

# Student perception towards the use of Webtoon in teaching reading

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## ABSTRACT

A webtoon platform provides many comics in various genres that are interesting to read. The webtoon platform is also free and can be accessed easily for various ages. Webtoon is a platform that can help in teaching reading by interesting pictures with word and provides many kinds of interesting stories. The use of webtoon in teaching reading has gained popularity in recent years due to its engaging and interactive nature. This research focuses on the students' perceptions towards the use of webtoon in teaching reading. This research employs descriptive qualitative method with Closed-Ended Questionnaire was distributed to the students as the procedure of data collecting. The data interpreted descriptively. The participants of the study are the fourth semester students of English Education at Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram. Based on this research it was determined that the students are more enthusiastic, active, and interested in learning reading process by using Webtoon. It could be concluded that the webtoons has positive impact in teaching reading. The study highlighted the potential of webtoon as an attractive learning medium in teaching reading, as it can enhance students reading skills through its interactive features.

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## 1. Introduction

Reading is a crucial skill for students, as it is essential for their academic success and personal growth. However, reading is one of the skills that must be mastered by students in English as a foreign language, especially English language education students. Through reading, we may enhance our knowledge, language, experience, reading comprehension, and mindset (Erya & Pustaka, 2021). Nowadays, most information is delivered in written format, making reading essential. Therefore, it is important that students gain proficiency in reading (Sasalia & Sari, 2020). According to Ali & Emirati (2021) To improve reading comprehension for English Foreign Language (EFL) learners, it's important to combine reading skills with intensive reading activities. . In practice, reading is not easy for students to understand because of the complexity of the text and the lack of interest in the reading text.

In this era, especially for Indonesian students, they cannot be separated from their smartphones. Certainly, the way students learn and engage with reading has experienced tremendous changes. This shift to digital media has created new opportunities for educators to investigate new methods of teaching, especially in reading. To increase the quality of teaching and learning, English teachers have to adopting new and advanced technology to increase students interest in learning English (Angelica & Katemba, 2023). There is wide array of technology that teacher could use at their disposal such as

e-comic to make the process of teaching easier and make the students more engaging in the learning process. E-Comic, or electronic comic, is a digital version of comic books that can be accessed and read on electronic devices such as computers, tablets, and smartphones and It combines visual storytelling with interactive elements, making it a versatile and engaging medium for learning and entertainment (Indriasih et al., 2020). One of the prime examples for this is Webtoon. A Webtoon is a type of digital comic that originated in South Korea and is read vertically by scrolling down on a computer or smartphone. Accessible anywhere and practically free of charge, each episode takes less than five minutes to read. Moreover Webtoons, have become a popular medium for narrative and entertainment (Torres, 2022). Therefore, the webtoon platform can be a very useful learning medium in teaching reading.

Many studies have discussed and proved that webtoon is a good tool in teaching reading. First research conducted by Erya & Pustika (2021) entitled “students’ perception toward the use of webtoon to improve reading comprehension skills” showed that webtoon can improve students’ interest in reading. The result of the study indicates that the Webtoon helps students become more interested and got motivation to improve their reading comprehension skill. The other researcher Yuliani & Sari M. (2022), the use of webtoon in English classes was motivating and enjoying and also Students shown high interest in using webtoons in English classes. Rosmiana et al. (2023) also found that the webtoon media can improve students’ reading comprehension.

Previous research has shown that Webtoons can improve students’ motivation, reading comprehension, and reading interest. Despite the growing popularity of webtoons in education, there is a lack of research on students’ perceptions towards their use in teaching reading. This study seeks to address this gap by exploring the attitudes and preferences of students towards the use of webtoons in reading instruction. Specifically, this study aims to investigate the following research questions: (1) What are students’ attitudes towards the use of webtoons in teaching reading? (2) Do students perceive webtoons as an effective tool for improving reading?

The objective of the study is to explore and analyze how students perceive the webtoons as a pedagogical tool in enhancing their reading skills. This study highlights the potential of Webtoon as a digital comic platform that can engage students in reading activities, making them more interested and motivated to learn English, particularly in reading comprehension.

The study’s results also underscore the importance of considering students’ perceptions and preferences when designing educational programs. By understanding how students perceive the use of Webtoon in teaching reading, educators can tailor their approaches to better meet the needs and interests of their students, leading to more effective learning outcomes. Overall, the study’s contribution is significant in that it sheds light on the potential of Webtoon as a tool for improving reading comprehension skills and highlights the importance of considering students’ perspectives in educational design.

## 2. Method

### 2.1. Research Design

This research was a qualitative study. Qualitative research is a type of research method that is used to gather non-numerical data. According to Busetto et al. (2020), qualitative research usually gathers data in the form of words instead of numbers. It is suitable to reach the research’s objectives to know how webtoon can improve the quality of learning English reading. The results of qualitative research are richly descriptive and get the depth to comprehend. It is necessary to get detailed information on the problems discussed by using qualitative as a research design.

In this study, the instrument was essential to be used in collecting the data. The instruments for collecting the data by using questionnaire. Using the closed-ended questionnaire, the questionnaires consist of 6 numbers statements. The scales of each statement are to “agree” and “disagree”, as well as paragraph answers. The questionnaires were distributed to all respondents.

### 2.2. Data collection

This study was held in Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram located in Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara. The participants of the study were 25 students from fourth semester of the English

Education study program faculty of teacher training and education science, Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram.

### 2.3. Data Analysis

A descriptive qualitative analysis was used to analyze the data. The analysis data started with collecting the score accumulated from the questionnaires with the range scale from each items that has been answered by students was measurably figured to discover the level of every statement and after the score obtained interpreted descriptively.

### 3. Findings and Discussion

The main focus of this research was to find out the students' perception on the Webtoon in teaching reading. The finding of the research was presented in the form of a questionnaire. Based on the results of the questionnaire of 25 students at Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram, it could be described student's perceptions towards the use of Webtoon in teaching reading as follows:

Table 1. Students' Responses towards the Use of Webtoon in Teaching Reading

No.	Question	Agree	Disagree
1	Webtoon its attractive learning media	88,5%	11,5%
2	It's enjoy to use Webtoon in reading class	70,2%	29,8%
3	Webtoon makes you enthusiast to have reading activity	84,6%	15,4%
4	Webtoon helps me get motivation in reading	80,8%	19,2%
5	It is necessary to use Webtoon to Improve reading	76,9%	23,1%
6	Webtoon provides simple words and sentences that makes you easier to understand in reading class	84,6%	15,4%

88,5% of the students agree that webtoon is an attractive learning media while 11,5% students disagree that webtoon is an attractive learning media. 70,2% students agree that they enjoy using webtoon in reading class while 29,8% students disagree that webtoon is enjoy to use in reading class. 84,6% of them agree that webtoon makes them enthusiast to have reading activity while 15,4% disagree that webtoon makes them enthusiast to have reading activity. 80,8% of them agree that webtoon helps them to get motivation in reading while the 19,2% of the disagree that webtoon helps them to get motivation in reading. 76,9% of them agree that its necessary to use webtoon to improve reading skills while the 23,1% disagree that webtoon is necessary to use to improve reading skills. 84,6% of the students agree that webtoon provides simple words and sentences that makes them easier to understand in reading class while 15,4% of them disagree that webtoon provides simple words and sentences that makes them easier to understand in reading class.

Students are attracted to Webtoons because of their visual appeal, which combines colorful pictures with compelling storytelling. This is consistent with prior research that suggests visual storytelling can improve reading motivation and comprehension (Rahayu & Wiyanah, 2023). The combination of pictures and text makes reading easier and more pleasant, which is especially important for students who struggle with traditional reading materials. According to Khotimah et al. (2022), its necessary to use an attractive media such as webtoons to makes it easier for teacher to provide material to students. So, a comfortable platform is the main factor so that students always use the application for learning. Given the popularity of webtoons among teenagers, they can be effectively utilized as teaching aids by educators.

According to Sidabalok (2023), current technological advancements have created new opportunities in education. Integrating technology, especially smartphones, is a powerful method for modern education. With the rising use of technology in education, platforms such as Webtoon provide an accessible way for students to interact with reading materials in the classroom. This accessibility may result in increased reading frequency and comprehension skills over time. According to Dwiputra et al. (2020) Webtoon is an online comic that is entertaining so it can be used as an exciting learning tool or medium. Using Webtoons in the classroom also can make students happy as well as motivated in reading and enjoy the reading class. Through Webtoon, they can improve their reading comprehension skills and can motivate them to improve their reading. Almost of the students like to read webtoon and not only that, some of them don't realize that it can be useful hobby that can improve their reading skills. This should be taken advantage of because following the interests of this

generation can be useful to improve their reading and their motivation in reading because nowadays, they prefer to operate smartphones to read.

As explain by Rosmiana et al. (2023), the webtoon is able to attract students' attention and interest during the teaching and learning process of reading. Webtoons not only help improve reading comprehension skills but also motivate students to enhance these skills, although some respondents disagree due to their lack of interest in reading webtoons. While some respondents have never used webtoons, others enjoy them for their engaging storylines. Despite being predominantly in Indonesian, webtoons written in English are also popular. These English webtoons are both entertaining and help stimulate the improvement of reading comprehension skills. Some respondents mentioned that webtoons do not interest them and that they only read them out of boredom, not to practice reading skills. Additionally, some respondents expressed an interest in reading webtoons despite not liking comics in general. Meanwhile, other respondents stated that webtoons can engage students in reading due to their visual elements, which make them more appealing.

Some respondents also noted that the language used which is simple in webtoons is very easy to understand, which helps improve their reading skills. Webtoons frequently utilize more realistic and contemporary language, which students find appealing. This modern language exposure can improve vocabulary acquisition and understanding since students are more likely to come across terms and phrases that are relevant to their daily lives. The fact that 84.6% of respondents were inspired by the language used in Webtoon demonstrates its potential as a tool for language learning.

Based on the result above, the respondents agree the webtoon is an attractive and good learning media. According to Dwiputra et al. (2020), Webtoon is an online comic that is entertaining so it can be used as an exciting learning tool or medium. Despite their benefits, educators must consider the challenges associated with using webtoons in the classroom. Some students may not find webtoons appealing, and educators should strive to balance the use of webtoons with other reading materials to cater to diverse preferences. Additionally, ensuring that the content of webtoons is age-appropriate and educational is crucial. By carefully selecting suitable webtoons and integrating them with broader literacy instruction, educators can maximize the benefits while addressing potential drawbacks. By overcoming this challenge, Webtoon essentially become such a powerful tool to teaching in reading.

With technology helping to improve the quality of education in Indonesia, teachers can create a variety of learning media that are exciting and fun. for example the use of webtoons in classroom. The results obtained from respondents show that webtoons are a medium that can be used as teaching material. Many students read webtoons when they are bored or just to fill their free time. With this opportunity, students can enjoy reading and improve their reading skills. Students can also get a variety of vocabulary. Teachers can also be helped in finding useful and exciting learning media

#### 4. Conclusion

Results from a survey show that 88.5% of students find webtoons attractive as a learning medium, while 11.5% disagree. 70.2% of students enjoy using webtoons in reading classes, and 84.6% believe webtoons make them enthusiastic about reading activities. 80.8% of students think webtoons help with reading motivation, and 76.9% believe they are necessary to improve reading skills through webtoon. 84.6% of students agree that webtoons provide simple words and sentences that make them easier to understand. Webtoons are a platform for online comics that have gained popularity due to their unique features and seamless integration into the digital environment. They have also become an inspirational tool for modern education. Research has shown that webtoons can help improve students' reading comprehension skills and motivate them to read.

Webtoons can be an effective teaching aid due to their popularity among teenagers. However, educators must consider the challenges associated with using webtoons in the classroom. Not all students may find webtoons appealing, and ensuring that the content is age-appropriate and educational is crucial. By carefully selecting suitable webtoons and integrating them with broader literacy instruction, educators can maximize the benefits while addressing potential drawbacks.

In conclusion, webtoons are an attractive and useful learning medium that can help improve students' reading skills and motivation. However, educators must consider the challenges associated with using webtoons in the classroom and carefully select suitable webtoons to maximize their benefits.

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