Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter discusses the introduction of the study. There are several important points presented in this chapter. Moreover, this chapter consists of background of the study, identification of the problem, delimitation of the problem, research question, research objective, and significances of the research. The background of the study explains why the researcher chose this topic. The identification of the problem is discussed in this section. Research questions are detailed questions about the study that are used to determine the answer through this research. The research objective expresses the goals in the research. The researcher mentions organization of the chapter in the last part of this chapter.

Background of the Study

Almost all schools and teachers, especially English educators, use technology for teaching some English skills like listening, speaking, reading, and writing. When learning English, students should master four language skills. The act of reading represents one of the most essential abilities in language for students to master. The extent to which students can understand all formats (such as videos, visuals, and printed material) and all information texts is an important indicator of academic and personal success (Fadillah & Amin, 2022). Reading becomes the receptive aspect of acquiring knowledge because readers can easily obtain information from the text or context that is being read by reading.

Reading enthusiasm stems from a combination of ambition, will, and encouragement. One of the components needed to improve the reading skill

process is comprehension. Meanwhile, reading comprehension is one of the reading skills that is more difficult for some people to master. This is due to the fact that while it is simple for people to read each word separately, trying to connect the words to get their true meaning is a difficult task. In essence, while reading, the reader must begin to construct the interpretation of the text being read. As a result, good comprehension skills are required in reading to make reading a text easier.

Unfortunately, Indonesian students still have a low average reading ability compared to other countries. The International Association for Evaluation of Educational Achievement conducted a study in 2006 which found that of 45 countries, Indonesia was ranked 41st, or fourth from the bottom (Kemendikbud, 2013, as cited in Sa'idah et al., 2019). Most people spend no more than 1% of their time reading per day, which also applies when receiving lessons at school. Whereas in terms of spelling, vocabulary, and grammar, English differs from Indonesian. Teachers must also help students learn grammar and vocabulary so that they can improve their reading comprehension. As a result, developing reading skills takes a long time. As a result, teachers must also use interesting learning media, especially when teaching reading skills so that students can enjoy it more.

In education, technology and learning media are inextricably linked. This is because, in the educational field, technology has been used as a learning medium for generations. Learning technology is a medium and a network that serves as the foundation of a support system. Educators must prevent using boring

and repetitive media during the teaching and learning process in today's world. Students become bored because of this and do not pay attention during the teaching and learning activities. Teachers do not always have to commit to printed materials and textbooks when teaching, especially in this digital era. In other words, teachers must use technology in education, and teachers are required to do so.

People's loss of enthusiasm for reading, on the other side, has a massive effect on how the country views the language because if reading interest is low, people will be unable to know and participate in the advancement of world science, which will ultimately have an impact on a nation's backwardness. In addition, today's learning environments are quite different; they now contain computers, PCs, smartphones, LCD projectors, smart boards, and other types of technology. There is so much to see and do in the digital world. Education for students evolve in tandem with the advancement of digital tools. Many revolutionary new tools are available for teachers to use to motivate students.

Wattpad is one of the many popular online reading applications. Wattpad is an application that enables writers to write, promote, and help their work reach a wide and diverse range of readers and writers in many genres, including fantasy, non - fictional, and spirituality (Wattpad, 2018, as cited in Bal, 2018). This is a strategy that can be used to increase students' motivation in writing and make learning to write fun and meaningful according to the wishes of students. In addition, by reading students indirectly gain basic knowledge about the schema structure and linguistic features of the writing itself. In terms of developing

writing skills, blog sites or applications like Wattpad that allow students to write in digital media are very important (Aytan, 2017).

When discussing activities involving reading, it is obvious that they cannot be separated from advances in technology. Wattpad brings many different possibilities to enhance the reading and writing knowledge as the number of users grows every day (Bal, 2018). Wattpad is also the biggest social networking place for people to write, share stories, and convey themselves on a variety of topics. Tirocchi (2018) stated that Wattpad has a significant impact on the global community. Indeed, according to Mawardi (2018), this software has an impact on the Indonesian publishing industry, where many novels are labelled Wattpad. As a result, many popular book writers began their careers on Wattpad. Wattpad has multiple benefits, including the dissemination of the theory of reader response to learners of EFL and increased interest in literacy activities (Furotun et al., 2021). Every student can improve their reading comprehension. Furthermore, combining Wattpad with an English literature course could be a beneficial and engaging way to learn literary works. To develop their evaluative and appreciative skills, students must produce and present their work, not only studying literary works.

However, based on the researcher's observations, the facts about literacy culture in Indonesia are quite concerning. Wattpad is a new source of entertainment for Indonesians who need a reading medium that is easily access via their smartphone. Therefore, the researcher is interested in researching EFL students' experiences using Wattpad as a learning medium for reading.

Identification of the Problem

The role of the media in instruction in the education process cannot be underestimated. Additionally, the implementation of educational materials can help students to understand the content being presented. Students can use a variety of teaching media to supplement their reading comprehension learning process. Wattpad is a platform that allows students to read English in their spare time. Wattpad also has a large library of free and premium reading materials that can assist students with reading comprehension. However, because of their unfamiliarity with the Wattpad platform, some students struggle to stick with reading as the foundation for knowledge exploration projects because they find it boring and difficult to stick with what is written. As observed by the researcher, some students use Wattpad as a medium for learning reading comprehension, but some students do not use Wattpad as a medium for learning.

Delimitation of the Problem

Establishing with the researcher's awareness of the Wattpad application's use, particularly as a medium for learning to read, this study delimits English students' experience with Wattpad as a tool for learning media. Based on the experiences of EFL students, this research focuses on the reasons why EFL students use Wattpad as a reading tool. The researcher also focuses on the benefits of reading English novels on Wattpad on the reading comprehension of EFL students at a Private University in Yogyakarta.

Research Questions

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates two research question:

1. Why do the EFL students' use Wattpad as a learning medium for reading?

2. What are the advantages of reading English novels on Wattpad for EFL students' reading comprehension?

Research Objective

Based on the research question, the purpose of the study is:

1. To investigate the reasons why the EFL students' use Wattpad as a learning medium for reading.

2. To investigate the advantages of reading English novels on Wattpad for EFL students' reading comprehension.

Significance of the Research

This research is useful for teachers and future researchers.

Teachers

The researcher hopes that this research will help other teachers learn about and provide information about the benefits of reading English novels on Wattpad for EFL students' reading comprehension. The study's findings can encourage teachers, particularly those who are also educators, to plan their teaching strategies in order to make them more understandable and effective for their students. Furthermore, the findings of this research can be used to assist other

teachers in determining whether or not to use the platform as a medium for instructional tools.

Future Researcher

The researcher hopes that this study can offer additional knowledge using as a reference about the Wattpad application as a learning media tool. as well as students' experiences with Wattpad as a reading learning media tool. Besides, this research can also encourage other researchers to conduct research related to the same research field.

Organization of the Research

This study is divided into five chapters. The first chapter discusses the introduction and background of the study. Then comes an identification of the research problem. Moreover, it explains the limitations of this study. It also describes the research question, research objective, significance of the research, and the final organization of the chapter.

Chapter two explains the literature review. Chapter two consists of a literature review and a review of related studies. There are several explanations related to the general overview of students' reading comprehension through the Wattpad Application, such as definition of reading, the importance of reading, reading comprehension, Wattpad application, Wattpad as reading sources, the reason of choosing Wattpad, the benefit of using Wattpad for EFL students' reading comprehension, and review of related studies.

Chapter three explains the methodology. This section discusses the research design and environment. The researcher then discusses data gathering or

collection techniques. Finally, this chapter discusses the data collection techniques and data analysis.

Chapter four explains the research findings and discussion. This chapter contains a detailed explanation of data collection from the investigation and data analysis. This chapter also includes the findings supported by several theories.

Chapter five contains the study's conclusions and recommendations. This section provides a high-level overview of the research, obstacles, and results. Moreover, the conclusion is based on research findings and suggestions made in light of the relevance of the study.