

Reading Materials for Individual Learning: Sources and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

This study described about the source of reading material that students use for individual learning in English class and also their challenges on reading. Source of reading materials include teaching material, both written and unwritten, or all types of materials used to teachers in carrying out teaching and learning activities. The design of this research using descriptive qualitative. The participants in this research included 26 students from twelfth grade at MAN Tanah Laut. On collecting data, the researcher used observation and interview. The data were analyze based on descriptive qualitative approach. Based on the result of the research it could be concluded that source of reading material that students used for individual learning in English class from school program and also provide the link to support teaching and learning activity. The challenges that students face when comprehending the source of reading materials for individual learning in English class such as lack of vocabularies, grammatical error, not understand meaning, and difficult to translate every new word.

Keywords: Reading Material, Individual Learning, Sources, Challenges

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INTRODUCTION

Speaking, Writing, Listening and reading are four abilities that should be include in language teaching and learning. Those abilities are inextricably linked. Since reading is a gateway to knowledge, it is a great habit to instill in everyone. Students are said to be independent if they are able to perform their learning tasks without dependence on others. students who not have independence in learning can be seen when following the teaching and learning process he will be passive, dare not ask if faced with difficulties, in the repetition of cheating a friend's work or cheating from the sheets from home and lack critical thinking. Reading is an ongoing process that requires the ability to recognize and comprehend words. Reading is a vital activity in people life because it allows one to keep up with currents events. Reading is a very useful activity because it can increase knowledge and can improve students' language skills. Patel and Jain said reading is unquestionably an essential practice for improving language skills.

For almost two years, the covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia, particularly in Tanah Laut, has been a painful problem for all people on the planet. without exception, all aspects of human existence on Earth are disrupted, including education. However, because of the

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covid-19 pandemic, the activity known as school has ended. all people over the world are being asked to remain stay at home in order to prevent the corona virus from spreading. The Government has been implementing a Work from Home policy (WFH). This policy is a community-wide effort to allow people to accomplish all of their job at home. The Covid-19 pandemic has had impact on education in Indonesia as well. In response to the restrictions on engagement, Indonesia's Ministry of Education has issued a policy that calls for the dissolution of schools and the replacement of teaching and learning activities with online platforms. English was formerly taught in traditional face-to-face sessions. This technique has changed as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. People keep their distance due to the pandemic. To keep the virus from spreading, even students are not permitted to attend to the classrooms. Teaching and learning are done online in this setting. However, there are numerous issues that arise when this learning process is carried out. In addition, om face-to-face learning, if students not understand something in a text, the students directly ask to the teacher or ask other students in class and the students will receive an explanation from them right away. According to Circular Letter No. 4 of 2020 from the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia on Education Policy Implementation in the emergency period of Corona Virus disease spread (Covid-19). The learning system is run on a personal computer (PC) or Laptop connected to an internet network connection. Educators can learn together at the same time using social media group such as WhatsApp (WA), Telegram, Instagram, Zoom, or other media.

There are some sources of reading material that students can use during online learning:

1. Textbook
Textbooks are used by educators all over the world to assist students and teachers in the learning process by exposing pupils to the material they will encounter (Harmer, 2007) Textbooks are one of the most important teaching tools because they allow teachers to guide students through the learning process. That is also utilized as a learning medium (educational) for students as a guide and a guide for them to learn.
2. E-Book
Electronic text (also known as Etext or e-text) that is available in a digitally encoded format readable via an electronic device is known as an E-Book (also spelled E-book, ebook, eBook, e-book, or e-Book). Adjustable font size, highlighting, bookmarking, note keeping, dictionaries, and reading aloud software are all available in e-books (Weber & Cavanaugh, 2006).
3. Wattpad
Wattpad is one of the blogging sites and applications that provide facilities for its users to write and read, where writing and reading in question is that users can write stories and also read stories created by other users (Syahrani & Mahadian, 2017).
4. YouTube
YouTube is already utilized as a learning tool by students from other countries. Teachers and students utilize YouTube as an interactive learning tool. Where students may learn lesson instructions that their teacher has published. YouTube also enables for remote learning and online learning, which is extremely useful in today's digital world (Samosir, 2018).

There are some challenges that students face when comprehending Source of Reading Material:

1. The student's problems are divided into three categories: basic English skill, lack of interest in the subject, and lack of motivation. Not every student progress at the same rate. Individual instances should be considered as much as possible, and unique exercises, more or less sophisticated, should be offered to them depending on the circumstances (Yorio, 1971).
2. The teacher's issues were that he didn't use any methods when teaching and that he used incorrect methods. Always keep in mind that reading is not a simple, painless process, and that what the teacher, who is usually a native speaker, considers simple and straightforward is often difficult and complex for the learned language (Yorio, 1971).
3. Material and environmental issues were external issues. Reading entails a lot of work, from letter and word recognition to comprehension at the expression, sentence, and paragraph levels. When a beginner reader comes across words they don't recognize or don't understand as a result of incorrect decoding, they're more likely to skip ahead.

METHOD

In this research using qualitative descriptive method. The qualitative research is intended to gather information on the current state of affairs. Researcher select, compile, and reduce the data obtained from observations and interviews, after that the researcher writes in the data record that has been analyzed. Researchers display data made based on observations and interviews to make the data easier to read. The last researcher made the final conclusion to answer the research question used qualitative method.

FINDING

The Sources

The result of this research and discussion are the source of reading materials that students used for individual learning. Data collection was carried out based on observation and interview which do with the Researcher conducted observation and interview related with the source of reading materials that students used for individual learning. Based on the interview and observation, it can be concluded that the source of reading students used for individual learning during pandemic are: Textbook (11 students), E-Book (6 students), Wattpad (5 students), and YouTube (4 students).

The other source of reading materials the students could be watching videos from YouTube. Videos from YouTube contained about materials from English subject, video material prepared by English subject teacher and also textbook from the link that is made by school. The purpose from this to support learning and teaching activity for English subject during pandemic.

The students spend time for reading during the pandemic is very diverse and varied and the types of student reading materials are also diverse. Students not only read when English subjects but also in their free time. The average time student spent a very diverse reading time from each student, at least 2 minutes with a different type of book. The longest duration of time for reading the students spend about 2 hours.

The Challenges

Based on the result of interview and observation, researcher found that the challenges from the source of reading that the students when comprehending the source of reading materials for individual learning are:

a. Lack of Vocabularies

In English, especially in reading, usually the students encounter obstacles in the form of unknown meaning of the words read. The more meanings of words that are not understood, the more the success of reading can be understood. The weakness the mastery of vocabulary, the more severe the suffering of students in capturing the meaning of reading. In other words, the lower the level of vocabulary mastery is the cause of weak reading ability. So, the vocabulary is a key component in understanding the content of reading.

b. Grammatical Error

English is an international language that is a compulsory subject in schools. There are many ways to learn English. Whether starting by learning grammar, or even directly by listening and following the way it is pronounced. Grammatical errors refer to the incorrect use of the normative rules for constructing a sentence. Common grammatical errors include word order, tense, point of view, and number. Under nonformal conditions, making language mistakes is certainly not a big deal, as long as students can understand when reading a text or reading and the purpose of what is meant.

c. Understanding Problem

The students who cannot comprehend long sentence they fail to understand the main idea presented in the text. Reading materials that are too difficult is also one of the problems. Less familiar reading material and sentences the complexity that exists in the text is another problem for students in understand reading. New words they found and text that was too Length is a major obstacle for students to understand reading. which their read.

d. Difficult to Translate every new word

The researchers concluded that the students tend to understand the text. Only in word/language elements, they overwhelmed in the delivery of target text good, true and natural flowing, So, that the idea of the text becomes through and unimpressed apart. By this research is recommended for students, so that the practice time is set with the schedule the orderly.

DISCUSSION

a. The Sources of Reading Material

Reading materials are any printed media that is made available to the public in the form of books, magazines, tabloids, newspapers, brochures, pamphlets, and other useful printed materials that may be read, studied, and enrich people's lives (KEMENDAGRI,2001). Source of Reading material include teaching materials. Teaching materials, both written and unwritten, are all types of materials used to aid teachers in carrying out teaching and learning activities. Not all learning sources featured in the book are used during the learning process. This theory is related with the data obtained by the students that is explained about there are several reading sources they used for individual learning during pandemic:

The first source of reading is Textbook. textbook has the most user than other sources, it is about 11 students. (Harmer, 2007) his stated textbooks are used by educators

all over the world to assist students and teachers in the learning process. Second source of reading is E-Book, the reason students choose E-Book as source of reading material for individual learning during pandemic is because it may be opened electronically. based on (Weber and Cavanaugh, 2006), E-Book provided adjustable font size, highlighting, bookmarking, note keeping, and dictionaries. that all can help students to comprehend reading material. The third source of reading material for individual learning during pandemic is Wattpad, (Syahrani and Mahrani, 2017) Wattpad is one of the blogging sites and applications that provide facilities for its users to write and read. so, the students can read the English novel from Wattpad as source of reading material. and the last is YouTube, based on (Samosir, 2018), YouTube is already utilized as learning tool by students from other countries. since it very popular YouTube also can be source of reading.

b. The Challenges

a). Lack of Vocabularies

Vocabulary is essential in the teaching of any language, especially for students who desire to accomplish the objective of reading ability. If students lack vocabulary, students will be unable to read. In other words, lack of vocabulary is caused by a lack of language expertise (Rohmatillah, 2014). This theory is related with the data obtained by the students that is explained about the lower the level of vocabulary mastery is the cause of weak reading ability. So, the vocabulary is a key component in understanding the content of reading. The weakness the mastery of vocabulary, the more severe the suffering of students in capturing the meaning of what they are reading.

b). Grammatical Error

Grammar is an important part of language learning and a person's grammar influences how much they understand about the language (Lyons, 1968). This theory is related with the data obtained by the students that is explained about Grammatical errors refer to the incorrect use of the normative rules for constructing a sentence. many students do not understand and understand grammatical patterns that are not of one type in a reading. they have to try to understand that, a lot of grammar that students haven't mastered.

c). Understanding Problem

Communication fails if the message in the speaker's speech or speech cannot be understood by the listener. Language is a tool for exchanging information. The language must be understood not just by the speaker, but also by others who are listening to the conversation (Tarigan, 2015). This theory is related with the data obtained by the students that is explained about the students cannot understand a reading because many students do not know the meaning of English words in a reading, making it difficult for them to read.

d). Difficult to Translate every new word

The process of transferring the message of writing the source language into the target language is known as translation (Shanty & Bustamin, 2016). This theory is related with the data obtained by the students that is explained about students find it difficult to know the meaning of the word they just found in a reading, so it becomes a problem.

CONCLUSION

The result of the research showed that the source of reading materials that students used for individual learning using Textbook, E-book, Wattpad, and YouTube. Students not only read when English subjects but also in their free time. The average time student spent a very diverse reading time from each student, at least 2 minutes with a different type of book. The longest duration of time for reading the students spend about 2 hours. The challenges that students face when comprehending the source of reading materials for individual learning in English class such as lack of vocabularies, grammatical error, Understanding Problem, difficult to translate every new word.

Here are suggestions the researcher deliver for future studies. Hopefully, the suggestions are useful for readers in general, and researcher and other people involved in education especially. The suggestions are as follow:

First, For the English teacher not only give materials and also assignment or task the teacher should provide appropriate source of reading materials for support teaching and learning activity and Teachers must continue to monitor and manage learning well. Take advantage of innovative applications so that student not get bored while learning. Second, For Students can be expected to be more proactive in learning activities and more independent to learn the given material. The thing that needs to be improved again is a sense of responsibility towards yourself to achieve the desired achievement results. Students are more independent to explore the facilities that have been available through the internet as learning materials to achieve the expected learning results and also students must be more diligent, creative in following learning from teachers, not relying on others in carrying out learning. For the next researcher this research only focused on reading materials that students used for individual learning in English class. Therefore, the other researcher who are interested in the same field are suggestion to conduct in other phenomena.

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