STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE USE OF WEBTOON TO IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION SKILL

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Abstract

This research discussed about student's perception on the use of Webtoon to improve reading comprehension skill. Webtoon is a new platform that can be used to improve reading skill by its words used and interesting pictures. The purpose of this study is to explain whether or not Webtoon can increase students' interest in reading comprehension skill. The respondents of the study are the students of English Education students at Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia.The result of the study indicates that the students are more interested and get the motivation to improve their reading comprehension skill by using Webtoon.

Keywords: Webtoon, reading comprehension, motivation

INTRODUCTION

Reading is an ability that has an essential role for students. Pustika (2019) believes that Indonesian students need to learn English so they can read texts that have meaning for their career or study. Because reading has become a part of our daily activity and has included one of skills that students have to learn in English as foreign language. Besides, through reading activity, students can improve their language, experience, reading skills, and their minds (Ayu, Diem, & Vianty, 2017). They will get information and ideas from what they read and what they need to know (Sasalia & Sari, 2020). According to McDonough et.al (2013), reading is the activity that students usually learn and do in English as a foreign language. It is used to get a comprehensive understanding and idea from the text. A reading activity can shape the students to become long life learners since they keep refresh and add knowledge every time they do reading (Pustika, 2018).

In this modern era, especially for Indonesian students, students cannot be separated from their smartphone. In this case, the use of digital media will be maximized for teaching and learning (Oktaviani and Desiarti, 2017). In this recent era, there are various platforms and application to learn English that can be accessed by students at any time (Aminatun & Oktaviani, 2019; Mandasari and Aminatun, 2019; Ambarwati and Mandasari, 2020; Mandasari, 2020; Putri & Sari, 2020; Mandasari and Wahyudin, 2021). The students are interested in something digital, online, and unique. So, the researcher focuses this study in teaching reading through Webtoon Comic. Webtoon is a new compound word made up of "website" and "cartoon, which means comics. Webtoon is published through the web and optimized for the computer screen. "Webcomics" have not settled into shape because traditional paper comics still have a strong market. Webtoon in Korea is an exceptional case. Also, Webtoons have distinctive features which are not found in other countries' webcomics.

To increase the quality of teaching and learning processes and make learners autonomous, the advanced of technology has adopted important parts of language learning at all stages of education (Sari &Wahyudin, 2019; Aminatun & Oktaviani, 2019). The advanced of technology impacts the transition in the teaching and learning process and proposes different learning methods that are sufficient for the characteristics of the learners and make them autonomous learners (Mandasari and Oktaviani, 2018; Aminatun & Oktaviani, 2019; Oktaviani & Mandasari, 2020; Mandasari and Aminatun, 2020).

Therefore, the teacher plays important role in choosing teaching strategy (Simamora and Oktaviani, 2020), especially teaching reading. The teacher's creativity and strategy should be implemented in the class while teaching reading to make students perform well in reading. Reading strategies are to help students

comprehend the text in the act of reading (Kuru-Gonen, 2015, p. 2924). Teachers can utilize existing facilities in schools such as technology to deliver material online so it can be accessed by students easily (Ayu, 2020). Teachers' knowledge on the use of appropriate technology in the learning process is one of the variations that can be done by the teacher. This will certainly increase interest, the achievement of learning outcomes, and a new atmosphere in learning English. Besides, by using the right strategy, it will be a fun activity for students.

METHOD

This study aims to explore the perspective of students towards the use of Webtoon to improve their reading comprehension skills. The subject was 50 students from the English Education study program, Faculty of Arts and Education, Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia. The research design in this study is descriptive qualitative. Qualitative research is a type of research method that is used to gather non-numerical data. The data collections were obtained through questionnaires. The questionnaires were distributed to all respondents. The questionnaires consist of 7 numbers including 5 statements and 2 questions. The scales of each statement are to "agree" and "disagree", as well as paragraph answers.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section discusses the findings of the study by exploring their response toward the use of Webtoon to improve reading comprehension skills. The table below describes the means to each item of the questionnaire. The detailed results can be seen as follow:

Table 1. students responses towards the use of Webtoon to improve reading comprehension skill

Statement	Results	
	Agree	Disagree
1 Webtoon Helps me Improve my Reading Comprehension Skill	78%	22%
2 It's Difficult to Use Webtoon to Improve Reading Comprehension Skill	80%	20%
3 Webtoon Helps me to Master Reading Comprehension Skill	74%	26%
4 Language Used in Webtoon Motivates me to Improve my Reading Comprehension Skill	72%	28%
5 It is Necessary to Use Webtoon to Improve Reading Comprehension Skill	72%	28%

78% of the respondents agreed that Webtoons improve their reading comprehension skill while 22% of them disagreed that Webtoons can improve their reading comprehension skills. 80% of them did not agree that using a Webtoon is difficult while 20% of them agreed that using a Webtoon is difficult. 74% of them agreed that the Webtoon helps them in mastering reading comprehension skill while 26% of them disagree that the Webtoon helps them in mastering reading comprehension skills. 72% of them agreed that the Webtoon motivates them to improve reading comprehension skills, 28% did not agree that the Webtoon motivates them to improve reading comprehension skills. 72% agree that the Webtoon is necessary to be used to improve their reading comprehension skills, 28% do not agree that the Webtoonis necessary to be used to improve their reading comprehension skills.

Based on the results above, it shows that respondents agree that Webtoon is an application that contains comics published online that readers can access whenever they want. Usually, comics are published through print or paper media but comics are different In addition, webtoons have special features that cannot be found in webcomics in other countries, for example, such as voice features that Webtoon comic writers can add. Webtoons have become the center of attention in various fields including drama, film, advertising industry because of the extraordinary attraction of people to this application, constantly evolving features and adaptability that can put themselves in a digital environment. Webtoons are also an inspirational medium for education today. Considering that Webtoons are very popular with teenagers nowadays, they can be used as teaching media for teachers. Webtoons help them in improving their reading comprehension skills and also that Webtoons can motivate them to improve their reading comprehension skills, however, some respondents still disagree because they think that they don't like it. read webtoons. Some respondents claimed to have never used a Webtoon, while some other respondents read a Webtoon because they liked the storyline. Although the language used in Webtoons is often Indonesian, they both read English Webtoons.Reading Webtoons written in English is indeed interesting and funny. This is both entertaining and triggers them to improve their reading comprehension skills.

Some respondents also said that webtoons did not interest them and sometimes they only read webtoons when they were bored not to practice reading skills. And also some respondents said that they like and are interested in reading webtoons even though they say they don't like comics. Meanwhile, the other respondents said that the Webtoon can also make students interested in reading it because the webtoon has pictures so that it makes students interested in reading it. Some of the respondents also said that the webtoon uses a language that is very easy to understand, which makes their reading skills improve.

The main role of comic books in teaching is their power in motivating students. We recommend combining the use of comics with certain methods of teaching. So that the use of comics as a learning medium will be more effective (Wahyudin et al, 2020). Teachers should help students to find good and fun comics. Webtoon, a comic application from Korea, is well known among today's millennial generation. Webtoon provides various genres that can make those who read it interested and entertained because of the interesting story. Reading is one of the skills that must be mastered by students in learning English, one of which is reading skills. Through Webtoon, they can improve their reading comprehension skills and can motivate them to improve their reading comprehension skills. Almost all of them like to read Webtoons even though they don't often read English but they also read Webtoons in Indonesian. In addition, reading is also their hobby, it is not uncommon for those who like to read and read Webtoons as a hobby. This should be taken advantage of because following the interests of the millennial generation can be useful to improve their reading comprehension skills because nowadays they prefer to operate smartphones to read. Using Webtoons in the classroom can make students happy as well as motivated in improving their reading comprehension skills.

If the language used is their mother tongue it will be very easy for them but different if the language used for reading is a foreign language, it will be a little more difficult Good Text comprehension occurs if the reader can predict in advance what the text will read Connecting information in text with the background of the reader's knowledge, fostering curiosity so that questions arise when reading, paying attention to the understanding of the text, and summarizing whatever things are being read. Reading comprehension is related to several cognitive and metacognitive strategies, such as activating background, summary text, and generating questions to capture the main idea of the passage. Students can understand The meaning of the reading text is reading comprehension. Meaning is the goal of understanding reading results. Knowing the meaning of words can contribute to understanding the text we read. so, to be able to understand the meaning of the text, students must have a good understanding Reading comprehension in English is one of the important elements so that students can learn better, this is because through reading comprehension they get information about what is being and will be studied. Comprehension is the goal of reading, but it can be the most difficult skill for students to master, especially for English learners. Comics have become widespread as a medium for entertainment. Colorful illustrations, simple themes and plots, and characterizations will attract the person who reads it. Amazingly, almost everyone said yes when asked if they had ever read comics. The widespread of comics made writers interested in using comics as a teaching medium. A teacher can use the potential of comics in motivating students.

There is one who also said that he prefers to read books directly instead of online comics such as webtoons. So based on all the answers of the respondents, webtoon is indeed one of the online comics originating from Korea, which is already widely known by other countries, including Indonesia. It's no wonder that several Korean films are based on webtoon stories, one of which recently is True Beauty. The story on the webtoon is indeed very good. The rating is also good in the application. No wonder there are still many who like to read webtoons. Reading English webtoons can improve students' reading skills even though they are reading only because they are bored and because of the good webtoon comic storyline but without students realizing it, reading webtoons can increase their reading skills because they are continuously read and viewed so it makes students get improvement on the reading ability of the webtoon. Reading does make them sleepy and boring when what they read is a lesson, but if what they read is in the form of a comic, namely a webtoon, they can really like and be interested in reading it with the images presented and there is also a sound feature that can be heard. Where they have the impression that they will prefer what they find attractive over what is not. Not only that, but the webtoon also provides a genre that is not only romantic and scary, there they also present a funny genre, and many of the webtoon writers themselves write stories that are true stories from the writer's story from the writer's daily life. Like school stories, colleges, there are also stories about strange things that happened to the writer's life. That's what makes webtoons popular with millennial children today. Instead of spending time reading in bookstores or having to save a long time before being able to buy and read comic books. Now they just have to look at their respective cellphones and most importantly they only need to top up credit or internet packages on their cellphones and can read through the webtoon application that they have downloaded if they use Android they can download it from the Playstore if their iPhone users can download it in the Appstore.

CONCLUSION

From the findings and discussion above, it can be concluded that reading is a very important skill to be taught in a foreign language because most scientific books and magazines are written in English. Reading can be used to further develop the ability to read not only textbooks but also other reading materials, for example, online comics (webtoons) and novels or magazines. Through reading students understand the meaning of the content of the material when they understand the text. When students read, they enrich their knowledge and increase their understanding of life. Reading is a useful activity because students get data from the content and can expand their English capacity with implications. Even though reading is one approach to build information and practice language, many students even though all of them do not understand English content as account text. At that time, students' attention in reading text comprehension was influenced by reading teaching methods. Reading practice is identified with language aptitude and other parts of language, for example, jargon and punctuation but in encouraging reading, the fundamental focus is on the most effective methods for making students understand the content. Meanwhile, Reading plays an important role in our education, work, recreation, and social life. Reading is the most important skill among the four language skills because it can improve overall language skills; comprehension is not a separate skill but involves the connection of students' knowledge and the organization's knowledge. Students' prior knowledge is very important in understanding the reading text. Reading comprehension is the ability to understand concepts and data in reading texts.

The reader must understand the meaning of the written language after he reads it. Reading comprehension is a procedure where the reader needs to select an etymological picture and reproduce it to the point where the whole is planned by the writer. Reading comprehension is just a term that refers to reading, the ability through which is important is not on articulation or reading load, however, but it is the comprehension that is considered. Comprehension includes understanding and understanding the main thinking and related subtleties. It is worth feeling that a lot of thought is suggested and he has to find out the real story to get the full meaning. Actual reading comprehension depends on several cognitive processes and language learning. Distinguish between letter and word level processes compared to word-level comprehension processes and word-level comprehension processes.In this case, the use of digital media will be maximized. The students are interested in something digital, online, and unique. So, the researcher focuses on studies in teaching reading through Webtoon Comic. Following up on the results and discussion, I would like to suggest to English teachers and other researchers who are interested in conducting the same study. In the teaching and learning process, teachers must use various media that will make students more aware of learning something. One of the media uses Webtoon Comic. This shows that researchers use Webtoon Comic to make students feel interested, interested, and happy. Here, the teacher must follow the curriculum applied in the teaching-learning process to make the situation run well and have more benefits between the teacher and the students. For future researchers, this research hopes to be another researcher who will conduct this kind of research that is still related to this research. They may perform at the same level or different levels. This is done for various English skills, such as listening, writing, and speaking.

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