STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE USE OF DIGITAL BOOKS IN LEARNING ENGLISH AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRINTED BOOKS DURING HYBRID LEARNING

A thesis by:

Saidah Sa'iah

Student Number:

06011181924004

English Education Study Program

Language and Arts Education Department

LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION DEPARTEMENT

FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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Saidah Sa'iah

Student Number: 06011281924028

English Education Study Program

Department of Language and Art Education

FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION SRIWIJAYA

UNIVERSITY

PALEMBANG

2023

Approved by
Advisor,

Rita Hayati, M.A.
NIP. 196006161988032002

Certified by
Head of English Education Study Program

Eryansyah S.Pd., M.A., Ph.D
NIP. 196907181995121001

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Saidah Sa'iah

Student Number: 06011181924004

This thesis was defended by the writer in the final program examination and was approved the examination committee on:

Day : Thursday

Date : June 22, 2023

1. Chairperson : Dra. Rita Hayati, M.A. (   )
2. Member   : Dr. Ismail Petrus, M.A. (   )

Palembang, June 2023

Certified by,

Coordinator of English Education Study

Program,

Eryansyah S.Pd., M.A., Ph.D

NIP. 196907181995121001

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DECLARATION

I, the undersigned,

Name	: Saidah Sa'iah
Student's Number	: 06011181924004
Study Program	: English Education

Certify that thesis entitled "Students' Perceptions on the use of Digital Books in Learning English as Alternative to the Printed Book during Hybrid Learning" is my own work and Idid not do any plagiarism or inappropriate quotation against the ethics and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic Indonesia Number 19, 2010regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserve to face court if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

Palembang, June 2023
The undersigned

Saidah Sa'iah
NIM: 06011181924004

DEDICATION

I sincerely dedicate this thesis to:

Allah SWT has given me physical and spiritual health to complete my thesis.

I would also like to thank half of my soul, my parents, to my 6 beloved siblings,

who always provide support and pray for me.

Thank you.

MOTTO

فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى ٱللَّهِ

"When you have made up your mind, then put your trust in Allah"
(Ali Imran: 159)

"There is no success without hard work. There is no success without togetherness.
There is no ease without prayer." - Ridwan Kamil

"Pray for your teachers who have taught you knowledge, because it is one of the
causes of the blessing of knowledge" - Habib Abdullah Baharun

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Palembang, June 2023
The Writer

Saidah Sa'iah

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to determine students' perceptions in English language learning using Digital Books in the 6th semester of the English Language Department at Sriwijaya University, academic year 2020/2021, in Indralaya class. The researcher used a questionnaire and interview to collect data and employed qualitative descriptive analysis to analyze the obtained data. The collected data will be processed using SPSS software to obtain valid results. The research participants consists of 43 students from the English Language Program at Indralaya class, Sriwijaya University. Based on the research findings, it was found that students have a positive perception towards the use of digital books in English language learning during hybrid learning. The positive response comes from their experience in the learning process. It can be concluded that students are highly interested in using digital books for English language learning during hybrid learning as they perceive that digital books make learning easier and improve their learning outcomes. In conclusion, it can be categorized that digital books are highly effective when applied to 6th-semester students of the English Language Department, Sriwijaya University, intake year 2020 in Indralaya, as the results show a great interest in using digital books for English language learning. This is due to the convenience and advantages that students gain when using digital books during hybrid learning.

Keywords: Students' Perception, Digital Books, Hybrid Learning

A thesis by an English Education Study Program Student, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Sriwijaya University
Name   : Saidah Sa'iah
NIM   : 06011181924004

Certified by,
Coordinator of Study,

Eryansyah, M.A., Ph.D.
NIP. 196907181995121001

Approved by,
Advisor,

Dra. Rita Hayati, M,A.
NIP. 196006161988032002

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The background of the study, the problems of the study, the objectives of the study, and its significance are all presented in this chapter.

1.1 Background of the Study

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak that occurred in the past 2 years, the conversion of the population has increased exponentially towards digital technology beyond expectations. The education sector has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to widespread disruptions in various societies. Educational institutions have had to be temporarily closed in many countries as a general measure. To address this situation, the Ministry of Education and Culture issued Circular Letter No. 4 of 2020, which regulates online policies that provide guidance for implementing remote learning during the Covid-19 emergency. Children are asked to study from their respective homes. The purpose of this action is to minimize the growth in the population's exposure to the COVID-19 outbreak. So, the government agreed to make a decision that learning would be carried out online. For the presentation of teaching materials, discussions, assignments to evaluations are carried out virtually using various online application platforms. With the flow of learning that is carried out virtually, automatically online learning will have more drawbacks (Rahman et al., 2019) such as communication limitations and less effectiveness in delivering learning material, internet limitations because students come from different economic backgrounds, Finally, learning becomes less effective.

The solution in this matter was finally implemented in the form of face-to-face learning based on the policies stated in the Joint Decree (SKB) of the four Ministers, on November 20, 2020. The Hybrid Learning system learning is carried out online but combined with face-to-face. During this hybrid learning system, educators used a variety of learning resources.

The term "media" originates from the Latin word "medius," which signifies "middle" or acts as an intermediary. Meanwhile, information is obtained as a result in the form of unprocessed data, which is then processed to generate outcomes from the data (Coronel & Morris, 2016). Media is utilized as a learning tool to convey messages, aiming to stimulate the thoughts, feelings, and attention of students in the teaching and learning process (Miarso, 2004). There are various ways in which media can be classified, including print media, non-print media, and electronic media (Ritakumari, 2019). When media is used, the given material becomes easier and faster to comprehend, thus facilitating the achievement of learning objectives by students (Rahma, et al., 2021).

Different types of media can be utilized for learning, with the most widely adopted approach in the hybrid learning model being the implementation of a learning media system. Among the various media developments, digital books have emerged as a frequently encountered medium for information dissemination. Digital books, also known as electronic books (e-books), are electronic versions of printed books that can be accessed through handheld devices such as personal digital assistants (PDAs), Tablet PCs, or computers (Lam et al., 2009). E-books serve as electronic repositories of scientific information that can be accessed using smartphones, tablets, and other electronic devices equipped with e-readers like the Apple iPad and Amazon Kindle. The intention behind incorporating e-books is not to replace print media entirely but rather to enhance the reading experience by providing convenience and flexibility in terms of time and location. E-books offer several advantages in higher education, including broad accessibility, enhanced visualization, interactivity, and dynamic links to additional teaching materials (Nicholas et al., 2010). Digital books come in various formats such as XML, PDF, HTML, among others.

Numerous research studies have focused on digital books, including investigations into aspects such as children's engagement with digital books (Natalia Kucirkova, 2019), the impact of digital book usage on reading skills among tenth-grade students at SMA Negeri 2 Rantau Selatan (Rambe et al.,

2021). Most of the existing studies examining preferences and attitudes towards e-books have predominantly relied on survey methods (Buzzetto-More, Sweat-Guy, & Elobaid, 2007; Li et al., 2011; Young, 2000). However, there have been limited qualitative research studies exploring students' perceptions of e-book reading (Arnold, 2009; Chou, 2012). Additionally, Lam et al. (2009) conducted a study to determine if students' perceptions of e-books changed over time, as many studies on e-book reading have employed survey methodologies instead of longitudinal approaches.

We know that there are 4 skills in learning English, reading is a skill that we must master in using information media. Reading is an activity that involves hearing and visual to get information (Widyastuti et al., 2018). Reading is one of the skills that is very useful in carrying out daily life to find information in books or writings in foreign languages. The higher the reading ability, the higher the ability to understand a writing. Therefore it is necessary to master reading skills. Reading media is divided into two, textbooks and digital books. Certain fields of study are explained by textbooks, which are compiled by experts in those respective fields for instructional purposes. These textbooks are equipped with teaching tools that can be easily understood by users from various institutions, serving as supportive resources (Tarigan & Djago, 1986). Based on this opinion, the material is made more comprehensible to users through the use of textbooks.

Although many classes are held in-person or online, digital books have of digital books has grown, especially during the switch from online to hybrid learning systems (deNoyelles et al., 2015). This is mainly due to the lower costs, more convenient use, and easier availability of the internet and digital platforms. There are advantages as well as disadvantages to using digital books. Because they have several advantages over traditional book formats, digital book formats are becoming more and more popular. Digital books have the advantages of being portable and requiring less storage space. A PC (Personal Computer), laptop, smartphone, tablet, or other electronic device designed for storing and reading digital books can be used to store digital books. Additionally, Digital Books help the paperless movement and are environmentally beneficial. The

drawback is that consumers must be adept at using digital books; otherwise, they risk having their digital books lost or destroyed by viruses. According to 2014 research (Dahlstrom et al., 2014), 60% of American students had used digital books in a course. According to research by Lim and Hew (2014), "Students' Perceptions of the Usefulness of an E-book with Annotative and Sharing Capabilities as a Tool for Learning" found that the e-book effectively supports their learning activities. Students learn when they interact with the e-book by reading its content, thinking about it, and sharing their opinions. E-books help students reflect and actively participate in the creation of knowledge. The same results were obtained by other investigations. that the participants in this study had a positive opinion of reading digital texts for academic purposes. Due to the abundance of digital texts that their teachers assigned, they showed a preference and eagerness for using such over printed ones. Moreover, being a technologically advanced generation, they possessed adeptness in handling digital texts.

In response, it is important to as certain not only their use, but also the students' perceptions of using digital books. According to Sumanto (2014), perception is a stimulus-driven process that interprets relevant information. We can infer that human perception is the capacity to experience and comprehend an item. This notion has an impact on how many digital books are used and how much of an impact they have on users, particularly students. The researcher draws broad conclusions about how books are seen digitally from earlier studies using the current approach. Teachers, lecturers, and students have been embracing digital books as teaching aids and knowledge sources ever since the advent of online learning. This study highlights a subject based on the history of electronic books and their use. this research raises a theme entitled "Students' Perceptions of the use of Digital books in learning as an alternative to the Printed Books during Hybrid learning".

1.2 The Problems of the Study

The problems of the study are formulated in the following questions:

1. How do English Education Study Program students perceive e-books as a form of learning resources in a hybrid learning system?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

Based on the problems above, the objective of this study is as follows:

1. To find out how the students perceive Digital books as a form of learning resources in a hybrid learning system.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

This study aims to determine students' perceptions of digital books as a source of learning English in the hybrid learning era. This research will have a good impact on several parties such as teachers and students. For teachers they can find out in what way they can provide learning materials that students like, teachers can also prepare or provide learning media facilities that students like and are easy to reach. For students they can develop knowledge about the learning media they use as a learning resource in seeking insight. In addition, students can explore with more time and use Android with learning to improve their ability to read in English texts.

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