TEACHERS' PERCEPTION TOWARD USING ENGLISH E-BOOK AT MOSLEM BASED SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Abstract : E-books have become a prevalent educational tool in today's learning landscape. Contrasting traditional books, the utilization of e-books displays distinct characteristics, particularly among educators who are now required to be proficient in technology-based teaching methods. This research is focused on ascertaining teachers' perceptions regarding the implications of employing e-books for English instruction at MTs Negeri 1 Bitung. The study employs a qualitative approach and involves English instructors from MTs Negeri 1 Bitung. Data collection is carried out through observation, in-depth interview and documentation. The collected data was analyzed using the Miles and Huberman theoretical framework, as follows; data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions/verification. The findings of this study reveal that e-books offer more benefits than drawbacks. The advantages of e-books include fostering teacher creativity in developing literacy skills, innovates teaching and learning practices, lightening students' academic load, learning flexibility, enhanced learning process efficiency, and facilitating a deeper understanding of the material. Conversely, the disadvantages encompass distractions, potential eye fatigue from screen radiation, and the necessity of a network connection.

Keywords : *Teachers' Perception, Effect, E-book Media*

INTRODUCTION

Language can be said as an innate ability, with much of our language skills ingrained in our genes (Chomsky, 1957 in Saroinsong et al., 2019). Moreover Chaer (2003) in Sholihah (2022) states that language is a means of verbal communication, and he states that language is an arbitrary sound symbol used by a group of community members to interact and identify themselves with one another. In line with the statements before, Liando & Lumettu (2017) stated that as a means of communication, language is an important part of human life. Furthermore, Language's main purpose is conveying meaning through simple expressions, emphasizing the importance of choosing words carefully. It's a fundamental tool for everyday communication.

The rise of technology has made English a global language, and learning it aims to improve effective communication in daily life. This can lead to more personalized English learning strategies that address students' specific linguistic needs. Personalized English learning can also help students develop confidence in speaking and writing, because they can focus on topics that interest them. English is spoken worldwide and is the primary language in many countries. Proficiency in English is built on four pillars: speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Its versatility allows for conversations anywhere in the world. As Richards & Rodger (1986) in Yuldoshova & Khudoyorova (2021) stated that English is used in significant international events and is essential for accessing global information across various subjects. Fluency in English is very important

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because it is used by almost all international sources of information on multiple topics (Nurcahyo et al. 2015 in Poedjiastutie et al. 2018).

Educational practices, including the use of learning media, can inspire students and influence their psychology positively. Incorporating learning media effectively enhances the learning process, making it more engaging and promoting comprehension. Using appropriate learning media can also create a diverse learning environment, support various student learning styles, and reduce the feeling of monotony in the learning process. Technology continues to advance rapidly, impacting various aspects of life, including education. The belief is that technology simplifies, enhances, and expedites many aspects of life. In education, both educators and learners are encouraged to use technology to improve the quality and quantity of learning resources and processes. In addition, technology enables personalization of learning, where learning materials and methods can be tailored to needs and interests, thereby creating a more relevant and effective learning experience. Teachers play a vital role in the classroom, responsible for facilitating the teaching and learning process. They are expected to be tech-savvy and create engaging learning environments to capture students' attention and encourage active participation. Teachers who are skilled in the use of technology can also expand the reach of learning outside the classroom and integrate relevant digital resources.

An interview with Sir Valdy Besse, S.Pd, an English teacher at MTs Negeri 1 Bitung, conducted on March 11, 2023, revealed that the school has transitioned to e-books as a practical learning medium for post-pandemic English education. Teachers provide students with e-books containing multimedia content. This study aims to assess the impact of this shift from conventional books to e-books in English education, relying on teacher perceptions. This transition is relatively recent, especially in a subject like English that demands concentration and innovative teaching methods. The study is titled "Teachers' Perception of the Effect of English Learning Using E-Book Media at MTs Negeri 1 Bitung."

This research was in similar form with some researches. For example Azizah in 2020 investigated the perception of the students in IAIN Kediri. The difference is that Azizah's research was done to the students while this research tends to find out the perception of the teachers. The result of the research showed that the students responded positively towards the use of e-book in their learning. Another research was done by Kerdy in 2021 in finding out the usage of e-book and students' perspective in reading comprehension skill. The result of the study showed that 45% had positive attitude, 30% had negative attitude and the rest 25% had neutral perception toward the use of e-book in reading. Moreover, a research was done by Fauziyah in 2021 with the purpose of finding out the effect of e-book implementation toward students' motivation in learning. The result showed that e-book does affect the motivation and response of the students to study as the students showed significantly positive result in the research. The last previous study came from Rahmadi in 2018 which analyzed about the usage of e-book at the students of Universitas Gajah Mada by using Technology Acceptance Model. The result showed that doctoral students had the most positive result in the perception, vocation students had the lowest result in the actual usage, bachelor students had the lowest perception in

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happiness of using e-book and magister student has the second positive result of perception in the usage of e-book in learning. The similarity of this research with several previous studies is they both discuss the use of e-books. And the results both lead to good or positive results. Meanwhile, the difference lies in the participants. In several previous studies, students were the participants. And in this research, teachers are participants whose perceptions are very necessary.

This research hopefully can add new knowledge in knowing the use of E-book; be used as a reference material; and a comparison for further research in the same field of study. Through this research, we will be able to identify more precisely the role of E-books as reference materials in an educational context. This can open up the potential to optimize the use of E-books to support student learning processes. Based on the explanation above, this research aims to understand the potential of digital technology in improving the educational process and providing the insights needed to optimize the use of e-books. And can help improve the quality and effectiveness of distance learning. Thus, providing benefits to the challenges of using E-books as an educational resource and enabling more effective use of E-books in the learning process.

RESEARCH METHOD

Researcher used qualitative method because researcher want to describe the meaning contained in each individual's perception. By using qualitative methods, researcher can explore the complexity and depth of perception better than quantitative approaches which tend to focus more on numbers and statistics. Qualitative research is research that is intended to understand what phenomena are experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perceptions, motivations, actions, etc. (Moleong in Lelet et al., 2023). Moreover, qualitative research is a method for exploring and understanding the meaning given by a number of individuals or groups of people to social or humanitarian problems (Creswell in Datu, Tuerah & Rorimpandey, 2017). In this research, the descriptive method was chosen because the data sought was in the form of statements. Qualitative is a type of research that proceed in the form of words (Bogdan & Biklen in Sumakul, Tuerah & Damopolii, 2023). Moreover, the descriptive method makes the researcher easier in collecting and describing the data as it is in the form of descriptive.

The participants in this study were English teachers at MTs Negeri 1 Bitung. The participants in this study consisted of three English teachers who were experienced in using e-book media, and the researcher took all of them as samples for this study. There are three English teachers who handle one batch each. Teacher A teaches class VII, teacher B teaches class VIII and teacher C teaches class IX. So, each teacher teaches in different classes.
Following are the names of the participants:
1. Abdurrahman, S.Pd as teacher A
2. Maya Runtuwene, S.Pd as teacher B
3. Valdy Besse, S.Pd as teacher C

There are three stages in collecting data, the first is direct observation in class so that researcher can get data from the actual situation. Then through interviews, where the interview process is carried out after class observations. The researcher conducted interviews with the teacher and was assisted by using an audio recording device so that the interviewer obtained more detailed data during the interview. The last step is taking documentation. This can make the data collection carried

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out prior to observation and interviews can be called genuine. In analyzing the data, the researcher will use the theory from Miles and Huberman (cited in Punch, 2009, p.174-175) as follows:

1. Data Reduction: is part of the analysis and occurs constantly during the analysis. The main goal, along with quantitative analysis, is to reduce data without losing information. In the field of qualitative analysis, it is also important to preserve information in context.
2. Data Display: can organize, condense, and organize information through graphs, charts, or various forms of diagrams. The purpose of an iterative and iterative display of data is to provide information about the current status of research and to build a basis for future research.
3. Drawing Conclusions/Verification: data reduction and presentation are important to assist in drawing and verifying conclusions. This step logically follows after the first two steps; however, possible conclusions can also be drawn vaguely in the early stages of the analysis and refined over the course of the entire process. When all data has been analyzed, conclusions can be drawn as propositions, which then need to be verified.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In understanding how teachers at MTs Negeri 1 Bitung perceive the impact of using E-books for teaching English, researchers collected data through interviews with three English teachers to find out their perception (Teacher A, handling class VII; Teacher B, class VIII; and Teacher C, class IX). According to Delatu, Wowor and Kamagi (2020) said that the stimulus is recognizable by the brain and then sent to the nervous system which resulting in a sensation called experience. Moreover, Walgito (2010) in Sentika & Arissaputra (2021) said that perception is part of the process of human thinking about certain phenomena. Additionally, observations were made during English lessons using E-book media. . E-books has significant value in teaching (Chen, 2013 in Paidican & Arredondo 2022). Wibawa (2016) in Nurfaizah (2020) said that advances in information and communication technology have increased the paradigm of the learning process from conventional learning to electronic learning (e-learning) which is more interesting and creative. E-book can further improve learning in the world of education by supporting conventional books (Admojo, Atiqoh & Walujo, 2023). The result shows that, students using E-books gave positive responses as they were engaged and were enjoying the learning process while some faced minor issues like having low battery on their cellphones or network issues in downloading the PDFs where teachers effectively addressed these challenges. Furthermore, the transition from conventional books to E-books requires the teachers to adapt and become proficient with technology-based learning resources.

a. Advantages of Using E-Book in Teachers' Perception
   1. Increasing teachers' creativity in Providing Good Learning

In this case, increasing teacher creativity in providing good learning is when the teacher begins to be creative by making interactive e-books containing material that is arranged in an interesting way, such as Simple Present Tense material. In this material, the teacher will give a sign in the form of an image on the tenses formula or on the required

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vocabulary. Of course, this requires creativity from a teacher. Providing interesting illustrations or pictures in the material will stimulate the imagination of students. The various feelings felt by teachers when they had to start being literate with technology-based learning media, one of which was e-books, it cannot be denied that at first, they were also surprised but also happy with this development in the world of education. As stated by teacher A:

"*My feeling when I was required to be technologically literate in terms of learning was of course very excited. Because I am quite interested in terms of technological developments. Moreover, this can be developed in the world of education. I feel that studying various media platforms in terms of increasing teacher creativity in using technology as a tool in providing learning is quite useful and beneficial.*"(Abdurrahman S.Pd, 16/05/2023)

Teacher A felt very excited when he started studying technology-based learning media. Because basically, he understands that studying various media platforms can increase teacher creativity in providing good learning.

2. Facilitating Innovation in Teaching and Learning Activities

Innovation facilities in teaching and learning activities using e-books include easy access to various learning resources and fast search capabilities. In addition, e-books can also enable more personalized learning through features such as tagging, notes, and selecting text. By using e-books, students and teachers can enjoy and be more flexible in going through the teaching and learning process. Previous statement given by teacher A is supported by teacher B whom said:

"*Obviously my feelings as a teacher when I am required to be literate with technology in the world of education are happy and surprised. I am happy because nowadays the world of education is growing by providing technology-based learning media to facilitate and provide innovation in teaching and learning activities so that we as teachers can develop even more in terms of teaching. And of course, this is a good thing in the world of education.*" (Maya Runtuwene S.Pd, 16/05/2023)

Teacher B explained that she was happy and surprised at the same time because nowadays everything that is needed is technology-based which has many conveniences, especially in terms of education. So that it provides benefits in terms of developing the ability of teachers. And facilitated in obtaining a variety of learning resources. As also conveyed by Teacher C as follows :

"*Technology-based learning is very enjoyable because I can find many resources to make the learning process interesting.*" (Valdy Besse S.Pd, 16/05/2023)

Like the statement given by teacher C above who said that with technology-based learning it can make learning feel enjoyable and of course, you can find sources that can support an interesting learning process. Because with technology-based learning, one of which is e-books, will be able to make teachers able to express their ideas in terms of the preparation and design of the material to be provided.

3. Lightening the Burden on Students

E-books can lighten the burden on students such as eliminating the need to carry heavy physical books, allowing access to various subject matter in one device, enabling quick and easy searches

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to find the information needed without having to scroll through the pages of physical books, and can also allow making notes and tagging on e-books that make it easier for students to refer back to important information. Overall, using e-books can reduce physical load and increase efficiency and flexibility in the student learning process. As teacher B and C said:

"using the e-book directly will make it easier and lighten the burden on students because with the e-book students do not have to be obliged to buy books and students do not carry heavy loads as usual with heavy and many books, this e-book is very practical because it is in the form of soft files." (Maya Runtuwene S.Pd, 16/05/2023)

"one e-book reader can accommodate thousands of e-books. It takes up a lot of space in our homes and bags. We don't have to worry about storage limits." (Valdy Besse S.Pd, 16/05/2023)

4. Being Used Anywhere and Anytime

E-books allow flexible access because they can be used anywhere and anytime. Teachers and students can access e-books via laptops or gadgets that allow them to study at school, at home, or while on the move. With the e-book, students are not limited to a certain location or time. They can take advantage of free time to study, even outside of formal school hours. Teacher C supported this statement as one said:

"of course, the effectiveness of this e-book is that it can be used anywhere and contains English material that is made easier to understand based on the design made by the creator." (Valdy Besse, S.Pd, 16/05/2023)

"Such as those who are more enthusiastic about learning and understand the

material more easily. Because the material available in the E-book is quite detailed and interesting so it is easy to follow when learning." (Valdy Besse, S.Pd, 16/05/2023)

Based on some results from teachers regarding their perceptions of the influence of E-book media in learning English, it was found that the teachers felt happy, excited, and challenged by this media in assisting learning activities. E-books are limited in their ease of use so that the contents of the material can be made in detail and interesting so that learning is easier to do and doesn't feel flat. Of course, there are many conveniences that can be obtained from this E-book, one of which is that there is no need to carry heavy conventional books, because only by using learning gadgets can it be implemented. This makes the E-book a learning media that is needed for its existence.

b. Disadvantages of Using E-Book in Teachers' Perception
1. Disturbing concentration and radiation exposure

There is a statement from Teacher B that states that using E-books too often can make the eyes feel tired and also using a cellphone with a small screen can be annoying when the material being discussed is long text material, such as narrative text. Likewise, the appearance of notifications on the cellphone screen of course can disturb the concentration of the user who is studying through the e-book media. In line with teacher B statement:

"I feel that sometimes too much use of E-books causes things that are not good for our eyes because it can be exposed to radiation and the use of gadgets with small screens is very annoying when there is long material to be discussed, for

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example, narrative text material and also sometimes notifications that can interfere with concentration"(Maya Runtuwene S.Pd, 16/05/2023)

2. Network requirement

E-books are digital books that, if needed, must download first. However, e-books can be used to our heart's content without a network if they have been downloaded, because they will be automatically stored on our devices. What was conveyed by teacher B, followed by delivery from teacher A who said that e-books that still require a network to use them are quite troublesome, because if there is no network support it will be difficult to download the e-books.

"The e-book used is still troublesome if you still need a network to download it"(Abdurrahman S.Pd, 16/05/2023)

Learning media is a tool used by teachers to convey the contents of a subject matter that is useful for motivating and increasing student interest in learning. One of the learning media is an e-book (electronic book) where the book can be opened through an electronic device. As (Putera, 2011 in Ruddamayanti, 2019) said that e-book is a technology that utilizes computers to display multimedia information in a concise and dynamic form.

Based on the results of the study, it shows that there is an influence on the use of e-book media in learning English. It can be said that e-books are learning media that provide many benefits and advantages. The teacher gives his perception that using the E-book can help them provide detailed and efficient material. The use of multimedia elements in the learning process is makes the students easier in understanding the

material. As well as the use of learning media in learning orientation will greatly help the activeness of the learning process and the delivery of messages and lesson content at that time. In addition to arousing student motivation and interest, instructional media can also help students improve their understanding, and present data in an interesting and reliable way.

By looking at the level of student saturation if only doing conventional book-assisted learning it is felt to be less effective. The existence of e-books can provide various other conveniences such as students no longer need to buy or even carry heavy printed books, students also have a better understanding of the material provided through e-books because the contents of the material are designed in such a way, interesting and detailed, as well as various other conveniences. Apart from providing convenience, of course, there are also difficulties, obstacles, or adverse effects related to using this e-book, such as the case with a smaller font size which can make the eyes feel tired or reduce the quality of the eyes.

The results described above are based on the perceptions conveyed by the participants, which are the actual results. Because the perception itself is produced by the way a person interprets a meaning that has been felt or captured by the five senses. Robbins (2003: 160) in Tandiarrang & Patabang (2020) which states that perception is a process carried out by each individual to organize and interpret the impressions of the five senses that are owned in order to give meaning to the surrounding environment. As well as the personal characteristics that exist from the perpetrators of perception, most of them are in the form of attitudes, motives, interests, interests, hopes, and experiences that are more relevant to influencing a

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perception. From all the perceptions that have been expressed by teachers, it can be said that the influence caused by the use of e-book media has more advantages and its utilization is much better, although there are some obstacles or deficiencies that can be experienced as well.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion, the teachers' perceptions of the effect of using the E-book in learning English has more advantages than disadvantages. The advantages of the e-book itself are, not only it encourages the teacher creativity in determining literacy, facilitating innovation in teaching and learning activities, lightening the burden on students, but it also can be used anywhere and anytime, learning to take place more efficiently, feel enjoy and understand more in the material provided. Meanwhile, the drawback of the e-book is the disturbing concentration if a notification appears, it can make the eyes feel tired because of the gadget's screen radiation, and it still needs the network to download it.

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