

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

In Indonesia, English is considered a foreign language. English is taught as a subject in school and courses. There are four skills to be mastered in English, namely listening, writing, reading, and speaking. Reading is one of the important skills required to master English.

Reading is an integrated activity includes several activities such as recognizing letters and words, connecting them with its sound and meaning, as well as interesting conclusions regarding the meaning of the reading (Anisa, 2021). Reading is the key to learn all knowledge, including information and everyday instructions that have a big impact on life.

According to Tarigan (2015), reading is a very important aspect of learning and is a part of language skills which includes listening skills, skills speaking, writing skills. These four aspects of language are interconnected each other. That is why reading activities have an important role in language. As social creatures, reading is a very important part of life.

Humans by reading can unite social groups through experience and ideas. Complex life like today gives rise to differences in internal goals reading, therefore our task now is to find solutions and ways to make reading activities easier can be actualized well in promoting individual welfare group.

Reading comprehension is one type of reading which the level is higher than other types of reading. This is because in reading comprehension, a person does not only know the information, but also requires to understand the content of the information being read.

Reading skill is a skill that is very important to dig up the information we need and enrich insight. Reading also develops creativity and power the reader's imagination. Unfortunately, not everyone has abilities to understand the content of the reading well, so sometimes you have trouble in expressing the resulting ideas read.

Acquiring reading comprehension skills needs to be honed and developed through planning programmed and continuous training because reading is not a simple activity. In the reading process, students need to activate various mental processes such as memory, organized thinking, the ability to identify ideas and connect them with other ideas in the text, and the ability to rearrange the content of the text so that the understanding obtained is comprehensive. (Marina, Acosta, Ferri, & Feri, 2010; Oakhill, Kain, & Elbro, 2015) Reading comprehension is a process that includes knowledge, experience, thinking, and teaching (Harvey & Goudvis, 2011).

Reading comprehension is an important thing in the transfer process of knowledge and transfer of value is good in the learning process and in knowledge development process on generally, then research about how to improve abilities students' reading comprehension becomes something important. When ability reading comprehension of low students, their opportunity to enrich knowledge becomes limited. Therefore, it requires an action that is believed able to improve abilities reading comprehension of students.

Problems as described above, this research is done with the aim of helping increase student competence in understanding the content of exposition text through application of reading comprehension methods.

Rohmatul (2021) stated that Wattpad is an application from Toronto, Canada that allows its users, both writers or readers to find various written works in the form of articles, novels, short stories, or the like from writers all over the world. Apart from being a forum for story writers, it is a reading application digital and also a forum for readers.

This proves that actually society has own interest in matters writing and reading, so that with Wattpad, make it easier for them convey feelings of the interest. One of the benefits of reading is adding justification for the word since reading Wattpad app and more new words that they can learn, especially a foreign language.

Based on this research, we can discuss specifically the use of the Wattpad media application to improve short story reading skills. The researcher use wattpad application because this can be used as a teaching strategy that can be applied by

educators and can provide value for students, so that students can understand the intrinsic elements and messages contained in short stories. Based on the explanation above, researcher will conduct research entitled “Using Wattpad Application to Improve Reading Comprehension of Seventh Grade Students at SMPN 4 Palopo”.

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the research background above, researcher can identify the problem statement in this research as: Does the use of Wattpad application improve students reading comprehension?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

The aim of the research is to find out whether or not the use of wattpad application improve students reading comprehension.

1.4 Significance of the Research

It is expected that the results of this research will be useful for:

1. For the Teacher

It is expected that the results of this research can provide insight to teachers regarding the use of the Wattpad application as a learning medium that can improve students' short story reading skills.

2. For the Students

The results of this research will be useful for students because they can learn and understand the contents of a short story that is read in a fun way using the Wattpad application.

3. For the Next Researcher

The results of this research can become a reference for other researchers who are interested in improving research on short story reading comprehension.

1.5 Scope of the Research

In this research, the researcher focuses on the short story reading comprehension of seventh grade students at SMP 4 Palopo by using Wattpad as an application which can make it easier for students to understand the content of the short story reading that will be given.

1.6 Operational Definition

1. Reading

Reading is a process that will be carried out to understand what will be read or conveyed by students.

2. Short Story

A short story is a story that aims to tell an event in detail.

3. Wattpad Application

Wattpad application is an application that provides various stories and is also a forum for readers and writers.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Some Pertinent Ideas

1. Reading

a. Definition of Reading

According to Hodgson (Tarigan, 2018), reading is a process that is carried out as well used by readers to obtain the message the author wants to convey through the medium of words/written language, a process that requires groups of words that constitute a unity that is visible at a glance and the meaning of individual words. Somadyo (2014) stated that reading with understanding is a reading process done carefully and thoroughly to read the entire contents of the reading and connect the content of the reading with previous knowledge. Arba et al. (2021) stated that reading ability is one of the ability to find an understanding when learning activities take place, then students' reading abilities must also be adjusted to the type of education being carried out.

Based on the definition above, the reader can conclude that reading can be interpreted as a process that can be carried out continuously to understand what the reader wants to convey in his writing, apart from that, when reading you must use a good mindset in order to understand the content of the reading that is understood.

b. The Importance of Reading

According to Ahuja & Ahuja (2010), reading comprehension is a necessary ability for people who want to find information from written texts. Apart from that, reading is also a tool for learning, so reading is a learning process for students. Zuhdi (2012: 3) states that reading is defined as meaningful interpretation of written language as the essence of reading activities in getting the right meaning. Meanwhile Santosa, et al.(2010: 320) explains that reading understanding is a continuation of read silently, start reading silently with the aim is to understand the content of the reading.

Based on the statement above, researcher can conclude that reading is very important in human life. Reading can broaden our horizons to help us understand

a lot of information or useful things. And it can also help keep the brain active and functioning efficiently. When reading, the brain has to think about how to analyze various problems, look for solutions, and discover new things, therefore reading is very important for students, both at school and outside school.

c. The Purpose of Reading

According to Dewi (2021), “Reading comprehension ability is a person's ability to reconstruct a message contained in the text being read”. The goal of reading is understanding, not speed, according to Susilo (2018). Readers are expected to be able to understand the meaning or content of the reading text that is read to obtain information. If someone reads only at speed, it is not certain that he will be able to understand what he is reading, because this means that a person must be able to adapt to reading correctly and at speed too influence their understanding of the reading.

Based on the explanation above, we can conclude that the purpose of reading is not to understand the content of what is read, but reading can have many purposes which are of course very beneficial for the reader. Another purpose of reading is to obtain information which students will use to obtain important information and so on.

d. The Ways of Reading

According to Wicaksono (2019), there are several reading techniques, namely:

1) Skimming

Skimming is a technique used to read by capturing the essence or main idea about something. The goal is to make it easier to quickly grasp the contents of the book and to only focus on information that is interesting and in-depth.

2) Scanning

Scanning, also known as sight-reading or scanning, is a fast and comprehensive reading technique. This type of reading technique aims to obtain specific facts or information.

3) Selecting

Also known as the read-select technique, this is a type of reading technique that prioritizes needs. It means choosing which text and which parts of it to read based on one's needs.

4) Skipping

Skipping is a reading technique that involves ignoring or skipping parts that are not needed or parts that are already understood.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that in reading there are techniques that can be used. There are several techniques in reading, and understanding the meaning cannot be separated from reading. Understanding must be prioritized, as it will help determine the success of any technique in reading.

2. Reading Comprehension

a. Definition of Reading Comprehension

According to Dalman (2017), reading comprehension is reading cognitively. Reading more often means students will be trained and their level of understanding will be higher. Reading is an activity to obtain information or messages conveyed by the author in that language. So reading is a series of activities or processes that apply a number of skills to process reading texts in understanding the content of the reading. This activity is called reading comprehension or, where the reading activity is not just reading but understanding the meaning and content of the reading.

Somadyo (2011; 10) explains that the ability to read and understand is a process of acquiring meaning that actively involves the knowledge and experience one has. So reading comprehension is not just reading but reading to process the text and understand the content of the reading. Meanwhile, Nurgiyantoro (2011:370) stated that reading comprehension competency good skills are necessary and a requirement for reading and understanding various eye literature other lessons.

From the explanation above, researcher can conclude that reading comprehension is the ability to process written text, understand its meaning, and integrate it with what the reader already knows. The goal is to obtain information,

understand, and draw meaning from the text. The main goal of reading comprehension is to improve students' ability to understand reading content.

b. The Components of Reading Comprehension

According to Tarigan (2013:11) there are 4 components of language skills, namely (1) listening skill; (2) speaking skills; (3) reading skills; and (4) writing skills. These four components are very important to develop. Reading is an initial skill that students must have in order to be able to understand what they are learning. Good reading comprehension is the most valuable skill a human can attain. Reading is considered a channel of communication with today's ever-evolving world.

From the explanation above the researcher concludes that the comprehension of a text is greatly impacted by the major components of reading. Each reader's interpretation may vary depending on their understanding of the text. If a reader possesses a strong grasp of the major components of reading, they will be able to comprehend the text flawlessly, meaning they fully understand the intended message of the writer.

3. Wattpad

a. Definition of Wattpad Application

Yusanta & Wati (2020) said that Wattpad is an application consisting of long stories in online form. In the opinion of Syaharani & Mahadian (2017), Wattpad is an application that provides facilities for reading and writing for its users. So, through this Wattpad application, users do not only write but also read various works via online.

Based on opinions regarding Wattpad, it can be concluded that Wattpad is an application that provides reading and writing facilities for its users with various kinds of works that have many genres, such as teen-fiction, humor, fanfiction, romance, horror, action, and other genres. Users can access thousands even millions of interesting stories in various genres.

b. The Features of Wattpad Application

According to Rahmaningsih and Martani (2014:180), there are three features in this application, as follows:

1) Write a Story

This feature allows users to submit their work starting from the cover, title, description, and story content per chapter. Everything is prepared systematically and easily by Wattpad. If there are improvements, the author can make revisions easily through the same feature. With this, authors can also deposit their work saved in Drafts.

2) Library, Archives, and Reading List

The Library feature allows users to add works they want to read to their library. With this feature, users can easily navigate the works in their library and continue reading. This feature is also available offline, so readers can read stories easily without using a quota.

Then there is a place where users can continue reading stories that they have finished reading in the Library called Archives. This section can be used as a safe location to share unread stories, but can still be accessed if there is a new series in the future. Users are also free to submit one or more stories to the Archives from the Library at any time.

Meanwhile, the Reading List is a feature to publicly display what the user is reading, the stories they like, or what the user will read next. This feature can also organize stories based on certain categories or topics that users want. Additionally, Reading Lists can be easily shared and displayed on user profiles.

3) News Feed, Notifications, and Messages

The News Feed feature contains updates from friends, for example recommendations for new stories, interesting stories, etc. from the community. Then the Notifications tab contains a list of notifications that are more personal or related to the reading or writing you sent. Meanwhile, the Messages tab functions like the SMS application on a smartphone or Inbox on Facebook, where users can send messages to each other on the Wattpad application.

c. Function of Wattpad

The Wattpad application will help students improve their reading and writing skills. Sutejo & Kasnadi (2016:188) state that writer experience is needed to get interesting short story ideas. One of them is that writers can gain experience through reading other people's works. With online access to Wattpad, they can

read thousands of other people's stories so they get lots of inspiration in looking for interesting stories. Artajaya (2022) believes that Wattpad is a tool that can be used to present various creative ideas in an attractive written format. So Wattpad is an application that can encourage writers and readers to express creative ideas in the form of interesting writing.

Based on the explanation above, the aim is to increase individual understanding of online reading comprehension and aims to read and write on Wattpad application.

d. How to use Wattpad in Teaching

The use of the Wattpad application aims to improve students' reading comprehension to exchange thoughts or ideas with each other.

The Wattpad application has the potential to support learning in a way that is not limited by time and place (Trisanti Apriyani, 2020). Apart from that, by using the features in the Wattpad application, Students are directed to access or download the application so they can improve their understanding of reading short stories. The Wattpad application can be used by students who use Android/Ios, and can be used too on a laptop/computer.

The features contained in this application are very interesting including; comment, vote, share, invite friends, and students can also create their daily blogs/stories such as novels, short stories, and others.

Based on the explanation above, using Wattpad is one of the means that improves students' reading comprehension from this application, students can also be creative such as writing short stories or novels and train students' imagination when reading short stories.

e. Benefits of the Wattpad Application

Wattpad is an application that encourages writers and readers to develop their work (Ulfaida & Hasanudin, 2022). Wattpad is a digital site that allows users to read and write stories (Putri, 2019).

Wattpad has many benefits. These benefits include: increase insight into writing (Simanjuntak, et al., 2021). Besides that, Wattpad is also useful for

helping grow vocabulary (Apriyani, 2020). Sutarini & Dwi (2022) say that Wattpad is useful for developing one's imagination.

Based on the explanation obtained, Wattpad users make the internet and applications Wattpad as a means for conveying their message. The messages are in the form of stories that they write or read, then spread out to attract attention of Wattpad users, which this application itself is intended for the virtual world community hobbies in reading or writing.

4. Short Story

a. Definition of Short Story

According to Kurniawan and Sutardi (2012), a short story is a series of events woven into one in which conflict occurs between characters in the setting and plot. Meanwhile, Dalman (2015) states that short stories are fictional stories or stories that are made up and have a main character whose story content is very short and concise so that it forms a problem with a single plot. A story is a work of fiction that is able to reveal the good and bad sides of an event in society which is packaged in the form of a short story that can be interpreted from various readers' points of view.

Based on the explanation regarding the meaning of short stories above, the author can conclude that short stories are stories created using imagination and creativity to tell life stories concisely and can be read in a short time, so they only consist of a thousand words or a few pages.

b. Characteristics of Short Story

According to Kosasih (2012: 34) concludes that short stories has the following characteristics.

- 1) The flow is simpler.
- 2) Only a few characters appear person.
- 3) The setting depicted is only momentary and deep relatively limited scope.
- 4) Has a main character.
- 5) Have an event that dominates the storyline.
- 6) Able to arouse and stir the readers emotions.

Thus it can be concluded that not all story texts are short stories. Short stories have certain rules stated above, both in terms of flow, characterization, down to the setting.

c. **Short Story Building Elements**

The building blocks of short stories are divided into intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements:

1) **Intrinsic Elements**

Intrinsic elements are direct elements that contribute from within to build the story and are interconnected to create a coherent story. According to Nuryatin & Irawati (2016:61-81), the following elements are including intrinsic elements of short stories.

a) **Theme**

The theme is the main idea that underlies and moves a story along. The theme of the story is usually raised from reality problems in everyday human life. The short story only consists from just one theme because short stories must be short, concise, and single effect.

b) **Characters and Characterization**

Characters are the actors and characters of the story. Short story has a limited number of characters, both in terms of quantity as well as personal data about the characters and characters they contain so the reader must be able to describe it for themselves about this character. Characters are classified into three categories:

- **Main Characters and Additional Characters.**

The main character dominates the story because he always appears, whereas additional characters only appear a little in the story.

- **Protagonist and Antagonist Characters.**

The protagonist has a good character. On the other hand, the antagonist has an evil character.

- **Simple Figures and Round Figures.**

Simple figures have one character. On the other hand, round or complex figures have a lot of character. Characterization is describing the character of a character clearly. This characterization

is related to the author's method of presenting and how to develop a character's character so that it appears alive in the eyes of the reader.c.

c) Plot

Plot is a series of connected events following a cause and relationship consequence. According to Aristotle's law of plot, the plot includes three stages, namely the initial stage (beginning), the middle stage (middle), and the final stage (end). The initial stage is the stage that introduces the characters and setting of the story, even the conflict starts to show up a little. The middle stage also as known as the conflict stage is the stage that begins to give rise to conflict which then increases and becomes stronger. The final stage is the completion stage which indicates the final state stories, which can be happy, sad, or hanging.

d) Setting

The setting of the story paints a picture of place, time, and social conditions. The setting in the story is not limited to just location placement, but also in the form of social conditions that develop in the story environment, such as prevailing values, customs, and beliefs. Based on this sense, it can be said that the background consists of place setting, time setting, and social setting. Setting in the story is useful for showing when and where the story occurs, as well as the values that apply to the area or certain society. The short story, it only describes the background only in outline and implicitly.

e) Point of View

Point of view is the author's style of presenting story characters.

f) Story Style

Story style refers to the author's unique method of choosing, using, and arranging story words. Each author has his own characteristics, which are adapted to his character, thoughts, and feelings. The author's style can be determined from diction and sentence structure. We often encounter it. The author's literature uses language styles such as hyperbole, metaphor,

pleonasm, metonymy, litotes, and so on. The author's style usually only becomes apparent once he has produced many literary works.

g) **Mandate**

The mandate contains the advice and orders conveyed by the author to his readers both explicitly in the section at the end of the short story, or implicitly so that the readers conclude for themselves the message contained within the short story, even though it sometimes gives rise to multiple interpretations by the readers. In the short story, there is only one message because short stories must have a single impression.

2) **Extrinsic Elements**

Extrinsic elements are elements from outside the literary work that contribute to the construction of the literary work. As for the extrinsic elements of short stories, according to Kartikasari & Suprpto (2018:82-85) as follows:

a) **Historical**

The historical element consists of the author's biography, events the background to the story, as well as the development of the life of creation and literature itself.

b) **Psychological**

Psychology will influence the author to internally describe the souls of the story characters. Psychological elements include the author's psychology, attitude to life and way of thinking to find the meaning of the story will be easier if understand these three psychological elements.

c) **Sociological**

According to Wellek and Warren in Wiyatmi (2013:26), Literary sociology has three types, namely as follows:

- The author's sociology, which is related to the social status, ideology, and economic status of the author.
- Sociology of literary works, namely things implied in literary works.
- Sociology of readers, which is related to readers and its influence on society.

d. Types of Short Story

There are two types of short stories. A perfectly written short story is called a well-made short story, and short stories written incompletely are called slice-of-life short stories.

The first type is a short story written with a focus, namely one theme with a very clear plot and an ending that is easy to understand. These are generally conventional and based on reality/facts. This type of short story is usually enjoyable to read and easy to understand its contents.

The second type of short story, namely slice of short story, is not focused on the theme, scattered, so the plot is unstructured. Plots (the plot) of the story are sometimes made floating by the author. Generally, this type of short story is written in a contemporary and sourced style from pure ideas or thoughts, it is also called an idea short story. However, this type of short story is often difficult to understand and needs to be read over and over again.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that short stories have five types, namely short stories, short stories which are of sufficient length (middle short story), long short stories (long short story), a perfectly written short story (well-made short story), and short stories written incompletely (slice of life short-story).

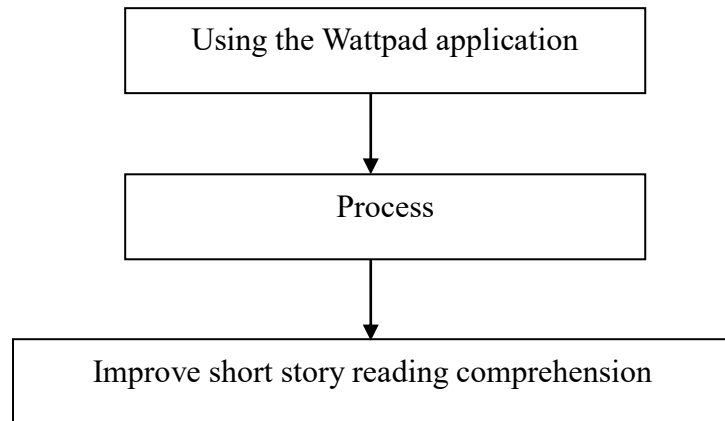
2.2 Previous Studies

1. Wulansari (2018) with her research entitled “The Influence of Using the Wattpad Application on the Ability to Write Drama Scripts”. Based on the research results, statistical analysis results, and discussion, the following conclusions can be drawn. Using the Wattpad application aims to motivate students to improve story ideas, mastery of diction or word choice, and imagination in writing drama scripts. Mastery of the abilities of experimental class students towards drama script material increased compared to the control class, this was proven by the average score of the experimental class of 82.70 while the control class was 68.55. The influence of the Wattpad application on the scriptwriting abilities of drama was very significant. This was proven by the t count amounting to 5,082 was greater than the t table amount of 0.05 with respondents were 61 people.

2. Sukriyadi (2020) with his research entitled “The Use of Wattpad Learning Media in Reading Skills in Class XI Students at Tangerang Vocational School for the 2019/2020 Academic Year”. Wattpad media is an accessible learning media via gadgets. This media is very effective when used in learning Indonesian in the classroom, especially in short story reading material. This media had been tested in short story reading skills in class XI Multimedia 3 Vocational School Prima Unggul Tangerang, odd semester, 2019/2020 academic year. The results of short story reading skills using media Wattpad for class XI Multimedia 3 students at Prima Unggul Vocational School, Tangerang were also classified as very good with the average score obtained being 86.72. This could be proven by the A grades obtained by 17 students with a percentage of 77%, then the B grade was 5 people with a percentage of 23%, and no students received grades C and D.
3. Haliza (2021) with the research entitled “The Effect of Using the Wattpad Application on Students Ability to Write Fiction Stories Bulukumba State 10 High School”. The level of influence of using the Wattpad application on abilities Writing fiction stories for SMA Negeri 10 Bulukumba students fell into the category currently. This research obtained 40.2% based on the results of hypothesis testing on R Square value 0.402. This value was in the interval 0.40 – 0.599 meaning it was in the medium category. In other words, the usage of Wattpad application was one of the factors that influenced the writing ability of the fictional story of students at SMA Negeri 10 Bulukumba. However, there were still other factors that also influenced the level of their writing ability. The remaining 50.8% was influenced by other factors not summarized here this research.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework underlying this research is described in the following diagram:



In the diagram above, there are three elements, namely:

1. The using the Wattpad application refers to the material applied, specifically short story text.
2. The process refers to improving learning and reading comprehension in short story texts using the Wattpad application.
3. Short story improvement refers to how students participate and feel in understanding short story reading after learning to use the Wattpad application, as well as their opinions about the media used.

2.4 Hypothesis

The researcher formulates the hypothesis as follows:

1. H0 (null hypothesis): Using the Wattpad application does not improve students' reading comprehension.
2. H1 (alternative hypothesis): Using the Wattpad application can improve students' reading comprehension.