IMPROVING STUDENTS' WRITING SHORT STORIES THROUGH WATTPAD APPLICATION

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History Article

ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine the role of the Wattpad application in honing the ability to write short stories for second-grade students of SMAN 3 Praya. This type of research uses qualitative research with descriptive methods. The subjects of this research were students of class XI IPA 2 at SMA Negeri 3 Praya in the academic year 2022/2023, consisting of 13 boys and 18 girls. The researcher uses observation sheets, interview, and documentation to collect the data. The results of this research show that the Wattpad application makes it easy to train readers' imaginations and provide ideas that can be developed more broadly, Wattpad trains them to empathize, so they can pour various emotions into their stories and teach students how to write good and correct stories so that there is a desire to be able to write for students after reading several stories contained in the Wattpad application. The conclusion from the research was the Wattpad application can help students to improve students' writing of short stories because in the Wattpad application, they learn how to make good stories, use the right words, and build emotions in a story.

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INTRODUCTION

In essence, in language learning there are four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In the four language skills, writing is the skill that has the highest level of difficulty compared to the other three skills. In the language learning process, students are required to be able to write literary works, whether in the form of essays, correspondence, short stories to drama scripts. According to Paris (2022), academic learners need writing skills to fulfil their needs. These include the need to improve their thinking, exchange knowledge, acquire additional terms, and so on.

According to Yulandari (2020), writing can be an effective tool for the development of academic language proficiency as learners have to explore advanced lexical or syntactic expression in their written work. In the process of learning to write, however, it is often found that students still experience difficulties in writing, they are faced with feelings of inferiority,

overcome by feelings of fear to convey story ideas that they have experienced themselves or which are only imagination. Students in XI class at Senior high school 3 Praya experienced this condition in writing short stories.

Based on the results of interviews with English teachers, during the learning process of writing short stories, students had difficulty developing ideas through writing and often took writing from other sources. The students also seemed less able to master a lot of vocabulary, causing them to lack confidence in the results of their writing. To arouse students' creativity in writing, teachers should be able to make good use of learning media. Learning media is a tool that can be used to convey messages from teachers to students so that learning is more effective and efficient. The role of the media is very large in addition to learning media as well as a tool used by teachers for the learning process so that students in the learning process do not feel bored.

The use of learning media is an important point for achieving success in teaching and learning activities. In learning to write, the Wattpad application can be used as a creative, modern, and fun learning medium. This application is also used as entertainment for students so that learning to write in class is not monotonous and not boring. In addition, students are also familiar with this application so the use of learning media is quite easy to apply. The Wattpad application can be used to write works, such as novels, short stories, and even poetry. Wattpad can be said to be a media that can develop skills in writing because in the Wattpad application, application users who are authors can get comments from other users, comments usually contain notifications of errors in writing such as punctuation or typography and so on, not to be missed. support in the form of support or vote if the story is good and liked by other readers. Based on its understanding Wattpad is a social networking website and service where users can post comments, and share photographs and links to news or other interesting content on the Web.

Wattpad is a community for readers and writers where one can discover new user-generated stories, spanning different genres including classics, general fiction, historical fiction, nonfiction, poetry, spiritual, and teen fiction among others. It aims at removing the traditional barriers between readers and writers by building social communities around stories. Its model not only works for amateur writers but for established writers as well (Allen Lau, 2006).

Previous research related to learning how to write using Wattpad was conducted by Isti Rokha Rukun (2019). In his research, it was known that the Wattpad application learning media had an effect on increasing the ability to write recount texts for class X SMAN 3 Temanggung. This research has similarities with this research, namely the media used are the same using the Wattpad application, but the difference between Isti research and this research was the Wattpad application that the researcher used in learning to write short story texts while the Wattpad application Isti research is used to improve students' ability to write recount texts, as well as type the research that she used in her research was classroom action research while the researcher themselves used a qualitative approach with descriptive method, this research aims to determine the learning activities of writing short stories using Wattpad at SMAN 3 Praya.

METHODS

In this research, the researcher focused on how the role of Wattpad application in improving students writing of short stories. The researcher chose Wattpad as the media of the research because the researcher saw that students' interest, especially high school students in this application was increasing day by day. If you look at reports about the declining literacy culture of Indonesian society, this application can gradually restore interest in reading and writing for the younger generation, especially at the high school level. This research used a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. Lexy Moleong quotes a statement from Bodgan and Taylor, a qualitative approach is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words of people or observed behavior (Bodgan and Taylor in Moleong, 2010:4). Descriptive research studies according to Issac Stephen and William B. Michael explain that descriptive research only describes situations or events. This research does not seek or explain relationships, does not test hypotheses, or make predictions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Based on the results of the interviews with students of class XI IPA 2, it can be said that the Wattpad application helps them improve their writing skill to write short stories. Wattpad helps its users to develop imagination. Even though imagination can be honed in any reading, with a variety of stories in this application, it helps users to hone their imagination abilities as freely and as broadly as possible. For some people it is quite difficult to create other "imaginations" that cannot be seen with the eye, only in the form of descriptions, but for students in this research, they learned to create their imaginations every time they read the Wattpad application, whether they had difficulty or not. understand the content of the story.

Imagination sharpens creativity in a person, so it's no wonder that readers of the Wattpad application have good creativity to create a written work. Apart from sharpening the imagination of readers, the Wattpad application also helps students to come up with story ideas. For new writers or even those who are already professional, they must have experienced a condition where they ran out of story ideas. So that by reading, they can find new story ideas again, whether they are inspired by other people's writings or the ideas come up by themselves. Because for some people, including researchers, to get a story idea, they have to get stimulation from other readings first. Indeed, this can be said as a profitable thing. But on the other hand, this is also detrimental for Wattpad application writers.

The writing presented in this application is not copyrighted, so anyone can plagiarize others' work. It is hoped that as users of the Wattpad application, both readers and writers must be wiser in finding story ideas, don't let these ideas be exactly the same as other people's stories. To make a story, it cannot be separated from genre classification. Indeed, not everyone writes their own stories using the genre they like. There are those who like the romance genre, but write horror stories. This is indeed according to each individual's taste and seen from the desire of other readers to find new and fresh stories. Talking about favourite genres, there are some research subjects who have the same favourite genres, namely teen fiction and fanfiction. Researchers, when making observations by looking at the Wattpad application, found lots of teen fiction and fanfiction stories. Teen fiction is a genre with stories that tell a lot about life in their teens. Fanfiction is a genre that tells the life of an artist.

The impact of the Korean Wave which spread across Indonesia also made fanfiction writers spread everywhere. They usually write stories based on their fantasies about a person or group of South Korean artists. Simply put, fanfiction is a story from the author's imagination, but the characters are based on the author's favourite artist. The story can be about his love life. Why do they write fanfiction, which is mostly about romance, because showbiz life in South Korea is very "scary" when it comes to romance. Both genres are also appropriate for the age of students who are still teenagers. Apart from teen fiction and fanfiction, there are those who like the comedy genre. For some students in this research, the Wattpad application is a media of entertainment, so they will find stories that make them happy. Indeed, when compared to teen fiction, fanfiction and romance stories, the comedy genre is not too much in Indonesia, so they often look for comedy stories from foreign writers.

One of the benefits of reading is to increase vocabulary. Class XI IPA 2 at senior high school 3 Praya agree that their vocabulary has increased since reading the Wattpad application, they can learn many new words, especially English. Having a large vocabulary is what a writer needs, so that when he writes, the words used are not monotonous. More variety of words make up a story be more interesting. With an increase in vocabulary, if it is associated with writing activities it also helps a writer to describe something easily, readers will understand the author's intent. For Wattpad app readers who don't write, of course it can help them communicate in their daily lives. When compared to other media, the Wattpad application is not a medium that provides many forms of information. However, when the researcher asked this to students, several students answered that they got information from a story they had read. This information is only to increase their knowledge, but it can prove that a story can help someone to know something that he did not know before.

Discussion

According to the results of interviews with students of class XI IPA 2 SMAN 3 Praya, researchers can analyze that mood greatly influences a person's way of writing. Even in writing, it cannot be denied that they need a good mood to create a good story. A good mood is believed to make the story even better in terms of plot and writing because the writer's mind is in a clear state. It's different if a writer has a bad mood and he forces himself to write. An unclear mind can lead to messy writing and sudden changes in storylines. Under any circumstances, writers can make stories. In essence, if the writer writes a story based on his mood, be it sad, angry, happy, disappointed, and so on, then the story will come to life. Because the writer can pour all his emotions into written form. The story has a "spirit". So, the researcher believes that if someone is disappointed or sad and he expresses his emotions in written form, then the writing can be conveyed properly to the reader so that the reader also feels the author's emotions.

The Wattpad application provides its own pleasure for students in this study. According to some students, the Wattpad application makes them forget about the problems they are facing. They focus on reading or writing. These two activities can also make a mood that was not good at first become cheerful again. Some students also feel excited when they write a story. For them, every story idea that is already in their head can be brought out well. There is a feeling of pride in some students when they read the Wattpad application.

This feeling arises because they think that they are up to date and know more when they read than people who don't read. This feeling of pride is associated with writing activities. They think that writing activities do not make them proud or sad, they consider these activities normal. That is, their writings are not read by many people. Maybe it's a different story if their writings are read by dozens of people, there will be a sense of pride. But for researchers, writing is something to be proud of, because not everyone can write well. Especially when there are writers who are able to upload their writings to the Wattpad application. They can venture to compete with the writers out there.

At the end of the discussion, the researcher discussed how the students felt when they ran out of ideas or even could not write. As is known, out of all students, only 3 students stated that they could not write. when the researcher asked this a student who could not write, he said that he felt sad when he did not have the courage to write. He considers writing a talent. Moreover, writing is not only done to write fictional stories but can also be used for other school activities, such as writing essays. But rather than drag on his disappointment, he decided not to think about it. it is possible that one day you can write a story and upload it on the Wattpad application.

After conducting interviews with all students, researchers can analyze whether the Wattpad application makes its users want to create their own stories. Although not all, quite a lot of people who become interested in writing. However, not all of the stories they create are uploaded to the application. The increasing number of people who are interested in writing can be seen by the increasing number of stories from various stories that now fill the Wattpad application. Starting from a weighty story to a mediocre story. Even now, Wattpad is like a diary that writers can use to write about their daily activities. This is not a problem, because the Wattpad application really frees anyone to write various posts.

The desire to write also appears when the reader first reads the Wattpad application. This can happen because they not only enjoy a story but also learn how to write a good story, in terms of writing, plot, and portrayal of characters. Because basically, people who are good at writing are people who often read. The Wattpad application can also be used to learn how to share time. Not all readers can divide their time between reading or writing with their daily activities. Someone is too addicted to Wattpad, so he is willing to spend hours of his time silently in front of his smartphone. But for those who have been reading the Wattpad application for a long time, that sense of dependency is starting to wane. Maybe the Wattpad application isn't something new anymore, so they can already manage their time well.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research described above, the researcher can conclude several things:

1. Students get many things by reading stories using this Wattpad application such as training their imagination, finding story ideas from story genres they like, and increasing vocabulary and knowledge. This can help them in writing their own papers or in everyday life.
2. Writing activities are inseparable from the good or bad mood of the writer, so the mood greatly influences the writing style of students. This application can inspire the informants' sense of empathy for every story they read. This sense of empathy can help them to further express all forms of emotion that they pour into writing activities.
3. Basically, the desire to write is owned by students who have read the Wattpad application. This is because they learn how to write good and correct stories from reading stories using the Wattpad application.

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