Reading Literacy In a Multiligual Context: Challenges and Strategies for Senior High School Students In Indonesia

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the types of text-based reading comprehension instruction and reading literacy improvement strategies used with students. The study identifies challenges in implementing reading literacy improvement strategies due to inadequate resources in public high schools and aims to equip high school teachers and curriculum support officers with the necessary skills and training. By using the right strategies, it is expected that students will be more motivated and have better reading skills. The method used in this study is a qualitative approach by conducting interviews with three high school students. The main findings in this study indicate that teachers and students need to engage in reading literacy to meet students' needs and encourage the use of familiar reading comprehension strategies every day. The implications are discussed in this study

Keywords: *Challenges; Reading Literacy; Strategies*

INTRODUCTION

Reading literacy is one of the fundamental skills that is very important for education. Reading literacy includes not only the ability to understand written text, but the ability to analyze, evaluate the text read using information effectively. There are several indicators for students to get a grade. One of the efforts students make is to reading. However, the literacy challenge for high school students is still a significant issue, including in Indonesia. Literacy experts recommend that reading at a young age helps prepare them for school. UNESCO states that literacy is the ability to identify, determine, find, evaluate and effectively create information to solve various problems in real life (Olbata, 2022).

Reading literacy that is applied aims to enable students to recognize vocabulary in the text and identify logical and illogical sentences taken from the text (Hapsari, 2021). Literacy activities that are often used in schools are reading non-book literacy in class before learning begins such as memorizing vocabulary or holding literacy competitions every semester(Olbata, 2022). Reading is an activity

that involves a person focusing on the content of reading. reading is also one of the language skills with the aim of increasing knowledge and experience(Rohmah & Wahyuningsih, 2023). The implementation of the movement in high school can be said to be one of the habituation processes in educating high school students, schools must also hold literacy activities for all high school students. literacy as the ability of students and students to use language and images in various forms to read, write, listen, speak, see, and develop ideas in the context of what is read. if a young student believes that they can learn English through efforts that have confidence and feel that learning English is interesting, such beliefs will remain until they grow up(Bai & Wang, 2020).

The reading literacy aspect consists of the frequency of borrowing reading materials in the library, the number and variety of reading materials and school policies regarding reading literacy, the number of school activities related to reading literacy, the existence of reading communication at school. (Makhroji & Isda, 2023) Reading comprehension, a hallmark of efective and sophisticated reading instruction, is key to active participation in today's changing global society (Israeli, 2017; UNESCO, 2004; World Bank, 2013). Our understanding of the multi-layered nature of text environments, and the demands of virtual reality, has grown over the past decades, infuencing our view of what it means to teach reading (Pearson, & Cervetti, 2017). As reading comprehension is a complex, multidimensional interaction between reader, text, activity, and context, we have come to understand that developing reading comprehension requires a supportive classroom context to encourage strategic reading (Aferbach, Pearson, & Paris, 2017; Brevik, 2015; Brown, 2017; Kamil, Aferbach, Pearson, & Moje, 2011)(Brevik, 2019). Along with the development of the times at this time in the scope of schools, it is found that there is a lot of lack of interest in reading or experiencing a decline in literacy interest, and generally schools today mostly use gadgets rather than books. There are also strategies that must be implemented, namely integrating technology in learning, and must provide an environment that supports reading habits. So that students are ready to face academic learning on the next day for the future. (Widiyarto et al., 2021)

METHOD

This research uses Qualitative method, where this research is to find out the challenges, reading literacy, and strategies for middle school students. The school has an A accreditation, an exemplary school in implementing the current independent curriculum. This research observation was conducted by interviewing three students, 2 XII grade students and 1 XI grade student, namely 2 high school and vocational students majoring in social studies and majoring in electrical engineering and 1 high school student majoring in science from different schools through whatsaap application (Rohmah & Wahyuningsih, 2023). At the time of data collection, the informants provided answers through whatsaap in the form of texts totaling 3-5 questions regarding reading literacy. the answers from the informants were then copied into pdf form and analyzed using various sources, regarding how much reading literacy understanding in high school students. Students' low interest in reading is one of the problems with students' reading literacy. According to the Ministry of Education and Culture (2017), there are five things that need to be

considered to assess the reading literacy culture in a school. First, the amount and variety of reading material that students have read. Second, the frequency of borrowing reading materials in the library or reading corner. Third, the number of school activities related to reading literacy. Fourth, school policies related to reading literacy. The school library has an area that can accommodate students in one class. However, not many students borrow or read non-study books in the library. This is because reading books such as novels, short story collections, magazines, etc. are rarely updated.(Ramdhani et al., 2022)

Table of Participating Students'

No	Name	Age Sex	Class school	Type school	Of Major
1	MNA	18 Male	12	Public school	Electronic Engineering
2	ALA	18 Male	12	Public School	Science
3	HY	17 Male	11	Public school	Cocial

The interviews conducted were designed to fulfill the task and application of English and to find out how students can know about reading literacy so as to develop metadiscursive awareness and reading literacy. The most transparent insights relate to variations in scaffolding within and across lessons and between students, and the fading away of scaffolding over time to allow students to use strategies independently.

Result of Interviews by students

There are 4 questions for Student 1

Interview: What do you think should be done to increase students' reading literacy?

Student 1: To increase the reading literacy of high school students, it is important to encourage regular reading habits, enrich the book collection in the school library, and adopt learning methods that emphasize understanding of the content.

Interview: What strategies should be used in reading literacy activities?

Student 1: Reading literacy strategies can include project-based reading, group discussions, and the use of digital technology. "Buddy reading" programs between students can also be effective.

Interview: How can you improve literacy strategies in the classroom?

Student 1 : Improving literacy strategies in the classroom can involve engaging students through open-ended questions, providing constructive feedback, and adapting the curriculum to cover a variety of text types.

Interview: What challenges can trigger you to build reading literacy?

Student 1: Limited resources, lack of interest in reading, and challenges in adapting learning methods to learning styles.

There are 3 questions for student 2

Interview: What are the benefits of practicing reading literacy strategies?

Student 2: The main aim of using literacy strategies in learning is to build students' understanding, writing skills and overall communication skills. These three things will develop character and higher order thinking skills

Interview: Is the reading literacy movement program at school a solution to increasing interest in reading?

Student 2: Literacy programs at school have been proven to be able to increase interest in reading, grow knowledge, skills and develop writing abilities.

Interview: Why does every school have to develop school culture such as reading literacy? What do you think?

Student 2: To foster students' leadership spirit, develop students' creativity in managing the reading corner in class. Making literacy activities a positive culture at school. Develop good character and personality in students.

There are 3 questions for student 3

Interview: Why should reading literacy programs be held in schools?

Student 3: The aim is to develop students' character through cultivating a school reading literacy system so that they become lifelong learners.

Interview: Literacy in general according to you?

Student 3: Literacy in general, in my opinion, is that there may be Health literacy which is an individual's ability to obtain or access, process, understand, assess and use health information and health services needed as a basis for making appropriate decisions regarding health.

Interview: Does literacy mean you always have to read?

Student 3: Maybe not, literacy doesn't always mean reading. Maybe with our ability to write or use technology and politics as well as think critically and be sensitive to the surrounding environment.

Discussion research result students

Student#1

Reading literacy strategies can include project-based reading, group discussions, and the use of technology in today's era. As technology develops in the digital era, various information technologies give birth to a lot of internet which is very influential for human life, the internet can be utilized for literacy activities ini(Aisyah, 2022). Improving reading literacy is now a challenge for high school students, good reading literacy is needed to develop the understanding and needs of all students. But there are some problems may be low interest in reading, limited resources of various books, especially history books, English books, and traditional cultural approaches may be lacking. So students cannot get new ideas about the world of reading literacy. (Hasugian & Damanik, 2023).

Student#2

The School Literacy Movement goes beyond reading and writing but includes thinking skills in accordance with literacy stages and components. These abilities aim to improve critical and creative attitudes in facing challenges experienced in the

real world. Literacy is defined as the ability to use language to read, write, listening, and speakingA reading literacy culture is not an easy thing to build because it takes awareness and passion to bring about change. The government has implemented literacy in learning in schools, a reading literacy culture must start with the smallest activities, which must be scheduled to come to the library, often holding various competitions so that students can develop and not get bored. Buku adalah jendela dunia". Kunci untuk membukanya adalah membaca. Ungkapan ini secara jelas menggambarkan manfaat membaca(Anamofa, 2018)

Student#3

Literacy in general is several. Namely 1) reading comprehension of complex texts where students are expected to be able to understand the reading content in the text, critical analysis develops students' ability to analyze and evaluate information, arguments, and various perspectives presented in the text. 2) writing structure and grammar emphasizes the use of good structure and correct grammar in writing a text, expressing ideas students are taught to express their ideas clearly and logically in the form of essays and reports. 3) Critical thinking evaluating sources teaches students to evaluate the reliability and credibility of information, decision making is where students can develop their thinking skills based on the analysis obtained. 4) Creativity and innovation, projects and research encourage students to engage in creativity and research projects that allow them to apply literacy in a practical context, creative thinking is developing creative and innovative thinking skills in solving problems. 5) Numeracy literacy, the scientific method, understanding how to apply the scientific method in experimentation and research, scientific critical thinking, developing the ability to critique and evaluate scientific findings.

The challenges of reading literacy for high school students are, low interest in reading, for example, many students are less interested in reading because they consider it a boring activity, limited access to reading materials, for example, not all students have access to journal books or other quality reading materials, there are also monotonous teaching methods, for example, teaching that is not varied and tends to be monotonous can make students less interested in reading, lack of support from the environment for example both in the family and at school, which is less supportive of activities when reading can affect students' habits to read, the last is Technology and Digital Distraction in today's gadgets and social media often become distractions that reduce the time spent reading.

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Tips to increase reading interest

Maybe by reading books that we are interested in or our favorites, if when you are diligently exercising, then look for sports books, making a reading schedule can also increase your interest in reading and don't forget to read in a comfortable place, maybe some people prefer to read while reading. calm in a quiet place, but there are some people who like to read in the crowd and don't pay attention to anything. The most important thing is that we also have to join a group that likes to read and give ourselves rewards after reading.

After-reading phase: metadiscursive awareness

A typical practice identified in this phase, was the promotion of metadiscursive awareness. The juxtaposition of surface-level and deeper-level understanding observed during reading was also identified in this phase, although with stronger. (Brevik, 2019)**.** In the implementation phase of the school literacy campaign, children's interest in reading is enhanced through 15-minute reading activities, reading and writing skills are enhanced through exposure to enrichment books, and encouraged to use enrichment books, reading diaries and reading strategies. improve reading and writing skills in all subjects. In all subjects, the school literacy campaign is conducted in three phases: the habit formation phase, the interest in reading phase and the literacy-based learning phase. Cooperation agreements with stakeholders inside and outside the school as well as student awards are initiatives that contribute to the success of the school literacy movement. (Pradana et al., 2017)

local schools seek to spread literacy at all levels of education

The strategy in reading literacy is to enrich your vocabulary. By enriching your English vocabulary, you will know what a word means and ultimately be able to interpret it. To enrich your English vocabulary, you can listen to English videos with English subtitles. Relying on context, you can understand it through clues from the context of the sentence, you can find it by reading the surrounding sentences and then focusing on the main idea of the sentence. Dividing reading into small parts. For example, we read an article, try reading two paragraphs, then understand and find the main idea, then we continue reading the next part. That way you won't be overwhelmed when reading (Ramdhani et al., 2022). Make a summary Make a summary of what you read by looking for the main idea of each paragraph, then write it again using your own language so that it is easier to understand, by making a summary you will know whether you really understand the contents of the banyan. Create questions from the text you read by asking questions, your understanding can become deeper, you can ask open questions starting with (Muhid et al., 2020)

Utilizing School Library in Facilitating the Development of Students' Speaking Skills

The school library was utilized as much as possible to facilitate the development of students' speaking skills. The facilities provided were pojok ekspresi and an open reading room which can be used by students to improve speaking skills through reading poetry well as reading poetry is part of learning to speak. Pojok ekspresi is a space provided for students to improve their ability to read, write, and speak. The space was neatly arranged in the library so that students will be comfortable there. The space can be used for reading as well as a place for art performances by

students. Art performances in the form of reading poetry, singing, and activities can be carried out in outdoor spaces. (Akudja et al., 2023). Literacy culture can be defined as the ability to access, understand and use things intellectually through various activities such as reading, viewing, listening, writing and speaking.According to A. Chaedar (2012: 160),

literacy can now be interpreted simply as literacy.Literacy is no longer just a skill, as we now recognize as literacy or writing in a broad sense. However, it has several meanings. There are different types of literacy, including reading comprehension, computer literacy, virtual literacy and math literacy. Some of these opinions suggest and support that a culture of literacy in schools can be interpreted as literacy activities, including the existence of various activities carried out in schools through the collection of students' daily notes. Used as a non-scientific evaluation. Providing reading and writing corners in libraries, parks or other appropriate locations in the school environment. Meanwhile, extracurricular activities are educational activities outside of subjects that support the development of students according to their needs, potential, talents and interests through activities specifically organized by schools or by educators or education personnel who work at the school's consulting services, competent and licensed. from madrasah.In the Technical Guidelines for Self-Development Programs Through Secondary School Extracurricular Activities published by the Directorate General of Secondary School Development in 2010, extracurricular activities are defined as educational units to explore interests, talents, passions, personalities, and interests. Creativity that can be used as a tool to identify students' talents. (Assyahra et al., 2021)

Improving the quality of English in Middle and Upper Schools

Maybe high school students already understand a little bit in the field of English, what high school students lack in the field of English, namely writing words and pronouncing pronunciation. The design of English language teaching in high school must be comparative in teaching. It is also important to note that local, national and foreign language literacy needs to be taken into account, apart from that, English teachers also ensure that the content and language-based activities designed must provide children with a multitude of opportunities to hone their minds. When children use English as an additional language they will really remember what they have just said. In other words, learning English in high school. Communicative skills such as basic language-oriented conversation must be improved so that the application of English language learning is demonstrated. (Njagi Njiru & Karuri, 2022)

CONCLUSION

The literacy that we wrote above teaches about differences in opinions in students' understanding through learning English, if a learner cannot identify initial sounds or blend sounds together they are unlikely to develop later reading skills. Further, the study concludes that the use of the traditional direct instruction method by teachers when teaching English language literacy should be discouraged but instead scaffolding explicit phonemic awareness strategies should be encouraged to ensure pupils experiencing difficulties in reading and writing achieve success. secondly, the study concludes that phonemic awareness strategies namely; phoneme blending,

phoneme segmentation, phoneme manipulation (phoneme substitution, phoneme addition, and phoneme deletion), phoneme isolation , use of oddity tasks and use of minimal pairs are essential in enhancing English language literacy. Cf. Robb, L (Dwijayati & Rahmawati, 2021) Thirdly, the study concludes that implementation of the phonemic awareness strategies faces the challenge of inadequate resources for use by pupils and teachers in public primary schools and Fourthly, continuos engagement in *Tusome*literacy programme that equips and trains lower primary teachers and curriculum support officer.

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