

UTILIZING ENGLISH JOURNAL TO ANALYZE STUDENTS' READING ABILITY

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Abstract

English journal was very familiar for EFL English students. When students try to write an article or paper, they will find the appropriate journal to support the data. It helps students especially EFL students to write the article or paper. English journal is one of the authentic materials that can be used by teacher to boost EFL students' ability. In this mini research, the author analyzed the effect of English journal toward EFL students' reading ability. This mini research was conducted in Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia. It focuses on EFL students especially batch 2018. it aims to look for the effect of English journal toward EFL students' reading ability. Is English journal may help students to improve their reading skill?

Key words: English Journal, EFL Students, Reading.

INTRODUCTION

English has become well known in a few decades. Nowadays, English is broadly used in a few perspectives of humans' life to be specific education, technology, tourism, wellbeing, financial matters, and so on (Abudhahir et al., 2015; Afrianto & Gulö, 2019; Qodriani, 2021; Rido & Hatmannaja, n.d.; Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020). This language is learnt by many countries in all over the world. Even when someone is going to go abroad, one language that he needs to master is at least English. This is a second language that has effectively attract many countries such us Indonesia (Mandasari, 2017; Pustika, n.d.). In almost 100% school in Indonesia has applied this language to be learnt by their students as second language (Puspita, 2004; F. M. Sari & Wahyudin, 2019; Wahyudin & Sukyadi, 2015). English has a special place in the school curriculum since it starts to be taught in junior high school as a compulsory subject in order to make students ready to face competitiveness in the 21st (Ayu et al., 2017; Wahyudin & Kuswoyo, n.d.). Indonesia Government think that it is important to learn English or in other word, English should be acquired as second language. Pustika (2015), assumed that since there are enormous numbers of English text and discourse existing in our society, individuals begin to realize that they require English to be globalized. To be globalized, individuals have to be upgraded about what happens now within the world. In line with this Pustika & Wiedarti (2019), stated that reason is because English now serves as a lingua franca. Lingua franca implies that English could be a communication language utilized by two individuals talking distinctive dialects. Nowadays, we can find English everywhere

such as in our classroom, newspaper, book, internet, even in our smartphone (Abudhahir et al., 2015). We are forced to at least understand what some texts mean. To reach in this level, students need to learn not only theoretically but in practice (Aminatun & Oktaviani, 2019b; N. Putri & Aminatun, 2021; Simamora & Oktaviani, 2020).

There are 4 main skills in learning English, they are: Writing, Speaking, Listening, and Reading. These skills should be learned by second language learners (Pustika, n.d.; Widianingsih & Gulö, 2016). Reading skill is very important because it affects the way someone thinks, talks and writes (Erya & Pustika, 2021; Pratiwi et al., 2020). According to Pustika (2018), she assumed that, being able to comprehend the writings isn't sufficient. Students are expected to be proficient. It means reading instruction ought to facilitate the students to bargain with proficiency. The more someone reads the more that person will get many things (Booch et al., 1998; Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021; Sasalia & Sari, 2020). It can be said that reading is a process of someone to be able to understand what they are reading (Oktaviani & Mandasari, 2019; Pustika, 2018; Septiyana & Aminatun, 2021). Pustika (2015), assumes that perusing comprehension action can be classified into exacting comprehension, understanding of the elucidation, basic understanding, and inventive understanding. She also stated that perusing requires inspiration. Motivation is the key to victory (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019; Yudiawan et al., 2021). In any grade or level, we will begin with reading but many students feel like reading is hard to do. There are some techniques of reading to help students and everyone in their reading. Those techniques aim to develop reading quality of students and people but in fact there are still a number of people who prefer watching and listening instead of reading (Erya & Pustika, 2021; Oktaviani & Mandasari, 2019; Sasalia & Sari, 2020). However, each learner utilizes certain strategies and styles (Lestari & Wahyudin, 2020; N. R. Putri & Sari, 2021; Rido et al., 2016; Wahyudin & Rido, 2020).

Reading will always play an important role in someone's life especially second language learners (Pustika, 2018; Septiyana & Aminatun, 2021). According to (Agustin & Ayu, 2021; Sasalia & Sari, 2020), in English subjects, reading plays a vital role since most of the information these days is presented in the form of text. Subsequently, reading abilities are required to be mastered by the students. Starting from the age of someone when they learnt how to read until the last of their life. Students in higher education should be familiar with this activity. They must be familiar with e-book, journal and any kinds of written texts (Ayu, 2020; Pahdi et al., 2020; Rohman et al., 2020). Students in higher education will do some

mini research or any paper, and it needs supporting effort such as looking for the appropriate journal that talks about the same issue or book and etc. Reading can be very easy for them when it uses Indonesian language but it can be very hard to do for someone who does not like reading even the journal or book use English instead of Indonesian language. Based on Aminatun & Oktaviani (2019), students with low English abilities need to learn essential things when considering language, especially vocabulary since provide many choices for those who need to memorize language with the power of memorization. Reading English journal may bring some effect on students' reading skill. It helps in many aspect of learning, pronunciation, vocabularies, interpreting, and understanding the text but in fact, students got difficulties in understanding what they have read or in the other case, students got difficulties because they do not have enough vocabularies to help them to understand (Agustin & Ayu, 2021; Ambarwati & Mandasari, 2020; S. N. Sari & Aminatun, 2021).

It is clearly stated that reading is important and students need to do such activities to support them in learning second language. English journal as one of the written text that may help students to learn but what are the effect of reading so many English journal for students in higher education? And does their reading skill will enhance when they read as many as English journal?

METHOD

The researcher was conducting the research by applying qualitative descriptive approach. Collecting data was chosen to support this research. Qualitative descriptive is the study that commonly used by many researchers to conduct the research, this approach is kind of research of case study method. stated that qualitative descriptive is comprehensive in everyday aspects which experienced by some groups or people. Describing research provides information about conditions, situations, and occasions that happen within the present.

In conducting this research, the researcher collected the data to find out the influence or impact of reading English journal on students' reading ability. So, distributing questionnaire used as the way to answer this research objective. The participants of this research were English education students batch 2018 in one of the university in Bandarlampung. There were 40 students, they filled the questionnaire which consist 10 questions. The question was about the influence of reading English journal to their reading skill since English education students

in that batch have been familiar with English journal because they often conduct mini research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Students' preference on the written text

The result below presented to describe students' preference on their reading texts. There were 20 students who filled the questionnaire. The result could be seen as follows:

Table. 1 Positive Perception on Reading English Journal

No	Statement	Yes (%)	No (%)
1	I prefer reading English journal than others.	70%	30%
2	Reading English journal help me in improving my vocabulary.	85%	15%
3	Reading English journal can be beneficial for me especially in reading skill.	95%	5%
4	I think my reading skill improve after reading English journal.	50%	50%
5	I got many benefits from English journal.	80%	20%

The table above show students' preference on their written text. The highest score for students who choose English journal to be read by them. From this statement, it can be said that English education students choose English journal than other written English text. It is supported by the second statement which describe one of the possible reason of the first statement. Students choose English journal because reading English journal may help them in improving their vocabulary. Vocabulary is one of the important aspect of learning language not only English but other language too.

In the other hand, there are many benefit of reading beside it can improve vocabulary, it can also improve or upgrade students' knowledge on many aspects of live. There were 95% students who agreed that English journal bring many benefits for them especially on their reading skill. The more students read the more they enhance their skill in reading because

when they read one journal in a day, there almost thousands of words they read then they will be familiar with those words so it can help them in reading next texts. Students with reading problem may have different perception on reading English journal, it may take time for them to improve reading skill. The statement number 4 which describe the effect of reading English journal got the percentage 50% of students who said yes and 50% left said no. This result may have the opposite answer of the previous statement which English journal bring so many benefit. It can be stated that it takes time to enhance students' ability in reading through English journal.

Besides, other benefit from reading English journal may appear when they read English journal. The improvement of students' vocabulary, pronunciation, fluency, understanding and so on. The fifth statement have 80% percentage for students who said yes and 20% students who said no. Those are the positive perception of students on reading English journal. In the other case, there also a negative perception of students toward English journal as media to enhance their reading ability. The result of negative perception of students could be seen in table 2

Table 2. Negative Perception on English Journal.

No	Statement	Yes (%)	No (%)
1	I don't like reading	80%	20%
2	English journal is not beneficial for me	10%	90%
3	I prefer other reading text (Novel, newspaper, etc)	50%	50%
4	I rarely read English journal	35%	65%
5	I have difficulty in reading English journal	70%	30%

The result showed that many students who do not like reading, instead they like other skill which listening, writing, or speaking. This result describes how their habit influence their attitude or perception on reading. 80% students agreed that reading is not something that they

like. Some students may feel that reading is just only because they need to read but they do not feel that reading is more than that. However, 90 students do not agree that English journal is not beneficial for them. They could take other beneficial thing from this reading English journal activity.

Based on the percentage of the third statement, 50% students prefer other reading text such as novel, while the 50% students who said no for this statement may have two possible reasons. The reason could be because they do not like reading, and other reason may be because they like something else. Moreover, 65% students said no for the fourth statement, it describes how often students read English journal as their hobby. Some students may have reading as their hobby, but the other students have their own hobby. The fifth statement showed that 70% students have difficulty in reading English journal. The difficulty may be from the lack of vocabulary, or the fluency of reading. This can influence students attitude toward English journal (Ahluwalia, 2020).

CONCLUSION

Reading abilities ought to be mastered by the students because it plays a critical part in a student's reading ability. In any case, there are a few issues experienced by the students when they are trying to learn this skill. A teacher is encouraged to assist the students in learning and encountering reading difficulty. Hence, this aims to uncover student's difficulty towards the use of English journal on reading abilities.

Based on the results and discussion it might be concluded, the most noteworthy positive perception is within the third statement which English journal is beneficial for students whereas for the highest statement of negative perception is within the second statement which students don't agree that it isn't advantageous for them. The result of the research showed that students had a positive perception of the use of English journal on reading aptitudes. From the students' questionnaire the researcher concludes that students do accept that reading an English journal can be advantageous for them in their reading aptitudes. Consequently, after conducting the investigate, it can be concluded that the use of English journal can be one of way to improve their reading ability. Since this research as it were focused on perceptions, the further researchers who are interested in researching the same subject are proposed to inquire about the effect on the student's reading abilities.

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