THE CONTRIBUTION OF ONLINE READING PLATFORMS TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' READING INTEREST: STUDENTS' VIEWS

THESIS

Presented to

State Islamic Institute of Kediri

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of Sarjana in English Language Education



 \mathbf{BY}

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2024

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This thesis is to fulfill the requirement for the degree of Sarjana (S1) in English Study Program, State Islamic Institute (IAIN) of Kediri.

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MOTTO

لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا

Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear.

(Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:286)

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.

(Surah Al-Insyirah, 94:5)

"Don't be afraid to shine. Be the moon
in the dark cold sky, and let your
inner radiance be your main force."

(Anoir Ou-Chad, an Author)

DEDICATION

All praise is due to Allah, the Almighty, for the countless mercies and blessings that have been bestowed upon me. Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, has always guided me to become the best version of myself.

I would love to thank myself for my passion and strength to overcome challenging situations. I'm sorry for the sleepless nights spent doubting my worth, but I want to remind myself that I'm more than enough. I embrace my own worth and understand that I deserve all the goodness.

I dedicated this thesis to my beloved parents, Sri Hidayati and Pujiharto, S.Pd., who always pray for me and have been supportive throughout my journey. They have always given me motivation and encouragement, and I'm grateful for their blessings. Also, I would love to express my appreciation to my older sister, Tyas Alta Lentera Sukma, S.Pd. for her warm hugs and endless support.

My heartfelt gratitude to my sincere advisors, Mr. Dr. Fathor Rasyid, M.Pd. and Mrs. Renita Donasari, M.Pd., who always helped and guided me throughout the completion of this thesis. Their wisdom and guidance have been greatly appreciated, and I'm thankful for their invaluable contribution to my academic journey.

My other half, Alya Fadiya Ketaren. She has always been there for me during the hardest challenges. She is the person I can always rely on. If comfort was a person, it must be her. I'm truly grateful for having her in my life.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to my dearest friends: Fhatia Ayu, Sekar Arum, Ulil Alifatu, Selsa, Zana, Fiara, Intan, Hana, and all my friends—which I can't mention all of them—who have helped me through the toughest times during college life. Remember, no matter how rough the storm may be, it won't last forever. Cheer up, guys! We're in this together.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Beneficent. All praises to Allah SWT, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful, for Blessing and Mercy given to the researcher throughout the span of the study and the completion of this thesis. Blessings and peace to the great prophet Muhammad, who consistently brings us from being foolish to being knowledgeable. The English Language Education Department, Faculty of Education, IAIN Kediri, is the recipient of this thesis presentation.

The researcher would like to use this opportunity to express gratitude to all people who were helpful in completing this thesis. Therefore, the researcher is grateful to the following honorable people:

- 1. Dr. H. Wahidul Anam, M. Ag., the Rector of State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Kediri.
- 2. Prof. Dr. Hj. Munifah, M.Pd., the Dean of Faculty Tarbiyah.
- 3. Nur Afifi, M. App. Ling, Ph.D., the Chief of English Department.
- 4. My respectable advisors, Dr. Fathor Rasyid, M.Pd. and Renita Donasari, M.Pd., who guided me throughout my thesis, shared knowledge, guidance, advice, and willingness to correct my thesis.
- 5. My wonderful parents and my cherished older sister have always inspired, supported, and motivated me to study and work hard until today. Therefore, thank you for the financial, moral, and psychological assistance, as well as your unwavering affection and confidence.
- 6. All of the lecturers in the Department of English Language Education Faculty of Tarbiyah who have taught and educated me during my studies in the State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Kediri.
- 7. All of my friends in the State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Kediri, we overcame many obstacles to complete this thesis. I'm hoping it will be beneficial soon.

ABSTRACT

Putri, Nufus Ardiya. 2024. The Contribution Of Online Reading Platforms To Enhance Students' Reading Interest: Students' Views. Thesis. Department of English Language Education, Faculty Tarbiyah, State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Kediri. Advisors: (I) Dr. Fathor Rasyid, M.Pd. (II) Renita Donasari, M.Pd.

Keywords: Online Reading Platform, Reading Interest, Students' Views

Online reading platform is a website or apps that allows people to read a variety of items on the internet, such as books, novels, articles, and blogs. This research explored the significant contribution of online reading platforms to enhance students' reading interest, supported by students' views. The research aimed to find out how these platforms influence students' reading interest by considering their awareness, reading preferences, usage, visual content and engagement, interest and diversity in reading materials, enjoyment and impact of online reading, language learning and reading skill development, and the increased of interest level in reading.

A quantitative survey research design was employed, involving the collection and analysis of numerical data to assess correlation between online reading platform usage and reading interest. The population included high school and college students, with a sample of 80 students selected using purposive sampling. Data were gathered through structured survey questionnaires in the form of both closed-ended and open-ended questions. The normality test results indicated that the data were normally distributed, with a significant correlation (R=0.606) between the variables, indicating a strong relationship. Adjusted R Square (R^2) value is 0.359. It can be inferred that the R^2 value of 35.9% indicates the independent variable influences the dependent variable at 35.9%. Linear regression analysis confirmed the linear correlation, with a significant deviation value supporting the rejection of the null hypothesis (H_0).

The findings showed that students believe online reading platforms positively impact their reading interest. Key factors contributing to this enhancement include increased awareness and usage of online reading platforms, diverse reading preferences, engaging visual content, and improved language learning and reading skills. The survey results indicated students' strong agreement on the benefits of online reading platforms such as *Wattpad*, *X* (formerly *Twitter*), *Webtoon*, and *Archive of Our Own*, highlighting their significant contribution to the students' reading interest. This research demonstrates that online reading platforms significantly enhance students' reading interest.

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