



## EFL (ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE) STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LEARNING READING BY USING ELECTRONIC BOOKS

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### ABSTRACT

The aims of this research was to determine students' perceptions of the effectiveness of learning reading by using electronic books (E-books). The formulation of the problem in this research is focused on what is the students' perception about the effectiveness learning reading by using electronic books (E-books). This research used descriptive qualitative method. The data were collected by triangulation, namely observation, questionnaires, interviews, and documentation. The results of the data showed that students' perceptions about the effectiveness of learning reading by using electronic books (E-books) provide a good perception. Electronic books (E-books) are good learning media to be applied to students to help students learn to be more independent.

**Keywords:** *Reading, Students Perception, Effectiveness, Electronic Books (E-books)*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, English is not referred to as a second language, but English is referred to as a foreign language. English has also become a compulsory subject in Indonesian schools from elementary school to university level. Therefore, students are required to improve their ability to speak English. In English, there are four skills in learning English, namely listening, writing, speaking, and reading. Reading is one of the basic skills in English which is the most basic and most important skill in learning English. Reading is a process that must be considered and integrated in every classroom. Reading is the key to learning in all aspects of life, especially in this era of globalization (Theriana, A. 2019) in the era of globalization, English has almost mastered all

aspects of human life, ranging from business, economics, politics, and education. In the world of education, learning English, especially in Indonesia, has become an open secret if English is a compulsory subject, starting from elementary school to the college.

Therefore, students are requested to evaluate how the class is going with the techniques or media that are being used in class so that improvements may be made to the quality of learning. Because the perceptions of students in enhancing the quality of learning are highly valuable, it is possible to find out what difficulties and benefits in learning activities take place.

There are many kinds of technologies that are utilized as learning media in English learning activities. One example of a

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technology that may be utilized in English learning activities is the electronic book (Ebook), which is a form of PDF ebook. Because practically any task can be completed using solely technological devices in the modern day, incorporating technology into the educational process as a teaching tool is one of the creative measures that can be taken to improve the standard of education in Indonesia and bring it up to the level where it can compete successfully on a global scale. This is something that may be observed inside the Indonesian government, namely within the Ministry of State of the Republic of Indonesia.

According to Jaya, A., et al (2021:131) The pupils believe that smart work is more important than hard labor. As a result, institutions should cater to the needs of the Digital Generation students in order for them to understand elearning education methods. An e-book can be described as a textual content for reading fabric in a digital shape, a complete e-book within the layout of a computer file or a collection of snap shots and words in an electronic layout readable on computers, laptops, capsules, phone or specialized electronic gadgets such as ereaders (Lam et al. 509). Electronic books, or e-books, are becoming increasingly popular in the digital age. They are essentially digital versions of printed books, with the added convenience of being accessible on electronic devices such as computers, tablets, or e-readers. E-books are designed to be read on screen and often include features such as bookmarks, highlighting, and note-taking functions.

E-books can come in a variety of file formats, including PDF, EPUB, MOBI, and others. These formats can support different types of content, such as text, images, videos, and sounds, allowing for a more interactive and engaging reading experience. With e-books, readers can adjust the font size, style, and spacing to their preference, making them a more accessible option for people with visual impairments or reading difficulties.

In some cases, e-books are created as digital-only publications without a printed version. This is particularly common in academic publishing, where authors and publishers can save on production costs and make their work more widely available by publishing in digital form. However, many e-books are also published alongside print editions, providing readers with the option to choose their preferred format.

Overall, e-books are a convenient and versatile alternative to traditional printed books, providing readers with a wide range of content and features in a portable and accessible format.

During the pandemic, schools and universities have had to adapt to remote learning in order to continue providing education for their students. Ebooks have emerged as an alternative learning medium for conducting distance learning activities. They have played an important role in ensuring the continuity of students' learning activities, as they provide a means for students to access learning materials from anywhere with an internet connection. In online learning activities, students and teachers are asked to be

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as efficient as possible in using technology to ensure that students can continue their education without any disruptions. Ebooks provide a flexible and convenient learning option, as they can be easily downloaded and accessed on various devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Additionally, ebooks can include multimedia elements, such as videos and sounds, that can enhance students' learning experiences and engagement with the content. Therefore, ebooks are an important tool for schools to ensure the sustainability of student learning activities during distance learning.

Due to the limited interaction of students and teachers to have or borrow the printed version of the book provided by the school, then the electronic book is an option for teachers to replace the printed version of the book as a medium for student learning.

**2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Concept of Perception**

The process of meaning or information. The stimuli themselves precede the process of perceiving the relationship between objects, events, or symptoms, which are then processed by the brain.

Perception is a complex and multi-dimensional process that involves the reception and interpretation of sensory information from the environment. This sensory information is gathered through the five senses—sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell—and is then processed by the brain to create a meaningful experience of the world around us. The process of perception involves not only the reception of sensory information but also the

interpretation and organization of that information in order to form a coherent and meaningful understanding of the environment.

The study of perception has a long history in both philosophy and science. Philosophers have long been interested in the nature of perception and the relationship between perception and reality. Early philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle recognized the importance of sensory perception in human experience and the limitations of perception in providing a complete understanding of the world.

In the modern era, the study of perception has become an important area of research in cognitive psychology and neuroscience. Scientists have used a variety of techniques, such as brain imaging and psychophysical experiments, to investigate the neural mechanisms underlying perception and understand the ways in which perception can be influenced by factors such as attention, expectation, and context.

Overall, perception is a fundamental aspect of human experience, and the study of perception has provided valuable insights into the workings of the human mind and brain. By understanding the mechanisms of perception, we can gain a deeper understanding of how we experience the world around us and how we can use this knowledge to improve our lives and interactions with others.

**Perception process**

According to Qiong (2017) the perception process has three stages, as follows:

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**1) Selection**

Selection is considered the first and most fundamental stage in the process of perception. This stage refers to the process of filtering out certain information or stimuli from the environment that we convert into meaningful experiences. The stimuli can be received through our senses, such as sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell. However, the information overload that we experience on a daily basis can be overwhelming. We are constantly bombarded by a vast array of information that we cannot process all at once. Therefore, our brain must select which stimuli are most important to us and ignore the rest.

For example, while walking in a crowded street, we are exposed to various stimuli such as people talking, cars honking, the sound of music, and the smell of food from restaurants. Our brain will select the most important stimuli based on our interests and needs at that moment. If we are in a hurry, we may only pay attention to the people walking in front of us and ignore the other stimuli around us.

The process of selection involves a combination of both bottom-up and top-down processing. Bottom-up processing refers to the analysis of the physical features of stimuli, such as color, shape, and texture, whereas top-down processing refers to the use of prior knowledge, expectations, and context to influence our selection of stimuli. For instance, if we see a word that is misspelled, we may select it and try to correct it based on our prior knowledge of spelling.

Overall, the selection stage is critical for perception because it allows us to filter out

unnecessary information and focus on the most important stimuli in our environment.

**2) Organization**

The second stage in perception process is organization. After selecting information from the outside world, we need to organize it in some way by finding certain meaningful patterns. This organization stage is accomplished by putting things or people into categories, and that is why it is also termed categorization by some researchers. In this stage of perception, the social and physical events or objects we encounter will immediately have shape, color, texture, size, etc. For instance, when asked what a human being is, some people may describe it from the perspective of skin color, others from that of race or nationality.

**3) Interpretation**

The interpretation stage in perception is an important cognitive process that involves attaching meaning to the selected stimuli. It is the process by which we make sense of the information that has been perceived. After categorizing the stimuli into structured and stable patterns in the previous stage of perceptual processing, we try to understand the meaning behind those patterns. In order to do this, we draw on our existing knowledge, experiences, and expectations to interpret the stimuli.

However, it is important to note that different people may give different interpretations of the same stimulus. This is because people have different backgrounds, experiences, and beliefs, which shape their understanding of the world around them. For

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example, a person may perceive a certain gesture as a sign of friendliness, while another person may interpret the same gesture as aggressive or hostile.

Context, culture, and language are a few additional factors that can affect the interpretation process. Context refers to the situation or environment in which the stimulus is presented, and it can have a significant impact on how we interpret it. For example, a joke that is funny in one setting may be offensive in another.

Culture also plays a role in interpretation, as different cultures may have different meanings and values attached to certain stimuli. For example, a smile may be interpreted as a sign of politeness in some cultures, while in others it may be seen as a sign of insincerity.

Language is also an important factor in interpretation, as different words and phrases can have different connotations and meanings in different languages. This can lead to misunderstandings and misinterpretations, especially in cross-cultural communication.

In conclusion, interpretation is an important stage in the process of perception that involves attaching meaning to the selected stimuli. It is a complicated process that depends on a variety of elements, including individual differences, context, culture, and language.

### **Concept of Reading**

According to Pang, et al (2003) Reading is about understanding written texts. It is a complex activity that involves perception and thought. Reading consists of two related processes: word recognition and

comprehension. Word recognition is an important part of the reading process because it is the basis for developing reading fluency. Once students have developed automaticity in recognizing words, they are able to focus on the second process of reading, which is comprehension. Comprehension is the ability to understand and make meaning from what is read. It involves a range of skills such as vocabulary knowledge, background knowledge, understanding text structure, making inferences, and drawing conclusions. Effective readers use these skills together to understand the meaning of a text.

Furthermore, comprehension involves more than just understanding the literal meaning of the words on the page. It requires readers to engage with the text at a deeper level, to make connections between what they already know and what they are reading, and to think critically about the information presented. Good readers also engage in metacognition, or thinking about their own thinking, while reading. They monitor their own comprehension, identify areas where they may be confused or need more information, and use strategies to clarify their understanding.

According to Theriana, A., (2019:18) Reading is a process that must be paid attention to and incorporated into every class. In order to learn, you must read every element of life, especially in this is the age of globalization. Reading is a process of interaction between the reader and the material in it all schematic knowledge interacts using all social and contextual readers factor.

**Vol 6, No 2 (2023): ESTEEM****The goals of reading**

Reading is an essential skill that plays a crucial role in enhancing students' perception, particularly in the context of English language learning. To improve their reading ability, it is important for students to understand the different purposes of reading. There are various goals for reading that have been suggested by experts in the field.C

One of the primary purposes of reading is to acquire new knowledge and information. When students read, they can gain new insights into various topics and subjects. This can help them expand their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Reading can also help students develop critical thinking skills as they analyze and evaluate the information they are reading.

Another aim of reading is to enhance language skills. Reading can help students improve their vocabulary, comprehension, and grammar. It can also help them develop better writing skills as they are exposed to different styles of writing and are able to learn from the works of other authors.

In addition to these aims, reading can also serve as a source of entertainment and relaxation. When students read for pleasure, they can escape from the stresses of daily life and immerse themselves in a world of imagination and creativity.

Overall, understanding the various purposes of reading can help students become more motivated and engaged in their reading activities. By setting clear goals and objectives, they can focus on developing the specific skills they need to become better readers.

**Reading aspects**

Reading is a crucial aspect of language learning, and it involves various skills that need to be developed in order to improve overall reading proficiency. According to Kuswari (2010:30), these skills can be divided into five main aspects.

The first aspect is phrase recognition skills, which refer to the ability to recognize and understand words and phrases in context. This involves the ability to recognize and decode words, understand word meaning, and comprehend sentence structures.

The second aspect is punctuation recognition abilities, which is the ability to recognize and use punctuation marks in a text to assist in comprehension. This includes recognizing and understanding the roles of punctuation marks such as periods, commas, and semicolons, which help readers understand sentence structure and meaning.

The third aspect is the ability to recognize specific meanings, which refers to the ability to identify and understand the meanings of specific words and phrases in a text. This involves the use of various reading strategies such as context clues, word analysis, and inference to understand the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases.

The fourth aspect is critical reading abilities, which involve analyzing and evaluating texts as well as interpreting and synthesizing information from various sources. This includes the ability to identify main ideas, summarize information, and make connections between texts.

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The fifth and final aspect is the potential for creative reading, which refers to the ability to read and interpret texts from a creative and imaginative perspective. This involves making connections between different texts, analyzing literary devices such as figurative language and symbolism, and interpreting texts in light of personal experiences and beliefs.

In summary, developing these aspects of reading can greatly improve students' overall reading proficiency and enhance their language learning experience.

**Concept of Electronic Book (E-book)**

In today's digital age, technology has become an integral part of our lives. It has also revolutionized the way we learn and teach. According to Rosmiyati, E., & Jaya, A., (2017:20), incorporating technology into the classroom has become crucial in twenty-first-century education. This is because technology offers many advantages in terms of making learning more engaging, interactive, and efficient.

One of the technologies that have proven to be useful in learning activities as a learning medium is electronic books, or e-books for short. E-books have become increasingly popular in recent years as they provide a convenient and accessible way for students to access learning materials. With e-books, students no longer have to carry heavy textbooks or worry about losing them. They can simply access their reading materials on their electronic devices, such as laptops, tablets, or smartphones.

Moreover, e-books offer many features that are not available in traditional printed

books. For example, e-books can include multimedia elements, such as videos, images, and audio, which can make the learning experience more engaging and interactive. E-books also offer search and annotation functionalities that allow students to quickly find information and take notes while reading.

In the context of English teaching, e-books can be particularly useful in improving students' language skills. E-books can include interactive exercises, quizzes, and games that help students practice their grammar, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. E-books can also provide students with access to a wide range of reading materials, such as novels, articles, and news, which can help them improve their reading and comprehension abilities.

In summary, e-books are an essential tool for modern-day learning and can offer many benefits for students. By integrating e-books into English teaching, teachers can provide their students with an engaging and interactive learning experience that can help improve their language skills.

**Function Of Electronic Book (Ebook)**

E-books have become an increasingly popular learning medium over the years, in large part due to the government's strong support for their use in education. One of the key advantages of e-books is their ability to enhance learning productivity. In the learning process, reading materials such as e-books are essential resources that can help students expand their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. Additionally, e-books provide unlimited reference, giving students

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access to a wide range of resources to support their learning.

Furthermore, e-books help educators streamline their study time. In the past, educators were often burdened by the need to carry numerous heavy textbooks and reading materials, which made it difficult to move around and teach effectively. However, with the advent of e-books, educators can easily access all the necessary materials in digital format, which is much lighter and easier to carry around. This ensures that educators have all the necessary learning materials at their fingertips, allowing them to focus on teaching and engaging with their students rather than worrying about the logistics of managing textbooks.

Overall, the use of e-books as a learning medium is a highly efficient and effective way to enhance the quality of education in Indonesia. Through their ease of use, unlimited access to resources, and enhanced learning productivity, e-books have become an essential tool for students and educators alike.

**3. METHODS**

This research was used a qualitative descriptive method. According to Fraenkel, Wallen, & Hyun (2012, p. 26) Qualitative research examines the best of relationships, activities, and conditions. 33 students of ninth grade SMP PGRI 1 Palembang was the informsnt. Triangulation was used to find out the result of the research. First of all, the writer used questionnaire & Interview to find out the students perception about the effectiveness of learning reading by using electronic book. It

consists 25 questions and 5 question in interview with 5 students. I analyzed the students' questionnaires result by using the scale of the question below:

- 1. Strongly agree : SA
- 2. Agree : A
- 3. Neutral : N
- 4. Strongly disagree : SD
- 5. Disagree : D

**Table 1**

Aspect	Indicator
Students' perceptions of the effectiveness of learning reading by using electronic books	To find out student responses to the effectiveness of learning reading by using electronic books

(Sources : Agustina Andi (2021) *Students' Perception of Learning Electronic Books (E-books).*)

According to (Fraenkel, Wallen, & Hyun, 2012, p. 445), are an important technique for obtaining correct information. If the researcher wants to conduct a preliminary study to identify a problem that needs to be researched and wants additional information, but the number of respondents is limited. People's ideas, beliefs, and feelings about the situation are gathered through interviews.

**4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Perception is the beginning of a person's cognitive structure. Therefore, students must give a good perception of what will be given and learned. If students have a wrong



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perception of what they will learn, it will affect their learning outcomes so that the learning objectives are not achieved.

So, what students feel about using ebooks in their reading learning activities can influence students' perceptions. In perception sometimes perception is good and sometimes perception is bad. If the good feelings received by students are good, then students will get good results which have an impact on learning outcomes. Conversely, if students have negative perceptions or receive unfavorable stimuli, it will also have an impact on poor learning outcomes.

In this research there are two types of perceptions, namely positive and negative perceptions. And for the results of this study, students gave positive responses to the effectiveness of learning to read using ebooks. This can be seen from the 25 statements in the questionnaire and 5 interview questions to students during the study. In the questionnaire distributed, there are 25 statements that show different perceptions in the use of ebooks in learning to read, namely positive and negative statements.

From the results that the researchers collected with 33 students as informants in this study, the researchers were able to collect perception data through a questionnaire that revealed that Ebooks had positive perceptions from students which could mean that Ebooks were an effective choice for learning reading. Students give positive perceptions about Ebooks in learning to read because students like to learn English using Ebooks.

Most students also feel that Ebooks help them to understand and make it easier for students to learn. In addition, most students are interested in the convenience contained in Ebooks, where learning materials can be stored on their cellphones so that they can be opened anytime and anywhere. Students also gave a positive perception of the usefulness of Ebooks which they considered more able to make improvements in their reading learning activities, they also felt that Ebooks were more able to make them study independently. This attracts students' attention more because of the impact of distance learning that they feel, so Ebooks are one of their learning guides which they consider very helpful in their every learning activity.

Then for the interview process conducted by researchers with students, it showed that most of them used ebooks not only in learning activities or improving their abilities, but ebooks also became their new hobby in their reading activities. From the interviews that the author has conducted with several students, it can be concluded that the students have a positive perception of using Ebooks to improve their reading skills. The only problem that students face when used Ebooks is the problem of the internet network, because as we know not all students live in the city center with super-fast internet signals and internet quotas that are always available and can be used.

**5. CONCLUSION**

Students' perceptions of Ebooks in learning reading from all participants, totaling 33 students, obtained an average score. Based

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on the perception table, this score was in the positive category. This means that students are interested in using Ebooks in learning reading. Students are motivated to use Ebooks as learning media by this technique. From the process of collected answers to questionnaires and interviews that had been carried out, it is clear that students consider Ebooks to play a role in improving their reading skills and they also think that Ebooks make it easier for them to learn English, especially in improving their reading skills. Additionally, students used Ebooks both as a way of learning and as a hobby.

As a result and data collection that has been carried out in this research, it can be seen that students feel that Ebooks are effective for use in learning reading. Students should be inspired to take advantage of Ebooks as independent learning resources that can be used for reopening the material they have learned anytime, anywhere, even on their smartphones.

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