THE EFFECT OF USING SOCIAL MEDIA TOWARDS STUDENTS’ READING COMPREHENSION

Prima Gusti Yanti¹, Fairul Zabadi², Fauzi Rahman³
Universitas Muhammadiyah Prof. Dr. HAMKA¹, Badan Bahasa Kemendikbud², Universitas Indraprasta PGRI³, Indonesia
Jalan Limau 2 Kebayoran Baru, South Jakarta, Indonesia
Corresponding Author: prima_gustiyanti@uhamka.ac.id

Abstract: This study aims to determine the effect of the activity of using social media on the ability of college students to reading comprehension. This type of research is quantitative with a correlational method. The sample in this study was taken with simple random sampling. PBSI FKIP UHAMKA active students approximately 600 students who if taken a sample of 25% at random, would choose 150 students. Data collection techniques using questionnaires and reading tests, while data analysis using descriptive statistics and simple linear regression equations. The results of this study indicate that the intensity of the use of social media in the percentage of students is 45% moderate, 25% low, 25% high, and 7% very high, obtained the regression equation $\hat{y} = 68.945 - 0.004x$. These findings indicate that the more activity on social media, the lower the level of reading comprehension although not significantly.

Keywords: use of social media, college students, reading comprehension

In this era, social media has widely grown and appeared in various types, and it has become one of people’s daily needs since it contains updated information and the latest news. In addition, social media can be utilized for many different purposes. It can increase people’s income when it is used for business activities (Dewi, 2018). In relation to politics, social media can be used as a media that helps political parties in gaining people’s awareness, increasing their participants, as well as delivering their aspirations or ideas (Munzir, 2019). It is also applicable to measure population density problems (Susanti, 2015). Furthermore, some findings have revealed that social media has been operated to support teaching and learning activities (Moghavvemi et.al., 2018; Cassidy et.al, 2020; Mao, 2014; van Bommel. 2020). Thus, social media has been utilized in various fields, including education.

Having read some theoretical frameworks, the writer found an article related to a research conducted at SMPN 52 Surabaya in which
they declared that the students were able to use social media wisely, for both educational and entertainment purposes even though most of the students have similar frequency in accessing internet like teenagers in common. However, the writer has not yet found a research that is related to the use of social media and students’ reading comprehension in particular (Sherlyanita & Rakhmawati, 2016).

Therefore, the writer conducts this research in order to find out whether or not social media affects students’ reading comprehension. In fact, to comprehend a reading text that has been read is really important to be achieved by anyone during reading activities. If there is no information collected or gathered into one’s mind, reading activity is considered failed.

Moreover, reading comprehension is one of Bahasa Indonesia important skills that needs to be developed further among educational institutions. Comprehension is a meaningful and willing process done by the readers in order to obtain information, message, and meaning from a reading text (Somadayo, 2015). Consequently, students do not only read, but also comprehend what they are reading. Hence, the most important thing is students are able to reflect what they have read, both in written and oral.

Lee, et al. (2013) explains that 4.0 industrial era can be identified from the improvement of digitalized manufactures driven by the increased data volume, computational power, and connectivity. These all can be seen from students’ reading activities that is not solely rely on books anymore, but now shifting to electronic books or e-books that are easily accessed throughout their smartphones. Recently, readers prefer to read online or search for electronic books instead of the printed ones.

Based on Media Planning Guide (2010), internet users (including the smartphone users) in Indonesia has increased drastically. This increase is dominated by youngsters around 60,7% (Sustanto, 2011).

Furthermore, some studies related to reading comprehension through various non-virtual media, such as comics, illustrations, reading box, card games, have been conducted by many researchers (Martini, 2018; Siswati, 2012). It is in line with studies related to social media that has vulnerable or restricted content, so that teachers have to sort out things when using it for teaching and learning media (Bhattacharjee, Tolone, Paranjape, 2019). The use of social media as a new platform in politics has also been conducted by some researchers. For example, a study by Rebecca Ping Yu (2016) that describes how social media behavior expresses politics. The use of social media in teaching and learning process has been conducted by Yanuarti dan Sari (2019) who explain how lecturers mostly utilize social media in classroom learning activities.

In fact, the writer has not found any studies that focus on the relationship between social media usage and students’ reading comprehension. It is based on the assumption that almost all Indonesian students has gadgets ever since the 4.0 industrial era has been developing in Indonesia as well. Hence, gadget is no longer considered as luxurious thing, but now it becomes a tool to fulfill one’s daily needs. In fact, internet users in Indonesia since Januari 2014 has reached 72,7 million. 98% has social media account and 79% has actively accessed social media account within last month. Another data confirmed that Facebook holds the biggest record with 93% of the total internet users in Indonesia (Endri, 2017: 9).

From the explanation stated above, it can be concluded that the research problem involves the relationship between reading comprehension and social media use among students of Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia (PBSI), FKIP, UHAMKA. This research is focussing on the effect of using social media and one’s reading comprehension. This article is elaborated with the assumption that the higher use of social media, the higher level of reading comprehension. Thus, this research is conducted in order to answer the above issue.

METHOD

This research is categorized as quantitative research using simple linear regression technique, that is to find relationship between independent variable (X) toward dependent variable (Y). The independent variable (X) is intensity of using social media, while the dependent variable (Y) is reading comprehension (Sugiyono, 2012; Arikunto, 2010).

The sampling technique used in this research was taken random and simple, called simple random sampling with the determination of a sample greater than 100, that can be taken between 10% and 15% or 20% to 25% (Arikunto,
2010). The sample was taken around 25% from the total population of active PBSI students of FKIP UHAMKA approximately 600 students, based on calculation formula n=25%×600=150 students, in which n (sample) and N (population). Meanwhile, the data was collected by using questionnaire.

The instruments used in this research are social media use activity and reading comprehension instruments. The social media use activity instrument consists of 25 statement items using a Likert scale provided with 4 choices of answers ranging from always, often, sometimes, and never (Sugiyono, 2012), and the indicators are: (1) intensity of social media usage, (2) attachment to smartphones, (3) utilization of social media, and (4) writing criteria accessed on social media. In addition, reading comprehension instrument contains 10 question items using longer reading text along with review questions related to the reading text given.

Moreover, the instruments were tested for their validity and reliability by using Pearson Product Moment for the validity test and Cronbach’s Alpha for the reliability test. The data was further computed by using Excel program by calculating the percentage of each statement item in each indicator, whereas SPSS 24 is used to calculate the regression equation and correlation continued with the t-test.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

The findings will be explained through two stages: describing the survey result of social media use activity among students and the effect of using social media towards students’ reading comprehension. In this case, the social media used are Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp, Twitter, Line, dan Ask FM. This survey is needed in order to know the actual activities of students when using social media.

The Survey of the Students’ Social Media Use Activity

In this case, the activities of using social media which are being observed further by the writers are: (1) Types of social media used; (2) duration of using social media; (3) reading short essay on social media; (4) reading long essay on social media.

Types of Social Media Used

Based on the survey result among PBSI students of UHAMKA, Instagram is the application with the most users. Almost all students of PBSI UHAMKA has Instagram account that reached 97% of the total percentage. Only 3 % students do not have the account. The second highest application that has most users is Whatsapp with 96% of the total students. Line ranks next with 91% of total students, Facebook comes fourth with 69% users, Twitter with 68% and the last rank is Ask FM with only 9% users. The percentage of Instagram users can be seen in the following chart.

![Instagram](image)

**Figure 1. Survey Result of Instagram Users**

After Instagram, the second highest percentage of social media applications is Whatsapp. Of all respondents, 96% of students are Whatsapp users. Only 4% of students do not have the application on a daily basis. This is solely based on the usefulness of Whatsapp application for daily communication purposes. Whatsapp is known as an effective media in exchanging messages both individually and in groups with varied features that are supportive and practical. The percentage of Whatsapp users can be seen in the following graph.

Besides Whatsapp, among UHAMKA PBSI Students, Line users are also numerous with a total of 91%. In fact, there is an opinion claimed that Line is more convenient to use than Whatsapp. Normally, a Line user also uses Whatsapp in his/her social media activities. Whereas, the other 9% belongs to students who do not use the Line application.
Furthermore, Facebook as a very well-known application was not in the top rank, not even on the top three. Around 69% of UHAMKA PBSI students have a Facebook account and actively use it. On the other hand, 31% of students do not have a Facebook account.

After Facebook, one of the most popular social media is Twitter. Through Twitter, a user can tweet (short sentences) in a timeline which can then be replied by others. Unlike Facebook in which users can create a whole composition, the characters set up in Twitter are very limited, only 140 characters for each tweet. However, Twitter users are quite numerous, it is used by many public figures such as actresses, actors, professional athletes, musicians, to politicians (Azeharie, 2016).

Among UHAMKA PBSI students, Twitter users are quite numerous, reaching 68% of users compared to 32% of non-users. It means the number of Twitter users among Uhamka PBSI students is almost similar to Facebook users (69%). In fact, Facebook users usually have a Twitter account as well.

Finally, the social media Ask FM is the platform with the fewest users among UHAMKA PBSI students. Ask FM is a media where users can ask each other questions about certain information related to certain topics to other friends or even ask questions anonymously. Since the Ask FM feature is very limited, this social media is far less popular than Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Even so, among UHAMKA PBSI students, only 9% use this application; whereas, the remaining 91% do not have accounts on Ask FM.

**Duration of Using Social Media**

The duration of using social media in a day refers to the intensity of a person in opening or accessing any social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Whatsapp, and others. Among UHAMKA PBSI students, it is known that around 43% of students or most of all respondents claimed to use social media as much as 5-8 hours a day (moderate). In addition, there are 25% of students who use social media between 1-4 hours (low), another 25% use it for 9-12 hours (high), and there are 7% of students whose intensity in using social media is too high that is up to 13-15 hours a day (very high). The results of this survey can be grouped into these categories: 32% of social media use activities are very high, 43% are high, and low media use activity is just 25% which is between 1-4 hours. The duration of using social media can be seen in the following graph.

**Reading Short Essays**

The habit of reading short essays for Uhamka PBSI students at a level of always that only gets a percentage of 11%, often gets 48%, sometimes with 38%, and very rarely reading short essays as much as 3%. It means that the habit of reading short essays for PBSI students of
UHAMKA is 59% or falls in the medium category. This shows that students who are teenagers in the digital age prefer to see shorter forms of essay than longer essays. In relation to this digital era, teenagers also prefer writing with additional visual illustrations because it is more pleasing to read (Hidayat et al., 2019).

**Habits of Reading Long Essays on Social Media**

The habit of reading essays with long quantity of text mostly falls at a level of sometimes with a percentage of just over 54%. Furthermore, students who frequently read long essays by 33%, always 6%, and students who rarely read long essays by 7%. Based on this indicator, the reading habits of PBSI students on long essays are still unsatisfactory since they only achieve a percentage score of 39% or in the poor category. The habit of reading long essays on electronic devices (gadgets) is low because it requires excellent eye resistance. The longer one staring at the screen, especially the reading text, the more tired his/her eyes become which later on bring an impact on the cessation of reading activities (Indriastuti, 2019).

**Descriptive Statistics of Variables in the Use of Social Media Activities**

Statistical data on the use of social media variables among PBSI students shows the following data:

a. The smallest score of social media users is 48 out of the 10-100 score range, which means there are students whose social media activities are very minimal.

b. The biggest score of social media users is 92 out of the range of 10-100, which means that there are students who spend most of their daily activities actively on social media.

c. The average score of social media users among PBSI students of Uhamka was 68.66, or in the medium category.

d. The standard deviation or distribution of sample data on the variable of using social media is at a value of 8.79 meaning that the data distribution is not widely spread.

**Simple Linear Regression Equation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coefficients</th>
<th>Unstandard. Coefficients</th>
<th>Standard Coeff.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td><strong>Error</strong></td>
<td><strong>Beta</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td>68.945</td>
<td>7.334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S_MED</td>
<td>-.004</td>
<td>.106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Dependent Variable: READING_ABILITY

Based on the coefficient table above, there is a simple linear regression equation between the activities of using social media as variable X and reading comprehension as variable Y. This regression equation can be seen in column B, with a constant value of 68.945 and X coefficient of -0.004. So, the regression equation becomes $y^\prime =$
68,945 - 0.004x. The existence of a negative sign on the coefficient x that is -0.004 indicates that the regression is negative. This means that for every increase in one score of social media usage activity, reading comprehension will decrease by 68,945 - 0.004(1) = 68,896, or in other words, for every 1% increase in social media use activity, reading comprehension will be decreased by 0.004.

**The Effect of Social Media Variables on Reading Comprehension**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R Square</th>
<th>Adjusted R</th>
<th>Std. Error of the Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>.003</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>-.007</td>
<td>11.37005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Predictors: (Constant), SOCIAL MEDIA
b. Dependent Variable: READING ABILITY

The table model summary above in the R square column describes how social media influences students’ reading ability, the R square value is 0.000, which means that the use of social media does not bring any impact on reading comprehension.

Furthermore, to ascertain whether or not the regression coefficient is significant, the writer compared the sig. value. With a probability value of 0.05 or by checking the t-count and t-table.

Based on the coefficient table, sig. values are obtained around 0.970 > 0.05. It means that the use of social media activities does not have any significantly effect on the reading comprehension ability of PBSI students of FKIP UHAMKA.

**Discussion**

Activities of using social media among students are very diverse. However, it cannot be denied that social media has currently become part of people’s daily life, especially students in their activities. Nowadays, social media is not just an entertainment media, but it has become communication and information tool that most people explored or searched for (Hindman, 2009; Rasul, Rahim, & Salman, 2015).

Having seen the survey results of the use of social media among students, it was found that social media from the most users to the least one in sequence: Instagram reaching 97% of users, Whatsapp with a total of 96% of users, Line as much as 91% of total students, then Facebook with 69% of the total students, Twitter 68% of the total users, and finally Ask FM which is only owned by 9% of the total students.

At the beginning of social media outbreak in the community, especially in Indonesia, Facebook was a pioneer that held social media popularity at that time. However, over time, Instagram now becomes the most favorite social media compared to Facebook and Twitter.

The main reason why Instagram is on the top rank of social media popularity is due to its users who mostly come from public figure with million followers. This application is the most favorite one because of its features that are attractive (Chrismanto & Lukito, 2017). Basically, this application is used to post photos or videos in the timeline of someone’s account. However, Instagram has been developed steadily so that it can also be used for commercial purposes, such as advertising goods and services. The higher the followers of one’s account, the more possible it is to make his/her account as a commercial account in order to get money (Miranda & Lubis, 2017).

After Instagram, Whatsapp became the second most popular application among PBSI UHAMKA students. Currently, Whatsapp has even shifted the SMS (Short Message Service) feature which is the default application for a gadget. People in common, as well as students in particular, prefer Whatsapp to communicate daily with friends because of several advantages, such as: (1) no need to spend more credit, (2) able to create groups for multi-user interaction, (3) able to attach images, audio recordings, songs and vid-
The results of the regression equation and hypothesis testing show that there is no effect between the use of social media activities, especially reading activities on social media and the ability to comprehend a reading text. In fact, based on the regression equation result, social media activities and the ability to comprehend reading text contain negative regression. The higher the activity on social media, the lower the ability to comprehend reading text, up to an insignificant level.
CONCLUSION

Activities of using social media among students are varied from Instagram, Whatsapp, Line, Facebook, Twitter and Ask FM. Activities that can be done by students with these applications are certainly diverse ranging from writing status, reading and sharing news/articles, chatting via chat, playing games, having video calls, discussing, shopping, and etc. The survey results in this research show that social media use activities can be grouped as follows: 32% of the social media use activities are very high, 43% are high, and low media use activity is only 25%, which is between 1-4 hours. It means that there are 75% of students whose duration in using social media per day falls on high category, some even reaching 13-15 hours per day.

In relation to the high use of social media, the finding shows that the use of social media activities does not affect the students’ reading comprehension. In addition, the higher the activity on social media, the ability to comprehend reading text will decrease. The reduced ability to comprehend reading text is still at an insignificant level that is influenced by many factors, such as the quantity of reading, the types of reading, and the media used when reading.

REFERENCES


Hindman (2009). Cable TV and Internet Deals.


