

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARD WATTPAD AS MEDIA TO ENHANCE READING SKILL

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Received: July 25, 2023 Revised: August 9, 2023 Accepted: November 9, 2023 Published: December 31, 2024</p> <p>Keywords: Students' Perception, Wattpad, Reading Skill.</p>	<p>The objective of this research was to find out the students' perception toward wattpad as media to enhance reading skill at fourth semester in English Education Department Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar. The researcher used descriptive quantitative research. The sample of this research was D Class of English education department students Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar which consist of 10 students. The Data was taken by using questioner with Google form .The data from questionnaire shows that mostly students considered the wattpad application to be a helpful for enhancing students' reading kills. It means reading in wattpad has a good impact on English learning activities in fourth semester students of the English Department of Muhammadiyah Makassar.</p>
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INTRODUCTION

One of the four skills that students of English must master is reading. Reading also as a method of learning English and one of the most effective ways to improve mastery of vocabulary, and repeating the word continuously can make more remembering from the words read. That means reading is one of the important activities to support language learning.

Reading is learning written texts and comprehension them. Reading requires the symbols of writing system to be converted into the spoken words they represent. The reasons for reading is to learning the meaning, the essence of the text, and the techniques and expertise of the readers decide understanding (Cline et al., 2006). While (Panjaitan et al., 2022) Reading is a practice undertaken and used by readers who wish to receive a message from the writer through words or written language.

According to (Nurhadi, 2011) Reading is a type of behavior that related to confidentiality the ability to master the art in addition to that stated. Readers can combine the material individuals currently reading with information individuals already possess in the hopes of obtaining the meaning. Reading contributes in acquiring knowledge and growth. Students are very difficult to do reading activities. there are many factors that influence students seem very lazy to read, such as factors in the mother tongue whose pronunciation is very different from the language learned, second is the material given and taught by the teacher

is less interesting and makes them bored, not infrequently those who see English as a difficult subject and tend to move away from it.

Related to the problems above, it is needed the right way for students to be more interested in reading. This indicates that educational institutions develop a project to increase students' reading awareness utilizing resources that aren't provided to students. In this case, Wattpad is one of the application-based media that is highly recommended to be used. Wattpad is the most popular writing-reading websites where people can freely and uniformly compose, download, and read literary works (Thabran & Anastasia, n.d.) In the online reading environment, Wattpad found its niche. Wattpad is the –world's largest community to explore and share stories, according to its official website, www.wattpad.com. It is a website where writers and readers are free to write, read and connect (Julie et al., 2015). Wattpad offers access to more than 50 different languages. In context above, there are many opportunities for learning, particularly language study.

Including more than 90 million users worldwide, Wattpad has been successful in making content available. The tools to write a tale and provide feedback are both available on Wattpad. The algorithm that enables readers to locate the stories they will prefer seems to be another aspect. As a result of its advertisement, accessibility, and functionality, Wattpad has grown to become one of the most popular reading platforms to be downloaded (Al Falaq, 2021).

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is going to conduct the research on students' perception in reading through Wattpad application with tittle "Students' Perception Toward Wattpad as Media to Enhance Reading Skill focusing on students at Muhammadiyah University of Makassar where the initial observations made by researcher. The reason is the researchers wants to find out how the perception of the Wattpad application is in enhancing their reading skills, especially English students at fourth semester. Whereas in reality not all English students are interested in reading English stories and are not aware of the benefits of reading . The researcher employed a questionnaire fourth students of English Department Muhammadiyah University of Makassar at the fourth semester year 2021.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The researcher had already searched for and examined a number of previous papers in order to make this paper different from previous ones related to the use of wattpad application in learning English as follows;

According to (Sari, 2012) with research tittle the impacts of short tales on wattpad on non-english major students at Bina Darma University's reading comprehension proficiency revealed that the study's findings strongly support the importance of short stories on wattpad for students' reading comprehension.

Second (Nurdiana et al., 2023) states the educational activities were found to be interesting, suggesting that the use of Wattpad platform as an instructional medium can be beneficial for enhancing students' reading skills.

Next (Adnan, 2023) the study at smp negeri 3 watampone eighth-grade pupils' ability to read is being improved by utilizing the wattpad program. Based on student scores between the pre-test and post-test, the study's pre-experimental methodology revealed that utilizing Wattpad Application, students' reading skills were improving. The pupils' reading proficiency improved, with the mean score rising from 54,34 on the pre-test to 78,47 on the post-test. The analysis of the students' rising scores from the two tests (pre-test and post-test) was 30%. The data suggests that utilizing the Wattpad application can significantly improve kids' reading skills.

The last (Ramadhanti et al., 2021) use the sample With each class having 30 students, X MIA 2 served as the experimental class and X MIA 1 served as the control class for the study. The data was gathered utilizing tests, which included pre-tests, post-tests, and tryouts. The study's findings demonstrated a strong impact of utilizing Wattpad on students' comprehension of narrative content when reading.

Based on the previous research findings above, there are similarities and differences. The similarity of this study with previous research is this study uses the Wattpad application as a medium for learning English. The difference between this research and previous studies focus of the research learning, where this research will focus on students' perceptions of the Wattpad application in enhancing reading skills, while the research mentioned previously focuses on the effect, benefits and uses of the application on the learning process.

METHODS

The researcher used descriptive quantitative research method in this study. The researcher applied the method to describe students' perceptions toward wattpad in students' reading skill. The researcher used descriptive quantitative method to learn the participants' perspectives on the data required based on actual facts. The participants in this study were English majors at the University of Muhammadiyah Makassar in the fourth semester; the participants were chosen at class D and already had a Wattpad account.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researchers gather data to be studied and then categorize responses depending on the questionnaire. To construct their research in a questionnaire, researchers employed a number of formula. The liker scale is the scale used in this study's research. Liker scale is used to determine how students perceive towards wattpad as an application to enhance their skills in reading.

In order to collect data for this study, students responded to questionnaires. This study aims to find out the students' perception toward wattpad as media to enhance students reading skill. The study included students from the English department. The researcher used data

from a list of questionnaires and the guidelines in data analysis to determine how the students opinions about Wattpad.

Statement 1 Students found many new words when read the text

The result shows that 8 students or 80% chose agree, 2 students or 20% chose strongly agree, none of students chose undecided, disagree and stongly disagree. It means most of students at Muhammadiyah university of Makassar especially the fourth semester found many new word when read the text.

Statement 2 Students start to use the new vocabulary they got from reading the text

The result shows that 6 students or 60% chose agree, 2 students or 20% chose strongly agree, 2 students or 20% chose undecided, meanwhile no one chose disagree and strongly disagree. It means most of students start to use the new vocabulary they got from reading the text.

Statement 3 Students understand the text context by focusing attention on the text

The result shows that 8 students or 80% chose agree, 2 students or 20% chose strongly agree, meanwhile none of students chose undecided, disagree, strongly disagree. It means most of students understand the text context by focusing attention on the text.

Statement 4 Students just focus on the text reading

The result shows that 7 students or 70% chose agree, 1 student or 10% chose strongly agree, 2 students or 20% chose undecided, none of students chose disagree and strongly disagree. It means most of students just focus on the text reading.

Statement 5 Students can translate the meaning into their mother tounge after read the text

The result shows that 8 student or 80% chose agree, 1 student or 10% chose strongly agree, 1 student or 10% chose undecided, none of students chose disagree and strongly disagree. It means most of students Students can translate the meaning into their mother tounge after read the text

Statement 6 Students can find the main idea and the key details

The result shows that 8 students or 80% chose agree, 2 student or 20% chose strongly agree, meanwhile no one students chose undecided, disagree, strongly disagree. It means most of students can find the main idea and the key details.

Statement 7 After reading the text students can gain more information and expertise

The result shows that 7 students or 70% chose agree, 2 students or 20% chose strongly agree, 1 student or 10% chose undecided, none of the students chose disagree and strongly disagree. It means most of students can gain more information and expertise after read the text

Statement 8 Reading in wattpad improve student's grammatical term

The result shows that 6 students or 60% chose agree, 2 students or 20% chose undecided, 1 student or 10% chose strongly agree, 1 student or 10% chose disagree and no one student chose strongly disagree. It means most of students improve their grammatical term after read in wattpad.

Statement 9 Reading in wattpad enhance student's language improvement

The shows that 9 students or 90% chose agree, 1 student or 10% chose strongly agree, none of students chose undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. It means most of student enhance their language improvement after reading in wattpad.

Statement 10 Students very interested reading in wattpad because there are many variations of stories genre that can be read

The result shows that 7 students or 70% chose agree, 2 students or 20% chose strongly agree, 1 student or 10% chose undecided, no one chose disagree and strongly disagree. It means most of student Students very interested reading in wattpad because there are many variations of stories genre that can be read.

Statement 11 Students do like reading in wattpad, it is simple because it is already in application

The result shows that 8 students or 80% chose agree, 2 students or 20% chose strongly agree, none of students chose undecided, disagree and strongly disagree, it means most of students do like reading in wattpad, it is simple because it is already in application.

Statement 12 Wattpad is the perfect application to enhance reading skills

The result shows 7 students or 70% chose agree, 3 students or 30% chose strongly agree, meanwhile none of students chose undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. It means most of student agree that wattpad is the perfect application to enhance reading skills.

Statement 13 motivated reading after use wattpad

The result shows that 8 students or 80% chose agree, 1 student or 10% chose undecided, 1 student or 10% chose disagree, none of student chose strongly agree and strongly disagree. It means most of students motivated reading after use wattpad.

Statement 14 Students enjoy reading now after use the wattpad app

The result shows that 8 students or 80% chose agree, 1 student or 10% chose strongly agree, 1 student or 10% chose undecided, none of students chose disagree and strongly disagree. It means students enjoy reading now after use the wattpad app.

Statement 15 Students prefer reading on smartphone to books

The result shows that 7 students 70% chose agree, 2 students or 20% chose strongly agree, 1 student or 10% disagree, none of students chose undecided and strongly disagree.

Table 2. frequency and Percentage of students response

Question	Students' Perception				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Statement 1	2 20%	8 80%	0 10%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 2	2 20%	6 60%	2 20%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 3	2 20%	8 80%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 4	1 10%	7 70%	2 20%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 5	1 10%	8 80%	1 10%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 6	2 20%	8 80%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 7	2 20%	7 70%	1 10%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 8	1 10%	6 60%	2 20%	1 10%	0 0%
Statement 9	1 10%	9 90%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 10	2 20%	7 70%	1 10%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 11	2 20%	8 80%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 12	3 30%	7 70%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 13	0 0%	8 80%	1 10%	1 10%	0 0%
Statement 14	1 10%	8 80%	1 10%	0 0%	0 0%
Statement 15	2 20%	7 70%	0 0%	1 10%	0 0%

The data from questionnaire shows that mostly students considered the wappad application to be a helpful for enhancing students' reading skills. Based on the questionnaires from number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, the researcher conclude that 17,14% students strongly agree, 74,28% students agree that the text they read from wappad application can enhance their reading skill, meanwhile 8,75% students chose undecided. In other words, students answer from question number 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, the researcher conclude that 13,75% students chose strongly agree, 76,25% students chose agree that wappad application can enhance their reading skill, meanwhile the other 6,25% students chose undecided, and the last 3,75% students chose disagree that wappad can enhance their reading skill.

According to (Nurdiana et al., 2023) the Wattpad platform as a learning tool to improve students' reading skills while integrating reading techniques and leveraging Wattpad platform applications to provide students with access to a variety of texts suitable for different reading levels and genres to improve their reading skills. This platform can encourage student's interest in reading, which will increase their interest in learning. The data reveals that reading in wattpad has a positive effect on English learning activities in fourth semester students of the English Department of Muhammadiyah Makassar.

CONCLUSION

These findings offer some important information for learners, teachers, and future studies to expound on utilizing the wattpad application to English learning because this study used a descriptive quantitative technique and was completed short with a limited number of participants. For teachers, it is anticipated that this activity remains focused on clear objectives and ideas, as well as offer feedback on the use of Wattpad to improve writing skills. It is intended that English education students would continue to develop and advance their skills in reading.

Based on findings and discussion on the previous chapter, the result of the study is to determine how students' opinion about wattpad application in reading. The research focused on students' perception toward wattpad as media in enhancing students' reading skill. The result of the research showed that the students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of Makassar improve their learning in reading through wattpad. Wattpad media is good tool for English learning especially in reading and give the students big effect for learning English.

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