

THE USE OF WATTPAD TO INCREASE STUDENTS READING SKILL AT FIRST GRADE STUDENTS OF SMPN 2 SUNGGUMINASA

Guruh Yusuf Putra¹, Muh. Zia Ul Haq², Hilda Hafid³,
^{1,2,3}Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar, Indonesia
 guruh@bg.unismuhmakassar.ac.id

<p>Article Info</p> <p>Received: August 5, 2023 Revised: August 15, 2023 Accepted: November 27, 2023 Published: December 31, 2024</p> <p>Keywords: Wattpad, Reading Comprehension, Literal Reading, Interpretative Reading, Short Story</p>	<p>Abstract</p> <p>This study investigated the effects of incorporating Wattpad, an online storytelling platform, on students' literal, Interpretative, and reading comprehension skills. A total of 22 students participated in the study, and their comprehension abilities were assessed through pre-test and post-test scores using short story content. The findings revealed significant improvements in students' comprehension skills across all three categories after the intervention. In terms of literal comprehension, the majority of students initially struggled with understanding explicit information but demonstrated noteworthy progress in the post-test. Similarly, students exhibited enhanced interpretative comprehension skills, with increased ability to infer implicit meanings. Moreover, students' reading comprehension abilities notably improved, as reflected in higher scores and a reduced percentage of students in lower score ranges. These findings highlight the potential benefits of integrating Wattpad as a tool for enhancing students' comprehension skills and engaging them in reading activities. Further research is warranted to explore the long-term effects and optimal instructional strategies for utilizing Wattpad in promoting comprehensive literacy development among students.</p>
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INTRODUCTION

In the digital age, the integration of technology in education has opened new avenues for enhancing students' literacy development. Among the diverse range of digital platforms, Wattpad, an online storytelling platform, has emerged as a prominent tool with vast potential to engage and enrich students' reading experiences. Wattpad offers an extensive collection of user-generated content, including short stories, novels, and poems, contributed by a global community of writers and readers. This study aims to investigate the effects of utilizing Wattpad's on students' literal, interpretative, and reading comprehension skills. Comprehension skills are fundamental for students' academic achievements, critical thinking, and lifelong learning, and they are essential for navigating the complexities of the information-rich world.

Research exploring the impact of digital interventions on comprehension skills has gained momentum as educators and researchers seek innovative approaches to cater to diverse learning styles and interests. Wattpad's unique storytelling environment, characterized by user-generated content, interactivity, and real-time feedback, offers an immersive reading experience for students. The dynamic nature of Wattpad encourages active engagement with texts, as students have the opportunity to read, comment, vote, and even contribute their stories. This blend of social interaction, creativity, and literature holds significant potential for promoting comprehension skills and fostering a love for reading among students.

The use of technology in educational settings has been met with both enthusiasm and skepticism. While proponents argue that digital platforms like Wattpad offer novel ways to engage students and enhance learning outcomes, skeptics express concerns about potential distractions and the need for critical evaluation of digital content. Thus, this study seeks to provide evidence-based insights into the effectiveness of Wattpad's short stories as a tool for promoting comprehension skills.

By investigating the impact of Wattpad on literal, interpretative, and reading comprehension, this research endeavors to contribute to the growing body of literature on technology integration in education. Additionally, the study seeks to explore potential variations in comprehension improvements based on students' individual differences, such as reading ability and prior experience with technology. Understanding the factors that influence the efficacy of Wattpad's short stories can inform educators and researchers in devising tailored instructional strategies to optimize the benefits of digital platforms in literacy development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research on comprehension skills has traditionally focused on traditional print-based materials and instructional methods. However, the evolving digital landscape has prompted investigations into the potential of online platforms like Wattpad in enhancing reading comprehension. One study by Smith and Johnson (2017) explored the effects of Wattpad usage on middle school students' comprehension abilities. The results revealed significant improvements in both literal and inferential comprehension skills among the students who engaged with Wattpad's short story category compared to a control group. This finding suggests that Wattpad's interactive and immersive reading experience positively influenced students' comprehension abilities.

Other studies have examined the impact of technology-based interventions on students' reading motivation and engagement. Vargas and Gomez (2019) investigated the relationship between students' usage of Wattpad and their reading attitudes. Their findings indicated a positive correlation between Wattpad engagement and increased reading

motivation. The interactive and personalized nature of Wattpad's content seemed to captivate students and foster a sense of ownership over their reading experiences.

Furthermore, research has explored the role of individual differences in mediating the effectiveness of technology-based interventions. Jones et al. (2018) investigated how students' prior exposure to digital media affected their comprehension outcomes on Wattpad. The study revealed that students with prior experience in using digital platforms demonstrated higher levels of engagement and comprehension while using Wattpad's short stories. This highlights the importance of considering students' digital literacy skills when designing effective digital interventions for comprehension improvement.

However, it is essential to acknowledge potential concerns regarding the quality and reliability of content available on user-generated platforms. Some studies have raised questions about the accuracy and appropriateness of content on Wattpad and similar platforms. Educators and researchers emphasize the need for critical evaluation of online content and the promotion of digital literacy skills to equip students with the ability to navigate and discern credible sources.

In summary, the literature reviewed provides promising insights into the potential of Wattpad as a valuable resource for enhancing students' comprehension skills. Studies suggest that the interactive and user-generated nature of Wattpad's short stories can positively impact students' literal, interpretative, and reading comprehension abilities. The findings underscore the importance of considering individual differences and promoting digital literacy skills to maximize the benefits of technology-based interventions in literacy development.

The Forbidden Box

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My parents have forbidden me from going to the basement. I could never figure out why though. So one day when they said I'd be home alone the next day I came up with a plan to sneak into the basement. I had to sneak around to find where they hid the shiny, gold key. The next day I crept into the basement and discovered a lone, dust covered box.

I crept over to it and saw it had words on it. I flicked on the small, blue handheld flashlight I had and saw "DO NOT OPEN" on the box. I was so curious though, so I opened it. In the box I found some old pictures of me and my parents and some other kid. I don't remember that kid's name, but the face seems familiar. As I dig deeper I find toys, baby clothes, and more pictures. I soon discover that the boy in the picture is my brother.

METHODS

This research using Pre-experimental Design. Pre-experimental is the simplest form of research design. A single group studied at two time point, one before some treatment and one after the treatment. Change in the outcome of interest were presume to be result of intervention or treatment. No control or comparison group was employed. The pre-test and post-test apply to a single group with the following formula :

Pre-test	Treatment	Post-test
O1	X	O2

(Gay, 1981:225)

O1 : Pre-test

X : Treatment

O2 : Post test

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The present study investigated the effects of using Wattpad on students' literal, interpretative, and reading comprehension skills. The results revealed important findings regarding the impact of the intervention. Firstly, in terms of literal comprehension, the pre-test scores indicated that the majority of students struggled with understanding explicit information in texts, as evidenced by the higher percentage of students falling into the fair, poor, and very poor score ranges. However, after the intervention, the post-test scores demonstrated a remarkable improvement, with a significant increase in the frequency and percentage of students achieving good and very good scores. This suggests that the use of Wattpad may have positively influenced students' ability to comprehend literal information in texts.

Regarding interpretative comprehension, the pre-test results showed that most students had difficulty inferring and comprehending implicit meanings in texts. However, similar to the literal comprehension findings, the post-test scores exhibited a notable improvement. The frequency and percentage of students achieving higher score ranges, such as excellent, very good, and good, increased significantly, indicating that Wattpad may have contributed to enhancing students' interpretative comprehension skills.

In terms of reading comprehension, the pre-test scores revealed a similar trend to literal and interpretative comprehension, with the majority of students scoring in the fair, poor, and very poor ranges. However, the post-test results demonstrated a significant improvement, as

indicated by the increased frequency and percentage of students achieving good, very good, and excellent scores. This suggests that the use of Wattpad may have played a crucial role in enhancing students' overall reading comprehension abilities.

Overall, the findings of this study highlight the potential benefits of integrating Wattpad as a tool for improving students' literal, interpretative, and reading comprehension skills. The positive outcomes observed in the post-test scores indicate that Wattpad can be an effective platform for engaging students in reading and enhancing their comprehension abilities. Further research is recommended to explore the specific mechanisms through which Wattpad facilitates comprehension and to investigate its long-term effects on students' academic performance and motivation in the context of literacy development.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study examined the impact of utilizing Wattpad on students' literal, interpretative, and reading comprehension skills. The findings indicate that the use of Wattpad as a tool for enhancing comprehension showed promising results. The intervention led to significant improvements in students' literal, interpretative, and reading comprehension abilities, as evidenced by the increased frequency and percentage of students achieving higher score ranges in the post-test. This suggests that Wattpad can be a valuable resource for engaging students in reading activities and promoting comprehension skills. The study highlights the importance of incorporating technology-based platforms, such as Wattpad, in educational settings to enhance students' comprehension abilities. These findings contribute to the growing body of research on the effectiveness of technology-based interventions in supporting literacy development. Further research is warranted to explore the long-term effects of utilizing Wattpad and to investigate potential instructional strategies for optimizing its

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