# AN EXPLORATION OF THE USE OF *SOCRATIVE* IN FACILITATING STUDENTS' READING ACTIVITIES

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## ABSTRAK

*Kegiatan membaca biasanya dilakukan secara individu dan siswa mengontrol kemampuannya dalam proses membaca sendiri. Teknologi selalu menjadi bagian penting dari lingkungan belajar mengajar. Penulis menggunakan aplikasi Socrative sebagai media dalam kegiatan membaca siswa. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui persepsi siswa tentang penggunaan Socrative dalam pembelajarannya. Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian tindakan kelas dan menggunakan observasi dan wawancara untuk mengumpulkan data dengan partisipan tiga puluh satu siswa sekolah menengah pertama. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Socrative mampu membantu aktivitas membaca siswa dalam kegiatan kelas dan pengajaran guru, sebagai media yang berguna untuk keterlibatan siswa dalam kegiatan membaca, dan alat yang mudah dalam kegiatan membaca. Oleh karena itu, saya sebagai peneliti menyarankan untuk menggunakan aplikasi Socrative dalam kegiatan membaca.*

*Kata kunci: membaca, aplikasi, persepsi siswa.*

## ABSTRACT

Reading activities are usually done individually and the students are controlling the ability in their reading process by themselves. Technology has always been an important part of teaching and learning environment. The writer using Socrative application as medium in students' reading activity. The aim of this study was to know the students perceive on the use Socrative in their learning. This research using classroom action research and using observation and interview to collecting the data with the participants are thirty-one students at junior high school. The findings of the research showed that Socrative was able to help the student's reading activity in classroom activities and the teacher instruction, as a useful medium for student engagement in reading activity, and an easy tool in reading activity. Therefore, I'm as a researcher suggest to use a Socrative application in reading activity.

**Keywords:** reading, application, students' perception.

## INTRODUCTION

Reading "is a mechanism where you look at and learn meaning from a collection of written symbols. When you read, you use your eyes to get written symbols (letters, punctuation marks and spaces), and use your brain to convert them in sentences, words and phrases that express something to you. According to Arifah (cited in Ahmadi, 2018), in traditional classrooms, teachers stand in front of learners and give lecture, explanation, and instruction through using blackboard or whiteboard. These methods must be changed concerning the development of technology. The usage of multimedia texts in classroom assists learners to become familiar with vocabulary and language structures. The application of multimedia also makes use of print texts, film, and internet to enhance learners' linguistic knowledge. The use of print, film, and internet gives learners the chance to collect information and offers them different materials for the analysis and interpretation of both language and contexts.

According to Kamhi and Catts, (2018) cited in Akyol et all, (2014, p.200), "reading is an interactive process consisting of inferring, knowing correct sounds and comprehension". Based on the definition of the experts above about reading, the author says that reading is an activity of interpreting a text that is carried out by the reader to find out information. To get information in a text, students

not only do a quick or at a glance reading but students are asked to read and understand the contents, which is called reading comprehension. Based on the definition of the experts above about reading, that the practice of teaching reading the researcher found that students were told to read a text then they were asked to answer questions based on their understanding on the text. Then, the students were just informed that their answers are right or wrong without any explanation.

Now we are in the 21st century where everything uses technology, and now almost every student in the school has a sophisticated cellphone that is usually used for communication only. Technology has always been an important part of teaching and learning environment. It is an essential part of the teachers' profession through which they can use it to facilitate learners' learning. Integrating smartphones with the other devices in the class helps to enhance individual and group learning outcomes along with enabling more interactive discussions among students (Duncan et al., 2012) (cited in Kaya & Balta., 2016).

Socrative is an application that can help teaching and learning activities become easier. There is many benefit using Socrative applications like we can learn from the explanation and we can see the correct answer if the answer is incorrect. According to O'Keeffe (cited in Sarwar and Hosseinian, 2017), Socrative is an assessment tool which allows tutors to enable the engagement and assessment of their students in order to gain effective learning for the students.

## METHOD

This study was conducted by using classroom action research design to observe and analyze the use of Socrative application in the classroom to facilitating students' reading activities. In this study, the researcher used the procedure of research method from Kemmis and Mc Taggart (2000) in Burns (2010) and used two cycles in conducting the research. Each cycle was consisted of four steps, those are planning, acting, observing and reflecting. The research participants were in one of the junior high schools in Bogor. Thirty-one students with 14 male students and 17 female students from the tenth grade were selected to be participants. Classes consist of mixed students in terms of English competency. During the research process, implementing the use of Socrative applications as a reading facility for students.

In this research, the researcher is going to implement both observation and interview as instruments needed to complete data of the research. The data which is collected from the observation and interview will be analyzed to explain the distribution of data and also for answering the research questions. The process of analysis falls into following steps. Assembling step, analyzing step, and finishing step.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researcher did the research and got the complete data from all the research instruments including observation guide and interview guide. To gain the objectives of the research, the researcher had analyzed the data systematically and accurately. The data were analyzed to conclude the objective of the study.

In this study, an observation is used to answer the research questions about students' perceptions toward the use of Socrative in reading activity based on the data that is visible from the situation in the classroom between teacher and student during the learning activities in the classroom using Socrative. Apart from making observations, researchers also conducted interviews to deepen students' perceptions about the use of Socrative application.

This observation was carried out in five meetings. Every beginning of learning the teacher always gave a greeting and the student responded to the greeting, it showed that students are engaged in the classroom. Besides that, they were very enthusiastic when the teacher asked the students to take out their phones from their bag. The positive response showed that some of the students were curious about what would be done with their Mobile phone, "What are we going to do using Mobile phone, sir?", because they never used a mobile phone when learning at school.

Students become excited about using Socrative in their reading activities, they can see the explanation of the questions given and make them better understand what they are reading. Students feel that the use of technology is very helpful in supporting the learning process. They really like the use of these applications and make the class atmosphere in reading activities not boring, but the teacher must maintain control of the class so that it is not too noisy.

On the five days of classroom observation, students rarely find difficulties in using the

Socrative application. However, these difficulties exist for some students who do not have a mobile phone or also do not have an internet quota to access the application for use in their learning activities. However, in its use, it turns out that there are difficulties faced by students when using technology. The four participants said that what their obstacles were the bad signals.

From the research results, several perceptions were found. The first perception shows that Socrative is able to help students' reading activities in classroom activities and teacher teaching. This is explained so that students focus more on learning English and also students better understand the learning context with Socrative. Occasionally the students raised their hands to report to the teacher that they have completed the task that has been done on the application, while when students have difficulty they spontaneously ask to the teacher. The beginning of each student's learning is always asking "sir, what shall we do?" The response shows the interaction between students and teachers.

In addition, Socrative helps students to find out an explanation of the questions they have worked on. This means that when students read the text on the questions and answer the quizzes they will better understand and will learn about these questions, but not only makes it easier for students to learn to use this application it also has barriers such as bad signals or internet quota.

**CONCLUSION**

This study was conducted to know students perceive on the use Socrative in their learning. The results of the research showed that Socrative was able to help the student's reading activity in classroom activities and the teacher instruction, as a useful medium for student engagement in reading activity, and an easy tool in reading activity. In addition, that Socrative helps make better interaction between the students and the teacher and some students were very enthusiastic while using Socrative and also easy to use that application. However, some students have difficulty accessing the application due to bad mobile network. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that Socrative is effective and useful medium for teaching learning process in reading activity.

This research presents that the Students perceive on the use Socrative in their learning.

There are some suggestions based on the findings in this research as follows.

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