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A Perspective Analysis of Students' Perceptions of Using Webtoons for Short Story Writing

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Abstrak

Webtoon adalah platform online yang dibuat khusus untuk membaca komik, menyediakan berbagai pilihan cerita menarik dan ilustrasi yang menarik secara visual. Dalam konteks kegiatan menulis, keberadaan inspirasi sangat penting untuk memperluas pemahaman seseorang tentang subjek tulisan yang mungkin. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk memeriksa penggunaan Webtoon sebagai alat untuk memotivasi siswa dan membangkitkan sudut pandang mereka tentang efektivitasnya. Sebuah analisis dilakukan dari sudut pandang siswa terhadap faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi mereka. Penelitian ini melibatkan siswa yang saat ini terdaftar di kelas keempat kelas sosial kelas kesepuluh di SMA senior Xaverius. Para peserta terdiri dari 18 siswa laki-laki dan 16 siswa perempuan. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian kualitatif, secara khusus menggunakan pendekatan kualitas deskriptif. Pendekatan pengumpulan data meliputi penggunaan dua alat: kuesioner dan wawancara. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar siswa memiliki pandangan positif tentang Webtoon, terutama dalam kapasitasnya untuk meningkatkan kemampuan siswa untuk mendapatkan inspirasi untuk memproduksi cerita pendek.

Kata Kunci: *Webtoon, Cerita Pendek, Keterampilan Menulis*

Abstract

Webtoon is an online platform specifically created for reading comics, providing a diverse selection of engaging stories and visually attractive illustrations. In the context of a writing activity, the existence of inspiration is crucial for broadening one's understanding of possible writing subjects. The objective of this research was to examine the use of Webtoon as a tool for motivating students and eliciting their viewpoints on its efficacy. An analysis was conducted of the students' viewpoints with regard to the factors that influenced them. The research includes students who are currently enrolled in the tenth grade social four class at Xaverius Senior High School. The participants consist of 18 male and 16 female students. This study used a qualitative research design, specifically using descriptive qualitative approaches. The data collection approach included the use of two instruments: a questionnaire and an interview. The results indicated that most students have positive views of Webtoon, especially in its capacity to enhance students' ability to get inspiration for producing short stories.

Keywords: *Webtoon, Short Story, Writing Skill*

INTRODUCTION

Due to its widespread use as a tool of communication, the English language has developed into an international language and plays a significant role in international interaction in many ways. In today's educational environment, proficiency in the English language is demanded of all students. It is therefore extremely important that students be able to communicate their ideas, thoughts, and opinions in the English language. In today's era, the world has become even more competitive. People all over the world not only compete with people in their country but with people outside of their country as well. There are four English language proficiency levels that children must meet in school. These include speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Despite the fact that all four skills are related, students must master each one gradually in order to fully understand each English skill.

According to Kurnia (2015), the use of engaging media also contributes to a better learning process by increasing student participation and interest in classroom activities, which may lead to improved writing skills. Students' interest in the learning process can be stimulated by using an engaging teaching media when teaching writing. According to Ratnasari et al. (2018), most teachers teach writing by explaining the structure of a text, providing examples, and then asking students to write a text. Teaching writing skills is a simple activity most of the time. Typically, it entails presenting the course material and important information to the students in a particular writing style. Teachers did not have many opportunities to practice teaching writing skills because of this issue. Using teaching media is one approach to break up the monotony of teaching English writing skills and

provide the students a new experience in the classroom. Teachers can now use an array of methods, such as Webtoons as a media, to encourage students to write.

Webtoon is an application for reading digital comics that originated in South Korea. It has hundreds of comics with a wide range of stories, genres, and art styles. Wright (1989) stated that serialized image-based media, such as comic strips or Webtoons, can be used to provide a range of interesting activities, including teaching writing. There are various uses for a set of images in teaching writing. Initially, it might encourage students to focus during the learning process. A picture can also serve as a stimulus and information source for students to write. Students would find the Webtoon application's playful element engaging as it facilitates learning through play. Therefore, it boosts students' motivation to study. Additionally, the Webtoon program is free, so anyone can use it without paying anything. The Webtoon app is also user-friendly and offers a wide variety of genres for readers to choose from. Slameto (2003) stated that perception is the process of taking in messages or information through the five senses of sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. Perception and human sense are both concerned with the structuring of received data or information. The instinctive behavior of human senses also functions in its own respective area and response to a certain reaction, and it receives different information for each function.

Another way to think about perception is as an individual's interpretation of an object, an event, or piece of information based on their personal experiences. Their brains will translate their experiences into various impressions, which may differ from one another. According to Jalaludin (2003), perception can be said to be the outcome of one's mind reacting to a specific situation.

Understanding how students perceive the teaching of writing skills is essential because it sheds light on the experiences they had while participating in the teaching and learning process. Teachers could devise more effective strategies and apply a range of techniques to make learning material easier for students to comprehend by having a better understanding of the perceptions of the students in their learning process. The process of perception doesn't happen in every instance. There are internal and external processes that a person should get through in an effort to perceive. Thoha (2003) stated that the process of perception depends on several stages. At first, the process of perception occurs when a person encounters stimulus from their surrounding environment.

Furthermore, Robbin (1997) also elaborates on some indicators of how the process of perception happens in each individual. Those indicators of perception are pointed out to help understand how humans' senses process information. Those indicators are acceptance, understanding, and evaluation. Munadi (2010) stated that using the right media helps

motivate students to study and overcome their passive attitudes, suggesting that the media can increase students' curiosity about learning at their own pace. Through varied qualities, surroundings, and experiences, the media can supply multiple stimuli, equalize experiences, and emerge with the same perceptions between teachers and students.

According to Sudjana and Rivai (2007, cited in Kurnia 2015), media is a systematic tool that can help students learn more quickly and effectively. It can also be used to convey knowledge in order to meet study objectives and enhance student performance. Webtoon is the learning media that is used in this study. According to the explanation stated above, the use of educational media is taken into consideration when determining students' perspectives about whether or not Webtoon could offer a more effective learning environment for students learning English writing skills.

Webtoon is an online digital comic application that originated in South Korea and can be accessed globally through a smartphone or laptop. Webtoon provides a wide array of comics in many different genres. Although Webtoon is a web comic platform that originated in South Korea, it is also popular in many different countries, including Indonesia. According to Wright (1979), comic strips contain all the elements of a short story, such as characters, dialogue, plot, conflict, and climax. Based on that statement, it is suitable to utilize comic strips as a medium to teach English writing, especially for writing short stories. This also leads to the researcher implementing Webtoon as a medium to find out students' perspectives on its implementation for English writing skills.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is conducted using the qualitative descriptive method. According to Creswell (2012), qualitative research is best suited to addressing a research problem in which the variables are unknown and need to be investigated. According to Suharsimi in Lilis (2010), descriptive studies are intended to determine the current state of phenomena and the nature of the situation as it exists at the time of the investigation. In conducting this research, the researcher gathers the data from the Xaverius senior high school students. The participants selected for this study came from the tenth grade social four students from Xaverius Senior High School. There are 34 students, consisting of 18 male students and 16 female students.

The research instruments used in this study are a questionnaire and an interview. The questionnaire is given to the students to find out their perspective on the usage of Webtoon for short story writing. Then an interview is conducted to gather profound information regarding the students' perceptions of using Webtoon for short story writing. The data that

was collected from the research instruments was analyzed to see the results of the students' perceptions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Questionnaire Data

The questionnaire consists of fourteen questions with five choices based on a Likert scale. The choices are: strongly agree (SA), agree (A), neutral (N), disagree (D), and strongly disagree (SD). There are several indicators taken into account in designing the questionnaire. The following is a table of indicators along with statements from the results of the questionnaire. Below are charts of all the answers the respondents chose based on each indicator.

Table. 1. Questionnaire Result

Interest						
No	Question	SA	A	N	D	SD
1	You can feel pleasure while learning English by reading Webtoon comics.	12%	70%	18%	0%	0%
2	Reading stories on Webtoon can help increase my desire to develop short story.	3%	62%	29%	6%	0%
Attention						
3	You can focus your concentration while reading stories on Webtoon.	17%	65%	9%	9%	0%
4	The pictures in Webtoon can catch your attention.	35%	56%	9%	0%	0%
Motivation						
5	You can be more motivated when reading stories through Webtoon.	6%	62%	20%	12%	0%
6	The storylines in Webtoon comics make you feel even more inspired to write your own short stories.	6%	47%	32%	15%	0%
Experience						
7	Webtoon application provides features that help you learn to write short story.	9%	44%	47%	0%	0%
Size or Physical Appearance						
8	Webtoon illustrations can help you develop your own story.	6%	58%	36%	0%	0%
9	Illustrations in Webtoon comics can help you develop short story theme.	0%	71%	29%	0%	0%
Novelty						

10	Characters in Webtoons can inspire you to write characters in your own short stories.	9%	62%	29%	0%	0%
Contrast						
11	Webtoon illustrations can inspire you to write down your setting in your short story.	6%	59%	35%	0%	0%
Motion						
12	You can feel inspired to write a story through the motion of gesture in Webtoon.	6%	41%	41%	12%	0%
Repetition						
13	Illustrations in Webtoons can keep you interested in reading over and over again.	18%	53%	18%	11%	0%
Stimulus Arrangement						
14	The sequence of images in a Webtoon can provide inspiration for developing your own storyline.	6%	59%	26%	9%	0%

The study aimed to understand students' feelings of interest, attention, and motivation when using Webtoon, a short story application. The results showed that 11.8% of students felt pleasant when learning English through Webtoon comics, while 17.6% were neutral. The interest indicator indicated that Webtoon helped students develop their short stories, with many interesting stories and pictures available. However, 29.4% of students chose "neutral," suggesting they didn't have an interest in reading or writing but still enjoyed using the application.

The attention indicator indicated that 17.6% of students were able to focus their concentration while reading Webtoon stories, while 8.8% of students were unsure whether they could focus their concentration. The picture indicators indicated that 35.3% of students found the pictures on Webtoon to be engaging, while 8.8% of students were neutral.

The motivation indicator indicated that 5.9% of students felt motivated while reading Webtoon stories, while 20.6% felt unmotivated. The storylines in Webtoon were also found to inspire students to write their own short stories, with 47.1% agreeing. However, 14.7% of students didn't find the storylines to be inspiring, and 32.4% weren't sure if they did.

In conclusion, Webtoon is a valuable tool for students to learn English, develop their short stories, and develop their interests. However, it is important to note that students may not always find the stories engaging or inspiring, and the motivation factor can also play a role in their decision-making process. Overall, Webtoon offers a unique and engaging way for students to learn and grow in their language skills.

The size or physical appearance of the illustrations on Webtoon comics also influenced the probability of the stimulus being noticed. In this case, most students agreed that Webtoon illustrations could help them develop their own short story. However, there were also some students who were indecisive about whether or not the illustrations on Webtoon could help them develop a short story.

The novelty indicator was used to determine the parts of Webtoon that could influence students' perceptions. In this case, most students agreed that Webtoon illustrations could inspire them to write characters in their short stories. However, there were also some students who were unsure if the characters in Webtoon stories could help them create a character in the story.

The contrast indicator showed that most students agreed that Webtoon illustrations could inspire them to write down their setting in a short story. However, there were also some students who were unsure whether the motion of gesture in Webtoon was inspiring or not.

The repetition indicator showed that 17.6% of students agreed that illustrations in Webtoon kept them interested in reading over and over again. However, there were also some students who were unsure if the sequence of images in a webtoon could provide inspiration for developing their own storyline.

Lastly, the stimulus arrangement indicator indicated that most students agreed that the sequence of images in a Webtoon can provide them with inspiration for developing their own storyline. However, there were some students who were unsure if the sequence of images in a webtoon could provide them with inspiration for developing their own storyline.

In conclusion, the study found that Webtoon illustrations can be an effective tool for students to develop their short stories. However, more research is needed to fully understand the effectiveness of these illustrations and their potential impact on students' writing skills.

Interview Result

The researcher was picking the students for the interview based on their questionnaire answers to find out the reason and derive more information regarding their perception. It can be stated that although there were students who gained inspiration to write short stories from Webtoon comics, there were also students who did not gain inspiration from reading Webtoon comics. From the positive responses, it can be concluded that Webtoon is able to make the writing learning process interesting for them. The illustrations in the Webtoon

comic were also able to focus their attention. Some interesting stories consisting of Webtoon were also able to make them feel motivated, and some aspects of Webtoon illustrations also provided them inspiration to write short stories.

From the negative responses, there were some indicators that the students disagreed with. Based on their answers to the interview, there were some students who were not gaining any inspiration to write about Webtoon comics or certain aspects of Webtoon comics. Their reasons were varied, and they came from internal factors like their lack of interest in reading or writing or external factors like the aspects of the Webtoon comic itself.

Discussion

The discussion is part of a further explanation of the results obtained by the researchers from the results of questionnaires and interviews. In the discussion section, the author investigates how students perceive the Webtoon application as a medium for learning to write short stories and clarifies their perceptions. The process of perception is related to each person's sense of view of a certain object around them. The factors that can affect perceptions also have an impact on the process of perception.

According to Sobur (2003), there are internal factors that can influence perceptions. He claimed that individual mental processes like attention, interest, motivation, and experience can have an impact on internal factors. Adding to Sobur's theory, there are also external factors that can influence perception. The researcher used the theory from Randolph and Blackburn (1989: 85–86, cited in Fitriah 2020) to categorize external factors that come from the physical and dynamic elements of the stimulus. Physical elements are size or physical appearance, contrast, and novelty. Dynamic elements can come from motion, repetition, and stimulus arrangement. The researcher used the above theories to explore the students' perceptions.

Interest

Webtoon, a popular learning platform, has been found to capture the interest of most students, with 73.5% showing positive responses. The platform's engaging pictures and stories keep students engaged, making it a unique and enjoyable learning experience. In an interview, students expressed their satisfaction with Webtoon's unique approach to learning short stories, citing its unique features and the enjoyment they derive from the content. However, some students did not fully develop a desire to write, stating that the visual aids alone did not significantly enhance their desire to write. This highlights the importance of understanding individual preferences and the unique nature of interest in learning. Overall,

Webtoon's success in capturing students' interest in learning short stories is a testament to its potential as a valuable tool in the digital age.

Attention

According to Sobur (2003), attention is one of the psychological factors and is included in the internal factors that affect perceptions. Attention is described as the centralization of concentration. The attention indicator is aimed at seeing the students focus on the Webtoon comic as the stimulus.

The questionnaire revealed that 86.5% of students showed positive attention indicators, indicating that Webtoon helps students focus their concentration while reading stories. The pictures in Webtoon catch students' attention and help them understand the story. In interviews, students TC and QA agreed that the pictures on Webtoon help them focus on the story and provide ideas for writing. The plot and illustrations from the comic were also found to be effective in keeping students focused. Overall, interesting pictures in Webtoon help students understand and engage with the story.

Motivation

A questionnaire revealed that most students believe Webtoon can motivate them to read and write short stories, with 60.5% of respondents showing positive responses. The plot of Webtoons is what motivates them, as it can make them want to read more. However, some students, like YR and TC, disagreed, stating that their lack of interest in reading or writing may hinder their motivation. This suggests that a person's interest in a particular activity can affect their motivation, and those who are not fond of reading or writing may struggle to find motivation in Webtoon activities.

Experience

The questionnaire results show that 53% of students found Webtoon to be a useful tool for learning short stories. Language setting and sound features, particularly the voice feature, were found to enhance the learning experience. However, students who were new to the application may need to use the app for a longer period of time to discover the best features. The language setting feature could also aid in acquiring new vocabulary. Overall, Webtoon's features, such as language setting and sound, provide an interesting and engaging learning experience for students.

Size or Physical Appearance

According to Randolph and Blackburn (1989: 85–86, cited in Fitriah 2020), size or physical appearance is one of the physical elements that are included in the external factors

that influence perceptions. The study aimed to assess students' perceptions of Webtoon's illustrations and their ability to help them develop their short stories. The results showed that 67.5% of students agreed that Webtoon illustrations could help them develop their story and theme. Students expressed enthusiasm for the illustrations and creative thinking needed to create their own short stories. The physical appearance of the illustrations in Webtoon was found to be an inspiration for students to create their own stories. This indicates that the physical appearance of illustrations in Webtoon can significantly influence students' perceptions and motivation to create their own stories.

Contrast

The questionnaire results show that students find illustrations on Webtoon inspiring to create the setting for their short stories. 65% of students showed positive responses, indicating that contrasting illustrations on the background and characters also provide inspiration. Interviews with students CE and SE revealed that the interesting and unpredictable storyline in Webtoon inspired them to try writing a short story. The elements of stories and pictures in Webtoon also provide inspiration for students.

Novelty

A questionnaire revealed that 71% of students found Webtoon characters inspiring them to write short stories. These exclusive characters caught the students' interest and provided inspiration. Interviews were conducted to identify Webtoon stories that piqued their interest. One example was "The Secret of Angel (True Beauty)," which tells the story of a woman who transforms into beautiful after bullying. These stories, including "Beauty in a Click," demonstrate the power of Webtoon in inspiring students to write.

Motion

A questionnaire revealed that 47% of students found inspiration from the motion of gestures in Webtoon comics, as they felt they were seeing the scene in person. However, some students disagreed, with one student stating that the gesture itself was lacking, as they only saw the comic. This suggests that while gestures can provide ideas and inspiration for students to write, some students may not find inspiration from the pictures of gestures in Webtoon comics.

Repetition

The study found that 71% of students found that Webtoon's illustrations kept them interested in reading the story over and over again. The clear and realistic images in Webtoon prevent boredom and keep students engaged. However, some students

expressed curiosity about the stories, suggesting that their interest in Webtoon illustrations and stories could be a factor in their desire to repeat what they have read. Overall, students' interest in Webtoon illustrations and stories contributes to their continued reading.

Stimulus Arrangement

The study found that students generally have a positive response to the sequence of images in Webtoon, with 65% showing positive responses. The sequence of images in Webtoon provides inspiration for developing stories and helps students understand the storyline, making the story more interesting to read. Students' SE and QA support this, stating that the sequence of pictures in a story helps them understand the storyline and inspires them to write.

CONCLUSION

Webtoon is an app that offers a variety of interesting comics with eye-catching illustrations and good stories. It is a valuable tool for students to learn and gather inspiration for writing activities. This research aimed to determine students' perceptions of Webtoon as a medium for short story writing. The results showed that most students had positive perceptions of Webtoon for short story writing. The application's features, such as language setting and sound, also contributed to students' interest and motivation to learn. Overall, Webtoon is a valuable tool for students to explore and develop their writing skills. The study reveals that Webtoon is a valuable tool for students in creative writing, providing them with inspiration to create their own stories. The application also offers a fun way to learn new vocabularies while learning English.

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