

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Reading is a process carried out by the reader to obtain the message that the writer wants to convey through written text. Text is a reading object used by someone to obtain information. By reading, we obtain a lot of new information and knowledge to increase our intelligence by understanding a written text, both in formal education and in daily activities. Reading will make us think creatively, critically, and imaginatively. Reading is one way to increase vocabulary, making it easier for us to speak English fluently.

One form of reading that is both educational and engaging is reading literary works, particularly short stories. A short story is a brief work of fiction that typically focuses on a single plot, limited characters, and a central theme. According to Lidyawati and Mandowen (2022), short stories are short, simple fictional works and contain relatively simple problems compared to novels or romances.

According to Hakim and Wahyuni (2024), Reading is a language ability that allows you to grasp information clearly. This is one of the fundamental abilities that enable students to improve their performance. In the context of literary works, reading comprehension goes beyond literal understanding and requires deeper analysis of elements such as theme, plot, characterization, and literary devices.

Based on the researcher's pre-observation, the researcher found problems in student learning. Students are not focused on reading English texts; they are confused when reading some books. Student activities in the process of learning reading skills seem monotonous because reading instruction is focused on reading aloud, translating all words in the reading, finding difficult words, and then translating the entire reading into Indonesian.

However, according to the teacher, most students are less interested in learning English, especially reading. Many students have difficulty understanding texts and a lack of understanding of grammar, which is caused by students' learning habits, so students are less confident in their reading skills. Therefore, when the teacher teaches in class, students are less enthusiastic in the learning process. Based on the

explanation above, the researcher got motivated to use one of the learning media, the TikTok Application, to solve problems in students' reading skills.

According to Xiuwen and Razali (2021), TikTok is a popular social networking app that lets users create, watch, and share short videos up to three minutes long on their phones. The researcher chose TikTok because the application has a very wide audience, especially among teenagers, and interactive and entertaining content. TikTok, with its features, allows users to create and share creative short videos, which can involve visual and audio elements. This can make reading material more interesting and not boring, which in turn can increase students' interest in reading.

In addition, TikTok also allows students to access various relevant materials, such as book summaries, excerpts from novels, or even discussions about texts that can trigger the desire to read more. The use of the TikTok application for reading activities refers to the form of active user involvement with existing content, where they not only consume information but also watch videos, and can also comment, like, share, or even create their own content that others can then see. This allows for more direct communication and involvement between users and the media. So that the learning process becomes more dynamic and interesting.

Other research by Pratiwi, Ufairah, and Sopiah (2021) concluded that the TikTok application is particularly impactful since it is practical, beneficial, and makes learning easy and fun. It may be argued that TikTok has various features that help students learn English and use the TikTok program positively. Based on the statement above, this study chooses the TikTok application as the relevant media to share creative and innovative learning videos, such as short stories. This study's title is "The Use of Short Story Through TikTok Application in Improving Students' Reading Comprehension for Literary Work at the Eleventh Grade of SMA Negeri 6 Palopo".

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the problems in the background, the formulation of the problem is: Is the use of short stories through the TikTok application able to improve the reading comprehension of class XI students of SMA Negeri 6 Palopo?

1.3 Objective of The Research

The objective of this study is to determine whether the use of short stories via the TikTok application improves students' reading comprehension for literary work in the eleventh grade at SMA Negeri 6 Palopo.

1.4 Scope of The Research

The researcher focuses on the use of the TikTok application as a learning medium for teaching eleventh-grade students at SMA Negeri 6 Palopo. This research focuses on the use of short stories through the TikTok application in improving the reading comprehension for literary work of eleventh-grade students at SMA Negeri 6 Palopo.

The significance of this research is:

1. For other researchers

This study should be useful as a reference for other researchers who also investigate the potential applications of TikTok, especially as an English learning medium.

2. For students

Hopefully, they can use the videos on TikTok for their English learning independently. Therefore, students experience their learning activity as fun, relaxing, enjoyable, and not boring, by using new methods through TikTok videos, and can understand English more quickly by being interested in TikTok video creators.

3. For educators

It is hoped that the result of this study can be a reference in teaching English by using TikTok.

1.5 Operational Definition of The Research

1. Reading comprehension is the ability to understand, interpret, and derive meaning from written text. It goes beyond simply recognizing words; it involves actively engaging with the text, connecting it to prior knowledge, and constructing a meaningful understanding of the author's message.
2. A short story is a piece of fictional prose, typically shorter than a novel, that focuses on a single incident, character, or idea, and can usually be read in a single

sitting. It emphasizes conciseness, unity of effect, and a limited number of characters.

3. TikTok is one of the applications that display short videos that will be used as a teaching medium. TikTok is a short video platform that plays 1- 10 minute videos and encourages people of various backgrounds to share their abilities, experiences, knowledge, and information.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Some Pertinent Ideas

1. Reading

a. Definition of Reading

Reading is a process to get information and improve our knowledge and science; it is an essential skill for students in English as a second language. Through reading, students can explore many things in the world from what they read. Some experts offer their definitions of reading.

According to Sukma et al. (2018), reading is the process of learning to read. Students learn to acquire skills, master reading techniques, and capture reading content well. Learning to read should be taught as interestingly as possible because reading is a tedious activity. Activity, stringing word for word, sentence by sentence, to find the meaning contained in it is an activity that seizes attention and drains the mind. Reading is a series of comprehensive activities, including several activities, specifically distinguishing letters and words, connecting sounds and meanings, and generating conclusions about the meaning of the reading (Wina et al., 2023).

Furthermore, reading plays a vital social role in human existence; it becomes the primary capital for a nation's advancement because the majority of the educational process is dependent on the ability and awareness to read. Every science and information developed over millennia of human history is documented in books that we can study now (Rostini et al., 2020).

b. Aspect of Reading Comprehension

Reading is a complex process that involves multiple interconnected skills. To become a proficient reader, one must develop several key components that work together to support understanding and engagement with texts. Among these, four essential aspects stand out: comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and accuracy. Each of these plays a crucial role in helping readers decode, process, and make meaning from what they read.

1. Comprehension

Comprehension is the ability to understand and interpret the meaning of a text. It involves not just reading the words, but also making sense of them, identifying main ideas, drawing inferences, and connecting the content to prior knowledge or real-life experiences. Good comprehension allows a reader to engage with the text critically and reflectively, leading to deeper learning and insight.

2. Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read a text smoothly, accurately, and with proper expression. A fluent reader can recognize words automatically and read at an appropriate pace, which helps maintain the natural rhythm and flow of language. Fluency bridges the gap between word recognition and comprehension—when students read fluently, they can focus more on understanding the content rather than decoding individual words.

3. Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to the words a person knows and understands. A strong vocabulary is essential for reading comprehension because readers must understand the meanings of most words in a text to grasp its message. Expanding vocabulary can happen through direct instruction, context clues, and wide reading. The more words readers know, the better they can make sense of what they read.

4. Accuracy

Accuracy in reading means correctly identifying and pronouncing the words on the page. It is a fundamental skill that ensures the reader gets the intended meaning of the text without distortion. Mistakes in word recognition or pronunciation can change the meaning of a sentence and hinder understanding. Developing accuracy involves practice, phonics knowledge, and attentive reading habits.

c. Reading Comprehension

Reading is an action used to extract ideas or information from written text. Reading provides readers with information that is useful in their daily lives. Reading is a school-related activity that can drive kids to actively contribute to their knowledge and activate their mental processes. It is due to the fact that they absorb and comprehend a great deal of information while reading. Reading extensively will assist pupils in developing a wealth of knowledge, particularly in relation to their courses.

Reading is a strategic process in that many of the skills and processes used in reading require the reader to anticipate text information, select key information, organize and mentally summarize information, monitor comprehension, repair comprehension breakdowns, and match comprehension output to reader goals (Grabe, 2020).

Furthermore, reading is the process of interpreting the meaning of words and comprehending the information contained in the text. Reading is not a simple task; it is a complex process. The reader must be able to relate their thinking to the writer's notion, and they must use their background knowledge to assist them in understanding and absorbing the information presented by the writer.

d. Teaching Reading

Talking Reading is inextricably linked to how it is taught. According to Antoni (2020), one of the most important aspects of teaching reading is ensuring that people can understand what they are reading. It means that it must be taught using a suitable technique. Teaching strategy is a critical component of the lesson plan that supports the learning process (Antoni, 2020; Sakina et al., 2023). Teachers, for example, can accommodate diverse learning styles and preferences by using a variety of instructional strategies.

2.2 Definition of Short Story

According to Lidyawati and Mandowen (2022), a short story is a short, simple work of fiction that contains relatively simple problems compared to novels or romances. Short stories are also one of the most widely published works of fiction and are the most popular to date. The appearance and content of short stories are short and simple, the simplicity of this story presents limitations in story elements. Because of its brevity and simplicity, the number of characters presented is also limited (Lidyawati and Mandowen, 2022). Short stories are one type of literary work studied by students in schools. Short stories are a form of fictional literature that is entertaining in nature.

In addition, because short stories are presented in a denser form, both from the storyline, characters, to the setting of the story. Like novels, short stories are built on elements that are closely related to each other. The integration between these elements will produce a good story. These elements include theme, plot, characters,

setting, point of view, and style. A short story contains a narrative that focuses on one main event, while that event is certainly not alone, there are other events that support the main event. Short stories, as the name suggests, are short stories. However, there is no rule regarding the length of a short story, and there is no agreement among authors and experts (Nurgiyantoro, 2020). Short stories are one type of literary work that is interesting to discuss because of the many variations in the characters' speech acts in short stories that show the various events that occur.

2.3 Definition of TikTok

TikTok is a popular social media platform. The name of this application is Douyin, which is a Chinese word meaning explosion. Douyin has become a global sensation thanks to its popularity, and it is now known as TikTok, which is managed by the Chinese business Bytedance. TikTok has risen to global prominence following its 2017 acquisition of Musically, which resulted in over 500 million active users and one billion app installations in less than two years (Antipova, 2020). TikTok is a social networking platform that mostly shares short videos (Hanson, 2020). TikTok is a social media app for short films that frequently include music (Scirri, 2021). TikTok uses AI technology to assess user preferences based on content interactions and deliver personalized content to each user (Fitria 2021, 2021; Sujon, 2021).

Wayne (2023) describes TikTok as a social media and short-form video platform. Users can create and distribute music accompaniments to recordings ranging from 15 to 60 seconds long. It is a creative and amusing way to express oneself on video. TikTok's goal is to provide its users with enjoyment, creativity, and amusement.

The app is designed to be straightforward and simple to use, allowing anyone to produce and share movies. Users can make fun, one-of-a-kind videos that highlight their personalities and skills using the plethora of special effects, music, and editing tools provided. TikTok videos can be as lengthy as 10 minutes. Videos catch viewers' attention because they are so easy to create with special effects, music, voice-overs, and even "duets," which are two videos running side by side. TikTok, a video-sharing platform launched globally in 2017, quickly became one of the world's most popular social media platforms (Quan-Haase & Sloan, 2022). It is mostly used by youth to produce, share, and watch short videos.

The application has several elements common to numerous social networking sites, such as user identities. According to Luttrell et al. (2021), TikTok's success stems from its focus on content discovery. TikTok is a smartphone app that offers various video-based types of entertainment. This program has grown in popularity in recent years due to its numerous exciting features, as well as the fact that it is used and promoted by a varied range of public figures. Online TikTok videos frequently contain five types of lessons: pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, common mistakes, and English facts (Warini et al., 2021).

According to Pratiwi (2021), TikTok is a social networking site with a vast user base, sophisticated functionality, and many sorts of content that can be used for learning. TikTok is a 10-minute video platform that invites people of all backgrounds to share their skills, experiences, expertise, and information. Watching TikTok videos with subtitles can assist students in improving their reading comprehension and learn new vocabulary (Rama et al., 2023). When students come across a new term, they can pause the video and try to figure out what it means based on context. Furthermore, a study by Laili (2023) found that TikTok improves students' writing skills by engaging them with posts by writing intelligent comments, generating their own captions for photographs and videos, and storytelling in a fun and interactive way.

Referring to the explanation above, it can be known that the TikTok application may be used as an efficient learning tool. The TikTok application is popular among youths and students of the millennial generation who are interested in the digital world, especially gadgets.

b. TikTok Application Video Features

1. Feed Video



Figure 1Feed Video

TikTok's main feature allows users to upload videos ranging from 15 seconds to 10 minutes. This feature is used to upload short story videos or even display them in animated form. Students can watch short story videos that have been uploaded on TikTok.

2. Hashtags and Captions

a) Hashtags

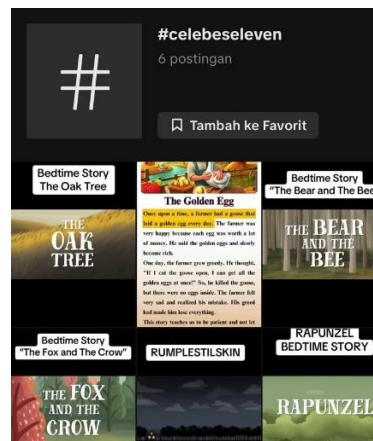


Figure 2 Hashtag

TikTok users can participate in trends or use specific hashtags to join a community of readers or engage with educational content. For example, in this study, researchers used hashtags such as #celebeseleven and #shortstorywithtiktok to make it easier for students to find videos or reading communities.

b) Captions

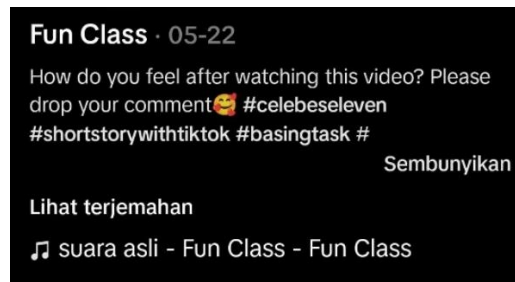


Figure 3 Caption

Captions are used to provide instructions to students or to ask questions related to the story. In the caption, we can write questions about the short story that students watch, such as "What is the moral of this story?" or "How do you feel about the main character?" So that students can react by liking or commenting on the video.

3. Comments and Discussions

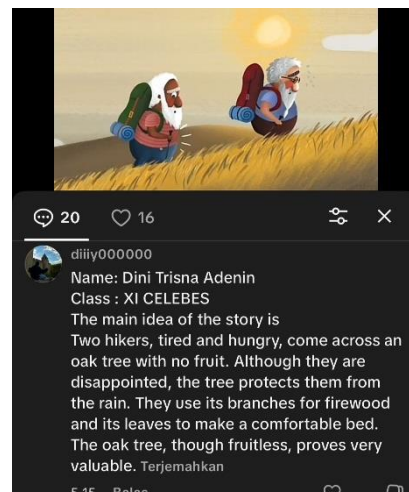


Figure 4 Comment

Users can leave comments on videos related to books or reading activities. This allows them to share opinions, discuss, or even ask content creators or other users about the reading material they find. With the caption feature too, so that students can later discuss or comment according to the text in the caption.

4. Like, Share, and Save

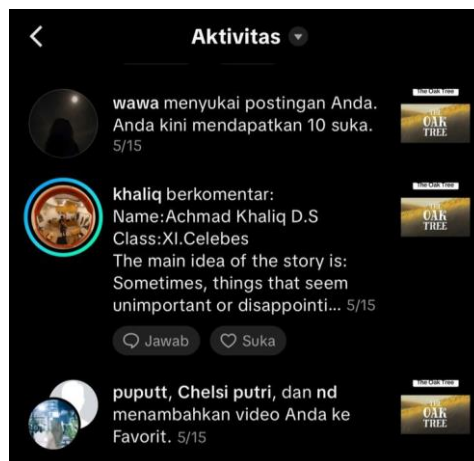


Figure 5 Like, Share, and Save

Users can like, share videos, or save videos related to the book topic or reading tips for future reference. This is a form of interaction that allows them to re-access the information at any time. When students want to read or re-watch a video they have watched, they can see the profile feature that stores posts that have been liked and saved.

5. Translate

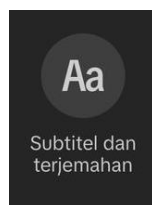


Figure 6 Translate

TikTok provides an auto-translation option for text in videos. This feature can be used to overcome language barriers, especially if the short story being shared is in a language different from the language the students speak. With auto-translation, students can more easily grasp the meaning of the story being shown, and this improves their ability to read and understand unfamiliar texts.

c. The Characteristics of Videos

1. Contains a Complete Short Story or Story Segment

The TikTok video should present a complete short story or a coherent segment of a literary narrative. It must have a clear beginning, middle, and end so that students can follow the storyline and understand its progression. This structure allows students to engage with the basic elements of literary texts, helping them to

identify the sequence of events and how they relate to one another. Even if the video features only a portion of a story, it should still provide enough context for students to comprehend the message or moral being conveyed.

2. Clear and Understandable Language

The language used in the video must be clear, appropriate, and accessible to students' language proficiency level. Since the goal is to improve reading comprehension, the spoken or written English should avoid excessive use of slang, strong accents, or complex sentence structures that may confuse learners. Proper pronunciation and pacing are also important to ensure that students can follow along and grasp the meaning without being overwhelmed.

3. Includes Literary Elements

An effective video should highlight key literary elements such as plot, character, setting, conflict, and theme. These elements are essential in teaching students how to analyze and understand literary works. By recognizing these components within the video, students can develop critical reading skills and learn how to interpret literature more effectively. The presence of these elements also supports classroom discussion and further analysis of the story.

4. Visually Engaging

The visual presentation of the video should be engaging enough to capture students' attention, but not so distracting that it takes away from the narrative. Elements such as illustrations, animations, or dramatic storytelling techniques can enhance comprehension when used appropriately. A well-designed video can support visual learners and make abstract literary concepts more tangible and memorable.

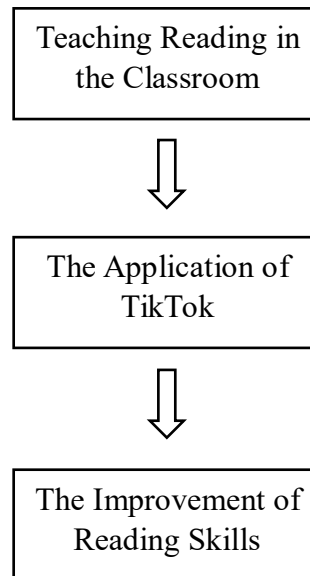
5. Safe and Age-Appropriate Content

The video content must be appropriate for the students' age and educational context. It should avoid any inappropriate language, violence, or explicit themes that could distract or negatively impact learners. Ensuring the safety and suitability of content is crucial in maintaining a respectful and productive learning environment.

2.1 Conceptual Framework

In this research, the researcher focuses on improving students' reading skills by applying the TikTok application. This framework provides the foundation for understanding the flow of this research.

Table 2. 1 Conceptual Framework



2.2 Hypothesis

The hypothesis is a formal statement about an expected relationship between two or more variables, which can be tested through an experiment.

Based on the theoretical framework, the formulation of this research, namely:

H0: If $\text{sig} > 0.05$ H0 accepted and H1 rejected.

H1: If $\text{sig} < 0.05$ H1 accepted and H0 rejected.

The statistical hypothesis above can be explained as follows:

H0: There is no significant improvement in students' reading skills through the use of short stories via the TikTok application in the eleventh grade of SMA Negeri 6 Palopo.

H1: There is a significant improvement in students' reading skills through the use of short stories via the TikTok application in the eleventh grade of SMA Negeri 6 Palopo.