STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS THEIR SKILL IN READING NOVELS IN WATTPAD APPLICATION

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to investigate students' perceptions of their reading skills in novels on the Wattpad application. The research method employed a mixed-method approach, utilising questionnaires, interviews, and documentation to collect data. The population of the study consisted of 11th-grade students at PGRI Senior High School 2 in Palembang. The sample for this study was XI MIPA 1, comprising 36 students from PGRI Senior High School 2 in Palembang. The majority of students (64.7%) fell into the "Good" category based on their responses to the questionnaires. The results of the study revealed that 9 students were classified as "Very Good," 19 students as "Good," 8 students as "Bad," and no students fell into the "Very Bad" category. Based on the students' scores, it can be concluded that the use of the Wattpad application was effective in improving student learning outcomes. This indicates that the Wattpad application was highly beneficial for students, as it provided ample opportunities for them to learn English.

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Keywords: Perception, Reading, Wattpad Application

1. INTRODUCTION

Reading is one of the essential skills or an ability that can make students understand sentences. By reading materials, they can understand every vocabulary contained in notebooks or reading sentences that are always around them. So the writer can conclude that reading comprehension skills are very important for students who are in the stage of practicing their reading skills. Therefore reading is also an important skill in educational settings.

Reading is a relaxing hobby that not only teaches us new things but also helps us better understand the ideas that are already rattling around in our heads. This makes reading both informative and enjoyable. Reading is therefore an extremely beneficial pastime. Reading is a skill that, according to Patel and Jain (2008): 114, can improve one's understanding in any field that they want to pursue. Reading is a skill that can extend one's comprehension of any subject that they choose, and because reading can give us all with information in the form of print versions and visual media, this shows that reading can boost one's knowledge of any topic that they choose. It suggests that individuals will have a stronger capacity to acquire the self-assurance required to begin reading conventional print editions of books and periodicals written in the new language, as well as the enjoyment of doing so (Kauffman, 2003: 118). Specifically, it says that people will have a stronger capacity to acquire the self-confidence required to begin reading books and periodicals published in the new language.

However, it is well known that people in Indonesia, even students, do not have a strong interest in reading (Rahman, 2018). Because of this, it may slow down their process of learning and absorbing the content, particularly in classes that require them to read.

According to Cain et al. (2004), poor readers have a difficult time comprehending written material and are not very good at drawing inferences from what they read. In addition, it was found out that Indonesian EFL students' reading interest was on level 1, which suggested that they have a low level on it. This information was revealed in Andreas's (2018) study. According to Rahman and Weda (2018), it is essential for students to have the desire to read.

According to Guthrie et al. (2000), a person's goals, values, and beliefs associated to the themes, methods, and results of reading are what constitute reading motivation. It has been known for a long time that Extensive Reading can solve such issues. This is due to the fact that Extensive Reading enables students to have more variation in their reading materials by allowing them to read authentic texts from various sources such as newspapers, journals, tabloids, articles, books, novels, short stories, magazines, and web pages. Additionally, Extensive Reading is actually applied outside of the classroom because the majority of people consider it to be enjoyable reading (Harmer, 2007). Reading for longer periods of time is associated with improvements in both reading speed and comprehension, as demonstrated by many research investigations. It seems to lead to significant vocabulary learning, and learners demonstrate their growth in both their spelling and vocabulary knowledge.

According to Shen (2008), there is evidence to suggest that lengthy reading can also improve students' emotional domains, such as their motivation and attitude towards reading.

According to Powell (2005), extensive reading is defined as the reading of a great quantity of materials that are easy to understand. This type of reading is typically done outside of the classroom in an environment that is familiar to the student. As a consequence of this, pupils have the freedom to select the reading content that they wish to read. In the event that students do not find the materials chosen for reading to be fascinating, they are encouraged to look for additional reading materials that are better suited to both their level of reading comprehension and their areas of interest.

According to Sari, et al. (2018), reading comprehension and interpretation abilities refer to the capacity of a person to read, comprehend, and apply written words on a page of an article or other reading materials.

Reading is an enjoyable hobby that offers many different advantages. One of these is the practise of reading for enjoyment. Reading activities that have a purpose for self-pleasure in order to receive satisfaction while reading are referred to as "reading for pleasure" in Clark and Rumbold's (2006:6) definition of the term "reading for pleasure." Another advantage is that reading can serve as a form of amusement for those individuals who enjoy it.

According to Lewis (2009), reading is one activity that has been shown to be effective in relieving stress. Reading for just six uninterrupted minutes a day, whether it be from a book or any other form of material, has been shown to reduce a person's stress level by as much as 68 percent, according to a study that was published not too long ago. Therefore, reading can assist in increasing a person's level of relaxation and reducing the amount of body tension they experience. In addition, as the level of sophistication of technology continues to rise, it is now possible to acquire reading material not only from books but also from other media such as portable smartphones. These days, there is a plethora of reading material that can be obtained for free on the internet, including e-books, audiobooks, fairy tales, short stories, and novels that span a number of literary subgenres. These reading materials can be accessed through a variety of reading platforms.

According to Sari (2020), short stories are utilized as an easy exercise in coaching student learning abilities in the application since story

is one of the literary works that will strengthen the power of comprehension of the text. Young, et al. (1996) note that two short stories on the edges of abuse are mentioned. First, the tale delivers engaging and enjoyable exercises that pique students' interest and make them feel at ease while learning English. Second, it helps students to be more critical thinkers and makes it easier for them to recall the story context. Students will gain new skills in follow reading while without becoming bored if they are given short stories to read. They are also suited for all levels and cover a wide range of topics.

In this modern era, short stories may now be obtained not just in tale books, but also on the internet. Wattpad is a well-known website or application that promotes short stories and other forms of writing. It is the largest online e-literature community, allowing users to read and appreciate tales from all over the world, as well as share their own experiences through writing (Popescu, 2013).

Allen Lau and Ivan Yuen, two Canadian engineers and co-workers, established Wattpad in 2006 as an online community of writers and readers. They claim that Wattpad is a platform for aspiring as well as experienced authors because it enables authors to publish their work, receive feedback, and connect with other writers and readers. (Ramdarshan Bold, 2018). Wattpad operates on the principle that its material comes from its users and has been compared to "YouTube for stories (without video)" (Ramdarshan Bold, 2018). Wattpad offers a large variety of reading materials, both free and for a fee, which can encourage pupils to read for longer periods of time.

The website provides a total of 21 different types of stories for its visitors to choose from, and they can do so depending on whichever topics most pique their interest. The stories can be categorised as belonging to genres such as adventure, fantasy, historical fiction, horror, humour, science fiction, non-fiction, urban, thriller, and a variety of other categories. Since Wattpad is a platform that gives its users the ability to read and write, it

attracts authors from a wide variety of countries who produce stories in a number of different tongues. Nevertheless, customers have the ability to select the language of the articles that best suits their needs. The pupils have a wide selection of options for reading stories written in English to choose from. In an effort to bring in more readers, certain well-known stories that were originally written in a language other than English have also been translated into English. There have been earlier research that are pertinent to the subject matter.

However, none of the studies have investigated how students feel about Extensive Reading, particularly when it is done on the Wattpad platform. Furthermore, none of the studies have investigated the benefits that students obtain from engaging in the activity while using the platform. A study titled "Students' Perception in the Impact of Extensive Reading Course" was carried out for the purpose of a thesis (Arifuddin, 2018). His research investigated the attitudes that college students at Indonesian state universities held towards a course that required a significant amount of reading material to be completed. According to the results of the research, the (Anindita, 2020) carried out research with the working title, "Efl Students' Perception Towards Extensive Reading Practises in Higher Education Level." The goal of the study was to evaluate the students' perspectives on extensive reading as a subject, the kind of materials that were most appealing to them, and the benefits that it offered to their English language abilities. The findings of this research indicated that the pupils have positive attitudes regarding the substantial reading practises that are utilised. In addition, extensive reading practises helped students improve their knowledge as well as their English skills, including their ability to write, talk, listen, read, as well as their command of vocabulary and their grammar.

From the explanation above, the writer concludes that using Wattpad application which contains various genres of novels could

improve reading skills. There are two types of novels, namely in books and websites or applications. Unlike in the past, novels only exist in books and students have to buy books first and they can collect them or look for them in the library and borrow them.

Meanwhile, nowadays technology is getting more sophisticated and there are many websites or applications where students can collect the best novels, such as the Wattpad application. In this application, there are many kinds of genres, it is fiction, non-fiction and etc., that can make novel lovers not feel bored, in this application, there are paid and unpaid novels. Most of students are more interested in reading novels through applications than through books because according to their perception, with this application they can be taken anywhere and can read as much as they want without the hassle of carrying it and also improving their reading comprehension skills.

Based on the writer's observation at PGRI Senior High School 2 of Palembang, there were several problems from students regarding their reading skills. Some students were still not fluent in reading English texts, students in the class still did not understand the material that was being explained by the English teacher in front of the class. Sometimes they were silent if the teacher asked them to repeat the explanation from the previous lesson.

According to Rukun (2019), Wattpad is a social networking website and service that allows users to leave comments, upload photos, exchange links to news and other relevant online material. Wattpad is a reader and writer community where students can find fresh user-generated tales in a variety of genres, including classics, general fiction, historical fiction, nonfiction, poetry, spirituality, and adolescent fiction. By creating social groups around tales, it hopes to break down conventional boundaries between readers and writers. Its methodology is applicable not just to new comers, but also to experienced authors.

Wattpad gives some writers the opportunity to publish, advertise, and assist

their work reach a large and diverse audience of over a million people. Users are actively involved in the entire process, with the ability to contact directly with the writers and share their thoughts with other readers. Despite the fact that it is available in more than 50 languages, 77% of the material is written in English. A lot of Wattpad users are offering their time to translate tales so that they might reach a wider audience.

This particular study aimed to find out "Students' Perception Towards Their Skill in Reading Novels in Wattpad Application".

2. LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1 Perception

According to the definition provided by Administrasi and Jan (2020), perception is an aspect of one's practical understanding regarding another individual or entity that is distinctly personal to that individual. It might come to you as a feeling in your gut or as a hunch that you get from your intuition. As a direct result of this, a number of different events have the potential to induce a shift in some manner in the perspective or intuition of an individual regarding a specific topic. Consider, for example, the individual's prior knowledge, the individual's own experiences, and the individual's own aspirations. Students' perceptions can be regarded as personal knowledge, intuition, image, and viewpoints of learners on teachers, as well as teaching and learning, according to Allahyar and Nazari (2012).

The Wattpad application is one that can serve the purpose of being a reading resource, a social media platform, and an entertainment medium all at the same time.

There are certain individuals for whom Wattpad is no longer something that is considered to be odd. Wattpad is one of the reading platforms that users of all ages, from the youngest to the oldest, have come to adore.

People can make new acquaintances and engage in conversation with other readers and novelists while utilising the Wattpad programme, which facilitates the publication of

narratives in the form of digital novels.

Novels can be found on Wattpad spanning a wide range of genres, including those devoted to fiction, nonfiction, romance, horror, and mystery, as well as comedy. The writer detailed the target that she has set for herself by considering the difficulties that were raised earlier. The purpose of this is to investigate the kids' perspectives on Wattpad when it comes to reading.

These concepts were presented in their research. Furthermore, students' views of themselves and their learning are one of the most essential variables in the process of teaching and learning, and more specifically in the design of teaching and learning activities in the classroom. This is because students' perceptions of themselves and their learning are directly related to how well they learn. It is important for educators to be aware of it since it will provide them the opportunity to communicate their expectations in a variety of contexts. Students' views of instructors, teaching materials, teaching media, and teaching techniques all influence how teachers interact with students during the teaching and learning process. How teachers connect with students is how they interact with students' perceptions of teaching materials, teaching media, and teaching methods.

According to McDonald (2011:2), perception may be defined as the way in which individuals interpret an occurrence that has taken place in the world. Because an individual can only clarify their perception based on what they have understood in the past, it is dependent on the previous knowledge of that individual. In another sense, people's perceptions of things are their individual points of view or interpretations of how they should value something. Irwanto (2002:71) asserts that the end outcome of perceptions can be broken down into two categories: positive and negative. According to Sobur, who was referenced in Nursanti (2016:163), the variables that can influence people's perception come from either the inside or the outside, and are therefore referred to as internal or exterior

influences.

One of the applications that offers short stories and novels in the form of electronic books is called Wattpad. E-book, or electronic book, is a phrase that refers to books that are already available in digital formats, as stated by Rodman and mentioned in Contreras, Gonzaga, Trovela, and Kagaoan (2015:309). Novel fans who use this application will find that they have access to a wide variety of novel genres, each of which can be downloaded for free.

Perception can be defined as the knowledge and the process of receiving stimuli to what they have learnt, which can be conveyed through opinion or intuition, and is based on perception indicators such as acceptance and appraisal. This definition can be derived from the previous statements made by a number of knowledgeable individuals.

In connection with gaining a grasp of the perspectives of the students, According to the explanation provided by Hamidah et al. (2014), student perception is the response of students to information about an item in order for them to provide meaning to the seen thing and understand it. Therefore, in the context of this illustration, one definition of perception may be a response to or an assumption regarding a process that is well-known and considered to be the process of detecting and gaining an understanding of how kids comprehend events and acquire new information.

2.2 Reading Comprehension

According to Uzer (2020), reading is a collaborative activity including the text, the reader's processing and their background knowledge. Based on the idea, the researcher finds that reading is the process through which a reader comprehends a written material and derives some information or knowledge from it. Reading is a deliberately and subconsciously thinking activity, students are able to enhance their minds for absorbing knowledge from reading. When people read

the written words, they will gain knowledge. Reading may assist students in comprehending certain events, such as those that occurred during this age, those that occurred in the past, and even those that will occur in the future.

For a reading instructor, understanding the significance of reading talent, including the capacity to read and the perspectives of specialists with differing points of view, is important. Conducting reading sessions in the classroom and getting feedback on how to improve reading abilities are both beneficial.

According to Chamba & Ramirez-Avila (2021), reading is viewed as a sequential process that encourages the development of higher-order cognitive abilities. Decoding, comprehending, analyzing, and integrating the entire concept of a book are the fundamental parts of reading (Karademir & Ulucinar, 2017). Some experts believe that children and teenagers do better in reading when they have a broad prior knowledge and word range domain (Kieffer & Lesaux, 2012; Shahar-Yames & Prior, 2018; Snow, 2002). Phonemic awareness, phonics, word identification, vocabulary, and comprehension are the five factors that comprise reading training. They all enable the reader to develop the fundamental reading skills required to be a good reader (Gunobgunob-Mirasol, 2019).

According to Abdullah (2018), some activities and strategies, such as skimming and scanning, can help enhance reading. According to Jose and Raja (2011), scanning is the act of pausing reading until the information needed to answer a specific query is discovered, whereas skimming is the process of getting the major concept of a book. Reading comprehension, according to Granda and Ramrez-Avila (2020), is the process of analyzing and comprehending a text. It enables readers to understand the material by making links between existing knowledge and the same or new stuff. Repeated reading, scheduled reading, and rate-building reading are all good ways to improve reading comprehension (Abdullah, 2018).

2.3 Wattpad Application

Wattpad application is an application that is a collection of various novels. Wattpad is a web novel that is now often used by everyone, especially students. Wattpad is a place where writers can strengthen their writing skills and readers can improving their understanding because on Wattpad there are several languages that we can find there, one of which is English. This application also has various genres that are not boring, it is fiction, non-fiction and etc.

According to Anggitasari, et al. (2020), the researchers just found that Wattpad can be a platform for sharing short stories and giving peer feedback to the author after reading a story. As a result, the researcher is interested in learning how EFL college students respond to reading short stories on Wattpad, as well as their perceptions and experiences with reading short stories on Wattpad. Wattpad application is created by Allen Lau and Ivan Yuen in 2006. it is a program designed for online reading and writing (Reid, 2016). Wattpad provides new and established writers with a free digital platform, feedback, and an experimental atmosphere (Bold, 2018).

Wattpad also provides additional reading options and innovations, such as reader reviews of book chapters and proposals for new text parts (Sari, 2016). Wattpad is free to join and provides users with a computerized platform for reading and writing. Wattpad users typically read and contribute to tales written by other users, despite the fact that it offers conventionally published works that are copyrighted. It also enables users to read and compose text in different of situations. Action, general fiction, paranormal, mystery/thriller, spiritual, horror, werewolves, fantasy, comedy, young chick-lit, romance, classics, vampires, science fiction, adventure, teenage fiction, random, fanfiction, historical fiction, and nonfiction are among the genres represented.

3. METHOD

In this study, the writer conducted the research at PGRI Senior High School 2 of

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Palembang, where the research carried out in the even semester of the 2022/2023 school year. The writer took class XI MIPA 1 as a sample for research. To take the sample, the writer used purposive sampling.

This research used conducted using a mixed method. The mixed method was choosen because this study aimed to provide knowledge about evaluating samples in detail and depth the perceptions of class XI students at PGRI Senior High School 2 of Palembang about students' perception towards their skill in reading novels in Wattpad application.

So, in this study, the writer used interview and questionnaire to find out students opinions about their skill in reading novels in Wattpad application. Then, the writer also used documentation as evidence of having conducted research. The documentation dealt with student questionnaire results, student interview results, and student final report cards.

The format for the data source in this investigation is as follows:

Questionnaire
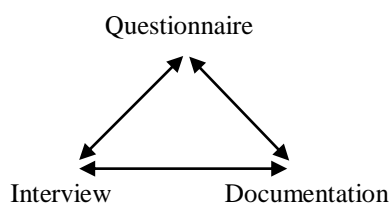
Interview   Documentation

Figure 1. Triangulation with Three Source

In processing the data of this study, the writer took the following ways:

a. Editing/Verification

The respondent filled out the questionnaire, the writer checked the completeness of filling out the questionnaire, and if there was an incomplete answer, the writer contacted the respondent concerned to correct the answer so that the questionnaire was valid.

b. Tabulating

Tables or tabulations were made of the responses in the questionnaire. After the data were processed and the results of the questionnaire was declare valid, a descriptive analysis was carried out using percentages.

c. Analiting

In this step, the writer analyzed the data that had been processed in order to make the study findings understandable.

d. Concluding

The purpose of this step was to present conclusions based on the findings of the data analysis and interpretation.

Descriptive analysis data was used based on the collected data, namely mixed method. This technique was used to determine the large percentage of respondents' questionnaire responses. The formula according to Anas (2014:43) is as follows:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \; x \; 100\%$$

P = Percentage of respondents' questionnaire responses

F = Frequency (Number of Respondents' Answers)

N = Total of frequency

Students of class XI MIPA 1 at PGRI Senior High School 2 of Palembang were asked to fill out each statement and respond to the statement by choosing one of the answers according to the student's condition, namely Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD).

Table 1. Scale as Data Scoring in Questionnaire Instrument

No.	Students Answer	Score
1.	Strongly Agree	4
2.	Agree	3
3.	Disagree	2
4.	Strongly Disagree	1

(Source: Sugiyono, 2012:93)

The writer used a formula to find out the average value of students' perception towards their skill in reading novels in Wattpad application. In this study, the writer would be used the formula according to Anas (2014:81):

$$MX = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$

MX = Mean

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X   = Total Number of Questionnaire

N   = Total of frequency

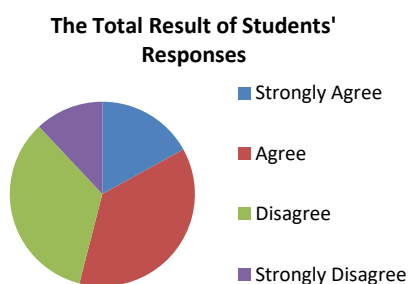After that, the writer formulated it using the category of effectiveness.

Table 2. Ranges of the Effectiveness Category

Percentage	Interpretation
0% - 25%	Very Bad
26% - 50%	Bad
51% - 75%	Good
76% - 100%	Very Good

(Source: Zahro, U. L., Serevina, V., & Astra, M, 2017:66)

4.   FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS

The percentage description technique was used to process the data collected from the questionnaire items into diagram form. The purpose of this process was for the data to provide meaning and explanation. Each item was tabulated using data analysis techniques to make it easier to interpret research data and draw conclusions from the problems studied. The diagram shows the results as follows:

The Total Result of Students' Responses

■ Strongly Agree

■ Agree

■ Disagree

■ Strongly Disagree

The writer gave 25 questionnaire items to the students of PGRI Senior High School 2 of Palembang. Through the diagram above, it was showed that 17% strongly agree, 37.22% of agree, 33.88% disagree, and 12% strongly disagree responses of the 25 questionnaire items that had been given. This was stated that most students gave good responses in the Wattpad application seen from the percentage of students' responses between agree and

strongly agree which was 54.22% compared to the percentage of students who strongly disagree and disagree which was 45.88%, which means students mostly like the novel storyline in the Wattpad application.

To find out the average value of Students' perception towards their skill in reading novels in Wattpad application was as follows:

$$MX = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$

MX   = Mean

X   = Total Number of Questionnaire

N   = Total of frequency

$$MX = \frac{2.332}{36}$$
$$MX = 64.7$$

According the results of calculations on 25 items related to Students' perception towards their skill in reading novels in Wattpad application which the writer connected with 36 students of class XI MIPA 1 PGRI Senior High School 2 of Palembang, Students' perception towards their skill in reading novels in Wattpad application is included in category of "Good" this could be seen from the results of the study which stated that the average score of the questionnaire was 64.7 in the category of "Good".

Based on the answers and analysis in the student interview research questions, there were 10 answers and analysis questions. It was explained that Students' perception towards their skill in reading novels in Wattpad application at PGRI Senior High School 2 of Palembang in the category "Good". The main reason why students involved the Wattpad application in learning English was because the novels in the application were flexible and very useful, by reading the novel on the Wattpad application students could learned English not only at school, students could learned anytime and anywhere without time and space restrictions.

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Based on Anates from class XI MIPA 1 at PGRI Senior High School 2 of Palembang students, the increase in student skills was above average and this stated that the Wattpad Application was declared effective in improving student learning outcomes.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings in the previous chapter, it could be concluded that the Wattpad application was very useful for students' involvement in learning English. Learning English using the Wattpad application was not only used in schools, with the Wattpad application students could learned English anytime and anywhere without limitations on time and place. The Wattpad application was used by students to study, especially to learn English because it was flexible, but sometimes students experience problems such as on-site signals and there were many advertisements in the application.

According to students' perception the main reason why students involved the Wattpad application in learning English was because the novels in the application were flexible and very useful, by reading novels on the Wattpad application students could learn English not only at school, students could learn anytime and anywhere without time and space constraints.

The used of the Wattpad application could be seen in the learning process, for example: at school or at home students can read stories in the Wattpad application easily, by reading stories continuously students would become accustomed and could understand the content in the story and because of that students become fluent in English. On the other hand, with the Wattpad application features students could communicated well or understand by writing text that was usually found in films or on posters. The writer realized that PGRI Senior High School 2 of Palembang students have already used the Wattpad application as well as possible to support the English learning process.

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