CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of six sub-chapters. Those are background of the study, research problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of The Study

Reading is a process where a reader seeks to comprehend and interpret the intended message conveyed by a writer through written words or symbols. It involves deriving meaning from the text and demonstrates one's ability to perceive, understand, and interpret language effectively (Tarigan, 2008). According to Hornby (1995), by having access to the text outside of their time and space, reading allows the reader to obtain information from anywhere. Palani (2012) also stated that reading is a skill that is critical for learning since it allows readers to access knowledge from all across the world. Thus, reading is an active and competent activity where a reader actively engages with written information in order to comprehend and successfully interpret the writer's meaning, also enabling access to knowledge beyond time and space.

An online reading platform is an applications or websites that offer online access to a variety of reading materials, such as novels, ebooks, articles, blogs, and other written content (Ounissi, Romly, & Tajuddin, 2022). These platforms let people read digital texts on a range of gadgets, including smartphones, tablets, e-readers, and PCs. It is also supported by

Shen (2006), who discovered that the students consider the internet as their primary source of information, using it mainly for tasks like accessing information, sending and receiving emails, downloading music, and participating in chat rooms. Students nowadays have more interest in online reading rather than the printed ones. Therefore, Silva (2009) stated that online reading entails visual engagement through eye contact, a computer screen, hypertext messaging, and understanding spoken and unspoken content. Especially for students who need to be more aware of digital literacy.

Digital literacy awareness is a concept that the students are already familiar with, but there are still some who are not aware this. Rahmah (2015) stated that students knowing how to use technology to get information is important. It all begins with the internet, which is now something everyone really need, not just a choice. Twing (2013) stated that digital literacy means understanding how digital technology works, knowing about digital identity. Zhang and Zhu (2016) also added, digital literacy means being able to use digital tools to find and share information, and being safe while using technology in the digital world. In essence, many people are aware about digital literacy, but not everyone does. So, it is important to help everyone learn about digital literacy to be more aware.

Reading for pleasure is well-known as leisure reading. According to Greaney (1980), the concept of "pleasure reading" or "reading for enjoyment" is defined by considering the primary intent behind the reading material. Examining about students or adolescents nowadays, the evidence

shows that they really like pleasure reading (Krashen, 1993). Added by Bull (2017), pleasure reading is an activity in which an individual selects a book of personal interest. Reading for pleasure can be novels or fictional ebooks, short or serial stories, and poems. Holden (2004), Jennifer and Ponniah (2015), and Wilhelm and Smith (2016) have observed into reading for pleasure and described it as a kind of enjoyable play, a creative activity, and a way to appreciate the beauty of what people read. Thus, it can be concluded that many people, including students and adolescents, really enjoy pleasure reading. It is like a fun and creative activity where they choose books they like and read them for enjoyment.

Students in senior high school nowadays are interested in online reading platforms. The students seem to prefer English texts or stories in online books over printed books. The students' awareness of online reading platforms can influence their reading interest. Mufidah & Safriyani (2022) also stated that technology has improved and several online reading applications with the most up-to-date features have appeared, it is credible to conclude that people's preference for reading has switched from conventional printed books to digital ones. According to Stein (1982), stories have been used for a very long time to share information and keep the history and traditions of different societies alive. So it can be concluded that today's high school students prefer online reading, especially in English. The students' awareness of digital platforms influence their reading interest.

As technology keeps getting better, the way people read, especially stories, will also change. Reading stories on the internet is one of the ways people especially adolescence and adulthood use these digital reading skills. Compared to people from the past, today's senior high school students use a lot more technology when they read. Drawing from the research of Nikmah (2022), aside from being more accessible and practical, it turns out that online reading may save money because people do not have to spend money on books. As a result, it is believed that online reading would increase students' reading interest.

Students can be really interested, somewhat interested, or not interested at all in reading. When their interest is low, it means they do not feel like reading even when their parents and teachers try to motivate them (Nikmah, 2022). Low reading interest can also caused by low awareness of online reading platforms. If the students are not aware of these and easily accessible reading materials available online, they might think reading is boring or not very exciting. To increase students' interest in reading, they must have a high awareness of online reading platforms. Online reading platforms offer a wide range of content, including e-books, blogs, and covering various genres and topics. If the students learn about all the things they can read online, they might get more excited about it. Anggitasari et al. (2020) stated it is like finding a treasure of reading adventures waiting for them. Showing people these online reading platforms and helping them find things they like can make them want to read more.

Additionally, several previous studies have been conducted by researchers. In studies conducted by Prawesti (2018), it was concluded that using digital reading applications has an impact on the level of interest in reading of college students. However, the results revealed that both of the variables have a positive correlation. Another study was conducted by Mulyawati and Marini (2022), found that using digital library is crucial for improving reading literacy effectively and encouraging a higher level in reading. Moreover, Wirdiyana et al. (2024), also found a result that shows the use of digital books help the students more interest in reading. Many studies have observed the effect of digital literacy in increasing students' reading interest and it is still rare who observed the usage of digital book applications to increase reading interest, but there is no research on the contribution of online reading platforms to enhance students' reading interest. Therefore, researching **The Contribution of Online Reading Platforms to Enhance Students' Reading Interest: Students' Views** would close the research gap.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of the study as previously explained, the research problems can be formulated as follows: "Is there any significant contribution of online reading platforms to enhance students' reading interest?"

C. The Objective of The Study

Based on the problem stated above, the objectives of the study is to find out whether there is any significant contribution of online reading platforms to enhance students' reading interest.

D. The Significance of The Study

The result of this study is expected to give positive contribution for teacher, students, and the reader. So they can use it as guidance for better learning process.

1. Theoretical Benefit

The finding of this study is expected theoretically to be able to give contribution to the teaching English, especially, in reading skill, which related to activities English learning for student.

2. Practical Benefit

a. For Students

The result of this study hopefully can be used as a starting point to develop students' understanding about online reading platform and reading interest. The researcher hopes that students will be interested and more enthusiastic in reading English texts.

b. For Teachers

The result of this study hopefully can be used by the teachers as a starting point to increase their students' reading interest through the contribution

of online reading platform, alternative media to teach reading, and examine students' reading interest.

c. For Future Researchers

The result of this study hopefully can be used by other researchers or any readers as a reference for further studies about the contribution of online reading platform with other variables such as reading habit and reading ability.

E. Scope and Limitation of The Study

To avoid misunderstanding and to make the research more clearly, accurate, effective, and understandable, this study focus to see the contribution of online reading platforms to enhance students' reading interest. The researcher limits on discussing online reading platforms (*Wattpad, X, Webtoon, and Archive of Our Own*) that offer reading for pleasure such as novels or fictional ebooks, short or serial stories.

F. Definition of Key Terms

There are some key terms of this study, as follows:

1. Reading for Pleasure

Reading for pleasure is the voluntary act of reading only for enjoyment, relaxation, and personal satisfaction, with readers choosing materials based on their individual interests and preferences, free from any external obligations or mandates. Such as, fictional books with romance,

horror, and thriller genre or self-help books with guides for personal development and self-improvement.

2. Online Reading Platform

An online reading platform is a website or digital platform accessible via the internet, providing a wide variety of enjoyable reading materials. These platforms, such as *Wattpad*, *X* (formerly *Twitter*), *Webtoon*, and *Archive of Our Own,* offer a collection of fictional stories, including short stories or serialized stories.

3. Reading Interest

Reading interest means how much someone likes reading. It shows if a person really wants to read books, magazines, and other written stuff. It's something personal, and everyone can feel differently about it.