CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Literacy in the 20th century has expanded from an emphasis on comprehending page text and listening to lectures to include a wider, more encompassing tool set, requiring more activity-based competencies.[1] Gen-Z is said to have been born between 1995 to 2012 and includes those children and youth who grew up with sophisticated media and digital gadgets and would be more cyber-savvy than their previous cohorts.[2] To the knowledge of the researchers of the present study, most of the generation Z kids are familiar with Cell phones and internet apps and use them frequently in their daily lives. We live in a changing world, and educators face the challenge of adapting their teaching styles to accommodate a new generation of digital learners. These digital learners, known as Gen-Z, who grow up in a highly sophisticated media and computer environment and will be more internet savvy, have learning expectations, styles, and needs different from past students. It is critical to recognize that students are already interested in and committed to using technology, which opens up numerous incredible opportunities for universities and

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[1] Sherion H. Jackson, and Debi Crawford, "Digital Learners: How Are They Expanding the Horizon of Learning?", *Nation Council Of Professors Of Education Of Administration,* Vol. XII, No. 2, (July, 2008), 3.

[2] Ramlee Mustafa, and Sara Kashefian-Naeeini, "Moving Teaching and Learning into the Digital Era", *International Journal of English Language & Translation Studies,* Vol. V, No. 3, (August, 2017), 3.

lecturers to benefit from incorporating a few frames of technology into the classroom and making teaching and learning more effective. Tomei indicated that the top ten technologies that can be used as tools to address the growing stock of 21st-century skills include global mindfulness, technical competence, and problem-solving abilities.[3]

Reading is a sophisticated and diverse process that transforms as individuals develop and gain experience. Whether engaging in reading for pleasure, seeking information, or acquiring new knowledge, the primary objective of any reading task is to comprehend and derive meaning from written text.[4] Reading has various advantages, including improved brain performance, knowledge, and memory. Experts agree on the importance of reading, recognizing its significant impact on humans. Reading can improve one's language and communication abilities, allowing for more effective interpersonal interactions. Additionally, reading is an effective method to enhance memory and bolster focus.[5] It is a procedure that improves comprehension, knowledge, and memory. Experts underline the importance of it in improving vocabulary, communication, and focus.

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[3] Naf'an tarihoran, "Teacher Candidates' View on Using Technology in Developing English Language Teaching Materials", *international journal of pshycosocialrehabilition,* Vol. XXIV, No. 8, (April, 2020), 3008.

[4] Esther, and Gloria Ramfrez Geva, *Focus on Reading,* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), 87.

[5] Maryanne Wolf, and Mirit Barzillai, "The Importance of Deep Reading", *Educational Leadership,* Vol. LXVI, No. 6, (March 2019), 12.

Reading and gaining information will keep a servant on His path and away from the devil's misdirected path. This is based on the word of Allah SWT which reads:

مَّرِيدٍ شَيْطَٰنٍ ۞كُلَّ وَيَتَّبِعُ عِلْمٍ بِغَيْرِ ٱللَّهِ فِى يُجَٰدِلُ مَن ٱلنَّاسِ وَمِنَ

"Among humans, some argue about Allah without knowledge and follow every evil devil.". (Q.S Al-Hajj [22]:3).

Students frequently face numerous challenges while learning to read, including struggling to comprehend texts holistically, identify key ideas, and make appropriate inferences. Moreover, they may encounter issues related to insufficient motivation to read, difficulties expanding their vocabulary, inadequate comprehension of specialized content texts, and inadequate utilization of effective reading strategies. Resolving these challenges necessitates a comprehensive approach encompassing the integration of effective instructional strategies, the cultivation of contextually-based vocabulary, and the establishment of a conducive learning environment that stimulates students' engagement in reading activities.[6]

Brigitta and Syunu demonstrate that the digital era has transformed previously physical situations into digital ones, bringing numerous conveniences to reading activities, such as easier access to various reading sources.[7] Technology,

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[6] Intan Permatasari, Agus Wijayanto, and Diah Kristina, "The Strengths and Weaknesses of Extensive Reading Using Wattpad; Students' Perceptions", *Indonesian Journal of EFL and Linguistics*, Vol. V, No. 2, (March, 2020), 12.

[7] Brigitta Rima Kurnianingsi Lismawati, and Syunu Trihantoyo, "Peningkatan Literasi Digital Dalam Mewujudkan Profesionalisme Kinerja Guru Pada Era Revolusi Industri 4.0", *Jurnal Inspirasi Manajemen Pendidikan,* Vol. X, No. 01, (April, 2021), 80–94.

fundamentally, holds the potential for positively inspiring the emergence of a new knowledge revolution and can serve as an effective tool in education. Students can acquire skills in utilizing instructional technology as an investment in their future, enabling more efficient learning. Consequently, digital literacy assumes a pivotal role in supporting reading activities in the current digital era. Individuals must enhance their digital literacy skills, enabling them to effectively harness technology for learning, accessing, evaluating, and integrating digital information within the learning process and reading activities.[8] As a result, technology and digital literacy play critical roles in offering opportunities for more efficient and useful learning experiences in solving digital age concerns.

Among these, Wattpad stands out as a prominent digital platform catering to the reading preferences of teenagers, offering them the opportunity to engage in the consumption and creation of fictional literary works.[9] Students, particularly teens, are increasingly lured to online platforms like Wattpad in the digital age, altering their reading habits. Wattpad, a popular network, enables teenagers to consume and create fictitious books, reflecting the changing reading scene.

Wattpad offers convenient access to an extensive collection of stories and novels authored by users worldwide. Its platform caters to various genres: teenage fiction, fantasy, romance, mystery, and thriller. This observable trend prompts

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[8] Lulud Oktaviani and Berlinda Mandasari, "Powtoon: A Digital Medium to Optimize Students' Cultural Presentation in ELT Classroom", *Teknosastik,* Vol. XVIII, No. 1, (October, 2020), 33.

[9] Intan Permatasari, Agus Wijayanto, and Diah Kristina, "Extensive Reading on Wattpad and Its Benefits to Students' English Skills: Students' Perceptions", *ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities,* Vol. III, No. 4, (June, 2020), 30.

inquiries regarding the prospective integration of Wattpad as a tool to augment students' reading comprehension, particularly within the formal education framework.[10] Wattpad's extensive library of user-generated tales from diverse genres shows potential for improving students' reading comprehension in formal education.

Based on initial observations made by researcher in class XI of MAN 2 Serang, it appears that students face challenges in their reading skills. Most students find learning English a daunting task. Additionally, they have difficulty identifying the main idea of the text and responding effectively to comprehension questions. As a result, their reading achievement falls below the desired level. Teachers are advised to foster students' interest in the subject matter to overcome these problems by including interesting and captivating learning media.

Apart from that, researcher found during initial observation that teachers and students' did not utilize technology in the teaching and learning process. Therefore, researcher are interested in introducing the use of the Wattpad application so that students can experience a different learning experience. This allows researcher and students to use the Wattpad application with relative ease.

In response to the issue raised above, the researcher used the Wattpad program to aid students in their reading by facilitating understanding and retention of information and messages embedded inside the application. Importantly, using the

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[10] Mega Anggitasari, Wawan Tarwana, R. Bunga Febriani, and Syafryadi, "Using Wattpad to Promote the Students' Responses to Literary Works: EFL College Students' Perspectives and Experiences of Enjoying Short Stories", *Jadila: Journal of Development and Innovation in Language and Literature Education,* Vol. I, No. 2, (Augst, 2020), 92.

Wattpad program allows students to absorb concepts more readily and achieve optimal results in reading proficiency.

B. Identification of Problems

From the research background, there are several problems related to students' reading comprehension abilities. Research problems are limited to:

1. Students have difficulty understanding texts holistically, identifying key ideas, making appropriate conclusions, and have difficulty developing vocabulary.

2. The teacher and students do not involve technology in learning reading as a medium.

3. The students feel bored when they read any texts because it is too traditional.

C. Scopes and Limitations of The Research

The conducted research placed a strong emphasis on utilizing the Wattpad program to improve pupils' reading abilities. The major purpose of the study was to increase students' grasp and comprehension of narrative texts, with a special emphasis on short stories. To achieve this goal, the research sought to prioritize students' knowledge of important concepts, precise details, and vocabulary growth. The research attempted to create an interactive and immersive reading experience for the students by utilizing Wattpad's vast assortment of narrative genres and appealing storytelling. The study's goal is to provide useful insights and solutions for improving students' reading ability and facilitating the growth of literacy skills.

D. Research Questions

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the research question is:

1. How effective is wattpad in improving students' reading comprehension?

2. How does the use of wattpad media influence students' reading comprehension?

E. The Objective of The Study

1. To assess the overall effectiveness of wattpad as a medium for improving reading comprehension skills.

2. To investigate the impact of wattpad media on students' reading comprehension skills.

F. Significances of The Study

The significance of this research consists of the following:

1. Theoretical Significance

a. In the future, subsequent researchers can utilize the findings of this study as a valuable reference to inform and guide their research endeavors based on their specific requirements and objectives.

b. The research findings could be used by teachers in the future to teach reading using the Wattpad app. Educators can use Wattpad tales as educational resources to help students improve their reading comprehension. Following the reading exercise, teachers might conduct inquiries, organize discussions, or give written activities about the text to improve students' comprehension by incorporating discourse comprehension, character analysis, plot analysis, and thematic investigation.

2. Practical Significance

a. For The Students

The research study may assist pupils in understanding the meaning of English and reading comfortably in front of the class. Wattpad has a user-friendly interface that allows users to easily access a diverse range of story genres and novels from a global community of authors. Students can use this digital platform to efficiently discover and engage with many genres such as teen fiction, fantasy, romance, mystery, and others. Students will likely feel increased motivation and active participation in the reading process if they choose materials that are relevant to their interests. The platform's accessibility makes it even easier for students to get started, as a simple search for "Wattpad" on the internet allows them to quickly access a wide range of available stories.

b. For The Teachers

This research would assist the teacher in locating a new teaching medium to improve students' reading skills. Teachers can simply access Wattpad by visiting www.wattpad.com in a web browser. They can explore various story and novel genres after signing in or registering. Teachers can use the search option to find certain titles, authors, or genres. They can read a tale online or store it for later if they find one they wish to read. Teachers may simply access Wattpad and use it as a resource in reading instruction by following these simple steps.

c. For The Next Researchers

The outcomes from this research will be a significant resource for future studies, allowing them to efficiently use the Wattpad program to improve pupils' reading skills. The findings of this study will provide insights, tactics, and evidence-based techniques for maximizing Wattpad's potential as a tool for developing reading proficiency. Future studies might build on these findings to design and execute interventions, instructional materials, and focused activities that cater to the individual requirements of children, thereby encouraging improved reading abilities and comprehension.

G. Organization of The Study

The researcher will arrange three chapters and each chapter consists of some points to explain the chapter.

Chapter I is the Introduction. This chapter contains the background of the study, identification of the problem, scopes, and limitations of the research, research questions, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, and the organization of the study.

Chapter II is the Theoretical Framework. This chapter contains: Reading theory, types of reading problems in reading, purpose of reading technique of reading, the importance of reading, teaching of reading, definition of Wattpad, how to use Wattpad, Strengths and Weaknesses of Wattpad, The Strategy of Wattpad Used in

Finding The Main Idea, and Previous Study, Framework of Thinking, and Hypothesis.

Chapter III is Research Methodology. This chapter contains the research methodology which includes research methods, instruments, data collection methods, data verification methods, and data analysis methods.

Chapter IV is Finding and Discussion. This chapter presents the results of data analysis and discussion of the use of wattpad media to improve students' reading comprehension.

Chapter V is   Conclusions and Suggestions. This chapter presents the conclusions of the overall conents of the study and the suggesstions given by the researcher to her readers.