conclusions are, first, Facebook can be incorporated into the EFL context, particularly in learning grammar. Second, the positive correlation shown means Facebook has a potential effect on improving students' grammatical performance.

Keywords: correlation; EFL; Facebook; grammatical competence; perception