Students' Perception of Extensive Reading E-Book as Technology-Based Applications in Online English Language Classroom

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Abstract

Extensive reading allows students to read large amounts of text which also considered as an effective way to improve students' abilities not only in reading itself but it can also be used to improve other skills in learning English including writing, speaking and other aspects of English. Extensive reading develops reading comprehension, speed of reading, vocabulary, speaking, writing, listening, and almost all language aspects.

The implication of this mini research is to contribute to further researchers in the future, especially in online learning contexts. The results of this study are able to provide information to educational institutions that the changes in the digital era should be balanced with the understanding of educators and students about technology itself. The use of ebooks is necessary for online learning systems so it is hoped that publishers and writers would focus more on digital learning products.

Key words: Students', Perception of Extensive, Technology-Based Applications Online, English Language

A. Introduction

The rapid development of technology is able to give a significant impact on every aspect of life, especially in the world of education. In recent years, technology is the only tool that can guarantee the continuity of education around the world. This started with the Covid 19 outbreaks which forced educators to maneuver and change the education system from offline to online learning. The sustainability of the world of education does not only depend on internet access, computers, and gadgets used but also requires easy access to the material taught in the classroom.

With this change in the education system, there is a need for ebook in the learning system. Although ebooks have already been present in the late 1990s, but in these several years, ebooks have become crucial in the world of education. This is in accordance with Langston's (2003) ebooks have become the most popular topic in recent years. Ebooks are all types of publications that are displayed in electronic form and can be read by using electronic devices, while printed books are all kinds of text that can be read on papers or in print format Davidson & Carliner (2014).

Ebooks are able to support educational missions by saving time, adding value to online resources, and being able to save costs (Cox, 2004). Besides, Lim, et al. (2020) emphasized that students prefer the additional features offered by ebooks over printed books because

ebooks have search abilities, text highlights, and features for taking notes and bookmarking pages. It is reasonable that ebook can be the students' preference because it provides the students not only the eye catching display and also the save costs, but ebook also gives the benefits for its practicallity. Furthermore, Makwanya & Oni (2019) explained that the attractive visual appearance of ebook equipped with pictures, video clips, and features that support materials such as audio, user manuals and websites make ebooks much more appealing than printed books.

Currently, almost all the material needed by students can be accessed in the form of an ebook. One of them is extensive reading material. Extensive reading is one of the subjects that can facilitate students to read according to what they want and need. Extensive reading allows students to read large amounts of text which also considered as an effective way to improve students' abilities not only in reading itself but it can also be used to improve other skills in learning English including writing, speaking and other aspects of English. Extensive reading develops reading comprehension, speed of reading, vocabulary, speaking, writing, listening, and almost all language aspects Chang & Renandya (2017).

Meanwhile, Bamford (1984) suggested that "the best way to improve your knowledge of a foreign language is to go and live among its speakers. The next best way is to read extensively in it." However, in the classroom context, reading is still a difficult subject for students, especially in online learning. This is because reading is a complex process that requires students to be able to understand what is written and implied in the text. Therefore, the material given to students must be in accordance with their level of understanding. Materials that are appropriate to the level of students are expected to be able to facilitate and motivate students in learning. Materials that have a high level of difficulty will cause students to feel frustrated and reduce their interest in learning.

Nation (2020) explained that extensive reading material should be in accordance with the level of students so that there are only a few unfamiliar words or at least (two words out of a hundred words or less) so that they are easy to understand the grammatical construction. In addition, the material used must be accessible so that students are easier to access and learn. Collet (2018) "practically, instructors and administrators need to ensure a range of suitable reading material is available and easily accessible, either in the learning space or library." Based on those requirements of extensive reading material, the writer is interested in conducting a mini research related to the students' perception of the extensive reading ebook as Technology-Based Applications in Online English Language Classroom.

B. Findings and Discussion

1. How to solve that problem

One of the problems in online learning is the distribution of materials. Students will certainly experience difficulties in teaching and learning activities if the material used is in the form of a printed book. In the online learning system, students must participate in all learning activities through electronic devices such as computers, mobile phones, and other gadgets. Therefore, learning materials should be easily accessed by the students through the learning media they use. Based on these considerations, the author chose ebook as a medium of learning so that students would be easier to access it. In addition, the features in the ebook are expected to be able to increase student motivation in the teaching and learning process. Foasberg (2011) proves that students prefer the use of ebooks in university settings because of the features offered compared to printed books.

2. Extensive Reading eBook

Extensive reading ebooks are all forms of publications on extensive reading that are displayed and can be read on electronic platforms such as computers, mobile phones, and other gadgets. Extensive reading material in this case is a large number of reading texts that are adapted to the needs and preferences of students, which are able to support teaching and learning activities and are able to support students' reading for pleasure. Safaeia & Bulca (2013) sugested that Extensive Reading (ER) can serve as a savior in education arena both for learners and the teachers."

3. How Extensive Reading eBook is practiced in the classroom

In implementing the teaching of extensive reading, the writer emphasizes on the ten principles of extensive reading instruction as suggested by Day &Bamford (2002). One of those ten principles was providing students with suitable and easy ebook with different topics so that it could permit the students to choose the best material which is appropriate to their needs. The key principles in this teaching is that the students can enjoy the reading process so that they can have higher motivation in learning. It can also let the students to have individual/personal reading by their own devices while

4. Benefits and challenges of the Extensive Reading eBook

Based on the investigation, it has been found that students are eager to learn because they can access the material easily from their computer or gadget during the process of teaching and learning. They can also turn the page of the ebook easily to find the content and the information they need in the ebook. To get the students' perception, I distributed

some quistionaires for the students to find out about their perception toward the extensive reading ebook for their learning material. The result of the investigation can be seen in the table bellow:

Table. 1 The Result of Students' Perception about Extensive Reading Ebook

Items	1	2	3	4	5
	%	%	%	%	%
Satisfaction					
I am satisfied with the functions of the extensive reading ebook	50.0	50.0	0	0	0
I am satisfied with using an ebook of extensive reading as a learning assisted tool	42.9	50.0	7.1	0	0
I am satisfied with using an extensive reading ebook as the learning tool	78.6	21.4	0	0	0
I am satisfied with the colors used in the extensive reading ebook	50.0	42.9	7.1	0	0
Sum	221.5/ 55.3%	164.3/ 41.0%	14.2/ 3.6%	0	0
Usefulness					
The font size and typeface in the extensive reading ebook were easy to read	42.9	50.0	7.1	0	0
The sequence of the ebook on the screen was clear	50.0	50.0	0	0	0
It was convenient to scroll up/down within the ebook	57.4	35.7	6.9	0	0
It was easy to turn the pages in the ebook	35.7	42.9	2.4	0	0
It was easy to find important information in the ebook	50.0	50.0	0	0	0
Sum	236/ 47.2%	228/ 45.6%	16.4/ 3,28%	0	0
Behavioral intention					

I intend to increase my use of extensive reading ebook	42.8	57.3	0	0	0
I intend to use extensive reading ebook to assist my learning	50.0	50.0	0	0	0
I will read extensive reading ebook to look for information I need in the text	57.1	42.9	0	0	0
In five years, I will do most of my reading from ebooks	42.9	35.7	2.4	0	0
If given a choice between an electronic or print version of a particular book, I will choose the electronic version	71.4	28.6	0	0	0
Sum	264.2/ 52.8%	214.5/ 42.9%	0.48%		
Note: From 1 means "strongly agree" to 5 which means strongly dissagree"					

Adapted from Jeong (2012)

The table above showed that the result of students' perception related to their satisfaction about the extensive reading ebook were in the strongly agree or 55.3% and agree category or about 41.0 %. Meanwhile, there were 3.6% of the students' response were in the neutral cathegory. It can be stated that almost all the students are satisfied with the extensive reading ebook as their learning material in online learning. The next result about students' perception of the usefulness of ebook showed that almost all the response of the students are in the strongly agree or 47.2% and agree category or about 45.6%. While, the rest of the students perception are in the neutral category or about 3.28%. The last perception was related to behavioral intention. Based on the findings of the students' perception, the table showed that 52.8% of the students were in strongly agree category, 42.9% of the students' perception were in agree category and the rest 0.48% of students' perception were in neutral category. Those findings prooved that almost all of the students prefered to have extensive reading ebook as their sources of material during the teaching and learning process. It is due to the attractiveness of the ebook as it is equiped with colorfull graphics, clear fonts, and also equiped with audio. Meanwhile, ebook also permits the students to have automatic reading so that they can hear the reading text automatically by pulling the read

aloud button. This kind of feature is believed to be an effective way to support the auditory students. The picture below is the display of the extensive reading ebook used in the classroom.
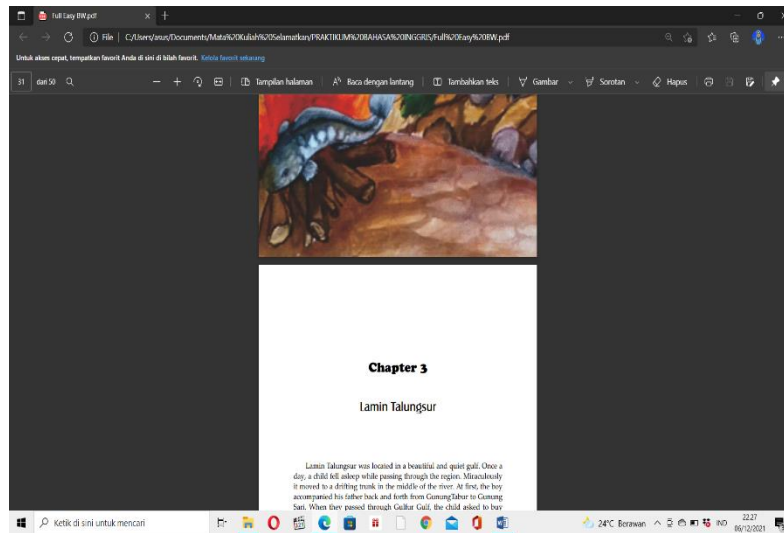

Figure 1. Extensive Readig eBook display

C. Conclusion

The implication of this mini research is to contribute to further researchers in the future, especially in online learning contexts. The results of this study are able to provide information to educational institutions that the changes in the digital era should be balanced with the understanding of educators and students about technology itself. The use of ebooks is necessary for online learning systems so it is hoped that publishers and writers would focus more on digital learning products. This is because ebooks can be customized with more interesting features and make students more motivated in learning. Besides, the ebooks could also be equipped with several exercises and self-quisses so that students are able to study independently.

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