THE USE OF WATTPAD IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING: IS IT HELPFUL?

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ABSTRACT

The use of digital applications is very helpful in teaching and learning process, especially for language classes. The existence of technology is very helpful for teachers to increase student interest in learning about English language lesson. The development of the digital world is used by teachers to be used as a tool to facilitate student learning. This research focuses on the role of using a digital application called Wattpad which will make students diligently read English reading texts, so that they become more skilled in learning. In this research, the researchers defined the term digital application to explain the use of digital application in an effort to improve English as a foreign language learning skill. The related review of literature shows that the use of multi-media technology can improve students' language learning skills because matches their interests. Therefore, their English skills can be better.

INTRODUCTION

Here are some advantages of using information and communication for teaching and learning process. Firstly, more fruitful ideas can be so obtained through information, communication and technologies that the learners will play an active part in the learning process (Antoni, 2010). Next, the independency of the learners can be created from the feedback discussion session which involve the need towards more information (Setiyadi et al., 2019). Finally, the learners can treat new technology-based educational stuffs so that their Basic English skills can be ameliorated (Ananti, 2016).

The interaction between teachers and students can be provided by the technology. It also supplies comprehendible both input and output, is also helpful to ameliorate the learners' thinking skills, makes the students' centered activity become the priority in the classroom, encourages learners' autonomy and supports them to be more confident, and enhances learners' motivation effectively learn a foreign language (Coiro, 2014b)

Something crucial and very significant for human life is reading (Zabell, 2011). Reading activities are the process of assimilating knowledge, understanding and evaluation abilities. From reading habits, a person can have broader horizons of knowledge, increase creativity, increase imagination, advance thought and make someone intelligent and intellectual. That is why reading is one of the factors that can improve the quality of human life (Misa, 2014)

Reading interest is a combination of will, desire and motivation. Broadly speaking, reading interest is associated with a great desire in humans which causes someone to pay attention to reading activities (Coiro, 2014a). Humans instinctively have the intention of reading in each individual, but there needs to be an environment that can help and foster from an early age so that students can be familiar with book. Reading is one of the basic abilities that humans should have and can increase vocabulary and knowledge. Thus, reading interest is really needed. Reading can be done through various media, such as books, newspapers and the internet (Setiyadi et al., 2019).

To make students enjoy reading activities, people need to increase reading interest. (Ahmad et al., 2018) reveals that reading interest is a feeling that arises from the heart accompanied by a strong urge to read. Meanwhile, (Coiro, 2014b), reading interest is about how excited someone is to do reading activities. Accordingly, it can be concluded that reading interest covers how one's attitude towards the reading process is when someone has a positive feeling response, it can be said that someone already has an interest in reading. When someone has a positive feeling response, it can be said that that person already has an interest in reading. This tendency of reading interest is shown from the emergence of interest in reading material.

The function of media in learning is quite important in improving the quality of the learning process, especially to assist students in the learning process. Two important factors are method and media. Selection of a method will determine what media is suitable for use in the learning process. In addition to arousing student motivation and interest, the media is also able to generate understanding, present data in an attractive manner and condense information (Hassan, 2008). Therefore, a teacher must be able to go through efficient, cheap and attractive media.

One of the interesting media today is online sites. Online sites are easily accessible to anyone who is familiar with the internet. Most of today's students can access the internet and are familiar with various kinds of online sites (Prawesti, 2014).

Wattpad is an application platform and online community site for writers and readers (Wanda, 2019). This means that through this Wattpad, users can write or read information content within the scope of cyber literary stories (Ahmadi, 2018). Information content on Wattpad has many categories such as short story, classic, fiction, adventure, anime, romance, fantasy, humor, spiritual, mystery, horror, poetry, science fiction, historical fiction, teen fiction, general fiction, classic and non-fiction (Setyadi, 2018).

Wattpad's existence has just recently become widely acknowledged among academics. It has been verified by a number of researches that have been undertaken on the subject. (Wilson et al., 2012) Wattpad is a channel for writers. Wattpad is used as a forum for writers to publish their writing for people around the world to read. Apart from sharing stories, from Wattpad we can also get fans of the works we publish. Several studies discussing the viewpoint of the reader show several factors a person is interested in reading Wattpad. Some of the factors for this interest are because they have an interest in literature, social media and also the convenience of online media itself. In addition, there is motivation that encourages someone to enjoy reading stories on Wattpad, namely because of learning satisfaction and emotional satisfaction (Andriani T., 2015).

Wattpad is a fairly popular and efficient application for reading short stories and can provide comments directly within the short story paragraphs, and Wattpad has many advantages in promoting reader-response theory to EFL college students as interest in literacy activities grows. Wattpad is a fairly popular and efficient application for reading short stories and can provide comments directly within the short story paragraphs, and Wattpad has many advantages in promoting reader-response theory to EFL college students (Anggitasari et al., 2020).

Wattpad has unique characteristics as a social space as a social media platform that supports the production of cyber literature; however, because this brief observation cannot be clearly matched with Bourdieu's concept of field, it requires a deeper and more comprehensive investigation to explain it as a field of literary production (Kardiansyah, 2019).

Each pupil improved his or her writing ability. Even in terms of syntax, students can find out how to employ past tense in recount texts. They learned some new words that they may utilize in their texts in terms of vocabulary. They can interpret word choices that are appropriate for the text they are

writing. Some students also include extra information in their event writing. Even though there was an issue with pupils who still did not grasp how to use Wattpad, the teacher and other students were able to assist them. Wattpad also gives kids more confidence when it comes to sharing their work or stories on the internet. Without seeing the readers' faces, they can get any feedback, remarks, or criticism. This application can assist students who are interested in creating a novel in sharing their stories (Adiningtyas, 2020).

Combining the Wattpad platform with English prose courses may be a fun and useful way to learn literature. Students are required to not only study literary works, but also to compose and present their own works in order to exercise their evaluative and appreciating talents. One of the practical options for students and lecturers to have active contact both face to face and online is to use blended learning through the Wattpad platform media (Rahman & Iwan, 2019).

Independent reading and writing activities on Wattpad are perceived as calming and amusing by secondary school pupils. In light of these findings, relevant educators should combine learning and teaching environments by developing various action plans based on students' in-class and out-of-class experiences, as well as their interests and requirement (Başoğul, 2021).

Discussing about reading activities, it is clear that its development cannot be separated from technological developments. The use of this technology also often colors the world of education, especially in the process of teaching English. Involving technology in the teaching process is expected to help teachers to teach English material to students who make English a second language. In today's digital era, many people feel more interested in learning something from online media. So, the researchers interested in researching the use of Wattpad in English language learning.

(Cook, 2014) enquired what the English teachers' use of computer technology in the classroom and the reasons or factors behind this. The study further investigated the teachers' plan on computer, information and technology (ICT) could assist the classrooms' activity. This study also focuses on how the teachers deliver those practical computer-assisted language learning experience and knowledge to help the students increase their better comprehension towards English as a foreign language. The results discovered that almost the teachers agreed within the use of computer, information and technology (ICT) were significantly influencing the students' progress in learning English. The results also underscored the importance of teachers' overall perceptions of technology, technological experience, skill, and competence, and the cultural environment that surrounds the introduction of IT into schools and language institutes and shapes attitudes towards computer technology (Sarangi & Candlin, 2010).

(Bozoğlan & Yılmaz, 2016) investigated the use of multi-media technology in language teaching. The study showed that the students' motivation and attention were significantly influenced by the use multi-media-based class since it helped the students deal with practical knowledge towards then use multi media-based classroom in learning foreign language via communication with other students. They urged the importance of using technology multi media-based activities in the classroom, specifically as this provides positive feedbacks on students' learning process just in line with the ongoing efficacy of the teacher role. The findings of the research affirm the proven futility of traditional English teaching methods, and support that learners are keener and more attractive once using computer, information and technology (ICT) to ameliorate their English skills.

For this reason, researcher argues that online site-based media such as Wattpad can be an attractive learning medium for students. The alternate hypothesis in this study is that utilizing Wattpad to read and understand English digital writings will pique the attention of respondents from diverse occupations. The null hypothesis suggests that the respondents' interest in reading and understanding English digital texts does not significantly improve after using Wattpad. As a result, the following is the study's research problem: Does Wattpad help the respondents more easily understand the English digital texts to increase their English skills?

METHOD

This research applies pre-experimental research using one-shot case study. This experimental model involves several people who are given treatment and then the results are observed. There are groups of people with certain criteria who are given treatment to measure the influence of using Wattpad in the English learning process to compare productivity before using the Wattpad online media site and after using it. This aims to determine the use of Wattpad in English Learning Teaching to improve English skills for Indonesians who have studied English. It was conducted using Google Form as a questionnaire. The results of the observation show that Indonesian student who have studied English feel that there is technology in the form of online media called Wattpad. From this online media, they can increase English vocabulary, learn new phrases, improve their speaking skills and make reading activities more attractive. Therefore, the researchers interested in examining the benefits of Wattpad to be an attractive learning media for many people who want to learn English. The total population of this research are 33 people, 27.3% of students, the rest are teachers and various other professions. In this research, the researchers used a questionnaire technique in collecting the data.

Instrument

The instrument used in this research is a reading test from a piece of the story in a novel obtained from Wattpad. The text provided by the researcher is three sheets. The text is given to determine the extent to which technology in the form of online media can have an effect on improving English skills so that it can be said that Wattpad is an interesting learning medium for learning English.

In this research, the researcher distributed questionnaires. The steps used by the researcher in conducting this research are as follows:

a. Look for an English story on Wattpad

b. Taking three pieces of a story from a novel title on Wattpad

c. Give a reading test in the form of three pieces of the story to the research subject

d. After finishing reading, the research subjects filled out the questionnaire
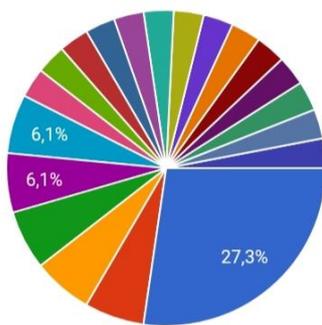
FINDINGS

Based on the results of the research, it is known that on the overall variable indicators of the use of digital reading applications, data is obtained from research on the use of digital reading applications by several people who have studied English in educational institutions. The increasing level of interest in reading is also influenced by technological developments, especially on social sites like Wattpad. The existence of this Wattpad can be used by teachers to improve students' English learning skills, especially in reading skills.

Based on this statement, when interpreted by the findings of research that carried out reading activities of several pieces of story text taken from Wattpad, it obtained good results in improving English learning skills.
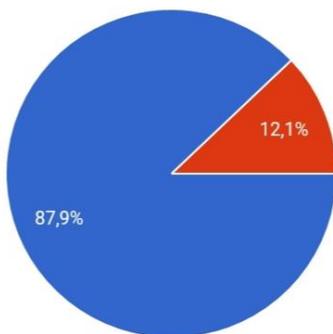
The indicator that makes students enjoy learning to read English text is because the English text on Wattpad is considered easier to understand, the stories in it are more interesting and learning to read English text from there is considered more practical than reading English text from the example text in the textbook. Therefore it can be assumed that the use of Wattpad in the world of teaching and learning English is quite helpful in improving English language skills.

The results of the research said that there was an influence between using of digital reading applications in the process of English learning using Wattpad to improve English language skills. This statement was obtained from the research results as follows:
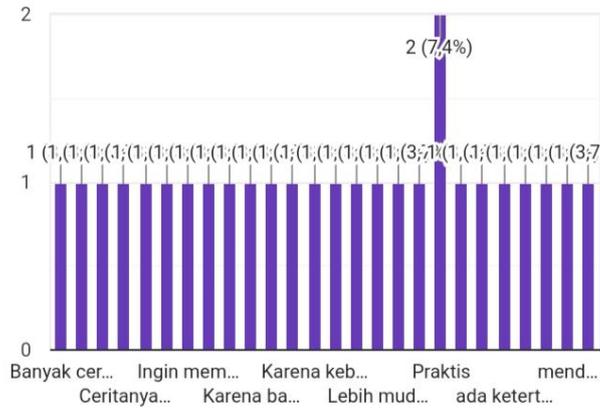
This research was followed by 33 respondents. Respondents in this research came from various professions. All respondents are people with the criteria that they have studied English in the classroom. Most respondents came from students, which amounted to 27.3%.

87,9% of these respondents already know about Wattpad. It can be concluded that some respondents are familiar with this online site.

There are many reasons they chose to read stories through Wattpad, ranging from the many story genres on Wattpad, reading many interesting stories, finding easier story to understand and reading a story in a practice way
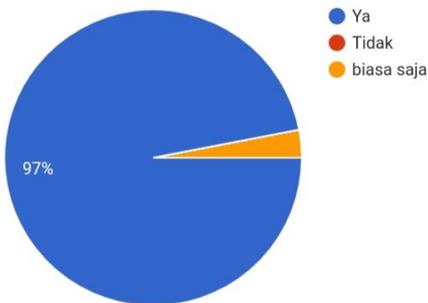
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After reading the story from Wattpad, respondents were asked about difficulties in understanding the English text from Wattpad's story. 36.4% still have difficulty understanding the English text. 39.4% admitted that they had no difficulty understanding it. Meanwhile, 24.2% gave varied answers such as a little difficult or quite understanding.
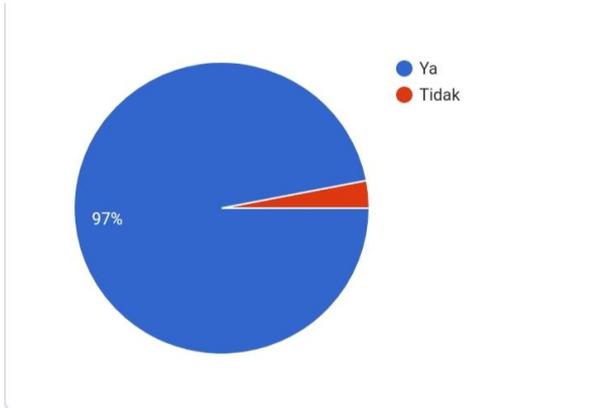

Respondents who had difficulty reading the English text chose several alternatives in solving this problem, most of them chose to find out the meaning of difficult vocabulary. The rest is to read it over and over again or choose to just continue reading.

Reading English text from Wattpad is also considered to be able to increase English vocabulary. This assumption is reinforced by the answers of 97% of respondents who admit that their English vocabulary increases after reading the text.
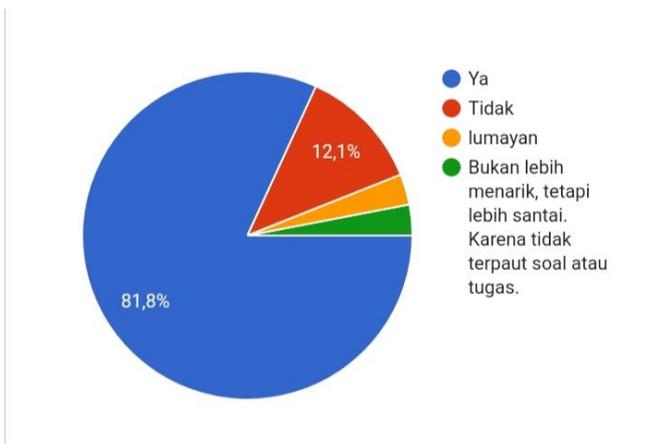

In addition to increasing vocabulary, 97% of these respondents also admitted that reading English stories from Wattpad could add new phrases or sentences that the respondents could learn.

42.4% of the respondents also admitted that reading English stories from Wattpad was also able to train them to pronounce English words.

According to respondents, the English stories on Wattpad are more interesting than the English stories that are usually found on English lesson question sheets.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that there is an influence between the variable using Wattpad digital reading application on the respondent's English language skill variable. From the results of this research, the researchers assume that the use of Wattpad in the teaching and learning process of English can help improve the English skills for those people learning English. An interesting learning media like Wattpad can be used as an alternative in increasing the enthusiasm for learning English, starting from being interested in reading English stories from this digital application then getting the benefits of using it. Then, with the advancement of technology in the form of a digital reading application, it can later be used more in the teaching and learning process of English.

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