



**INVESTIGATING THE PLEASURE READING HABIT OF THE
STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF ISLAM MALANG DURING THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

SKRIPSI

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ABSTRACT

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Reading has a very important role and becomes a daily necessity for every person who wants to acquire whatever information is required. For most learners, it is the most important skill to master to ensure success not only in studying English but also in learning in any content class where reading is needed. Students who frequently do pleasure reading will be developed more cognitively and it will make them tend to do better in school than their peers. However, the spread of the COVID-19 virus that has occurred in recent years has affected various spheres of life. This is ranging from health, education, economy, religious practice, and society. The restrictions on most activities outside the home have forced children to find their reading resources from home through online orders of physical books, online reading materials, or online loans or purchases of e-books. This research aimed at investigating the students' pleasure reading habits during the pandemic since they spend most of their time at home.

The main focus of this research is to investigate the performance of the students' pleasure reading habits before and during the pandemic, to know the devices that they mostly use to read during the pandemic, and to identify the factors that prevent the students to read during the covid-19 pandemic. In this research, the researcher used the qualitative descriptive method. There were 25 students in the 8th semester of English Education Department of University of Islam Malang as the subjects of this study. The researcher used questionnaires to collect the data to investigate the students' pleasure reading habits during the pandemic time, while the interviews were done to get more information to complete their answers from the questionnaires. The questionnaires were in the form of Google Forms. The researcher distributed those questionnaires by personal message on WhatsApp to the students of the university of Islam Malang who were asked to be the subjects in this research. Next, the researcher conducted a semi-structured interview to follow up and get more deep information from the subjects. The researcher used the Zoom application to conduct an online interview.

The findings showed that the students' reading habits during this pandemic continued but with a different frequency than before the pandemic. Most of the students were reading to add general information and knowledge during the Covid-19 pandemic, especially about the current information on the Covid-19 pandemic, and for academic reasons, the frequency of reading was about fifteen minutes to one hour. Meanwhile, only a few students read for entertainment which

means that they probably got their entertainment from other activities. Then, the data showed that mobile phones became the most popular device for reading among the participants during the pandemic. The students revealed that their duration of using devices, especially mobile phones increased because they spent most of their time at home during the pandemic. The participants stated that most of them read non-prints for their reading sources. All participants said they used their mobile phones more often to read because it was more practical. Next, most participants preferred to access their social media rather than read during the Covid-19 pandemic. From the data collected, it could be concluded that the main factor that hindered students from reading during the pandemic was social media.



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, researcher present the background of the research which intended to describe the reason for conducting this research, scope of the research, research questions, objectives of the research, significance of the research, definition of key terms, and outline of the research are formulated here.

1.1 Background of the Research

Book is the window to the world and also the source of knowledge. On the other hand, reading is the key to opening a window to the world. According to Rachmat (2020), reading is the most efficient way to enrich information in many aspects of this world, including science and technology. Reading has a very important role and becomes a daily necessity for every person who wants to acquire whatever information is required. Then, for most learners, it is the most important skill to master to ensure success. With strengthened reading skills, learners will make greater progress and development in all other areas of learning English skills (Ismail, 2017). On the other side, students should master this skill because when they study in their school, they will confront several English textbooks.

Reading English texts is very important because the reading activity will open the opportunity to absorb other existing knowledge. Especially university

students are expected to master the comprehension skills of reading English texts at an advanced level. This is because at the university level the lectures most likely are required to read English reference books on several subjects. According to Ganie and Rangkuti (2019), the ability to read English text will open new knowledge and opportunities. By reading especially reading English text, students will be able to get a lot of new information, and pleasure and also do many other things with the information that they get from the reading activity.

According to Adeyemi (2020) readers are successful people because they are often faced with a world of possibilities and motivations, therefore developing the habit of reading can open the door to success and possibility. Then, (Owusu-Acheaw & Larson, 2014) explained that students' academic achievement is also largely determined by reading habits because both reading habits and students' academic achievements are related to each other. However, this is influenced by context and culture because any habit can be affected. In brief, reading is an essential skill in students learning activities, such as getting information in all aspects, improving their thinking process, also reading can be one of the alternatives for students to entertain in their spare time.

Pleasure reading means any reading that is freely chosen for enjoyment. It consists of a wide range of genres and publications including both fiction and nonfiction. In line with Abimbola et al., (2021) who explained that pleasure reading is a reading activity that is carried out for pleasure in spare time which not only aims to find information about school lessons but also for entertainment. Pleasure reading can include reading various fiction books such as prose, poetry,

comics, stories, magazines, and so on while non-fiction such as biographies, motivations, textbooks, and others.

Students who frequently do pleasure reading will be developed more cognitively and it will make them tend to do better in school than their peers (Sullivan & Brown, 2015). In addition, Whitten et.al, (2019) said that students who do pleasure reading have better academic abilities than others, not only in English but also in mathematics, science, and history. This statement is supported by Syahputra (2016) who stated that reading is the best receptive skill in learning a language to gain knowledge. In other words, successful reading determines educational achievement and helps in the development of knowledge and language skills. Through reading activities, students will find it easier to understand the message and meaning of a text. In addition, regular reading activities can also optimize student learning achievement at school. In short, reading is a receptive activity that has an impact on academic life.

However, the spread of the COVID-19 virus that has occurred in recent years has affected various spheres of life. This is ranging from health, education, economy, religious practice, society, and so on (Jahan et al., 2021). Corona virus infection or Covid-19 is a disease caused by the corona virus and causes the main symptoms in the form of respiratory problems. This virus first appeared in Wuhan, China at the end of 2019. The spread of the virus is very fast and increases every day. This made the government set some policies as measures to reduce the increase in the number of patients infected by corona virus. One of the policies implemented is "Lockdown". Sun et al., (2021) claimed that the COVID-

19 pandemic makes students should study in an unusual opportunity for children's print and digital reading preferences in an out-of-school context. Restrictions on most activities outside the home have forced children to find their reading resources from home through online orders of physical books, online reading materials, online loans, or purchases of e-books.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher aimed at investigating the students' pleasure reading habit during pandemic since they spend most of their time at home including their school activities done at home. Hence, the researcher formulates a research study entitled "Investigating the Pleasure Reading Habit of the Students of University of Islam Malang during the Covid-19 Pandemic".

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background above, the researcher conducted this research in order to investigate the students of University of Islam Malang pleasure reading habit during pandemic. This research is focus on the condition of students' pleasure reading habit during pandemic. In order to clarify the problem of the research, the researcher formulated the problems as follows:

1. How is the students' pleasure reading habit performance before and during the covid-19 pandemic?
2. What devices did the students mostly use in their reading activities during the covid-19 pandemic?
3. What are the factors that hindered the students to read during pandemic?

1.3 Objectives of the research

In line with the research problems mentioned above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To investigate the students' pleasure reading habit performance before and during the covid-19 pandemic.
2. To know the devices the students mostly used in reading activities during the covid-19 pandemic.
3. To identify the factors that hindered the students to read during pandemic

1.4 Significances of the research

The researcher expects the result of this research would be something beneficial to the teacher, students, and other researchers. It is expected that the reader will gain certain benefits both in theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, for teachers, this research will be useful to determine what strategies are suitable to be used to increase students' reading enthusiasm during and even after the pandemic from more in-depth theories which are discussed in this study. While for the students, this research hopefully gives a contribution to them as a reference that provides more in-depth theories related to reading habits.

In brief, they can be able to enrich their vocabulary and gain a lot of knowledge to improve their English skill, especially reading skill. Practically, hopefully, this article can motivate the teachers to utilize various technologies as their media to make students keep their reading habits in every situation continuously. Then, the students must have good reading habits in their daily life. In this article, they will

get some recommendations for the sources in finding many reading materials. Finally, for future research, the result of this research is expected to be an additional reference for the next researcher who will research students' pleasure reading habits.

1.5 Scope and limitation of research

Based on the explanation above, the main focus of this research are to investigate the performance of the students' pleasure reading habit before and during pandemic, to know the devices that they mostly use to read during pandemic, and to identify the factors that prevent the students to read during covid-19 pandemic. The researcher conducted the research in the Department of English Education UNISMA. The subjects of this research were 8th semester students.

While the limitation of this research was the researcher did not have enough time to make the instrument so that the researcher adapted the questionnaire from the previous research. Then, the researcher could not do face to face interview because all of students' activities are conducted through online class. All of students were doing their lectures from home so that the researcher only gave the questionnaires through Google form and do the interview through Zoom application.

1.6 The definition of key terms

a. Reading habit

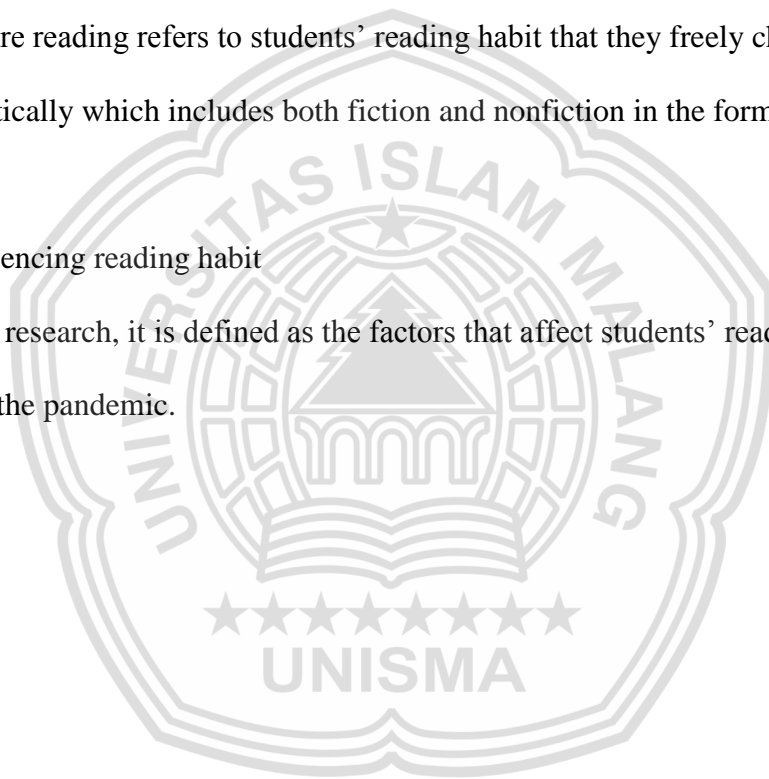
In this research, pleasure reading habit is defined as students' reading individual activity which is carried out repeatedly by the students of University of Islam Malang that they do in their house during COVID-19 pandemic.

b. Pleasure reading

Pleasure reading refers to students' reading habit that they freely chosen and enthusiastically which includes both fiction and nonfiction in the form of English text.

c. Factor influencing reading habit

In this research, it is defined as the factors that affect students' reading habits during the pandemic.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter comes as the last part of this research, which provides a brief summary of the results and discussions followed by several suggestions.

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the findings and the discussions from the previous chapter, the researcher took some conclusions. First, the students' reading habits during this pandemic continued but with a different frequency than before the pandemic. Most of the students only read to get the information and for the academic reason with the frequency of reading about fifteen minutes to one hour. Second, the data showed that mobile phones became the most popular device for reading among the participants during the pandemic. The students revealed that their duration of using devices, especially mobile phones increased because they spent most of their time at home during the pandemic. All students said they used their mobile phones more often to read because it was more practical. The last from the data collected, it could be concluded that the main factor that hindered students from reading during the pandemic was social media. It was because in this pandemic situation, no one controlled students' activities. Consequently, the students preferred to spend their free time playing social media rather than reading during the pandemic.

5.2 Suggestions

The researcher presented three suggestions related to this study. Those suggestions are first for the English teacher, second for the students, and the last for the future researcher.

1. For English Teachers

Teachers need to make strategies to improve students' pleasure reading habits, for example by making online reading logs that can be accessed by students wherever they are in any situation.

2. For Students

Students should spend more time reading independently, especially reading English texts. By having good reading habits, students will be able to improve their English skills. Students can start the habit of reading by making a daily schedule for reading and determining reading targets in a day so that their reading goals are clear and directed.

3. For Further Researchers

This research was conducted in pandemic situation where all lectures were still conducted online so that researchers could not make direct observations of the subject. All data is retrieved online through the application. Therefore, the researcher hopes that the next researcher can conduct research in different situations. The researcher also hopes that the next researcher can conduct an in-depth study of students' pleasure reading by using other instruments in order to get more satisfactory results.

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