



# The Use of the Online Language Exchange Platform "OmeTV" on Indonesian EFL Students' Ability to Communicate in English

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**Abstract.** In this modern age, we can communicate with anyone online. One website that makes this easier to do is OmeTV. Young people can, therefore, use this to enhance their English communication skills. This study aimed to determine how students feel about using Ome TV to improve their English communication skills. In this study, a quantitative descriptive method was applied. To collect data for this study, questionnaires were distributed to the participants. The results of this study demonstrate that English language learners can practice speaking the language by participating in video chats with foreigners from a range of countries thanks to Ome TV. They have enhanced their communication abilities by using the Ometv virtual language exchange platform. However, several students struggled to strengthen their speaking skills, notably distinguishing between different native or foreign speakers' accents.

**Keywords:** OmeTV, communication skill, student's perception

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Having good English abilities is an important skill and plays a crucial role in success in various settings, including employment and school. Improving English abilities is a huge difficulty for students, particularly those from Indonesia. Contact with the mother tongue is restricted, and direct participation is impossible (Robah & Angrisia, 2023). Teachers can improve their communication abilities by overcoming and understanding the challenges Indonesian students who speak English face. Communication is transmitting information from one person, location, or organization to another. Every communication involves three parties: the sender, the recipient, and the information. Communication may appear simple, but it is a difficult topic. Multiple variables could influence the message's path from its source to its destination. Consider our emotions, cultural background, communication routes, and physical location (Hasan et al., 2022). To ensure that communications are appropriately delivered and understood by others, effective English communication requires coherence, clarity, and appropriate language and grammar usage. Communication occurs digitally, through distance learning strategies, and in person. Many apps have lately been developed to assist in communication.

The concept of "the medium is the message" (McLuhan & Fiore, 2001) indicates that the media is a message that can influence all aspects of human communication, including language, culture, and communication patterns.

Technology has the potential to significantly improve Indonesian students' English learning skills by providing a variety of tools and venues for exposure, practice, and engagement (Hidayat et al., 2022). OME TV is a popular text and video chat tool enabling random conversations worldwide. The main characteristic of this platform is communication. The shoppers' desire to socialize and meet new people is endearing. Effective communication is essential to English language learning (Putri, 2023). OmeTV has made it easy for users to connect with others worldwide by providing a user-friendly interface and many functions (Swondo & Haya, 2022). Students can utilize the popular website OmeTV to participate in live video chats with people worldwide. Students are paired with random people and given the option of starting direct webcam chats. Students need a PC with a working webcam and an internet connection. Ometv's attributes that promote efficient language use and cross-cultural communication distinguish it as a useful tool for improving Indonesian students' English communication abilities in these scenarios. The Ometv program allows students to communicate with language exchange partners all across the world, which will help them become more fluent in the language. It is an excellent choice for English language learners due to its advanced capabilities and user-friendly interfaces (Biloon & Chroman, 2019). Ometv's smart matching algorithm provides entertaining talks by connecting people according to their favorite language. It offers secure practice rooms, instant messaging, and video chat.

Ome-TV is popular in Indonesia and other countries due to its use by YouTubers to interact and communicate with people from different backgrounds using English and other languages (Saputra, 2020). These movies are intended to facilitate talks between individuals or groups of English-speaking users. Ome-TV is a globally accessible application that enables random interactions between people from various regions. This curriculum can benefit students who struggle to make friends or engage in English conversations in real-world situations. OmeTV is a smartphone application that allows users to engage in immersive language practice in a fun and personalized setting. According to this remark, Ome-TV has the potential to serve as an alternate medium, and students can actively practice their English-speaking skills and also engage with people from various countries (Sari, 2021). Ome-TV is a globally accessible application that enables random interactions between people from various regions. This curriculum can be beneficial for students who struggle to make friends or engage in English conversations in real-world situations. OmeTV is a smartphone application that allows users to engage in immersive language practice in a fun and personalized setting. According to this remark, Ome-TV has the potential to serve as an alternate medium via which students can actively practice their English-speaking skills (Yustisia & Asrori, 2022).

In a prior study, Ratnawati et al. (2023) investigated students' experiences with the video live-streaming app "Ome TV" and how it affected their listening skills. The major goal of this study is to use Ome-TV to improve English listening comprehension. The researchers discovered that using this application increased their listening skills. However, several students struggled to improve their listening abilities, particularly when comprehending words that sounded similar when spoken by native speakers. Suryanto

and Fitrawan (2023) are conducting comparable studies, although they focus on speaking proficiency. He also applied qualitative research methods. The findings revealed that by using the Ome-TV software, students in the English Language Education Department (ELED) can improve their fluency in speaking English. It can be an effective tool for improving language proficiency when speaking, creating a welcoming environment for language exposure, connecting students with sociable English-speaking peers, providing interactive pronunciation drills in real-time, improving lexical proficiency, and providing extensive grammar feedback. This study aimed to explore students' perceptions of utilizing Ome TV to develop their English communication abilities. Based on the flaws of these two studies, the researchers examined the use of the virtual language exchange platforms 'Ometv' on English communication skills among Indonesian students for the first time using a descriptive quantitative approach.

## 2. METHOD

This study used a quantitative descriptive research methodology to examine how Ome TV's live-streaming video application affected students' communication skills. The primary goal of the research design was to describe and analyze the data gathered from participants using an online questionnaire. The questionnaire was adapted from Ratnawati et al. (2023) and had 11 questions with 5 options: strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree. The students who used social media TikTok from universities and senior high schools were chosen as the research participants' criteria. Furthermore, the data was gathered from an online questionnaire administered via Google Forms to students. Students used a Likert scale to select statements concerning communication issues during conversations for the questionnaire.

Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the gathered data. Then, the researchers calculated the percentage to summarize the participants' demographic data, self-perceived communication abilities, and 'Ome TV' usage habits. These statistics gave an overview of the sample's characteristics and users' interactions with the program. In addition, thematic analysis was used to examine the qualitative data gathered from the open-ended questionnaire. To acquire a deeper understanding of the experiences and perspectives of participants in using 'Ome TV' and to increase their communication skills, common themes and patterns were found. The study's whole duration included discussions about ethical issues. Every participant gave their informed consent, attesting to their understanding of the study's objectives, their rights as participants, and the voluntary nature of their involvement. Participants' anonymity and confidentiality were preserved by providing each participant with a unique identification and safely archiving the data.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In collecting data, the researcher distributed a questionnaire via the TikTok online platform, filled in by 45 Indonesian high school students and college students (37.8% male participants and 62.2% female participants). The questionnaire contains 11 statements,

which participants fill in by selecting Strongly Disagree (SD), disagree (D), neutral (N), agree (A), and strongly agree (SA), described in the table below:

**Table 1.** Result of questionnaire

NO	QUESTION	SD	D	N	A	SA
1	My English-speaking abilities are enhanced by using the Ome TV Live Streaming Video App	2.2 %	-	2.2%	44.4 %	51.1 %
2	My speaking abilities have improved thanks to the features in the Ome TV App	2.2 %	2.2 %	8.9%	64.4 %	22.2 %
3	I can access OmeTV apps with ease	2.2 %	6.7 %	8.9%	48.9 %	33.3 %
4	Direct communication with strangers aided me in developing my speaking skills	2.2 %	4.4 %	17.8 %	48.9 %	26.7 %
5	OmeTV has a beneficial effect on enhancing English proficiency	2.2 %	2.2 %	13.3 %	60%	22.2 %
6	My ability to speak fluent has been greatly improved by the simplicity of communication on OmeTV	13.3 %	4.4 %	28.9 %	42.2 %	11.1 %
7	The ome tv application is fun to use, and the level of security is assured	2.2 %	6.7 %	11.1 %	53.3 %	26.7 %
8	The OmeTV app is one I use quite a bit	4.4 %	20%	26.7 %	31.1 %	17.8 %
9	Interacting with Random users on	6.7 %	4.4 %	17.8 %	42.2 %	28.9 %

	OmeTV had a very nice reaction					
10	It's simpler to increase speaking capacity with Live streaming video application	2.2 %	4.4 %	31.1 %	42.2 %	20%
11	I am unable to use the OME TV application due to the cellular data network	4.4 %	6.7 %	44.4 %	31.1 %	13.3 %

The table above shows that 51.1% of students from the total participants strongly agree that the OmeTV application can enhance their ability to speak English. The other statement supports this result that 64,4% of students agree that speaking English improved studying through some features in OmeTV. Some reasons why students use Ome TV can improve their speaking because 48,9 % of students can easily access the features and they can communicate with new people from the same or other countries. 60 % of students believe the OmeTv application can improve their English proficiency. In addition, 42,2% of students say that the simple communication in the OmeTV application does help them to improve their speaking English. People who join OmeTV come from various places with different characters and backgrounds. The various reactions from the speaking partners make them enjoy and become interested in communication. One of the programs that can improve speaking is through live streaming. Besides that, 53.3% of students feel fun using OmeTV to practice speaking and being safe during communication. 31,1 % of students explain that quite a bit use OmeTV in speaking practice because they can use this application on their mobile phone. Those findings relate to Suryanto and Fitrawan (2023), who found that the OmeTV application is becoming an influential media and entertaining environment which have high exposure to enhance students in practicing speaking because OmeTv Provides interactive pronunciation drills in real-time, develop lexical competence and grammatical knowledge.

For deep analysis, the researcher provides open-ended questions related to students' opinions on the OmeTV application. Some students said that the OmeTV app is an enjoyable application for speaking skills. They also claimed that it helped them greatly improve their speaking practice.

Excerpt 1

*"It is effective plus it's free to use. not only to improve my speaking skill but also to train myself to be more confident when talking to people."*

Excerpt 2

*"I think it is very good but sometimes it is constrained by the signal from many skips."*

In excerpt 1, the students feel that OmeTV is one of the effective applications to improve their speaking skills. The various people inside make them more confident when speaking and talking to others and using OmeTV, such as independent learning, which students can practice every day independently. It helps students to communicate with others directly. Additionally, this finding relates to Swondo and Haya's (2022) demonstration that students are very enthusiastic and participate well in speaking activities provided by OmeTV. Based on his test analysis, observation sheet and diary notes student's speaking ability keeps improving. In Excerpt 2, the student says that OmeTV is good for her, but the challenge is about the signal.

On the other hand, not 100 % of students really enjoy using OmeTV as their speaking practice tool. Several students sometimes face complicated incidents with some racist people who are against Asians. Students from different backgrounds worldwide can access the OmeTV application.

Excerpt 3

*"I think Ometv is quite good for improving English language skills, but we often find users who are racist towards Asians."*

Excerpt 4

*"Not everyone on Ometv is kind, because unfortunately we often encounter people who are racist towards Asian people."*

Even though most students believe that OmeTV is an effective application for their speaking practice because they can talk to other people from various countries, in some conditions, they face people who are racist toward Asian people.

This open-ended questionnaire data revealed that students find the OmeTV application complicated, fun, and easy to use to improve their speaking abilities. However, some claimed that learning to speak through the OmeTV application did not benefit them if the application's security level was still in doubt. Additionally, users took to use applications less frequently, so the Ome TV application's security and valuable features are the appropriate approaches.

The data analysis findings revealed that students have a positive perspective on using OmeTV to improve their English communication skills. While students use media and integrate technology, like OmeTV, they typically do better while speaking English in conversations with foreigners. The study's conclusion is in line with a study by Ratnawati et al. (2023), which found that using this software enhanced the participants' listening abilities. It's also the same as Suryanto and Fitrawan (2023) said that OmeTV is a global platform allowing random interactions among people from different locations. Students communicate both with native English speakers and with foreigners who speak English via OmeTV. It increases their opportunities for speaking practice and helps them become better communicators. Students can improve their speaking abilities by talking with foreigners from different nations using Ome TV. If they receive positive feedback and encouragement, they will feel more confident and motivated to continue practicing.

However, some students say they are still uncomfortable with the treatment of some foreigners who behave racist or flirty towards them. The data analysis revealed that

most students struggled with accuracy, fluency, and comprehension when speaking. Accents can make it challenging to communicate effectively through a variety of media, affecting both the speaker and the listener. Different accents can have distinctive speech rhythms, intonation patterns, and pronunciations that depart from the listener's usual speech patterns. Misconceptions and misinterpretations can happen as a result of this condition. Furthermore, some students find it difficult to overcome the unstable signal obstacle. This is because Indonesia's internet access is widespread and mostly centered in rural areas.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of this study, it can be said that Indonesian students' English communication abilities have improved due to using the virtual language exchange platform Ometv. Most of the participants said that using the application helped them become better speakers. However, several students still struggled with strengthening their speaking skills, especially understanding varied accents from native or foreign speakers. Besides, some children still suffer from a lack of support on the Internet. They're still happy to use this app to improve their English communication skills. The research does have a limitation, even though the findings are positive and instructive. The validity and reliability of the study's questionnaire could not be established because it was not tested. Additionally, the research was completed in a brief amount of time—two months. Consequently, it is anticipated that future researchers will be able to address weaknesses and conduct studies on disparities between genders.

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