The Effect of Wattpad Application on Students' Writing Skills at SMAN 8 Padang

THESIS

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ABSTRAK

Tika Aprilia Puspita. 2024. Pengaruh Aplikasi Wattpad Terhadap Keterampilan Menulis Siswa di SMAN 8 Padang. Skripsi. Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Menulis adalah salah satu keterampilan penting yang harus dikuasai siswa dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris. Namun, masih banyak siswa, terutama di tingkat sekolah menengah atas, yang mengalami kesulitan dalam mencapai kompetensi ini. Salah satu solusi yang dapat diimplementasikan adalah menyediakan media menarik yang dapat meningkatkan minat siswa untuk mengembangkan kemampuan menulis mereka. Penelitian quasi-eksperimental ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan keterampilan menulis siswa melalui penggunaan aplikasi Wattpad. Instrumen yang digunakan berupa tes tertulis untuk pre-test dan post-test dimana materinya disesuaikan dengan materi yang sedang dipelajari oleh siswa. Siswa kelas X di SMAN 8 Padang yang terdiri dari 339 siswa menjadi populasi pada penelitian ini. Clustered sampling digunakan sebagai metode dalam pengambilan sampel pada penelitian ini. Kelas E3 terpilih sebagai kelas eksperimen dan Kelas E6 sebagai kelas kontrol. Dari hasil analisis yang dilakukan, ditemukan bahwa aplikasi Wattpad mampu meningkat kemampuan menulis siswa, terutama dalam menulis teks recount. Hal tersebut dapat dilihat dari hasil analisis independent sample t-test yang menunjukkan nilai 0,040 dimana hasil tersebut lebih rendah dari signifikansi alfa 0,05. Aplikasi ini dapat melatih kemampuan berfikir kritis siswa serta mereka tidak mengalami kesulitan dalam penggunaannya karena aplikasi ini dapat diakses dimana saja dan kapan saja. Penelitian ini juga membuktikan bahwa peran teknologi sangat penting di era digital saat ini, termasuk dalam bidang pendidikan. Sehingga dapat disimpulkan bahwa aplikasi Wattpad memberikan efek yang signifikan pada kemampuan menulis siswa.

Kata Kunci: Wattpad, Aplikasi, Teks Recount, Menulis

ABSTRACT

Tika Aprilia Puspita. 2024. The Effect of Wattpad Application on Students' Writing Skills at SMAN 8 Padang. Skripsi. Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Writing is one of the essential skills that students need to master when learning English. However, many students, especially those in senior high school, continue to face challenges in developing this skill. One effective solution is providing engaging media to motivate students to enhance their writing abilities. This quasi-experimental study aimed to improve students' writing skills through the use of the Wattpad application. The instrument used was a written test for pre-test and post-test where the material was adapted to the material being studied by students. The study population comprised 339 tenth-grade students from SMAN 8 Padang. Clustered sampling was used as a sampling method in this research. Class E3 was chosen as the experimental class, and E6 as the control class. According to the analysis results, it was found that the Wattpad application effectively enhanced students' writing skills, particularly in crafting recount texts. This conclusion is supported by the independent sample t-test analysis, which yielded a value of 0.040, lower than the significance level of 0.05. This application can train students' critical thinking skills and they do not experience difficulties in using it because this application can be accessed anytime and anywhere. This research also proved that the role of technology is very important in the current digital era, including in the education field. So it can be considered that the Wattpad application significantly impacts students' writing skills.

Keywords: Wattpad, Application, Recount Text, Writing

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Problem

Language plays an important role in expressing feelings, thoughts and information, especially English which is considered as an international language. In the English language, there are four skills that must be mastered in order to express feelings, thoughts and information. They are speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Then writing is one of the fondations for creating good English language skills. According to Imastuti et al. (2013), writing skill is the capability of an individual to generate a written message, progressing from words to sentences and eventually forming a coherent text that readers can comprehend.

Writing required the students to have some skills. The first skill is processing and developing ideas into writing. As stated by Tridinanti et al. (2020), writing aims to convey ideas, thoughts and facts using simple and understandable language. In this activity, students need good imagination and creativity to be able to process ideas and create good writing. Besides, students also must have skill in mastery of vocabulary, grammar and language structure in order to be able to develop writing that can be understood by other people or readers.

Learning writing also has some urgency for students especially for Senior High School students. Firstly, it can encourage students' critical thinking and analysis skills. By formulating arguments, supporting claims

with evidence, and organizing thoughts effectively, students can improve their ability to think critically and logically. Secondly, learning writing can help their career preparation because strong writing skills are highly valued in the work's life. Almost every profession requires a form of written communication, whether in preparing reports, and proposals, or communicating with colleagues and clients. It can be said that having good writing skills will support students' academic achievement. In addition, it will also be a valuable asset for their future employment (Durga & Rao, 2018).

However, student achievement in writing is still lacking due to several factors. According to Laina & Marlina (2018), there are several factors that make it difficult for EFL students to master writing skills. Firstly, students receive less practice in improving their writing skills during the learning process. They feel bored and unable to do the writing exercises given by their teachers because they think English is a difficult subject. This problem is also due to a lack of vocabulary. It may happen since the students are lack of writing practice so it can reduce students' opportunities to use and learn new vocabulary. Alisha et al. (2019) state that lack of vocabulary causes students to have difficulty generating ideas in writing because they feel unsure about choosing words and need to refer to a dictionary when writing in English. As a result, there is no improvement in their writing ability.

Secondly, Students do not get interactive media in the English learning process especially in writing activities. Sofian & Anggraeni (2021) state that the role of media in learning English is very important and is a necessity in the classroom teaching process including in learning writing skill. Even though the media provides an interesting learning experience to students, not all teachers have sufficient understanding to implement it effectively. So that sometimes students are less interested in being actively involved in the learning process. Wanodya (2021) finds that the unattractive media used by the teachers can decrease students' interest and motivation in learning.

Based on observations done by researcher and data obtained during teaching practice at SMAN 8 Padang, researcher found that students have some issues related to English learning including writing. They often get low scores on daily tests or exams in English subject. The learning process still uses conventional methods such as the lecture method using power point or handout which causes students to become passive. Then, the question and answer method where all students will not actively participate and only a few are dominant. This situation make the students tend to feel bored. The English teacher who guided the researcher during the teaching practice also said that the students had very low vocabulary which affected their writing. In addition, the students also have difficulty constructing coherent and organized sentences or paragraphs due to a lack of understanding of grammar and sentence structure. As a result,

some of their writing is not connected between one paragraph and the next paragraph. Students who experienced those difficulties were also no longer interested in taking English lessons. This could be seen when the teacher asked the students about the material that had just been discussed, none of the students wanted to answer the question unless the teacher called their names one by one and asked the students to answer.

Based on the students' problems described above, it can be concluded that writing is one of the things that is difficult to do. Many students graduate with low English skills, including writing. According to Tajik et al. (2024), high school graduate students who consider English as an additional language still have poor grades and difficulty in academic writing in English. .This situation allows teachers to provide an alternative media to overcome the problems. One of the ways that can be used by the teacher is using the Wattpad application. According to Yuniar et al. (2019), Wattpad stands as the global social platform where individuals can compose, share their narratives, or express their ideas or imagination. It also enables users to engage, provide, and obtain feedback from fellow users. This application provides various stories with different genres. Initially, this application could only be accessed via the website. However, along with its development, Wattpad now comes in the form of a more practical application. This will certainly make it easier for readers to enjoy this application.

There are many researchers who conduct research about how this application supports English learning. First is the research conducted by Adnan et al. (2023) . This research study about improving students' skills in reading using the Wattpad application. The result of this research indicates that students' ability in reading experienced enhancement following their use of Wattpad. Moreover, all educational endeavors made valuable contributions, not only in enhancing students' proficiency in reading but also in increasing their self-confidence and motivation.

The similar topic about improving students' skills using Wattpad application was also studied by Lestari (2022) who conducted a research at SMAN 3 Luwu Utara. This research was about the Wattpad application which is used as a strategy in improving students' reading skills. The result shows that students become motivated and interested in improving their English skills through this application. They also experienced an increase in understanding and were able to determine the meaning of the stories on Wattpad.

Moreover, Al Falaq et al. (2021) conducted a research using Wattpad application to see the potential of this application for literature class. The results show that the utilization of Wattpad is effective in enhancing students' motivation and fostering greater engagement in the development of literary competencies. In addition, the study recommends the integration of Wattpad into the classroom setting as a means to enhance students' literary comprehension.

Furthermore, Herlina et al. (2023) also conducted a research about students' perceptions of using the Wattpad application on their reading skills. The result shows that students feel comfortable using this application because it can be accessed anytime and anywhere. They also enjoy reading stories on this application because this application provides stories in various different genres.

The last study was conducted by Permatasari et al. (2020). This study is about students' perceptions of the use of the Wattpad application for extensive reading and the benefits of this application for students' English language skills. Based on the data that has been analyzed, the researcher found that students have a positive view of implementing extensive reading through the Wattpad application. Students also mentioned the main benefits of Extensive Reading on Wattpad, such as indirectly participating in improving students' writing skills, vocabulary mastery, speaking skills, and listening skills.

Although previous researchers generally investigated the effectiveness of the Wattpad application in improving English reading skill, the researcher wanted to focus on the effectiveness of this application in improving students' writing skill since this application not only provides some readings, but also a chance for the user to write and post their own writing. In addition, the current high school curriculum also requires students to be proficient in writing, including writing in English. This study is entitled **"The Effect of Wattpad Application on Students'**

Writing Skills at SMAN 8 Padang". By using this application to improve students' writing skill, this research hopes to provide valuable insights for educators and curriculum designers to use Wattpad effectively and efficiently in the classroom so that the effective strategies on the use of Wattpad can improve EFL skills.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, the researcher identified several problems. They are:

1. Students get low scores in daily tests in English subjects, especially writing.
2. Students are not interested in learning English because they do not understand the text that is being discussed.
3. Teachers still use conventional or one-way methods in explaining the material.
4. Lack of interactive media in the English learning process, especially in writing.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the problem above, the researcher wants to focus this research on the effect of Wattpad application on students' writing skills at SMAN 8 Padang.

D. Research Questions

The research question of this study is “Is Wattpad application effective in improving students' writing skills at SMA Negeri 8 Padang?”

E. Purposes of the Research

Based on the formulation above, the purpose of this research is to find out whether the Wattpad application is effective or not in improving students’ writing skills at SMAN 8 Padang.

F. Significance of the Research

This research has several important meanings for the other researchers, students, and teachers.

1. Theoretical

   This research is expected to enrich the existing theories for someone who wants to do a research on writing skills.

2. Practical

   a. For other researchers

      The results of this research are expected to be references or guidelines for other researchers who want to conduct further research about students' writing skill but in a different context.

   b. For students

      The information of this research is expected to help students realize things that make them improve in writing skill and help them be motivated to learn English.

c. For teacher

This research is expected to be useful for teachers to enrich variation media to improve students' skill and realize that there are still many other platforms digital will help students learn English.

G. Definition of Key Terms

1. Effect

Effect refers to changes that occur as a result of a particular event, action, or cause. It includes impacts or consequences that arise as a result of a factor.

2. Writing Skill

Writing skills refer to a person's ability to express ideas, thoughts, or information in writing. This includes the ability to structure sentences and paragraphs clearly, use correct grammar, and choose the right words to convey a message effectively.

3. Wattpad Application

Wattpad is an application for writers to be creative and express their various ideas in the form of interesting writing.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Review of Related Theories

1. Writing

a. Definition of Writing

In English language skills, writing is one of the skills that is very necessary in daily activities. This is because writing is a productive language activity so that with writing activities, students will be able to produce a work in written form that can be read by themselves and others. Harmer (2004) states that writing a method for creating and conveying ideas, emotions and views in written form. Writing skills include the use of appropriate words, correct grammar, and the ability to compose sentences and paragraphs clearly and effectively. In addition, it is not just a mechanism for transferring thoughts to paper, but also a means of self-expression that allows someone to communicate with their readers or audience.

According to Linse & Nunan (2005), writing involves physical actions to develop ideas or produce words in a medium, either in writing or through the typing process. Linse & Nunan (2005) also stated that writing is a cognitive process that entails generating ideas, considering how to express them, and organizing these ideas into coherent sentences and paragraphs that readers can