

**STRATEGIES IN READING ENGLISH WEB-NOVELS ON WATTPAD**  
**(A Quantitative Survey Study of Undergraduate Students in Indonesia Who**  
**Read English Web-novels on Wattpad)**

**A THESIS**

**BY:**

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**ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM**  
**LANGUAGE AND ART EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
**TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY**  
**UNIVERSITAS TANJUNGPURA**  
**PONTIANAK**  
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*Submitted to fulfill one of the requirements for Bachelor Degree Examination in  
English Language Education Study Program of the Language and Arts Education  
Department, Teacher Training and Education Faculty, University of Tanjungpura  
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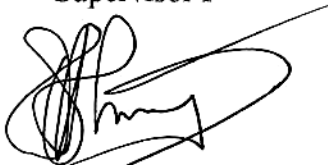
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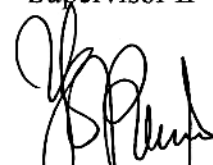
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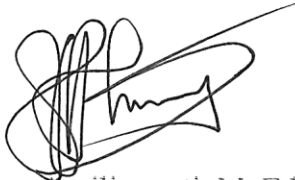
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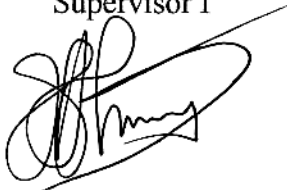
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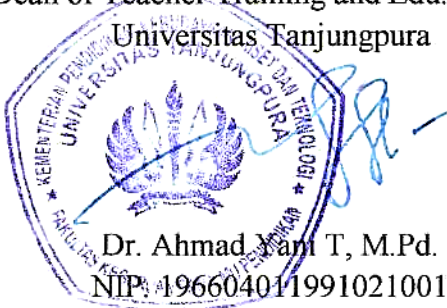
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## ABSTRACT

The popularity of online reading on Wattpad led the researcher to conduct this research to investigate metacognitive awareness of digital and online reading strategies among wattpad readers who read English web-novels. The researcher also investigated whether their metacognitive awareness of online and digital reading strategies were influenced by their English proficiency (TOEFL and TUTEF) and their field study, also which features of Wattpad that help them in their reading. By using quantitative survey, and adapting Metacognitive Awareness of Reading Study Inventory (MARS) by Mokhtari et al. (2018) to collect the data, the study was conducted to 39 undergraduate students who read English web-novels on Wattpad. This study found out that their metacognitive awareness of online and digital reading strategies in reading English web-novels on Wattpad were at a medium level ( $M = 3.42$ ), with Problem Solving Reading Strategies as the most used strategies ( $M = 3.80$ ) followed by Global Reading Strategies ( $M = 3.73$ ) and Support Reading Strategies ( $M = 2.73$ ). Moreover, the study about whether their English Proficiency and field study influenced their metacognitive awareness of digital and online reading strategies discovered that they did not affect it as the mean value showed almost the same number (averagely  $M = 3.4$ ) and indicated that all the group used digital and online reading strategies moderately in reading English web-novels on Wattpad. Finally, the findings about Wattpad features were also proposed; the researchers discovered that the interactive features of Wattpad (Direct Message and Comment) were not helpful with  $M = 2.51$  and  $M = 2.23$ , respectively. However, for the description and the figure attachment feature, they admitted to use it in high frequency ( $M = 4.15$ ), and medium frequency ( $M = 3.25$ ) respectively.

**Keywords :** *Digital Reading Strategies, Online Reading Strategies, Extensive Reading, Web-novels, Metacognitive Awareness*



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Pontianak, March 2023

The Writer

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# **BAB I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Research Background**

Reading is a significant skill that must be established in every foreign language learning, including English, due to the fact that learners who fail to achieve reading proficiency could find difficulty in their further learning language process. Rashidi and Piran (2011) stated that reading is like a multi-faceted activity combining lexical and text processing skills, and involves the reader's knowledge of words or their vocabulary storage and their ability in interpreting the word chain into something meaningful. Moreover, reading is considered as a process of thinking, and another kind of real experience that involves several kinds of ability such as the ability to sense the word, to skim in order to find the information. However, those abilities can only be enhanced by the EFL learners with frequent practice on reading.

As EFL learners, doing intensive reading or reading activity that is done inside the class and being instructed is not enough. To be more skilled in comprehending a long text written in English, they need to do more reading, particularly extensive reading. It is a type of reading activity that is done outside the formal class based on the learners' initiative to do the reading activity without any compulsion from any other parties. Fatiloro et al, (2017) argued that undergraduates are mostly aware about the essential of establishing reading habits outside their formal education. Thus, they tend to spend some of

their time reading whether it is to gain more information by reading academic sources, or just do it for pleasure by reading such literature works.

According to Cremin (2014), reading for pleasure is a self-initiated reading activity that involves behavioural, emotional, and cognitive engagement. What distinguishes pleasure reading and academic reading is the material used in the activity. If academic reading uses material which convey an academic information such as academic essay, journal article and textbook, reading for pleasure utilizes the materials in which bring excitement for the readers such as literature work (novels, comics, short stories, etc). It was stated that practicing reading comprehension as reading fiction is considered good to improve reading skill, especially for those who learn foreign languages such as English (Ishihara & Ono, 2013; Nasu, 2015; Pennington & Waxler, 2017; Rainey, 2016).

Nowadays, in this technology-integrated era, reading literature works such as novels can be done easily. Learners can find any good novel online through digital platforms, either on websites, blogs, or applications. This type of novels are known as web-novels. Compared to the printed novel, Web-novels provide more simplicities that attract readers to prefer web-novels than the printed one. Accessing a web-novel is way much easier than the printed-novel. There are so many platforms that provide web-novel for the readers to access it everywhere and every time (Lee, 2018). According to *similarweb.com*, among the platforms that provide many web-novels, Wattpad has become the most popular platform, particularly in Indonesia.



Wattpad is an online platform that was developed for online reading and writing by Allen Lau and Ivan Yuen in 2006 (Reid, 2016). It offers easier ways to read web-novels. Besides the fact that it can be accessed through its website or the application that can be downloaded for free, this platform offers many books that were published everyday with many kinds of genres. In addition, some features are also offered by this platform such as being able to post pictures or graphics that represent a scene or situation in the story, and attach a YouTube link that can be displayed in the form of a video. Due to its conveniences, Wattpad users by that time reached 45 million users and it is still increasing every year (Coelho et al, 2019).

Although reading any kind of fiction, including novels is considered easier than reading academic text (Clinton, 2019), some experts denied the statements by arguing that no matter it is in form of printed books or reading through online environment in digital platform, reading is still be a skill that required a lot of complex skill to be able to master (Brun-Mercer, 2019; Henderson, 2015). In academic text, the writers mostly use denotation or they tend to write it in its real meaning as how it is written in a dictionary to directly tell the information they want to deliver. Whereas, in novels, the writers tend to use connotations that require the readers to find the hidden meaning of the words that are written in novels. If the readers fail to get what the writers try to deliver in the novels, they surely do not get the situation and what happens there (Henderson, 2015).

However, for EFL readers, comprehending an academic text with its real meaning is already difficult, even less reading novels that not only requires comprehension, but also the sense of the story and the plot in the novels, also the hidden message that the writers intended to deliver. Moreover, if the web-novel reading was done through online in digital platform that was signified as a complex activity to do (Nichols, 2016), in order to reach the level of understanding in reading those web-novels, they need to have metacognitive awareness to be aware of using online and digital reading strategies.

Metacognitive awareness lets the learners be aware of their skill in reading, the problem they face, and what they have to do with that and finding the way to solve the problems by themselves. In other words, the readers who have metacognitive awareness recognize their skill in reading, the need of improving the reading, and be good at monitoring the process (Do & Phan, 2021; Richards & Schmidt, 2010). Thus, they have a plan before they read, such as setting the goals of reading, monitoring their reading, and evaluating their reading. Meanwhile, Online and Digital Reading strategies are ways every EFL reader could use to comprehend the text they read through online on a digital platform, and to help them with the problem they face while reading online. Therefore, metacognitive awareness of online and digital reading strategies is the readers' awareness to use the strategies in their online and digital reading in order to reach comprehension in their reading and solve the problem they face while reading English web-novels.

A study about the use of reading strategies in pleasure reading, particularly in fiction, had been established by Poole (2013) to 102 undergraduate students with various backgrounds (e.g. time period, national tradition, and literary movements) using Survey of Reading Strategies (SORS) by Mokhtari and Shoerey (2002) entitled Fiction Reading Strategies of College Students. In his study, Poole (2013) argued that the frequently used strategy among the readers to understand the story is context clues and guessing the meaning of words they do not know. Whereas, choosing fiction with graphics (e.g. pictures, tables, figures) became the moderate strategies among the readers. Nevertheless, in a novel, such graphics are rarely found as it was a literature work that was full of texts to describe the situation of the story. However, the rise of web-novels in this technology integrated era could possibly be different as the platform that was used to read web-novels may provide some features that could help the readers easily get the clue and the situation in the novels.

Another research that this study used as the fundamental theory was a study about online reading strategies that had been conducted by Anderson (2003) by using Online Survey of Reading Strategies (OSORS). The measurement tools in this study was the adaptation version of Survey of Reading Strategies by Mokhtari and Shoerey (2002). The research was aimed at 247 ESL readers, by investigating what online strategies they mostly used, and also the possibility of a gap between the strategies used among ESL and EFL. The findings suggest that among three categories the instrument provided

(Global Strategies, Problem Solving Strategies, and Support Strategies), problem solving reading is the most favoured category among those ESL, followed by global strategies and support strategies. Moreover, the gap between ESL and EFL strategies used are not discovered in this research. This concludes that both ESL and EFL used almost exactly the same amount of online reading strategies.

Those theories and the studies mentioned above are used as the fundamental theories for this research to underlie the phenomena that the researcher found around Wattpad communities. The researcher found that some undergraduate EFL learners who use Wattpad admit that reading English novels was complicated to do. They have to read in English, then their mind translates it to Indonesia to be able to understand the situation in the novels. However, the researcher also found that some other undergraduate EFL readers who use Wattpad keep reading English web-novels on that application and admitted that their English improved from it. Drawing upon this phenomena, this research was conducted to investigate those readers' awareness of online reading strategies, to inspect whether their metacognitive awareness of reading strategies are influenced by their field of study (English or Non-English Students) and their English proficiency, also how the platforms (Wattpad) help them with their reading.

This research was conducted as similar as the study that had been done by Poole (2013) and Anderson (2003). However, the research by them used SORS (Survey of Reading Strategies) that was established by Mokhtary and

Shorey in 2002, whereas this study used the new version of Survey of Reading Strategies (SORS) called Metacognitive Awareness of Reading Strategies Inventory (MARSI) that was revised in 2018. Both are distinguished by the number of items. SORS has 30 items, and MARSI has only 15 items. MARSI is the simplified version of SORS, as it has some items that were considered as repetition (Mokhtari et al., 2018). If the previous study that was conducted by Poole (2013) focused on the term of fiction, did not specify whether it was novels, short stories, or any other kind of fictions, and did not state whether the fictions was online or not, this research only focused on the work of novel that is published online through web-novel platform called Wattpad. Therefore, the researcher also made some adaptation of MARSI to adjust it with the online reading environment by underlying it with Online Survey of Reading Strategies (OSORS) by Anderson (2003).

By adopting a quantitative survey this research was done to thirty nine undergraduate students in Indonesia who read English web-novels on Wattpad using questionnaires. Within this research, the researcher hopes that this research could motivate EFL learners to establish their reading habit outside their formal class by reading web-novels, and not miss the benefits that are offered by reading literature works as it helps their English improvement. By applying the reading strategies in their reading activities, they do not have to be worried about the problems they face while reading web-novels.

## **1.2. Research Questions**

This research conducted to answer the following questions relate to how the correspondences are aware of using reading strategies in their reading, especially when it comes to reading English web-novels on Wattpad. The questions are specified into some points as followed :

- 1.2.1. What are the metacognitive awareness of reading strategies of the undergraduate students who read English web-novels on Wattpad?
- 1.2.2. What are the metacognitive awareness of reading strategies of undergraduates students who read English web-novels on Wattpad based on their English Proficiency score and their field of study (English or Non-English students)?
- 1.2.3. What are Wattpad features that help those undergraduates who read English web-novels on Wattpad to help them understand what they read?

## **1.3. Research Purpose**

The purposes of this research are set up based on the research questions above :

- 1.3.1. To investigate the metacognitive awareness of reading strategies level of undergraduate students who read English web-novels on Wattpad.
- 1.3.2. To discover whether or not those undergraduates' English proficiency score and their field of study (English or Non-English students) give effect to their metacognitive awareness of reading strategies level.
- 1.3.3. To find out whether or not the features on Wattpad such as description feature, graphic, direct message, and comments help those

undergraduate students in order to understand the English web-novels they read on it.

#### **1.4. Research Significance**

This research was be conducted with the expectation that it gives benefits to some related parties such as the researcher, other researchers, EFL learners, teachers, and English Education Study Program of FKIP Tanjungpura University, as follows:

##### **1.4.1. For researcher**

This research is expected to help the researcher experience new knowledge as this is the researcher's first experience in doing research. Hopefully, this new experience could help the researcher in case the researcher intends to continue her study. This research becomes the medium for the researcher to learn how to do good research.

##### **1.4.2. For other researchers**

Hopefully, this research can give other researchers motivation to do more study about literature used in reading practice, provide some views about this field of research, and be their reference later if they conduct their research with the same concern.

##### **1.4.3. For EFL learners**

The finding in this research hopefully could be their consideration in their reading practice. It also hopefully could encourage them to establish reading activity outside their formal education. Establishing reading fiction is considered a good way to enhance their foreign language learning.

#### **1.4.4. For teacher**

Promoting a way to teach reading in their class with pleasurable material such as literary work, and integrating technology in its practice such as using Wattpad or any other online literary works platforms.

#### **1.4.5. For English Education Study Program**

Promoting reading strategies to be the focus in any reading subjects, and assuring the lecturers to use Wattpad to be considered in any literature study that is being taught, and promoting literary work in reading class.

### **1.5. Research Terminology**

There are several terms that the researcher used in this study such as Extensive Reading, Pleasure Reading, Reading Strategies, Digital & Online Reading Strategies, Web-novel, Wattpad, and Metacognitive Awareness. The following are how the researcher defined those terms in this research.

#### **1.5.1. Extensive Reading**

Extensive reading is a reading activity that was done out of pressure. It is done by the readers/learners initiation.

#### **1.5.2. Pleasure Reading**

Pleasure reading is defined as a reading activity which the readers do in order to get entertained. Usually, it was done when the readers had spare time.

#### **1.5.3. Reading Strategies**

This research defines Reading Strategies as the ways to help the readers understand what they read.

#### **1.5.4. Digital & Online Reading Strategies**

It is reading strategies that are being adjusted to the reading in an online environment on a digital platform.



#### **1.5.5. Web-novel**

Throughout this study, Web-novel is defined as a set of novels that are published on digital platforms, and can be accessed online through personal computer, mobile phone, and any digital equipment.

#### **1.5.6. Wattpad**

Wattpad is an online platform where people can find many genres of web-novels, with all its convenience to help the readers find their story preferences.

#### **1.5.7. Metacognitive awareness**

Metacognitive awareness refers to the readers' ability to keep on track such as monitoring, planning, and evaluating their reading, thus they know what to do when they face some problems in their reading.