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The Effectiveness of Google Classroom in Improving Students' Reading Skill During Pandemic Era

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Abstract

There have been many researches that talk about the effectiveness of google classroom in improving students' reading skills during pandemic, but those researches still had many shortcomings so that the results obtained were still doubtful by readers. Therefore, researchers had conducted research with the same issue by paying attention to the validity of the data obtained so that the reader could trust the results of the research. The purpose of this research are to describe the effectiveness of Google Classroom in improving students' reading skill during pandemic era and to investigate students' perception of Google Classroom. This research was done in Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 03 Cilacap. Data collection was carried out by conducting interviews with English teacher, several students and using questionnaires which held both online and offline. The data were then analysed in the form of drawing conclusions as the final result. The findings showed that overall the use of Google Classroom is effective in improving students' reading skills, but some obstacles such as signal difficulties still need to be considered.

Keywords: *google classroom; reading skills; ict*

INTRODUCTION

Today, technology is developing rapidly. Development is almost a sector. Economics, political science, and pedagogy have already applied technology. It is foreseeable that many people are already addicted to information and communication technology (ICT). The development of ICT is inseparable from the development of information technology. Information technology is one of many tools used by managers to predict changes (Laudon and Laudon, 2014). On the other hand, for the purposes of reading and learning, higher education students are increasingly associated with newer technologies, which encourages researchers and web designers to take advantage of this and develop more new technologies. Most students are eager and actively accepting new technologies such as Google Classroom (Al Bataineh, Banikalef, Abdullah and Albashtawi, 2019).

Google Classroom is one of the most widely used learning applications in schools. The use of Google Classroom is quite easy, making many schools choose to use Google Classroom as one of the learning media during this pandemic era. This application is also free for teachers and students, which makes it ideal for developing countries with limited budgets. It can act as a learning management system in schools, colleges and higher education institutions. Teachers can use Google Classroom to effectively use class time (Azhar and Iqbal, 2018). In this case, Google Classroom will be used as a medium to improve students' reading skills.

According to the Dean of Muslaini (2017), reading is more than just looking at sentences, not just spelling written words correctly, and not just understanding the meaning of individual words. Reading is not just about reading the words in a book and pronouncing them, but understanding all the elements of a book. In Ismail (2017), Mickulecky & Jeffries believes that reading is very important because it can cultivate students' general English language skills; help students think in English, expand their English vocabulary, and improve writing skills. It is to gain new insights, new information and a great way for new experiences.

In several previous studies, there are several topics that are similar to the topic that will be taken by the researcher. Most previous studies emphasize the effectiveness of using Google Classroom as a learning medium, both at the junior high school or even in university levels. In this study, researchers will emphasize the use of Google Classroom as a medium in improving students' reading skills. According to Susanti, L., Juninang, E., & Hamamah. (2021), the latest features provided by Google Classroom are very helpful for students to complete assignments with flexible access time. Innovative learning can help students become more creative. Judging from some of the conveniences provided by Google Classroom, there are several things that must be considered when using this learning media. The convenience provided must be adapted to the specific situation. In addition, some obstacles need to be considered, such as Internet quotas and other obstacles. From this explanation, this research can conclude that Google media is not the only perfect media, but considering that Google Classroom is networked on the Internet, Google media can provide fresh air for easier and wider access. Previous research provides clarity on what are the advantages and disadvantages of using Google Classroom in improving students' reading skills. However, the research is only seen from students' perspective. Therefore, in this study, researchers will examine the effectiveness of using Google Classroom in improving students' reading skills through the perspective of students and also teachers.

Based on the explanation above, the purpose of this research are to describe the effectiveness of Google Classroom in improving students' reading skill during pandemic era and to investigate students' perception of Google Classroom. Based on that, our research questions are follow:

1. How is the use of Google Classroom in English learning and teaching based on teacher's and students' perception?
2. How are the students' perception of Google Classroom

LITERATUR REVIEW

Technology really has spread almost all over the world and get charged into human need's every day in almost every aspect, including education aspect. With the support of the development of the technology itself that rose these days technology there is not impossible to replace the conventional learning and teaching in the classroom and use the technology on the whole. Students these days can be conclude that they are already known into technology, rather they got it from their parents or get to know it by themselves. That would be not so hard for the teachers to adapt their students to use technology in the classroom.

The influx of technology has produced many positive effects for students both in and out of the classroom. Because technology really help the user to find about something they need. The prevalence of technology in everyday life has shifted students toward a more visual learning style. Students may not respond as well to traditional teaching methods that focus mainly on lecture and textbook reading. In foreign language teaching, technological devices have been used for decades, Computers were introduced to foreign language learning field already in 1960s (Al-Mahroogi and Troudi 2014) and the developments in technology have brought many new devices into teaching and classroom even more. Besides computers, there are variations that already introduced like smartphones and tablets have also became part of teaching. This concept is later be called as CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning), this term is originally used in United States at 1960s (Thomas, Reinders and Rüschoff 2012).

Babel and Kay (2010) said that students utilize laptop computers or hand held tablets daily as a part of the class curriculum, and many of these computing devices go home with the students at the end of the school. Students are likely to use gadgets in the classroom and outside the classroom, so it would be beneficial for both students and teachers if students can access the material beyond the classroom in their free time.

In this time, everyone knows that Google has introduced learning application named Google Classroom back in 2014. According to Wikipedia, Google Classroom is an online learning platform which promotes blended learning both within and beyond the classroom. It helps students to keep doing learning activity during the pandemic era. With the situation these days about pandemic, its really show up the benefit of technology. The percentration of using technology before and during the pandemic is really rose high. Because almost teaching activity are moved into online base using technology.

Reading Skills

Richards and Schmidt (2002) assert that listening, speaking, reading and writing are often referred to as language skills. Sometimes speaking and writing are referred to as active/productive skills, while reading and listening are referred to as passive/receptive skills. They defined reading skills as the ability required to read proficiently, such as distinguishing main ideas, understanding order, paying attention to specific details, making inferences, making comparisons, and comparing second and foreign languages Teaching predictions, especially for adults. These skills are sometimes taught separately.

Mareilon (2007) pointed out that reading is generating meaning from printed matter and visual information. But reading is not easy. Reading is an active process and requires a lot of

practice and skills. Reading is a fluent process that enables readers to combine textual information with their own background knowledge to establish meaning (Nunan, 2003).

According to the definitions above, the researcher can conclude that English reading ability is very important As a bridge to understand textbooks. If students continue to study in high school and university, they will need to read many books written in English.

Google Classroom

Google classroom is a learning platform that is carried out within the scope of education which aims to provide convenience from difficulties in making paperless assignments. According to (Hakim, 2016) using Google Classroom can make it easier for teachers to manage learning and deliver the information precisely and accurately. Google Classroom has many functions, such as posting announcements or assignments, submitting assignments, submitting materials, and seeing who has submitted assignments. Google Classroom can help teachers and students more easily carry out more in-depth teaching and learning activities. Based on (Sukmawati and Nensia, 2019) Since 12 August 2014, google classroom has been introduced as part of Google Apps for Education (GAPE). Google Classroom is a google product that is connected with G-mail and drive. Google classroom provides facilities that will make it easier for teachers to carry out learning activities. The use of google classroom is not only in class, but also outside the classroom because students can do learning wherever and whenever by accessing google classroom online.

Use Of Google Classroom For Teaching English

Effect of pandemic, students has to study from home and using Google Classroom for learning media. It is the new way for the students for using Google Classroom. J. E. Gallagher, K (2005) said Google Classroom is a new tool introduced in Google Apps for Education in 2014. Classroom is convenient for teachers to create and organize assignments quickly, provide feedback effectively, and easily communicate with their class online, or integrate the learning style of teaching and gives many advantages than the traditional classroom teaching style. The most influential advantage is its accessibility, Students' schedule flexibility and adaptability Serving. Google classroom can be used as instructional media for learning English. We can learn about the fourth skills in English such as writing speaking, listening and reading through Google Classroom. Based on Hanif (2020) although, the students and the teacher cannot meet each other, they can still have interacted in Google classroom. The teacher can give the topic in the stream and the students have to read and they can write their opinion or give questions to other students which are related with the topic. It can help students reading and writing skills. For speaking practice, students can use recording or video equipment recording. Audio recording is more flexible to upload than video recording because the size of the audio file is small. In addition, students can record their voice in the recording equipment in mobile phones or laptop, without having to go directly. According to Sadequle (2019) for listening, the teacher can share audio along with text or song or interesting movie clips. And the teacher can make the questions from these audio and the students can answers the questions by listening again to the songs or the movie clips.

RESEARCH METHOD

Method

In this research, researchers used Mixed method methods. Mixed method is a research method that applied when the researcher has a question that need to be tested in terms of outcomes and the process, and involves the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. Bob Matthews and Liz Ross (2010) said that quantitative method is a way of collecting data by analyzing and collecting data in a structured manner which will be presented numerically. According to Ulber Silalahi (2009), qualitative research is a process of investigation to understand social problems based on the creation of a complete holistic picture that is formed with words, reports the views of informants in detail, and is arranged in a natural setting. Qualitative research is generally designed to provide real experiences and capture meaning as created in the research field through direct interaction between the researcher and the one being studied (Putu Laksman Pendit, 2003: 195).

Data collection

The techniques used in this research are structured interviews, questionnaires. According to Sulistiyo-Basuki (2006) a structured interview means an interview that uses questions that have been prepared / prepared previously. The advantage of structured interviews is that they are able to obtain sufficiently qualified answers. It can be done in two ways, namely probing, where the interviewer asks the respondent to explain the answer in depth. Meanwhile, Questionnaire is a data collection technique by giving a set of questions or written statements that given to respondents and they have to answer it (Sugiyono, 2005:162).

Instrument

An Electronic questionnaire created by using Google Form to collect responses. The survey questionnaire consists of 15 questions which consists of 10 questions about learning with Google Classroom and 5 questions is about using Google Classroom as a media for learning English in reading skill.

Participants

The participants are from students and the teacher of English education in Islamic State Senior High School . The interview was done with an English teacher and several students. Interviews with the English teachers were conducted by offline in Islamic State Senior High School. While, interviews with some students were conducted online by using whatsapp as media . The questionnaire was completed by 50 respondents which consist from students in class 11 and 12 of Islamic State Senior High School

Data Analysis

The data analysis technique used is to draw conclusions. When data collection is carried out, a qualitative analyzer begins to look for the meaning of things, noting regularities, patterns, explanations, possible configurations, causal pathways, and propositions. Conclusions that are initially unclear will escalate into greater detail. "Final" conclusions will emerge depending on the size of the field record collections, their coding, storage, and retrieval methods used, the

ability of the researcher, and the donor's demands, but often these conclusions have often been predefined from the start.

DATA FINDINGS

Based on the research method that have been discussed by the researchers, there are two techniques that will be used in this research. There are interview and questionnaires. We agreed to choose these two techniques, because we have the same perspective that these two techniques is the most suitable techniques with our research. The explanation of these two techniques are written below.

Interview

This interview is aimed to the teacher and students that is used Google classroom in teaching English during the pandemic era with the focus on reading skill. The questions below are prepared by the researchers to facilitate the running of the interview.

1. What are the things that underlie this school in using LMS to support daily teaching and learning activities?
2. Were there any consideration before finally deciding to use Google classroom as LMS in this school?
3. Can this Google classroom really help teaching and learning activities of other subject generally and English particularly?
4. Does the use of Google classroom attract students' more interest in English?
5. What are learning programs prepared by the teacher to teach English using Google classroom?
6. Can the four of English skills be achieved by using Google classroom?
7. Referring to the tittle of out observation, is there any significant improvement in the reading skill of student by using Google classroom?
8. What are the steps used by the teacher to develop students' reading skill through Google classroom?
9. How is the ratio comparison of students' reading skill before and after using Google classroom?
10. Can the use of Google classroom improve students' reading skill during pandemic era?

Questionnaires

Table 1. Questions for students' questionnaires.

No	Statements	Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1.	Google Classroom helps you in implementing English language learning				
2.	Google Classroom is very useful in the process of learning English				

No	Statements	Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
3.	With Google Classroom, sending assignments is easier				
4.	With the Google Classroom, students can easily get learning material				
5.	Google Classroom really saves time and quota				
6.	The Google Classroom interface is easy to understand				
7.	Google Classroom is easily accessible				
8.	Google Classroom is very efficient for implementing online learning				
9.	Google Classroom is very safe to use				
10.	The features in Google Classroom are very helpful for students				
11.	The ability to understand reading using Google classroom is made easier				
12.	Using Google classroom can improve students' reading skills				
13.	Google Classroom enables students to improve their reading skills				
14.	English materials uploaded on Google Classroom aim to improve students' reading skills				
15.	Students' learning motivation using google classroom to improve reading skills is getting higher				

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this research are to describe the effectiveness of Google Classroom in improving students' reading skill during pandemic era and to investigate students' perception of Google Classroom. The use of Google Classroom is quite easy, making many schools choose to use Google Classroom as one of the learning media during this pandemic era. It can act as a learning management system in schools, colleges and higher education institutions. Teachers can use Google Classroom to effectively use class time (Azhar and Iqbal, 2018).

In this case, Google Classroom will be used to improve students' reading skills. According to Dean of Muslaini (2017), Reading is not just about reading the words in a book and pronouncing them, but understanding all the elements of a book. Therefore, teacher can deliver the material through Google Classroom and the students instructed to read all of the materials to improve their reading skill. Researchers have conducted interviews with teachers and also some students. In addition, the researcher also made a questionnaire survey in order to obtain valid data. The results of the interview and survey are:

Interview result

The researchers were doing an interview with Mrs. Nurul as an English teacher of MAN 03 Cilacap and several students. Here the interview results are written below:

According to the interview, Mrs. Nurul said, "Due to the pandemic conditions, the school decided to use google classroom media in the learning process. The use of Google Classroom considers the ease with which students can access it and saves more on quota compared to applications provided by the government. I also think that Google Classroom is quite helpful during the learning process, but maybe it's different for every student. I think google classroom has helped, especially for media delivery of materials such as PPT or video. Students are also more interested in using google classroom, but there are some students who send assignments that are tight with deadlines and also sometimes constrained by signals. For the use of google classroom itself, it cannot cover listening skills, because most students do not enjoy listening process. Students' reading ability through google classroom has a significant increase. I always provide material using PPT concisely and clearly so that students are able to read and understand the material easily. In addition, I asked them to record their voices while reading the material I gave as evaluation. On a scale of 1-10, I can say that before using Google Classroom it only reached a scale of 5, but after using Google Classroom it reached a scale of 8.5. In general, I can conclude that the use of Google Classroom has many advantages. I think the use of Google Classroom is simple and interesting, but sometimes it is also constrained by the difficulty of the signal. So, when there are students who have not submitted their assignments because they have exceeded the deadline, I have to charge them and of course they will get a reduction in grades. But overall, I think Google Classroom has helped in the learning process, especially in improving students' reading skills."

The researcher conclude that using Google Classroom can improve students reading skills. This learning application is simple and interesting, but we also should pay attention to the problem such as difficulty of signal. However, Google Classroom has helped students in improving their reading skills.

This is the result of the interview with students.

1. What are the things that underline the school in using LMS to support daily teaching and learning activities?

When the students were asked about the things that underlie the school in using LMS to support daily teaching and learning activities, most of them said the school use this app for the learning alternative and to make the learning process more easier

"Because Indonesia is currently hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, which causes a person to be required to do physical distancing, the Ministry of Education and Culture requires every school to study at home. Therefore, the school uses the application as an alliterative teaching and learning process" (Student 1)

"To make the learning process easier between teacher and students" (Student 2)

"In my opinion, to make learning and teaching process between teacher and students easier" (Student 3)

I think we all agree that Google Classroom is very helpful in the learning process for both students and teachers. It because the features of this application are very simple and easy to access. Especially at the time when all learning is done by online because the effects of covid 19.

2. Were there any consideration before finally deciding to use Google classroom as LMS in this school?

Almos same with the question above, the consider of using Google Classroom is based on the facility itself.

"In my opinion, because it requires an application that is easily accessed by students, as well as by teachers in delivering material" (Student 1)

"With the consideration that teacher would deliver the materials on the application and the students can also submit the answers on the application too" (Student 2)

"In my opinion, the consideration are by using Google classroom the teacher can deliver the materials and giving assignment easily while students can receive the materials and submit the assignment easily as well" (Student 3)

3. Can this Google classroom really help teaching and learning activities of other subject generally and English particularly?

When the students are asked about this question They also think that GCR really help them in the learning process

"Yes, Google Classroom can help with learning activities for other subjects. In addition, teachers can also give grades to students to find out how far students' abilities are in general and special subjects"

"very very well"

"Yes, because it make the learning process between teacher and student easier"

4. Does the use of Google classroom attract students' more interest in English?

In terms of attracting students' interest in learning English using GCR , there are differences of opinion from students. Some of the students pointed out that using GCR can attract their interest in learning English, and some of them said it can not.

"In my opinion, Google Classroom can attract students' attention in English; Because the material presented by the teacher varies, such as videos, power points and quizzes" (student 1)

"in my opinion studying in gcr can not be focus and get sleepy easily" (Student 2)

"I think no"(Student 3)

5. What are learning programs prepared by the teacher to teach English using Google classroom?

from the results of interviews, all of the students said that the teachers use media such as video, power point and even quizzes as the media for learning process.

6. Can the four of English skills be achieved by using Google classroom?

Based on student reflection, the researcher found several answers such as the statement below

"In my opinion, listening, reading, writing and speaking are quite achievable using Google Classroom. Because usually the teacher gives assignments to make videos, one of which is speaking" (Student 1)

"can be reach, but the result is not satisfactory" (Student 2)

"i think no" (student 3)

7. Referring to the tittle of out observation, is there any significant improvement in the reading skill of student by using Google classroom?

Some students indicated that they were able to improve their English skills even if only slightly.

"In my opinion, it looks pretty good. Because almost the English assignments given are in English"

"yes, reading skill slightly improved"

"i think no"

8. What are the steps used by the teacher to develop students' reading skill through Google classroom?

From the students' answers they stated that the steps which the teacher gave to build their reading skills were using power points and videos. Through videos the teacher explained how to read correctly. The teacher also gave students reading assignments which was done by video.

"The steps used by teachers to develop reading skills using Google classroom are the delivery of material or through Power Point etc." (Student 1)

"Giving tutorial video how to read English correctly and give assignment to students" (Student 2)

"By giving assignment to make video using English" (Student 3)

9. How is the ratio comparison of students' reading skill before and after using Google classroom?

In my opinion, the use of Google Classroom is not very helpful for improving students' reading skills if we seen from the ratio comparison results given by students. They said the average ratio is only 1:2.

"In my opinion, the ratio of students' reading skills comparison before and after using Google classroom is 2:4" (Student 1)

"1:2" (Student 2)

"1:1" (Student 3)

10. Can the use of Google classroom improve students' reading skill during pandemic era? Another students' perspective that appeared from the interview was how Google classroom improve students' reading skill during pandemic era

"In my opinion, Google Classroom is very helpful in developing students' reading skills during the pandemic" (Student 1)

"Yes" (Student 2)

"I think no" (Student 3)

Survey result

Table 2. The survey result.

No.	Statement	Percentage (%)			
		Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1.	Google Classroom helps you in implementing English language learning.	76	2	18	4
2.	Google Classroom is very useful in the process of learning English.	70	0	26	4
3.	With Google Classroom, sending assignments is easier.	66	24	6	4

No.	Statement	Percentage (%)			
		Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4.	With the Google Classroom, students can easily get learning material.	60	12	20	8
5.	Google Classroom really saves time and quota.	54	16	22	8
6.	The Google Classroom interface is easy to understand.	68	22	8	2
7.	Google Classroom is easily accessible.	70	24	4	2
8.	Google Classroom is very efficient for implementing online learning.	74	8	14	4
9.	Google Classroom is very safe to use.	78	16	4	2
10.	The features in Google Classroom are very helpful for students.	76	10	10	4
11.	The ability to understand reading using Google classroom is made easier.	62	4	32	2
12.	Using Google classroom can improve students' reading skills.	64	6	26	4
13.	Google Classroom enables students to improve their reading skills.	64	12	20	4
14.	English materials uploaded on Google Classroom aim to improve students' reading skills.	64	6	24	6
15.	Students' learning motivation using google classroom to improve reading skills is getting higher.	60	6	30	4

Based on the result of the questionnaires above, there are any various answer of fifteen statements in total. There are 76% of students agree and 2% strongly agree that google classroom helps in implementing English language learning while 18% of students disagree and 4% strongly disagree about that. About 70% of students agree that google classroom is very useful in the process of learning English while 26% of students disagree and 4% disagree then choose otherwise.

One statement 'with google classroom sending assignment is easier' as much of 66% students agree and 24% strongly agree while only 6% students disagree and 4% strongly disagree with that. About 60% students agree and 12% strongly agree while 20% students disagree and 8% strongly disagree that with google classroom easily get the learning material. There are 54% of students agree and 16% strongly agree about google classroom saving quota and time while 22% students disagree and 8% strongly disagree with that statement.

The next statement have 68% of students agree and 22% strongly agree while 22% of students disagree 8% strongly disagree that google classroom's interface is easy to understand. About 70% of students and 24% strongly agree that google classroom is easily accessible while only 4% of students disagree and 2% strongly disagree and say the otherwise. The statement 'google classroom is very efficient for implementing online learning' as much of 74% of students agree and 8% strongly agree while 14% of students disagree and 4% strongly disagree.

About 78% of students agree and 16% strongly agree while 4% of students disagree and 2% strongly disagree that google classroom is very save to use. There are 76% of students agree and 10% strongly agree that the features in google classroom are very helpful for them while 10% of students disagree and 4% strongly disagree with that. The next statement have 62% of students agree and 4% strongly agree while 32% of students disagree and only 2% strongly disagree that the ability to understand reading using google classroom is easier.

The statement 'using google classroom can improve students' reading skill' as much 64% of students agree and 6% strongly agree while 26% of students disagree and 4% strongly disagree with that statement. About 64% of students agree and 12% strongly agree that google enables students to improve their reading skill while 20% of students disagree and 4% strongly disagree with that. There are 64% of students agree and 6% strongly agree that English materials uploaded on google classroom aim to improve students' reading skill while 24% of students disagree and 6% strongly disagree and say the otherwise. The last statement have 60% of students agree and 6% strongly agree while 30% disagree and 4% strongly disagree that students' learning motivation using google classroom to improve reading skill is getting higher.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis and discussion, it revealed that the use of google classroom has a significant impact on reading skills during online learning. This can be seen from the interviews that are done with English teacher and some students and the questionnaires. From teacher's perspective by using google classroom the teacher can provide material and give value to students and also students can collect assignments in google classroom. So, it really helps students and teachers to use Google Classroom during the pandemic. In addition, there are some several shortcomings of using google classrooms such as a bad internet network that can make Google Classroom difficult to access. However, Google Classroom is more effective than other applications so both teachers and students are greatly helped by the google classroom. From students' perspective, they all are also agree that Google Classroom helps them in learning English. From the questionnaires that have been done by the researchers, the researchers concludes that using Google Classroom as a media to improve students' reading skills is effective. More than 50% students give their agreement to the statement about the effectiveness of Google Classroom for improving their reading skills.

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