

THESIS
INCREASING THE STUDENTS READING COMPREHENSION
THROUGH RETELLING TECHNIQUE: USING STORYBIRD

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Baiq Okmel Saning Tias. 2024. **Increasing Student Reading Comprehension
Trough Retelling : Using Storybird**

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi efektivitas teknik retelling menggunakan Storybird dalam meningkatkan pemahaman membaca pada mahasiswa Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris semester 8 di Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram, serta memahami persepsi mahasiswa terhadap penggunaan alat digital ini. Metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif diterapkan, dengan teknik pengumpulan data melalui wawancara daring dengan mahasiswa, observasi sesi pembelajaran, dan penyebaran kuesioner menggunakan Google Form. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan Storybird dalam teknik retelling dapat meningkatkan pemahaman membaca mahasiswa secara interaktif dan kreatif. Mahasiswa melaporkan bahwa mereka merasa lebih terlibat dan termotivasi dalam proses retelling, dan menunjukkan keterampilan retelling yang lebih baik serta pemahaman teks yang meningkat. Persepsi mahasiswa terhadap Storybird umumnya positif, dengan mereka merasa alat ini memudahkan pemahaman dan membuat proses belajar menjadi lebih menarik. Penelitian ini menyarankan bahwa integrasi alat digital seperti Storybird dalam teknik retelling dapat menjadi strategi yang efektif untuk meningkatkan pemahaman membaca dan meningkatkan pengalaman belajar mahasiswa.

Kata kunci : Kemampuan membaca, Teknik mengulang, Storybird

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the effectiveness of the retelling technique using Storybird in enhancing reading comprehension among eighth-semester English Education students at Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram, as well as to understand students' perceptions of this digital tool. A descriptive qualitative research method was employed, utilizing data collection techniques such as online interviews with students, observation of teaching sessions, and questionnaires distributed via Google Forms. The findings indicate that using Storybird for the retelling technique significantly improves students' reading comprehension in an interactive and creative manner. Students reported feeling more engaged and motivated in the retelling process, and demonstrated improved retelling skills and text comprehension. Students' perceptions of Storybird were generally positive, with many feeling that the tool facilitated their understanding and made the learning process more enjoyable. The study suggests that integrating digital tools like Storybird into the retelling technique can be an effective strategy for enhancing reading comprehension and enriching students' learning experiences.

Keywords : Reading comprehension, Retelling technique, Storybird

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the research background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, and scope of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Lately, English has been progressively assuming the role of the primary means of communication across all spheres of life, especially within the realm of education. Consequently, numerous individuals are acquiring proficiency in English as a response to global requirements. Their primary motivation for mastering the language lies in their desire to be competent readers. They view reading as the cornerstone of language proficiency, ranking it above other language skills. Research suggests that reading is inherently perceived as paramount; individuals proficient in a language are commonly referred to as readers of that language. A considerable portion, if not the majority, of foreign language learners prioritize developing their reading abilities.

Reading comprehension is a vital ability necessary for learning. However, many pupils struggle to understand and recount the materials they have read. The retelling technique has been proved to be a useful tool for increasing pupils' reading comprehension. In a digital context, Storybird provides a creative platform for kids to create visual stories to aid in the retelling process. This study will look into how employing Storybird in the retelling approach can improve students' reading comprehension.

The ambition to become proficient readers is typically the driving force behind people's desire to master English. Reading is usually acknowledged as the primary means of acquiring a language, as it is essential for both language creation and understanding. Reading exposes students to new vocabulary, intricate sentence patterns, and cultural quirks, all of which improve their overall language competency. As a result, many language learners consider improving their reading comprehension to be a crucial component of their language study.

Studies emphasize how important reading is as a foundational ability that supports success in both academic and professional contexts. Reading fluency makes it easier for a person to interact with a variety of materials, from academic publications to literary works, which improves knowledge and critical thinking skills. Even Nevertheless, reading comprehension remains a challenge for many students, especially those who are learning English as a second language. A few things can be blamed for this challenge, such as a small vocabulary, insufficient prior knowledge, and poor reading techniques.

The purpose of this study is to investigate how well Storybird works as a tool for the retelling technique in order to enhance students' reading comprehension. This study intends to add to the expanding corpus of research on cutting-edge teaching strategies that use technology to improve learning outcomes by investigating how digital storytelling can aid in the development of reading abilities.

1.2 Problem statement

A student's ability to read comprehension is critical to both their academic performance and general language competency. Despite its significance, many students still struggle to comprehend and analyze written materials, especially those who are learning English as a second or foreign language. These difficulties are frequently made worse by elements like a small vocabulary, inadequate prior

knowledge, and poor reading techniques. Because of this, a lot of kids find it difficult to connect with texts at a deeper level as well as to understand their content, which causes a gap in their total language development.

Even while they have certain advantages, traditional reading comprehension instruction hasn't always been successful in addressing these issues. These approaches frequently depend on passive learning strategies, in which pupils are supposed to take in knowledge from texts without actively engaging with the subject matter. These methods might not motivate pupils or meet their unique learning demands, which would lead to a cursory grasp of the material and a lack of enthusiasm.

Retelling has been acknowledged as a potentially effective strategy for improving reading comprehension in recent years. By retelling the material in their own words, this method helps pupils to actively analyze and internalize what they have read. Students must do this in order to arrange their ideas, draw connections between them, and engage in critical reflection on the subject matter. Still, applying the storytelling technique in conventional classroom settings can be difficult, even with all of its potential advantages. Instructors could find it difficult to include recounting in their classes in an interesting way, and students might find the exercise boring or monotonous.

With the speed at which technology is developing and the growing use of digital tools in education, new avenues for improving conventional teaching strategies have opened up. Digital storytelling tools like Storybird provide creative approaches to using the retelling technique in a way that is both entertaining and instructive. With Storybird, students may design visual stories to go along with their spoken retellings, offering a multimodal learning environment that can accommodate different learning preferences. By combining verbal and visual components, this recounting process may become more engaging and entertaining, which would motivate kids and help them with comprehension.

There is a dearth of empirical research examining the efficaciousness of digital tools such as Storybird in enhancing reading comprehension, despite their promising potential when used in the retelling process. The lack of research on the integration of digital storytelling into reading instruction to improve students' comprehension and engagement with texts is highlighted by this gap in the literature.

The purpose of this study is to close this gap by investigating how the retelling technique, which uses Storybird as a tool, affects the reading comprehension of eighth-semester Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram English Education program students. It specifically aims to ascertain whether adding visual storytelling to the retelling process can result in better understanding results and increased student participation. In doing so, this study seeks to provide important new understandings into the possible advantages of integrating cutting-edge digital tools with conventional teaching techniques in the context of reading training.

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are:

This study aims to evaluate how well the Storybird retelling method improves the reading comprehension of eighth-semester Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram English Education program students. The study intends to evaluate the pedagogical advantages of using digital tools in the retelling process, investigate the effects of integrating visual storytelling on student motivation and engagement, and identify implementation challenges while suggesting effective strategies to overcome them.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study offers insightful information about how to improve reading comprehension and student engagement with the Storybird retelling strategy. The study provides educators with useful advice on incorporating cutting-edge digital tools into conventional teaching techniques by showcasing the efficacy of digital storytelling tools in educational settings. It is anticipated that the results would enhance overall learning outcomes by supporting the development of curricula, improving reading instruction, and encouraging students to think critically and creatively.

1.5 Definition of key Terms

Reading Comprehension

The ability to analyze text, comprehend its meaning, and incorporate it with prior knowledge is referred to as reading comprehension. Understanding the author's intended meaning, context, and subtleties goes beyond simply deciphering words and phrases. The complexity of comprehension might vary based on the text's difficulty, the reader's level of language competence and cognitive abilities, and how familiar the subject is to them. Sometimes a reader may find it difficult to understand the material completely because of difficult vocabulary, abstract ideas, or sophisticated language. As the cornerstone of successful learning in all academic subjects and the prerequisite for critical thinking and effective communication, improving reading comprehension is vital.

Storybird

With the use of text and artwork, users can create, find, and share stories on Storybird, an online platform devoted to visual storytelling. Anita (2016) claims that Storybird acts as a global community that links authors, artists, and readers of all ages, offering an area where reading and creativity converge. The main goal of the platform is to enable users—children and students in particular—to create visually appealing and captivating stories with ease by utilizing the many

creative illustrations that are available on the website. Storybird develops students' writing abilities while also sparking their imagination and strengthening their bond with storytelling through this creative process. Storybird encourages young brains to realize their creative potential by making writing more approachable, pleasurable, and meaningful through the integration of pictures into stories..

Retelling

Teachers utilize the approach of recounting a lesson to assess a student's understanding and interpretation of a certain text or tale. Using this technique, students narrate a text they have read aloud or in writing, summarizing the main ideas, details, and events in their own words. Because they have to retain, arrange, and present the knowledge they have learned, students who are told to retell the story must actively interact with the subject. The student's capacity to recognize key concepts, draw conclusions, and hone critical thinking abilities is all improved by this process, which also serves to reinforce comprehension and memory. Retelling is a powerful teaching technique that helps students absorb and think critically about the material, which promotes deeper learning. It also helps students become more proficient readers and readers in general.

1.6 Scope of the study

The research is conducted in an online classroom setting, leveraging digital platforms to facilitate learning. This context is particularly reliant on online education.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This chapter present the conclusion of this study.

This study found that using the Storybird platform for the retelling technique effectively enhances reading comprehension among 8th semester English education students at the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram. Students experienced notable improvement in their retelling abilities and text comprehension, and they reported increased engagement and motivation during the learning process. The positive feedback from students suggests that Storybird aids in understanding texts and makes learning more enjoyable. The study emphasizes the significance of incorporating digital technology into the English curriculum and the necessity of training both educators and students in using these tools. It is recommended that teachers integrate Storybird into retelling activities and provide adequate training for students, while students should be encouraged to use Storybird independently. Future research should investigate other digital tools and the long-term impacts of Storybird use.