

# STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES ON EXTENSIVE READING THROUGH WATTPAD APPLICATION

Sartika Puspita Sari<sup>1</sup>, Maman Suryaman<sup>2</sup>, Fauzi Miftakh<sup>3</sup>

Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang, Indonesia

<sup>1</sup> 1810631060021@student.unsika.ac.id, <sup>2</sup> maman.suryaman@fkip.unsika.ac.id,

<sup>3</sup> fauzi.miftakh@unsika.ac.id

## Abstract

The aims of this study was to find out students' responses regarding the implementation of extensive reading activity through Wattpad application. This study used qualitative research and a case study as research design. The site of the study was one of the senior high school in Karawang, West Java. The participants was one class of eleven grades consisted of 46 students and six of them were chosen as representatives for interview. The data were collected by observation and semi-structured interview. The data were analyzed using qualitative data analysis by Miles, Huberman & Saldana (2014). Three major findings were found as follows: (1) Extensive reading using Wattpad increase students' motivation to read, (2) Wattpad is an effective media in reading activity, (3) Students' challenges in extensive reading activity through Wattpad.

**Keywords:** Students' Experiences; Extensive Reading; Wattpad Application

## INTRODUCTION

Reading ability is a crucial skill that students must develop in order to learn English. Grabe (1991) claimed that reading is largely viewed as the most crucial language skill in EFL academic settings. Because reading can boost knowledge acquisition and widen understanding to obtain more information. According to Küçükgözü (2013) reading is a lifelong skill that can be employed both in and out of the classroom. But, one issue that students frequently experience is a lack of enthusiasm in reading. The biggest factor causing students' difficulties in reading activities is a lack of motivation. It has a tight relation to Indonesian readers' interests in reading. Because of this, it is important to promote reading in English, especially among students and the younger academic generation. Thus, it is crucial for teachers to use the right methods to boost students' enthusiasm in reading. Reading strategies can be implemented in two ways: either intensively or extensively. Teachers frequently use intensive reading strategies when teaching English, particularly in Indonesia. English teachers in Indonesia frequently assign difficult question and answer exercises to their students about one specific books, which is known as an intensive reading technique (Suci, Yanto & Miftakh, 2022). Intensive reading is not appropriate for use outside the classroom because it only concentrates on reading in detail and then filling out assignments using the provided text. Arnold (2009) asserts that conventional reading teaching frequently uses the method of intensive reading, where short texts are accompanied by activities that promote close study and in-depth comprehension of various characteristics like structural elements and coherence. However, this can demotivate students from reading. The intensive reading technique typically causes learners' interest in reading to decrease (Lin, 2014). Learners who engage in extensive reading, as contrasted to intensive reading, are given freedom to select the reading material based on their reading interests and read according to their own pace. Extensive reading has been considered as one of the best ways to increase reading skills since it exposes L2 learners to a huge amount of valuable information,

inspires them to read, and leads to the growth of strong reading abilities (Day & Bamford, 1998; Grabe, 2009; Krashen, 2004). Extensive reading programs can enhance vocabulary learning, reading fluency and comprehension, and grammatical accuracy (Howarth & Bollen, 2019). Therefore, extensive reading might be a further strategy to encourage learners to read, especially outside of the classroom. By implementing ER, students will be able to pleasantly fulfill their desire to read and they would be able to obtain new experiences by reading some books (Raunaq et al, 2021). The media plays a significant role in the process of extensive reading activities. According to Miftakh and Yulianti (2021), students' motivation and desire can be raised by incorporating media into the learning process. These days, there are more options for reading media besides the traditional textbooks that students usually find boring. Students can use a variety of media or platforms to read extensively. Following up with the ongoing advancements in technology, one of the platforms that can be utilized is Wattpad application, that is currently popular to use. Numerous benefits are offered to users of this platform. Wattpad is a multifunctional media that could improve academic performance, personal growth, and social interaction (Rodiatun and Harpain, 2020). Additionally, they mention that Wattpad might develop reading taste for people. Previous research found that students give a positive attitude and get a lot of benefits of the implementation of extensive reading activities such as vocabulary mastery and became more engaged in the texts they are reading, (Raunaq et al. 2021). Another research conducted by Meinawati et al (2021) about the effectiveness of extensive reading using Google Classroom application. The results of the study showed that extensive reading had a significant effect on students' reading ability, which was indicated by an increase in their reading test scores. Another research conducted by Ganie et al. (2021), it explored students' opinions of the use of Wattpad for reading comprehension. Vocabulary was determined to be the reading component most significantly impacted, and the majority of respondents expressed a positive attitude for using Wattpad. The majority of the research examines students' perspectives, attitudes, and the effectiveness of extensive reading. However, less research has been done on students' reading experiences in extensive reading, particularly utilizing the Wattpad application. Because of that, it is crucial and advantageous to conduct a study on students' responses of implementing extensive reading using the Wattpad application.

## METHOD

The qualitative method was considered to be a suitable approach for this study. Qualitative research is an inquiry method that can be utilized to investigate and comprehend a major phenomenon (Creswell, 2014). A case study was chosen as the research design in this study. The researcher can gather data and do descriptive analysis using this approach. A case study offers a procedure that systematically analyzes and also discusses a phenomenon (Yin, 2009). The research was conducted at one of the senior high schools in Karawang, West Java. The researcher observed one class of the eleventh grades that consist of 46 students. The class was chosen purposefully, based on the teacher's advice. This research was carried out for three weeks. Several procedures were applied in this study, the first is to provide an explanation to students regarding extensive reading and the use of Wattpad. Second, giving students freedom to choose reading materials on Wattpad and told students that reading activities were done at home and the final activity is doing follow-up activities in class. The data collected through observation and interview. To observe students' activity, the researcher used an observation checklist adapted by Ferdila (2014). And, to examine students' perceptions about the implementation of extensive reading using Wattpad, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 6 respondents as representatives of the class. The instrument used by researchers when conducting semi-structured interviews were interview guidelines adapted from Bui and Macalister (2021), Ferdila (2014) and Permatasari et al (2020). The data collected

analyzed using qualitative data analysis which proposed by Miles, Huberman & Saldana, 2014). They stated there are three steps of qualitative data processing, data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing and verification. In data reduction, the researcher collects the important information from observation and interview. Furthermore, the data that has been obtained is read in depth by the researcher and then selected appropriately based on the needs of the researcher. Second step is data display, the researcher also shows the results of the responses from interviews with students regarding the implementation of extensive reading through wappad in the form of text. The conclusion drawing and verification is the last step in data analysis process. The researcher concluded the essential points from all the data gathered, so it will be clear and the conclusion will be an answer of the research question.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

Based on the data obtained through semi-structured interview with six students, there are three themes from the analysis of student responses regarding the implementation of extensive reading using Wappad application. The four themes are: (1) Extensive reading using Wappad increase students' motivation to read, (2) Wappad is effective media in reading activity, (3) Students' challenges in extensive reading activity through Wappad. The detailed findings are described as followed:

#### 1. Extensive reading using Wappad increase students' motivation to read

Students were unfamiliar and new to the use of extensive reading activities through Wappad application. Based on their experiences, students thought that the implementation of extensive reading strategies that was combined with Wappad application boosted their motivation to read English texts,. The following interview excerpts with students as follow:

**R1:** We are free to select reading materials for the extensive reading activity depending on our references. I believe that since we read what we like, reading has become more fun.

**R2:** Since we are not required to read in class, reading becomes more comfortable. When I read in class, I sometimes feel rushed, but this situation is different. For this reason, I can control the reading speed while I read at home.

**R3:** The reading for this activity is done at home, not in class. so, the time is more flexible, I can read whenever I want, and I can be more focus. And unconsciously I start reading more.

The samples from the semi-structured interview data above demonstrate how implementing extensive reading via the Wappad application can boost students' enthusiasm and interest in reading activities. There are various reasons why this is happening. Participant 1 said that she loved reading because she was given the opportunity to choose the reading subject. Participants 2 and 3 mentioned how reading activities done at home might foster a cozy environment and unconsciously increased students' reading habits.

#### 2. Wappad is an effective media in reading activity

Students found it simple to select the reading material they wished to read because to the usage of Wappad in reading activities. Students responded favorably when questioned about

the benefits of using the Wattpad application for reading activities, despite the fact that it is still new and unfamiliar to them for use in the learning process. They replied:

**R1:** The benefit is that we can more easily access reading material—fiction or nonfiction—without needing to buy a book or walk outside. It's more convenient and inexpensive because we can read anywhere online.

**R2:** Since we typically read from textbooks, I think Wattpad is more interesting. Because most books only contain one story each book, I think textbooks are more expensive and have less reading options.

**R3:** There are numerous reading options available, so we have a wide selection to choose.

**R4:** I can find a wide range of reading materials on Wattpad, and the majority of them are free to access.

According to the interviews' findings, the majority of participants emphasized the benefits of using Wattpad for reading activities. The majority of them claimed that Wattpad is a good site that can give students chances to explore more interesting stories because there are numerous reading materials of different genres available on it. Additionally, it is more inexpensive and useful.

### **3. Students' challenges in extensive reading activity through Wattpad.**

Although implementing intensive reading activities using the Wattpad program has several advantages that students might feel. However, it was inevitable that certain students would have trouble with the implementation of it. The following interview findings show the students' experiences describing their challenges extensive reading activities:

**R1:** Since there are so many texts that I find challenging to understand, picking reading material is quite difficult.

**R3:** I struggle to grasp the content since I found some of the words or sentences that I don't understand.

**R4:** I frequently use Google Translate to translate words since I have trouble understanding words that I already know.

According to participant 1 of the findings from the transcription of student interviews, one of the challenges students encountered during their extended reading process was that many of the reading materials they chose were quite challenging for them to understand. Participants 2 and 3 discussed their struggles when they came across new words that they were unfamiliar with. It may be inferred that using Wattpad to implement extensive reading does not always easy.

## **Discussion**

The implementation of extensive reading program utilizing with Wattpad application received favorable feedback from the students. This is because students were given the flexibility to select their own reading independently based on their reading interest and level. It can help

students increase their motivation and interest in reading. This is also supported by research that carried out by Wijaya (2020), who stated that it takes a flexible selection of texts to support students' high reading motivation and foster a favorable view of extensive reading. According to the results, students also stated that because the time and location were so flexible when reading extensively, they can feel more at ease, enjoy themselves, and be interested in the process, which can indirectly build their reading habits. Additionally, students thought that Wattpad application is a good media to combine in extensive reading activity. The reading materials made available to students must be diversified in order to stimulate and arouse their interest in reading (Day and Bamford, 2002). Since a lot of reading material would be required for this project. Students claimed that utilizing Wattpad application made it simpler for them to find more interesting reading content. This shows that Wattpad can be utilized as an alternate kind of media to encourage students in extensive reading activity. According to research by Permatasari et al. (2020), Wattpad is believed to offer a sizable and varied collection of reading materials that can make it easier for students to read extensively.

Furthermore, there are significant flaws that Wattpad is used to implement extensive reading tasks. Students acknowledged that they encountered an obstacles, including difficulty selecting reading materials that were beyond their level. It's important to choose the right reading level for extensive reading so that students can comprehend their chosen text and feel at ease doing this activity (Day and Bamford, 2002). When students found words or sentences that they do not understand, this presents another challenge. The difficulty of the reading activity was acknowledged by the students. According to research by Januarty (2018), several students occasionally have trouble comprehending the definitions of particular words in the text because of their limited vocabulary.

## CONCLUSION

Students responded favorably to the implementation of extensive reading using Wattpad application, and they believed it had many advantages for them, such as increasing students' motivation to read because students are free to choose the reading materials they are interested in. In addition, using Wattpad as reading media or reading sources can be alternative for students to find a reading material. However, students did not just respond favorably to the implementation of extensive reading activities through Wattpad application. They also had a negative opinion about it because they had some problems with it. Students have a tough time in selecting reading materials since many of the texts are too difficult for them. They also have trouble when they encounter new words and sentences that they are unfamiliar with.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author would like to express the gratitude to the head master of SMAN 1 Telagasari who has supported and provided the opportunity for the author to conduct research in this site. The author would also like to thank the advisor, Mr. Maman Suryaman, and Mr. Fauzi Miftakh who has guided and provided direction in completing this project. And, the authors' deepest gratitude to my beloved parents and also to my family and friends who always give support and prayers.

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