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STUDENT'S PERCEPTION WATTPAD FOR EXTENSIVE READING AT MTS-YUSUFIAH JAKARTA

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research to investigate students' perceptions of using Wattpad as a medium for extensive reading at MTs. Yusufiah Jakarta. This research employed a qualitative method with a descriptive case study design. The participants were 12 eighth-grade students selected through purposive sampling. The data were collected through observations and semi-structured interviews and analysed using thematic analysis. The findings revealed that most students had positive perceptions of using Wattpad for extensive reading. They considered Wattpad an interesting reading platform because it offers various story genres that match their interests, which increased their motivation and interest in reading English texts. In addition, Wattpad helped students improve their vocabulary, understand sentence structures, and develop writing skills through exposure to different writing styles. Although some challenges were found, such as unfamiliar vocabulary and distractions caused by the wide selection of stories, the benefits outweighed the difficulties experienced by the students. In conclusion, Wattpad is an effective learning medium to support extensive reading activities and enhance students' reading interest. Therefore, Wattpad can be used as an alternative medium for English language learning, particularly in teaching reading.

Keywords: Students' perception, Wattpad, Extensive Reading, English Language Learning.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui persepsi siswa terhadap penggunaan aplikasi Wattpad sebagai media extensive reading di MTs. Yusufiah Jakarta. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dengan desain studi kasus deskriptif. Partisipan penelitian terdiri atas 12 siswa kelas VIII MTs. Yusufiah Jakarta yang dipilih menggunakan teknik purposive sampling. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi dan wawancara semi-terstruktur, kemudian dianalisis menggunakan analisis tematik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar siswa memiliki persepsi positif terhadap penggunaan Wattpad sebagai media extensive reading. Siswa menganggap Wattpad menarik karena menyediakan berbagai genre cerita yang sesuai dengan minat mereka, sehingga meningkatkan motivasi dan minat membaca dalam bahasa Inggris. Selain itu, penggunaan Wattpad membantu siswa memperkaya kosakata, memahami struktur kalimat, serta meningkatkan kemampuan menulis melalui paparan berbagai gaya penulisan. Meskipun terdapat beberapa kendala, seperti kosakata yang belum dipahami dan banyaknya pilihan cerita yang dapat mengganggu fokus, manfaat yang diperoleh siswa jauh lebih besar

dibandingkan hambatan yang dihadapi. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, dapat disimpulkan bahwa Wattpad merupakan media pembelajaran yang efektif untuk mendukung kegiatan extensive reading dan meningkatkan minat membaca siswa. Oleh karena itu, Wattpad dapat dijadikan sebagai alternatif media pembelajaran bahasa Inggris, khususnya dalam pembelajaran membaca.
Kata kunci: Persepsi siswa, Wattpad, Extensive Reading, Pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a multifaceted phenomenon encompassing communication, culture, cognition, social dynamics, and symbolic representation. Language is purely human for communicating ideas, emotions, and desires using voluntarily produced symbols. Basically, language is dynamic, variable, and constantly changing, the total number of languages in the world cannot be known precisely. Reading is closely related to language, and both influence each other in various ways. Language is a tool of communication among all the people in this universe.

English is a foundational subject that every student should be proficient in. To achieve proficiency, students should master listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills. Reading is particularly important because it is one of the four basic language skills that must be mastered. It plays an essential role in teaching English and is a skill that students must acquire when studying English as a foreign language. According to Pustika (2019), Indonesian students should learn English so they can read materials relevant to their studies. Since reading is a part of daily life, students must acquire this skill.

Reading is the window of the world, and it is the most important component in learning process. Students who love reading can get more knowledge and information from books, magazines, newspapers, and others. Rodrigo et al. (2014) state that developing reading skills can be achieved by students who have good reading habits. Reading involves giving printed or written material meaning while also gaining meaning from it. Students can broaden their knowledge through the reading activity, which also has the potential to make them knowledgeable and respectful.

According to UNESCO's latest report from January 2020, literacy levels in Indonesia are decreasing. The country has a worrying lack of interest in reading, with only 0.001% of Indonesians being avid readers. This means that out of 1,000 Indonesians, only one person is an enthusiastic reader. Out of the 34 provinces in Indonesia, only 9 are in the moderate literacy activity category, 24 fall into the low literacy category, and one province is in the deficient literacy category (Shofiyah etal., 2020). Several research studies have shown a positive correlation between reading interest, reading habits, and reading ability. The low interest in reading among Indonesians leads to poor reading habits. Based on the findings of this research, it is a challenge for teachers and society to work together and find ways to increase student's interest and reading ability.

According to the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), which is international research on reading ability among children worldwide, sponsored by The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational

Achievement, Indonesian children rank fourth from the bottom among 45 countries.In other words, the reading ability of Indonesian children is relatively low, based onthe study conducted by Latief in 2009. Since participating in PISA in 2000, it has been observed that Indonesian students have relatively low reading literacy skills. Their ability in reading still fluctuates around 386, while the average score of OECD countries' test scores is around 500. In the PISA test in 2018, Indonesian students' reading literacy skills were still lower than Malaysia, with an average score of 371. Malaysia obtained an average score of 415, and Singapore scored the highest with an average score of 549.

Online resources are a helpful technology for education. They provide not only information but also learning resources to achieve educational goals. Impact of Teachers on Students' Reading Habits and the Role of Extensive Reading (ER) as a Solution.

According to Sato (2015), teachers play a crucial role in shaping students' reading habits, accounting for 70% of the influence on these habits in Indonesia. Despite this significant impact, many students find reading to be an unpleasant activity. This negative perception of reading can be attributed to several challenges that teachers face in the classroom.

One major issue is the difficulty teachers encounter in implementing effective pre-reading activities. These activities, such as defining difficult words or activating students' prior knowledge, are essential for preparing students to engage with the text. When not executed well, they can make reading seem daunting and unenjoyable.

Additionally, post-reading activities often lack variety and creativity. Common practices like asking questions based on the text and having students explain or retell the content can become monotonous. This monotony can further discourage students from developing a positive attitude towards reading.

Given these challenges, there is a pressing need for solutions that can transform reading into a more engaging and enjoyable activity for students. One promising approach is the introduction of Extensive Reading (ER). ER involves students reading large amounts of material at their own level and pace, allowing them to experience reading as a pleasurable and rewarding activity.

By incorporating ER into the curriculum, teachers can create a more dynamic and stimulating reading environment. ER encourages students to read a variety of texts, fostering a sense of autonomy and interest in reading. This method not only helps improve reading skills but also cultivates a lifelong love for reading.

On Monday, 25 march 2026 students at Mts Yusufiah conducted observations of reading on Wattpad, based on pre-observations conducted with 8th-grade students at Mts Yusufiah Jakarta, it was found that most students were familiar with and used Wattpad for entertainment and reading stories. Students stated that they were more interested in reading stories on Wattpad than academic texts due to the engaging storylines and easier-to-understand language. Furthermore, students felt that reading stories on Wattpad helped them expand their vocabulary, understand sentence structure, and indirectly improve their reading comprehension.

Pre-observations also showed that students felt more motivated to read regularly when using Wattpad because they could choose stories based on their

personal interests. However, some students expressed difficulty understanding some unfamiliar vocabulary and were sometimes distracted by the large selection of stories available. Despite this, the majority of students expressed a positive perception of using Wattpad for extensive reading activities.

In conclusion, while teachers significantly influence students' reading habits, current methods may not be effective in fostering a positive reading experience. Implementing Extensive Reading as a strategy can address these issues, making reading more enjoyable and helping students develop better reading habits. After observing students at Yusufiah Junior High School, the author noticed several issues related to their reading skills. Some students are still struggling with extensive reading and tend to remain silent when asked to repeat the previous lesson's explanation. These problems need to be addressed to enhance the students' reading proficiency. Based on this problem, the writer is interested in conducting a research study titled **"Students Perception of Wattpad for Extensive Reading at Mts. Yusufiah Jakarta".**

METHOD

This study employed a descriptive qualitative research design to explore students' perceptions of using Wattpad for extensive reading. Qualitative research was considered appropriate because it allows the researcher to gain a deeper understanding of students' experiences, opinions, feelings, and perspectives regarding the use of Wattpad as a digital reading platform. The study focused on describing how students perceived Wattpad, including their interest in reading English texts, their experiences while using the platform, and the perceived benefits and challenges of Wattpad for extensive reading.

The research was conducted at MTs. Yusufiah Jakarta, located in Lubang Buaya, Cipayung, Jakarta. The study was carried out for approximately three months, from March 30th to June 30th, 2026. The participants consisted of 12 eighth-grade students of MTs. Yusufiah Jakarta. The participants were selected using purposive sampling because they were considered relevant to the objectives of the study and had direct experience related to reading English texts and using Wattpad.

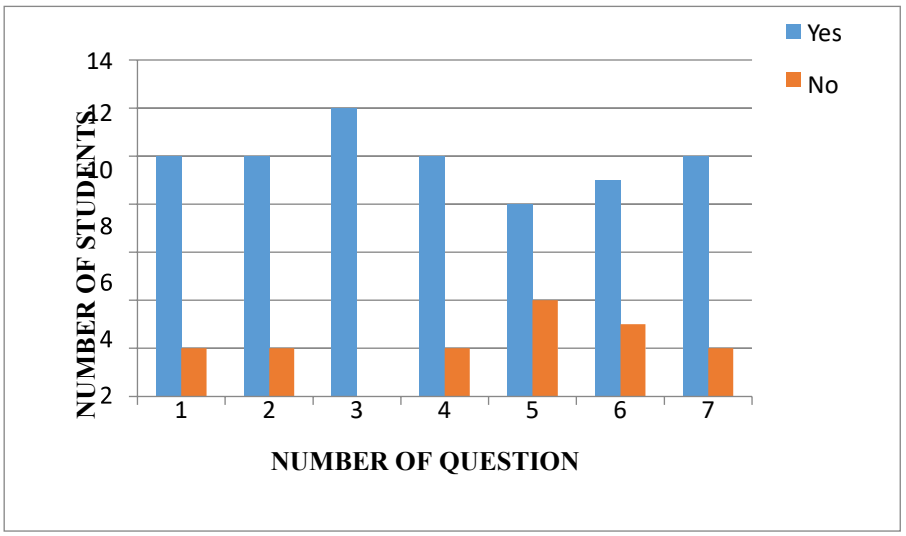
The data were collected through observation and semi-structured interviews. Observation was conducted to identify students' attention, interest, participation, and responses during reading activities using Wattpad. The observation instrument included several aspects, such as students' attention to the story, interest in the reading materials, perceptions of Wattpad as a medium for reading English texts, interest in reading activities, preparation of learning tools, and participation in the learning process. The interview was conducted to obtain more detailed information about students' opinions and experiences regarding Wattpad for extensive reading. The interview explored students' views about Wattpad, its potential to increase reading interest, its suitability as a reading medium, and its perceived benefits for vocabulary and writing skills.

The collected data were analyzed using the qualitative data analysis model proposed by Miles et al. (2014), consisting of data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. To ensure the credibility of the findings, data triangulation was conducted by comparing the results obtained from observation

and interviews. The consistency between the two sources was used to strengthen the validity and trustworthiness of the findings regarding students' perceptions of Wattpad for extensive reading.

RESULT

Graphic 1 observation result



According to the summary chart analyzing student observation, the table form is about students' perceptions on Wattpad for extensivereading.

a. The student pay attention to the story
   On the first statement of observation, DA and NDP seemed to pay no attention to the stories being told. because they don't like the story. while the others, C, FKA, HZAS, KNA, K, MMA, NNA, SSW, SNA and SA pay attention to the story
b. The students are interested to the material
   On the second statement of observation, two of the twelve students seemed disinterested in the material presented. They sometimes don't pay attention when they are in learning. They are DA and NDP. Other students are interested in the material, they areC, FKA, HZAS, KNA, K, MMA, NNA, SSW, SNA and SA
c. The student agrees that Wattpad as a medium for reading English text
   On the third statement of observation, all students agree that Wattpad as a medium for reading English text. Because Wattpad has many interesting stories that student can choose according to their favorite genre. The student has known Wattpad for a long time. So, Wattpad is suitable for all student who are active in Wattpad user. It can be used as a media for reading English text. Student who agrees that Wattpad as a medium for reading English text namely, C, DA, FKA, HZAS, KNA, K, MMA, NNA, NDP, SSW, SNA and SA. They all agree.
d. The student think is necessary to use Wattpad to read
   On the fourth statement of observation, FKA and SA think that it's not necessary to use Wattpad to read because they feel bored just reading stories without pictures, so they feel bored. while other students, C, DA

HZAS, KNA, K, MMA, NNA, NDP. SSW and SNA, they all need to use Wattpad in reading English text.

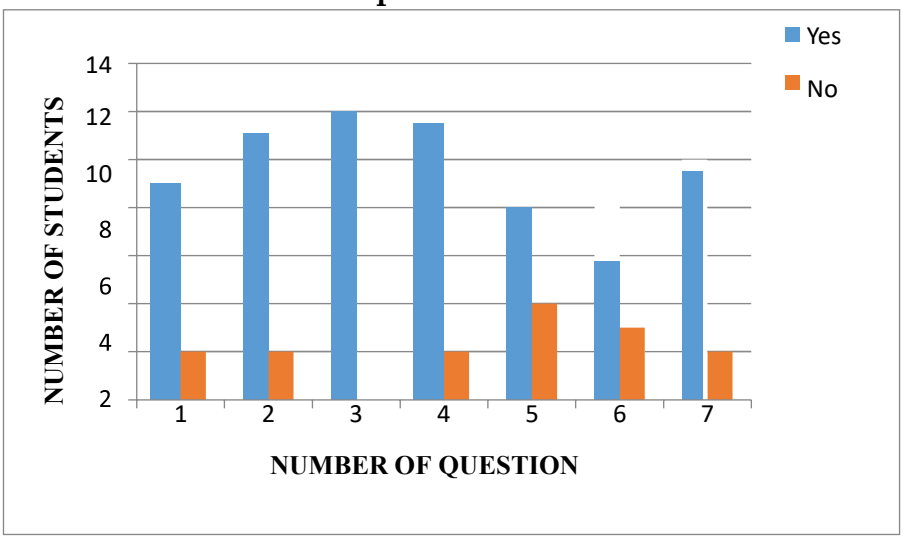
e. The students are interested in reading
On the fifth statement of observation, C, DA, FKA, NDPare not interested in reading, because they don't really like reading. and they look less excited in learning reading skills. while C, DA, FKA, HZAS, KNA, K, MMA, NNA, NDP, SSW, SNA and SA are interested in reading

f. The students are preparing tools for learning
On the sixth statement of observation, there were nine students who were preparing tools for learning. So, they were already to follow the material. And three students didn't prepare tools for learning. Because they forgot to prepare. They forgot to bring module English book. Student who was preparing tools for learning namely, C, DA, HZAS, KNA, MMA, NNA, NDP, SNA and SA

g. The student didn't seem to follow material
On the last statement of observation, there were two student who didn't follow material. DA and NDP didn't seem to pay much attention to the material because they sometimes chatted during thelesson. As a whole other students did seem to follow the material, they are C, FKA, HZAS, KNA, K, MMA, NNA, SSW, SNA and SA

Interview Result

Graphic 2 interview result



a. Wattpad is an application to read and write digitally through mobile media. Wattpad is one of the platform community sites for writer and reader. A lot of people from teenagers, adults, and parents, using Wattpad as a hobby or their daily life. Wattpad is very interesting because Wattpad has some unique storyline. HZAS said that. Most participants state that Wattpad is an attractive and enjoyable platform, students liked the variety of genres available and Wattpad can be interested their motivation to read English texts. " Qiong explains that perception is formed through individuals' interpretation of experience, and Alnujaidi states that positive perception influence learning engagement" and "In my opinion Wattpad is one of the reading media in digital

form which has many genres so that reader will be more interested in reading materials that match their interest".

b. Wattpad can be a solution for students' lack of interest in reading. Wattpad is one of the readings media that is very flexible and very easy to access, so it can be read anywhere anytime. That are many interesting story and a lot of lesson can be taken from Wattpad. So, reader become interested in reading. KNA said that "Yes, because in this era, the use of gadget technology media is more often used than holding a book, so overtime, Wattpad has become an alternative to increase reading interest". But there is one student who disagree, SA said that "No, because in my opinion it is too boring if you only see the writing, sometimes less interesting for people who are lazy to read". Most students agree that Wattpad helps overcome in reading, the students preferred reading stories on Wattpad compared to traditional textbooks. " Day and Bamford emphasize that students should choose reading materials based on their interests. And in my opinion the finding supports Day and Bamford extensive reading principles, particulary leaner choice and reading for pleasure.
c. Wattpad is a very easy reading media to get. Making it easier for people who like to write and read. Wattpad is also one for the novel that is very flexible, you can read everywhere and Everytime. Wattpad provides stories with a variety of interesting genres and many genres that we can choose according to our preferences. Apart from the story on Wattpad, there is a lot of knowledge and messages that we can get. Wattpad It's suitable for extensive reading, because if you are alone outside and bored, some are interested in reading Wattpad while listening to music. K that said I think yes, because in Wattpad there are a lost a of genres that choose.
d. There are many benefits that we can get by reading Wattpad, our vocabulary will increase by reading stories on Wattpad. There is knowledge and messages that we can learn from stories on Wattpad. By reading stories in various genres, our imagination will increase. To fill free time with useful things, we can use Wattpad to read. In the Wattpad application, we can learn a new language that we want to learn. Besides that, Wattpad can increase interest in reading in the community. FKA said that "This Wattpad can add insight, increasing vocabulary and also developing imagination". "Bell states that extensive reading contributes significantly to Vocabulary" and than in my opinion Reading on Wattpad provides authentic language exposure that helps students acquire Vocabulary naturally.
e. Wattpad can increase our vocabulary, because by reading stories on Wattpad there are many words that we have never heard before. When we read stories, we will find new vocabulary, then we will find out the meaning of the word, so that our vocabulary will increase. FKA said that "Totally agree, because Wattpad has many features and language that we can use to read or write, so that we can add new vocabulary in foreign language". Yildrim Arguest that extensive reading enriches vocabulary through repeated exposure to language. And than in my opinion Reading on Wattpad provides authentic language exposure that helps students acquire Vocabulary naturally.
f. Wattpad can improve writing skills. through reading stories, we can increase

our imagination. by reading a lot we increase our vocabulary so that we can compose good words to write. Wattpad provides features for writing stories, we can try to write. This is a place to practice writing skills. By reading Wattpad, we will get knowledge and inspiration to write. SSW said that " Of course, because on Wattpad we can share our hobbies and talents to start inspiring by writing and creating a story". "Aytan found that Wattpad supports writing development thorough reading and publishing activities, and Bold highlights that digital reading platforms encourage active literacy practice. And than in my opinion students writing skills improved in directly throught exposure to various writing styles and story structures.

g. Wattpad as reading material is very effectively used by readers. Wattpad is an effective and interesting medium to read. many stories in various genres to choose from. Wattpad is one of the media that is easy to use, we can access it on gadgets without having to buy books. Through the Wattpad application, it can increase reading interest and increase creativity because there are many interesting stories. KNA Said that "Yes because in the Wattpad application, there are a lot of stories and genres that can bechosen by readers to make them reading material".

From the data that has been collected, the result of observation and interview show that based on the data above the research know that most student already know about Wattpad and some are new about Wattpad. So, Wattpad is used as a media for extensive reading in reading English text.

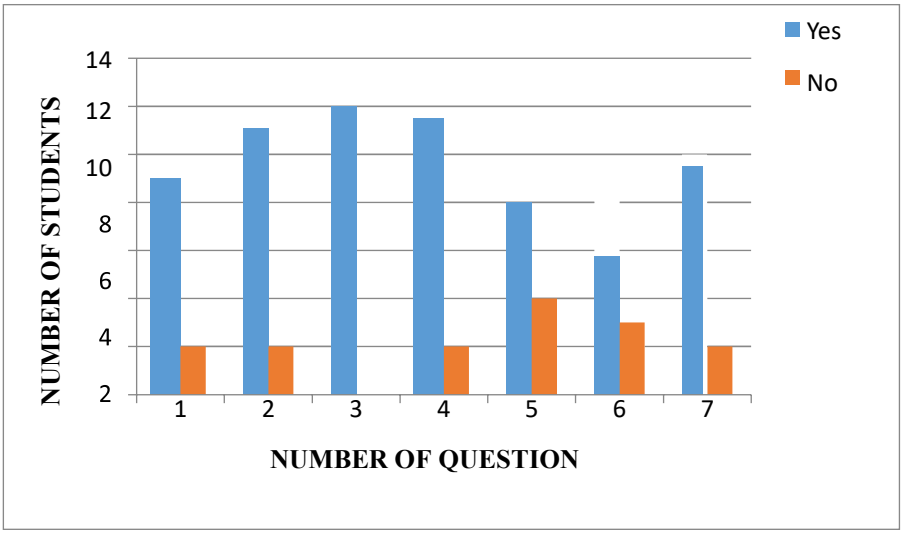
The first discussion is about whether Wattpad can be a solution for a lack of interest in reading. Based on the results of the data, almost all students stated that Wattpad can be used as a solution for the lack of interest in reading in students. they enjoy reading Wattpad. Because on Wattpad there are many interesting stories that can attract people who are less interested in reading to start reading starting from short stories on Wattpad.

The second discussion is about wattpad is a suitable media for extensive reading. Wattpad as a digital book reading or writing online is perfect for extensive reading because reading can choose from many genres of stories that they like. The story presented is also light to read andeasy to understand so it is very suitable for extensive reading. But there arealso those who think that Wattpad is not a solution for reading interest. because many people do not like to read. Apart from that, there are also those who think that Wattpad is boring because there is only writing and no pictures.

The third discussion is about the benefit of using Wattpad. Wattpad can increase students' vocabulary. because when you read Wattpad, you get a lot of new vocabulary. Besides that, Wattpad can also improvewriting skills. The more we read and have a lot of vocabulary the more we can write well. and our writing skills become much better. The discussion has been described in the findings, the result of the interview and observation indicated that responden have a positive perception of the application of Wattpad for extensive reading in reading English text. Many benefits are obtained by students when they use.

The findings supports the theoris of perception by Qiong (2017) and extensive reading by Day and Bamford (2015)

Graphic 4. of the result research



CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the research on students' perceptions of using Wattpad for extensive reading at MTs. Yusufiah Jakarta, it can be concluded that most eighth-grade students had a positive perception of Wattpad as a medium for extensive reading. This qualitative study involved 12 students who were selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected through observations and semi-structured interviews and analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings indicate that Wattpad can provide an alternative and engaging medium for supporting students' English reading activities.

The observation results showed that most students paid attention to the stories, demonstrated interest in the materials, and participated in the learning activities when Wattpad was used as a reading medium. All students also agreed that Wattpad could be used to read English texts because it provides various stories and genres that can be selected according to their interests. This variety made the reading activity more enjoyable and encouraged students to engage with English texts. However, several students still showed limited interest and attention during the learning process, indicating that the effectiveness of Wattpad may vary depending on students' individual preferences and motivation.

The interview findings further supported the positive perception of Wattpad. Most students considered Wattpad an interesting, flexible, and easily accessible platform. They appreciated the wide variety of genres and the opportunity to choose stories based on their personal interests. Wattpad was also perceived as a possible solution to students' low interest in reading because it can be accessed anytime and anywhere through digital devices. This flexibility allows reading activities to become more integrated with students' everyday use of technology and provides an alternative to conventional textbooks.

In addition to increasing students' interest in reading, Wattpad was perceived to provide several benefits for English language development. Students reported that reading stories on Wattpad helped them encounter and learn new vocabulary,

understand sentence structures, and gain knowledge from different types of stories. Continuous exposure to various texts also supported their imagination and indirectly contributed to the development of writing skills. Furthermore, Wattpad provides opportunities for users to write and publish their own stories, allowing students to practice literacy not only as readers but also as writers.

Nevertheless, the study also identified several challenges in using Wattpad. Some students experienced difficulties in understanding unfamiliar vocabulary, while others were distracted by the large number of available stories. Some students also found reading texts without pictures less interesting and therefore became bored. These challenges suggest that Wattpad should not be used without appropriate guidance. Teachers still have an important role in helping students select suitable reading materials, understand unfamiliar vocabulary, maintain concentration, and connect reading activities with the learning objectives.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that Wattpad can be considered an effective and relevant alternative medium for extensive reading in English language learning. Its accessibility, variety of genres, and ability to accommodate students' interests can create a more enjoyable and flexible reading experience. Most importantly, Wattpad can encourage students to read more, enrich their vocabulary, improve their understanding of language structures, and support their writing development. Therefore, Wattpad can be incorporated into extensive reading activities as a digital learning medium, provided that its use is appropriately guided and monitored by teachers to maximize its educational benefits.

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