

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presented The Background of the Research, statement of Research Questions, Research Objective, Significance of the Research, Scope Limitation of Research, Definition of Key Terms, and Organize the Thesis.

A. Background of study

Wattpad digital stories are one form of digital storytelling platform that allows students to access and read various genres of stories through their smartphones or other devices¹. In the digital era, such platforms have become increasingly popular among teenagers and are widely used for entertainment as well as for informal literacy practice. For English language learning, Wattpad offers authentic and engaging narrative texts that are close to students' interests, such a friendship, school life, romance, and adventure, which can potentially be integrated into classroom reading activities.

In Indonesia, English reading is one of essential skills taught at the junior high school level, yet many students still show low motivation to read English texts. Traditional learning that relies on printed textbooks and teacher-centered instruction often makes reading activities feel monotonous and less meaningful for students. As a result, students may become passive, easily bored, and reluctant to read English text both inside and outside the

¹ Fahmi Hidayat and Emma Rosana Febriyanti, "Digital Storytelling Research Trends in Indonesia: A Systematic Literature Review," *Acitya: Journal of Teaching and Education* 6, no. 2 (2024): 288–301, <https://doi.org/10.30650/ajte.v6i2.3848>.

classroom, which negatively affects their reading achievement and overall literacy development.²

To overcome these problems, teachers are encouraged to use innovated and technology-based learning media that are closer to students' daily lives and interests, digital storytelling and online reading platforms have been reported to increase students' engagement, interest, and motivation in language learning because they combine visual, textual, and interactive elements. Students on digital storytelling in EFL contexts show that it can positively affect students' motivation and attitudes toward learning and learners often perceive digital stories as enjoyable, interesting, and beneficial for improving their English skills.

Guruh mention that Wattpad can capture that interest of students who are typically reluctant to read traditional texts by offering engaging and relevant stories.³ Reading become enjoyable and personalized thanks to interactive features and user-generated stories. This can boost students' motivation and comprehension skills in learning English as a foreign language (EFL). Specific data on Wattpad users among junior high school students learning to read English in Indonesia and East Java remains limited. However, a case study showed a significant improvement in reading scores among 20 junior high school students at HKBP Sidorame through the SPE

² Ayau Ummad Nasution, *STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS ON USING WATTPAD AS MEDIA IN EXTENSIVE READING*, n.d.

³ Guruh Yusuf Putra et al., "THE USE OF WATTPAD TO INCREASE STUDENTS READING SKILL AT FIRST GRADE STUDENTS OF SMPN 2 SUNGGUMINASA," *Journal of Computer Interaction in Education* 7, no. 2 (2024): 82–88, <https://doi.org/10.56983/jcie.v7i2.1033>.

method. Daily engagement reached 46,7% of students, who spent 30 to 60 minutes reading narrative texts, primarily in the novel genre (52%) and the romance genre (44%).⁴ Conversely, data from East Java only highlights literacy trends among students at UPN Veteran, where 60.9% read occasionally. To obtain accurate statistics regarding junior high school students in East Java, local surveys are essential.

Given these challenges, researcher are encouraged to explored the use of Wattpad as a digital reading tool to improve students' reading skills in the context to teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL). This study aims to bridge the gap between low reading habits among students and the potential of digital platforms to improve English reading skills. Researcher interested in this issue because the trend of low reading interest among students in Indonesia, particularly in East Java, is becoming increasingly concerning. Specially, many junior high school students demonstrate minimal reading skills and are often reluctant to read, whether from physical books or their phones. Furthermore, field observations indicate that many junior high school students are unaware of the Wattpad app or website for reading in English, in fact they are unfamiliar the app itself.

This lack of motivation to read has a significant impact on their comprehension particularly regarding English. By integrating Wattpad a digital storytelling platform that offers engaging, relevant, and easily

⁴ Yessica Indah Sinaga et al., *Students' English Reading Skill By Using Structure-Proposition-*, n.d.

accessible stories. The researcher hope to spark students motivation to read and demonstrate progress in their reading skills within the context of teaching English as a foreign language (EFL). Based on the previous description, the researcher is interests in conducting research with the title “The effectiveness of using Wattpad digital stories as a learning media on students’ reading motivation at the eighth grade of SMPN 3 KEDUNGWARU TULUNGAGUNG”.

B. Research Question

Based on background above, the problem of the study can be formulated as follow:

Is there a significant difference in the reading motivation of eighth grade students taught using Wattpad digital stories and those taught using conventional reading instruction with printed narrative text at SMPN 3 KEDUNGWARU TULUNGAGUNG?

C. Research Objective

Based on the statement of the problem above, the purpose of the study is to describe:

To find out whether is a significant difference in the reading motivation of eight grade students taught using Wattpad digital stories and those taught using conventional reading instruction with printed narrative texts at SMPN 3 KEDUNGWARU TULUNGAGUNG.

D. Significance of the Research

The researcher hopes that result of the study will give contribution to.

1. The English teacher

It will help the English teacher to improve teaching method in teaching English reading and learning process in classroom

2. The students

It can improve and raise their motivation and achievement in learning English.

3. Other researchers

The result of the research can be used as reference for those who want conduct a similar research

E. Scope and Limitation on the Research

In order to get focus in conducting the study, the writer limited the scope of study as follows:

1. The study focuses on analyzing the effectiveness of using Wattpad digital stories to improve the reading motivation of eighth-grade students at SMPN 3 KEDUNGWARU TULUNGAGUNG. The study examines how to use of digital narrative media influences students' interest and willingness to read compared to conventional learning methods. The research is limited to eight-grade students, the use of Wattpad as the learning media, and the measurement of students' reading motivation during the research period.

2. The subjects of this study were eighth-grade students at SMPN 3 KEDUNGWARU TULUNGAGUNG, with total of 179 students in grade 8. The researcher used two classes, namely Class A and Class B. there were 30 students in class A and 30 students in class B. Thus, the researcher used two classes in grade 8 with a total of 60 students as the subject of this study.
3. There are several limitations to note. The sample was selected based on teachers' recommendations rather than random assignment. The two groups may not be equivalent in terms of background characteristics. The treatment was conducted over two weeks, with learning time interrupted due to the school's schedule, so the treatment was not equal or consistent in terms of reading motivation.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Reading

Reading is one of the basic skills that people should have and can increase their vocabulary and knowledge. Therefore, an interest in reading is really necessary. Reading can be done through a variety of media such as books, newspapers, and the internet.

2. Digital reading

Digital reading encompasses all forms of reading where the material is presented on a computer, tablet, smartphone, or e-

reader. It includes books, articles, blogs, social media, and content from online discussion boards.

3. Wattpad

Wattpad is an important resource for everybody interested in literature. This uncovered that this internet platform is accessible through web and mobile application. Where individuals can leave their comments and response to what they are reading and involving themselves in discussion with others. This also illustrates that students, can create a free account to start writing on Wattpad platform whatever stories they like.

4. Narrative text

Narrative text is a type of text that tells a fictional or real story using a chronological sequence of events, usually in the past tense. Its primary is to entertain, inform, or teach a moral lesson through engaging plots, characters, and conflicts.

G. Organization of the Thesis

Chapter I

The focus of this chapter presents the Background of the Research, Research of the Problem, purpose of the Research, significance of the Research, Scope and Limitation of the Research, and Definition of Key Terms

Chapter II

This chapter explains the Theoretical Review, Previous Study, Theoretical Framework, and Research Hypothesis.

Chapter III

This research deals with description of the steps of conducting the research that include: research Design, Research Variable, Research Time and Place, Population, sampling and sample, Research Instrument, Validity and Reliability, Data Collection Technique, Data Analysis.

Chapter IV

In this chapter, the research presents Research Findings of the Research.

Chapter V

In this Chapter, the researcher presents Discusses the Findings of the research

Chapter VI

In this chapter, the researcher presents the conclusions and suggestion about the research