



THE USE OF DIGITAL MEDIA TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' LITERACY IN ENGLISH LEARNING IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Abstract

The process of delivering messages in writing is one of the basics used to convey ideas and information. The teacher's role is very important in encouraging students to increase learning motivation, especially in literacy skills. There needs to be an effort to assist in the learning process by using digital media as an effective learning resource. This digital media can help teachers and students access information flexibly, and must be able to keep up with today's rapidly developing technological developments. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative analysis. Then the results of the study were analyzed using interactive model analysis to obtain data to be studied using an interview guide as the instrument of this research. The online learning process is one of the transitions that need during the Covid-19 pandemic. So that digital media used to deliver material can take place effectively to improve students' literacy in learning so that it can run according to educational goals.

Keywords—digital media, literacy, English learning

1. INTRODUCTION

The framework for delivering ideas and information is the process of delivering ideas in writing. The teacher's role is important in encouraging students to become more motivated and improve significantly their writing skills. The teacher must make an attempt to present learning tools that will aid students in their learning, one of which is literacy-based learning. The advantages of reading and writing activities can assist students in broadening their perspectives in many areas. Students will be able to gain information through reading activities through literacy activities (Suhendra et al., 2020). Many students haven't yet considered reading and writing an important necessity to be used to from a young age, which can contribute to the formation of a better nation and state. This practice may also have an impact on the school literacy movement, which is still in its early stages in most schools. Students' ability to develop writing skills is one measure of academic achievement that is highly advantageous to their learning. As Suarmi and Fatimah (2019) says, through literacy-based instruction, writing is a useful technique to support students' abilities to read and write. Writing allows students to organize and express their thoughts, which might increase their interest in learning more. Literacy is a strategy that can be used to develop students' reading skills for certain objectives. Students must also be able to comprehend how to use, apply, and create what allows them to read and write comprehensively (Khairuddiniyah, 2018).

Teaching English to young learners is one of the ways of helping them improve their language abilities to cope with life's challenges. In the classroom, language activities and practices can help students identify and understand with their surroundings in both spoken and written ways of communication. English is one of the foreign languages whose existence is very taken into account in the education curriculum in Indonesia. English has become one of the subjects that must be taught in schools, it is important to introduce English to students from an early age to be able to hone their knowledge in introducing the target language or the language being studied (Muchsonny et al., 2021). As believed by Harmer (2008) the faster the acquisition process is introduced, the better the acquisition of the language mastered. The purpose of learning English in general is to achieve the communicative competence mentioned by Hymes (1972). This is related to students being able to use the target language they have learned as a tool to communicate with others. Thus, communicative competence can be interpreted as skills in carrying out communicative tasks or activities that are carried out effectively to be able to focus students on the language they have learned.

Literacy-based instruction can strengthen critical learning patterns. In this context, the teacher's role is very useful in facilitating students to learn effectively in collaborative and interactive teaching and learning activities as reported (Hakim et al., 2021). A literacy-based learning process that engages the reader to engage with logistical investigations that lead to critical thinking for understanding, applications contained in the text, and his thinking with prior thinking. A literacy-based teaching focus can help students to develop their literacy skills by teaching grammar rules and showing students one word or sentence at a time. In addition, it is necessary to hold training for students from an early age so that they can think critically about what they see, read, and hear critically in order to anticipate hoax information on the news or social media. Thus, students become more selective in reading and sorting out interesting and useful reading.

The development of information and communication technology is growing rapidly at this time which has a significant impact on all aspects of life (Kustini et al., 2020). The influence of ICT in literacy-based instruction is on mindset, communication, and social interaction. On the other hand, the impact of ICT in the application of literacy-based instruction can change the learning patterns of students who are extensively exposed to the internet. Students become easier to access the latest information and knowledge online with just one touch of the screen using a mobile device. Literacy practices are strongly influenced by technology and the economy, social conditions, and the media, especially in literacy activities that have undergone a transition from printed text to screen text. Literacy education must be expanded in scope where teaching does not only involve reading and writing skills but also pays attention to the various types of texts that are currently developing. Not only

that, the teachers do not only teach students to have basic language skills or train students' communicative abilities. However, it is necessary to develop critical awareness in students so that they can ask questions about the information they encounter (Ko, 2013).

As Khairuddiniyah, (2018) says literacy is at the foundation of education. Reading and writing are essential components of the educational process. Literacy is thought to have a function in delivering information in the field of education, and it is regarded as a symbol of modernism and an educated individual. Literacy, which is sometimes referred to as complicated skills, is intertwined with today's daily activities. Through literacy-based instruction-based learning, students can get the meaning of the text contained from the interaction between content and structure (Dewi et al., 2020). Digital media, of course, in digital literacy provides important benefits for technological advances in language teaching (Anggeraini et al., 2019). Digital literacy is a basic skill or ability that is used to find useful information. These skills must be assumed by teachers and students in language learning in schools as analogous to the ability to read and write. According to previous research, literacy is a new social practice in the classroom that focuses on strengthening students' writing and reading skills, which are employed in a variety of contexts and to fulfill a variety of tasks.

Despite of several studies have been conducted, this study examines the use of digital media literacy to improve students' literacy on English learning in junior high school, which aims to analyze the influence of students' literacy skills by using descriptive qualitative research. There is little research on students' implementation of literacy-based learning, which involves secondary school students' using English as a foreign language. The purpose of this study is to analyze the use of digital media can help students to facilitate the learning process in the current pandemic situation. Thus, it can support the learning process so that it runs effectively for use in various situations.

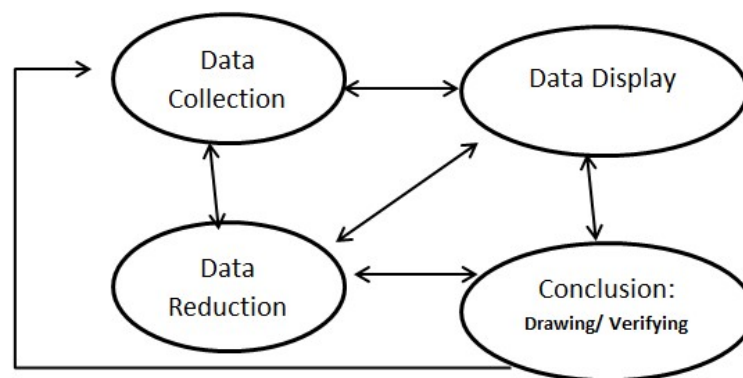
2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The design used in this study was a descriptive qualitative analysis was chosen as the type for the study (Creswell, 2009). The method in this study is used to analyze descriptions or descriptions systematically about the use of digital media to improve students' literacy on English learning at SMP N 1 Tejakula. In data analysis the researcher used interactive analysis model proposed by (Miles et al., 2014) covering data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The subject of this study employed the students in two classes in grade 9th students in SMP Negeri 1 Tejakula with a total of sixty students. The sample consists of only sixty students in two classes. They were chosen because they were observed in investigating of literacy-based instruction in the classroom. Researcher conducted observations on the subject to determine students' interest in investigating of literacy-based instruction.

Researcher conducted observations with the subject first to measure their interest in the study. In analyzing qualitative data, it needs to be done repeatedly to get valid data. In general, there are several steps used to analyze data through the Interactive Data Model, namely: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing as seen Figure 1. illustrates down below:

Figure 1. Interactive Model Analysis

(Miles et al., 2014)



The first step in data reduction is to describe all phenomena discovered in the field by interviews, observations, and documentation. In this step, information is gathered through questions that will be given to the teacher and will be decreased from the interview findings. The researcher then uses data presentation to describe a field research procedure, in which the outcomes of data reduction can be exhibited in the form of a systematic description to make it easier to access and understand. Therefore, the procedure can assist researchers in reaching a final conclusion. The final stage is the conclusion, where the researcher forms findings and makes temporary conclusions that will later be transformed into more ideal conclusions.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this study, researcher conducted interviews with teacher about digital media used in the learning process in the classroom. The researcher involved one of the English teachers at SMP N 1 Tejakula who had experienced various kinds of teaching experiences in the classroom, especially using digital media

during the learning process during face-to-face meetings and online learning. Writing abilities, especially productive writing skills, are the hardest to learn. Writing is one of the most difficult abilities for foreign language students Suarmi & Fatimah (2019). Many elements are affected by these problems, particularly in terms of developing and organizing ideas. It's challenging to turn concepts into text that's easy to read and understand. As a result, students must be willing to put in more effort to compose thoughts in their original language, then translate them into English before putting them into good writing. A series of interview questions to dig deeper into information about the use of digital media to improve students' literacy in English learning. This will provide more benefits to teachers and students about the media used to be more effective in the learning process. After getting the results of the interview, the researcher analyzed each data argumentatively accompanied by the findings of pre-existing research related to the use of digital media to improve students' literacy in English learning. Thus, it will produce a stronger picture of the data through the theoretical framework in this study.

The use of digital media to improve students' literacy in English learning explains the findings in this study, namely (1) the effect of using digital media on students' learning processes in the classroom; and (2) the drawbacks of use of digital media to improve student literacy in the classroom.

Based on the results of interviews and experiences from teachers when teaching in the classroom, the use of digital media during the learning process is very influential in a progressive way to increasing student learning engagement. The use of digital media has shown positive results because it refers to teaching and learning instructions more effectively. This can be seen from how students show more proactive learning participation which affects their learning activities. A similar definition is also stated in the international ICT literacy panel report by The Educational Testing Service (ITS) which states that ICT literacy is using digital technology, communication tools, and networks to access, manage, integrate, and evaluate to create information that can be used and accessed by anyone, especially students. Another term that is closely related to literacy is digital media. Digital media is something that is used to assist teachers in facilitating the learning process by using the help of information technology devices in adapting to the times. Along with changes and developments, this term has also penetrated several different terms such as technological literacy, computer literacy, and internet literacy (Hu & Yu, 2021).

The learning process is recognized as having run very effectively and has also increased the level of awareness of students to learn. This has been acknowledged by the English teacher at SMP N 1 Tejakula. Awareness of students to learn anywhere and everywhere also affects students' literacy skills which can be seen in a significant increase through the use of digital media in the learning process. Through the application of the use of digital media to improve students' literacy, a positive impact is applied by teachers and students who can flexibly help the learning process. Digital media helps teachers and

students to be able to explore a variety of information and knowledge related to the material to be delivered during the learning process (Wijaya, 2022). In addition, digital media also influences diverse learning environments to independently find a variety of useful knowledge that can increase student motivation. The following interview excerpts are the results of interviews conducted with teachers in-depth about the use of digital media used to deliver material in class.

(English Teacher: "For the media in the learning process, of course. In the process of daily learning activities, I often use Google Classroom to give an assignments or learning materials and also used PowerPoint to teach the students in class. Because the current situation like this, now I switch to WhatsApp Group for the students get discussions. Sometimes, I search a video on YouTube for students as a materials for them to study.")

Teachers must be able to take advantage of technological improvements, particularly digital media on teaching literacy, in order to communicate in this Covid-19 pandemic situation (Kajin, 2018). Digital media on teaching literacy is important in education because it helps students build knowledge about learning materials while also encouraging their curiosity and creativity. It is possible to address the subjectivity of knowledge through digital literacy in order to ensure that technology is used to improve students' literacy in the classroom. The ability to access the most up-to-date educational information, particularly for students, is one of the advantages of the digital era. The influence of increasingly rapid technology advancements cannot be separated from the realm of education. The digitalization process has a tremendous impact on education in terms of information access (Alrianingrum et al., 2021). The advantages of digital media for students include the ability to aid the learning process and the ability to access it at any time and from any location. One of the mediums employed in the Covid-19 pandemic crisis is digital-based literacy. English learning to improve students' literacy is helped by digital media is one of the needs for educational and learning competencies in the 21st century, in addition to making the learning process easier for students and teachers. Online learning makes use of the internet to deliver a variety of creative learning content, resulting in the transformation of traditional learning to digitalization (Zahroh & Sholeh, 2022). The virtual online learning system is run on a platform that allows distance learning. In addition, learning media as a tool used to mediate between teachers and students in understanding learning materials to be more effective and efficient. Therefore, the English teacher at the school explained the drawbacks of the digital media used in the learning process as follows:

(English Teacher: "What I have seen during online learning process, it doesn't work effectively. Because time limitation in online learning is also limited. In addition, they cannot access the media that has been shared through group because of network obstacles or they don't have quota.")

In general, literacy is an individual's ability and skill in reading and writing. Every individual, both teachers, and students must have the ability to access digital media to improve students' literacy to be able to understand and utilize information from various existing forms and sources. Online learning is an activity that utilizes the internet network in delivering material to students. Online learning is the application of learning that uses the internet network with the display of various creative and innovative digital media so that the transformation process from conventional learning becomes digitalization (Zahroh & Sholeh, 2022). Various types of digital media platforms used in delivering learning materials are WhatsApp Group, YouTube, PowerPoint, and Google Meet. Through these digital media, the learning process is not limited by money and time so that learning materials can be accessed flexibly. In the current pandemic situation, you must be able to use technology facilities wisely. Digital media indirectly provides new skills and experiences in accessing information depending on mastery of ideas or creativity.

In the online learning process, sometimes there are obstacles encountered. The statement above is an obstacle experienced by teachers and students during the current pandemic conditions. The process of communication interaction can run educatively between teachers and students through learning media. The transition of learning which was originally done face-to-face has turned into online learning during the current pandemic. In online learning, it is very dependent on the internet network so that it can be connected when the teacher delivers the material. Students have problems, where unstable internet connections often occur when participating in the learning process. To overcome these obstacles, the teacher suggested looking for Wi-Fi in public places and at schools while still adhering to health protocols. This effort is considered one of the appropriate responses to overcome learning barriers in maintaining student learning focus. Thus, the use of digital media to improve students' literacy can increase knowledge through thinking activities and language skills in interacting orally and in writing. This can be seen through the use of digital media that has been applied in schools to improve student's literacy skills.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results obtained, it can be concluded that the benefits of the use of digital media will have the potential for teachers and students so that it affects learning motivation, student achievement, and student literacy skills. The Covid-18 pandemic has caused a transition in the implementation of the

learning process from face-to-face to online learning. The online learning process is carried out using digital media as an aid to assist the implementation of distance learning. The main influence of the benefits of the use of digital media in the learning process is students' awareness to learn. In addition, the reciprocal relationship between teachers and students can fully build a higher learning commitment in the student learning environment. This can encourage students' enthusiasm in learning in the current pandemic situation even though there are obstacles that are often faced. Thus, the learning process can take place flexibly because of the use of digital media that can be accessed anytime and anywhere. Through the use of digital media in English teaching to improve students' literacy, teachers can show creativity and innovation in delivering material during the learning process. Meanwhile, students who have a high level of learning awareness must be able to take advantage of digital media that can make it easier to access information about the material provided. To improve students' literacy skills, individuals must be able to master and access technology that is developing rapidly today. Because the implementation of online learning requires technology and internet networks to support the process of success in learning. In addition, the main factor that affects the effectiveness of the learning process on the use of digital media is the competence of teachers and students in using technology to carry out online learning. With the improvement of literacy skills, students will show creativity and innovation in supporting the online learning process. Thus, teachers and students must be able to utilize technology so that the learning process can run effectively. A high level of digital literacy can indirectly affect student learning outcomes. This digital literacy skills are needed so that the use of information and communication technology in online learning can run according to educational goals.

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