The Effect of Using Webtoon Comics in Reading Comprehension of Seventh Grade Students at SMPN 3 Banyuwangi in the Academic Year 2023/2024

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to find out whether using Webtoon Comics has an effect on reading comprehension of procedure text. This research used a quantitative research method with a one-group pre-test and post-test pre-experimental research design. The respondents were 34 students in seventh grade. The researcher gave the students a pre-test before giving the treatment, and the post-test was given after the students received treatment from the researcher. In this research, the data was collected by giving a test. The T-test analysis formula was used in this research to determine the difference between the average of the post-test and the pre-test in the experimental class. The T-test was analyzed and interpreted with the degree of signification level was 5% with $df = 33$, and the t-table was 2.034. The result of the T-test analysis was 10.092. It means that the T-test (10.092) was higher than the t-table (2.034) in the significance of 5%. Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the use of Webtoon Comics as learning media was effective for learning reading comprehension.

Keywords: *Webtoon Comic; Reading Comprehension*

A. Introduction

Reading is an essential skill for acquiring and interpreting information from written texts. It involves more than just recognizing words; it encompasses the ability to understand and process the messages conveyed by authors through their writing (Tarigan, cited in Nasution, 2022). Effective reading requires comprehension, which enables readers to grasp the full meaning of the text. By developing strong reading comprehension skills, individuals can obtain accurate information and make informed decisions. This is particularly important in academic and professional settings where critical evaluation of texts is necessary (Grabe, 2009).

Reading comprehension is a crucial skill that involves not only understanding the literal content of a text but also constructing meaning from it (Healy, cited in Que & Wakim, 2020). In educational contexts, students are often required to assess and critique information from multiple sources, which can be challenging without strong

comprehension abilities. The importance of reading comprehension is underscored by the need to navigate and discern information in today's digital age, where misinformation and fake news are prevalent. Thus, enhancing reading comprehension is vital for students to filter and understand accurate information (Grabe, 2009).

To address students' evolving needs and maintain their engagement, it is crucial to adapt teaching methods to incorporate diverse and stimulating learning media. Traditional methods of teaching reading comprehension may become monotonous, leading to decreased student interest (Criticos, cited in Hikmah, 2019). Teachers need to employ innovative and interactive media to make learning more engaging. Effective learning media facilitate communication between teachers and students, thereby enhancing the overall educational experience (Criticos, cited in Hikmah, 2019).

Incorporating technology into education can significantly boost student motivation and interest. Modern technology, such as digital platforms, provides new ways to present learning materials. For instance, the use of technology in teaching reading comprehension can transform a potentially dull task into an engaging activity. Technological tools can make learning more dynamic and enjoyable, which is essential for keeping students motivated and focused (Sari & Wahyudin, 2019).

One such technological advancement is the use of Webtoon Comics as an educational tool. Webtoon Comics, a digital platform offering a variety of comic genres and formats, presents reading material in a visually appealing and accessible manner (Erya & Pustika, 2021). These comics combine illustrations with text, making it easier for students to comprehend and engage with the content. The visual elements of Webtoon Comics can help students understand the context and maintain their interest in reading (Frasiska et al., 2021). This platform is particularly relevant for students who are accustomed to digital and online environments.

Given the potential benefits of Webtoon Comics in education, the current research aims to investigate its effectiveness as a learning media for reading comprehension. The research, titled "The Effect of Using Webtoon Comics in Reading Comprehension of Seventh-Grade Students at SMPN 3 Banyuwangi in the Academic Year 2023/2024," seeks to determine whether Webtoon Comics can enhance reading comprehension among seventh-grade students.

B. Research Method

This research uses a quantitative method with a pre-experimental design to investigate the effects of Webtoon Comics on students' reading comprehension.

Table of Research Design

O1	X	O2

(Sugiyono, 2013)

Where:

O_1 = pretest score (before treatment)

O_2 = posttest score (after treatment)

X = treatment The effect of treatment on students = $(O_2 - O_1)$

The use of Webtoon Comics as learning media to give treatment to the students in learning reading comprehension. This research design was selected by the researcher to find if there is an effect of Webtoon Comics on students' reading comprehension or not.

This research was conducted at SMPN 3 Banyuwangi, a school known for its A accreditation and supportive learning facilities. Despite these advantages, many students need help with English reading materials and show a lack of interest in the subject. Webtoon comics have never been integrated into school learning activities, thus prompting the researcher to explore their potential benefits in improving student engagement and comprehension. The participants in this research were seventh-grade students from class 7A totaling 34 students. The researcher used purposive sampling to select the sample group. To assess the effect of Webtoon Comics on reading comprehension, a test instrument consisting of 25 multiple-choice questions was used for the pre-test and post-test. The questions were designed with the same difficulty level but presented different reading content to prevent memorization and encourage a deeper understanding of the material.

In this research, the researcher uses test as an instrument in collecting data to measure the effects of using Webtoon Comics in teaching reading comprehension. The

tests are presented in the form of multiple choices. There are 25 multiple-choice questions in the test format as the Pre-test and Post-test instruments.

Table1. Multiple-choice Procedure Text Test Items for Pretest-Posttest

NO.	INDICATORS	ITEM TEST	TOTAL
1.	Identifying the main idea	1, 6, 11, 16	4
2.	Finding specific information	2, 7, 12, 17	4
3.	Determining reference	3, 8, 13, 18	4
4.	Making inference	4, 9, 14, 19	4
5.	Understanding vocabulary	5, 12, 15, 20	4
6.	Generic structure	21, 22, 23, 24, 25	5
TOTAL			25

Pre-test and Post-test questions are made in the same formula or level yet in different reading content. The reading contents are made different to avoid students focusing on memorizing the answer from the Pre-test when the Post-test is given. In addition, the different reading contents are able to help the students to explore more about the procedure text reading materials.

Data analysis involved organizing and calculating the pre-test and post-test scores to evaluate the impact of Webtoon Comics on reading comprehension. The researcher used Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) version 23.00 to conduct a t-test, comparing the scores from both assessments. This analysis aims to provide insight into the effectiveness of Webtoon Comics as a teaching aid in improving students' reading comprehension skills.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

The researcher conducted research from May 25th to June 29th, 2024, at SMPN 3 Banyuwangi to investigate the impact of using Webtoon Comics on reading comprehension. The research involved three meetings with class 7A. The first meeting included a 60-minute pre-test to assess the students' initial reading comprehension skills. Following the pre-test, a 120-minute treatment using Webtoon

Comics was administered. In the second meeting, students were divided into small groups and asked to read and analyze a Webtoon comic titled "Cooking Comically" using five aspects of reading comprehension and the generic structure of procedure text. The treatment lasted 120 minutes and included a 15-minute opening, 20 minutes of material delivery, 70 minutes of group discussion, and a 15-minute conclusion. The final meeting involved another 120-minute treatment followed by a 60-minute post-test with 25 multiple-choice questions to measure the students' reading comprehension after using Webtoon Comics.

The pre-test scores ranged from 20 to 80, with a mean score of 53.88. The results indicated that most students struggled with comprehending the material. In contrast, the post-test scores showed significant improvement, with a mean score of 72.94. The highest post-test score was 92, and the lowest was 32. The data revealed that the posttest scores were significantly higher than the pre-test scores, indicating improved reading comprehension among the students in class 7A at SMPN 3 Banyuwangi. To analyze the data, the researcher used a T-test formula to find the differences between the pre-test and post-test scores. The results showed that the pre-test mean score was 53.88, while the post-test mean score was 72.94. The standard deviations were 19.050 for the pre-test and 15.758 for the post-test. The lower post-test standard deviation indicates more consistent student abilities in answering questions.

Table 2. Paired Samples Statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	pretest kedisiplinan	53,88	34	19,050	3,267
	posttest kedisiplinan	72,94	34	15,758	2,702

The paired-sample T-test analysis with a 5% significance level and 33 degrees of freedom yielded a T-table value of 2.034 and a calculated T-test result of 10.092. This significant difference suggests that using Webtoon Comics had a positive impact on the learning process. The T-test value (10.092) was higher than the T-table value (2.034), indicating that the alternative hypothesis (Ha) is accepted, and the null

hypothesis (Ho) is rejected. Therefore, the data supports the conclusion that there is a significant effect of using Webtoon Comics on the reading comprehension of seventh-grade students at SMPN 3 Banyuwangi in the academic year 2023/2024.In summary, the research demonstrates that incorporating Webtoon Comics into the reading curriculum can significantly enhance students' reading comprehension skills. The results highlight the effectiveness of this method in improving students' abilities to analyze and understand narrative texts, thereby supporting the use of digital media in educational settings.

Table 3. Paired Samples Statistics

| | | Paired Differences | | | | | | | |
| | | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | | t | df | Sig. (2-tailed) |
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	pretest kedisiplinan - posttest kedisiplinan	-19,059	11,012	1,889	-22,901	-15,216	-10,092	33	,000

The research aimed to determine the impact of using Webtoon Comics on the reading comprehension of seventh-grade students at SMPN 3 Banyuwangi during the academic year 2023/2024. The results showed that using Webtoon Comics as a learning medium significantly improved students' reading comprehension. Pre-test scores were lower, with a mean of 53.88 and a highest score of 80, while post-test scores were higher, with a mean of 72.94 and a highest score of 92. The research also found that teaching with Webtoon Comics increased students' motivation and interest in reading. The use of Webtoon Comics was effective in teaching reading comprehension due to its engaging illustrations, which made the content easier to understand. Students in class 7A at SMPN 3 Banyuwangi were enthusiastic about learning with Webtoon Comics and achieved better results. Therefore, it can be concluded that Webtoon Comics can improve the reading skills of students and can motivate them to improve their reading comprehension skills (Erya & Pustika, 2021). The use of Webtoon Comics can be an effective learning media to teach reading comprehension because it contains various illustrations that can help to deliver the content of the text easily to the students (Wilujeng & Lan, 2015).

D. Conclusion

The research conducted on the use of Webtoon Comics in reading comprehension among seventh-grade students at SMPN3 Banuwangi in the academic year 2023/2024 revealed a significant positive effect. The T-test analysis with a 5% significance level and 33 degrees of freedom showed a T-score of 10.092, which is higher than the T-table value of 2.034, thereby accepting the alternative hypothesis and rejecting the null hypothesis. This indicates that Webtoon Comics enhances reading comprehension among students. The research suggests that students should utilize Webtoon Comics as a learning medium to stay motivated and engaged in reading comprehension. Teachers are advised to incorporate Webtoon Comics into their teaching strategies, leveraging imaginative characters to make learning easier. Additionally, the research serves as a reference for other educators and researchers to explore the use of Webtoon Comics in various educational methods, such as project-based learning or group discussions, to further improve reading comprehension skills. This research will contribute to understanding how digital media can be leveraged to improve reading skills and provide practical insights for educators on integrating technology into their teaching strategies.

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