

ABSTRACT

Kalista Muryati Luju. 2101020022. Students Perceptions In Using Wattpad As A Medium To Practice Writing Skills Of The 9th Grade Students Of Smpn 10 Kupang In The Academic Year 2025/2026. *Supervised by: Drs. Alexander Home Kabelen, MA. and Muhhamad Arif, S.Pd., M.Pd.*

Wattpad is an online platform for writing and reading stories that became a prominent digital medium for students to practice their English writing skills. The practice of "writing on paper with a pen" became less common as students shifted to "writing on Wattpad" as a tool to assist them in learning English writing. Using Wattpad provided students a platform to practice the writing process by publishing their own stories and receiving direct feedback from readers. This research aimed to find out the students' perceptions toward using Wattpad as a medium to practice writing skills and the factors that influenced those perceptions. The subjects of this research were the 9th-grade students of Class 9I at SMPN 10 Kupang in the Academic Year 2025/2026. The method used in this research was a descriptive qualitative method. The instruments used for data collection were observation, interview, and documentation. The results of data analysis show that wattpad was considered a highly positive writing learning medium with perceptions reflected across three dimensions: cognitive, affective, and conative. In the cognitive dimension, students perceived Wattpad as a flexible and functional tool that helped them edit and revise their writing more easily than conventional writing media. In the affective dimension, students felt delighted, comfortable, and more motivated because the writing atmosphere was more relaxed and readers gave comments through the feedback feature. In the conative dimension, students changed from passive writers into more confident and creative individuals who were willing to express their own ideas in English writing. Students' positive perceptions were shaped by internal factors, mainly self-motivation and emotional drive, and external factors such as the easy access and interactive features of Wattpad compared to traditional writing methods. Students stated in the interviews that they were motivated to practice writing English because Wattpad was flexible, easy to use, and allowed them to share their stories with other readers.

Keywords: *Wattpad, students' perceptions, writing skills, influencing factor*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The industrial revolution has affected many fields, including literature. According to Katherine (2008) today, more and more literary works are available on the internet. Unlike print literature, which is usually written by famous authors, electronic literature involves writers from various backgrounds, ranging from famous authors to teenagers who love to write. In the world of electronic literature, there is no strict selection process like in print media. In order to publish a piece of (should be of) article or any type of writing in a newspaper or magazine, the writing must first be selected to fit the media's standards, which often makes writers hesitant to submit their work due to high competition and low chances of acceptance. However, the digital landscape allows for a more inclusive environment where anyone with access to the internet can share their stories and ideas. This democratization of literature fosters creativity and encourages diverse voices to emerge and enrich the literary scene as a whole.

The internet has made it easier for people to find literary works to read, and because there are so many books available and it is so easy to search for in it, it saves time compared to going to libraries or bookstores. According to Kühn (2020), it is also easy for people to share their work on social media, which is open for comments and suggestions, allowing writers to quickly identify the strengths and weaknesses of their work and improve it. In this way, the internet is not just a place to find reading materials but also a platform to create literature itself.

The focus of English education in junior high school is predominantly on text-oriented learning methodologies. By engaging with various texts, learners can enhance their disposition to become more defined and nuanced. Text-based learning emphasizes the development of students' proficiency in text composition (Ningsih, 2017), and encompasses four fundamental language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Aulia, 2021). Writing is a discipline that presents a considerable degree of complexity when juxtaposed with the other three skills, that is: reading, listening and speaking. The cultivation of writing skills within

educational frameworks is essential for developing critical thinking in students as they engage with various subjects. Students must demonstrate the ability to compose literary works, encompassing essays, correspondence, poetry, dramatic scripts, and short stories.

Wattpad is a website service that doubles as a social media application for writing and reading literary works. Wattpad is an online media platform, also known as social media, that is available on websites, Android applications, iOS, and Windows phones. Teenagers who are constantly glued to their smartphones can easily access literature with just one click without having to visit the library, and can choose what type of reading they want to do.

Aspiring and seasoned authors can submit their work on Wattpad, receive feedback, and interact with other authors and readers. One of the blogging platforms that offers users the ability to write and read is Wattpad. Accordingly (Putri, 2019) clarified that Wattpad is a website designed for people who enjoy writing, whether they are creating poems, short stories, articles, or serialized stories.

Additionally, Mawardi (2018) clarified that Wattpad is an online platform that offers unique advantages to account holders so they may frequently publish their work. Wattpad's literary works are serialized since they are frequently uploaded. Accordingly, Wattpad is an online and offline social media platform that offers a wide range of literary works in a variety of genres (Mawardi, 2018). The aforementioned description leads one to the conclusion that Wattpad is an application that is accessible via computers, laptops, and other devices and that offers a variety of stories and their classifications.

Officially launched in 2006, Wattpad is the product of a partnership between Lau and Toronto, Canada-based Ivan Yuen. Over the course of its development, Wattpad gradually expanded to a number of nations, including the United States, England, Australia, the Philippines, Russia, Libya, Jamaica, the United Arab Emirates, and several more (Putri, 2019). According to Wattpad managers, in 2016, 45 million people visited Wattpad each month, and users spent 16 billion minutes there. Wattpad boasts over 300 million stories, 90% of its activity is accessed on

mobile devices, and supports over 50 languages. Wattpad can also be accessed online and offline.

Additionally, Wattpad allows students to practice writing in a fun and interactive way. They can write their own stories and share them on the site, receiving immediate feedback from readers. This feedback helps students identify their strengths and weaknesses, motivating them to improve their writing skills. The platform also fosters a supportive community where students can collaborate, share ideas, and encourage each other. Overall, Wattpad not only nurtures creativity but also helps students develop essential writing skills for their academic and professional futures.

Observed the interest of students in class 9I in writing English. The students appeared enthusiastic when given the task of writing about their vacation experiences. From observations during teaching practice, the students actively asked questions in composing and writing their essays compared to other classes. They also actively asked questions about writing texts about their experiences in English. Therefore, the researcher chose this class as the research sample.

Based on the ideas given above the writer is interested in conducting a study titled **"Students Perceptions In Using Wattpad As A Medium To Practice Writing Skills Of The 9th Grade Students Of SMPN 10 Kupang In The Academic Year 2025/2026."**

1.2 Research Problems

The problems of this study are formulated in forms of questions as follow:

1. What are the students' perceptions toward using Wattpad as a medium for learning to write?
2. What factors influence students' perceptions towards using Wattpad to write?

1.3 Research Aims and Benefits

1.3.1 Aims

The aims of this study are :

1. To identify students' perceptions towards using Wattpad as a medium for learning to write.
2. To analyze the factors that influence students' perceptions in using Wattpad to write.

1.3.2 Benefits

The benefits of this study are as follows:

1. By conducting this study it can enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in carrying out any scientific study related to using an application or device that can support language learning to develop a student's writing skills.
2. The result of this study can provide useful information on innovative learning media.
3. The result of this study may become a source of information for those who are interested in conducting any study related to the topic of this study.

1.4 Focus of Study

This study will focus on the students' perceptions in using wattpad as a media to practice writing and factors influence students' perceptions towards using Wattpad to write for the 9th grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the academic year 2025/2026. The samples of this research are students from class 9I with a total of 28 students.

1.5 Definition of Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, the writer defines some terms found in the title of this study as follows:

1. Students perceptions

According to Zulkanaen (2020), perception is the process to select, organize, store and interpret information gathered from human

senses. In this writing, perception can be understood as the impression from the experiences of students that have been obtained through the process of using wattpad as a medium to practice writing.

2. Wattpad

Wattpad is a digital platform that allows users to write, read, and share stories. According to Karp (2015), Wattpad provides a space for writers to connect with readers and get immediate feedback.

3. Practice

According to Harmer (2007), practice is a key stage in the learning process in which students apply the knowledge they have acquired through sustained and targeted practice to achieve comprehensive mastery of competencies.

4. Writing Skills

Writing practice is the process by which individuals engage in writing activities to improve their writing skills. According to Graham and Perin (2007), regular and purposeful writing practice can improve students' writing ability.

1.6 Organization of Writing

This writing consists of five chapters. Chapter I is the Introduction which includes the Background, Research Problems, Objectives and Benefits, Scope of Research, Definition of Terms, and Writing Organization. Chapter II is the Literature Review. In this chapter the writer presents some theories and concepts that are relevant to the topic of this research. Chapter III is Research Methodology. This chapter describes the research methodology which consists of research method, place and time of research, research techniques and instruments, data collection procedures, and data analysis techniques. Chapter IV is the data Analysis and discussion of Classroom Action, and Chapter V deals with Conclusions and Suggestions based on the results of data analysis.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In conducting research, theories are needed to explain an applied concept in connection with the research such that the theories will become a scientific base of this study. Therefore this chapter discusses Definition of students perceptions, classification on students perceptions, Factors affecting students perceptions, process of students perception, Definition of Writing, Process of Writing and the last one about Wattpad.

2.1 Students Perceptions

2.1.1. Definition of Students Perceptions

According to Oxford Learner's Dictionary (2024), perception is the idea, belief or image which a person has as a result of understanding or seeing something. Awareness of an object, relation and event involving activities such as recognizing, observing and sorting through a cognitive process is defined as perception (Ali and Siddiq, 2022). Students' perception is related to the feeling of students about a certain phenomenon (Montague, 1997 cited in Putri, 2021). Based on the definitions of perception, student perception is the meaning understood from an event through the cognitive process of recognizing, observing, organizing and interpreting by students. In this study, students' perception refers to how students view, feel, and respond toward using Wattpad as a medium to practice their writing skills.

2.1.2. Classification of Student Perception

Student perception is classified based on the types of perception (Robin, 2003 cited in Lindawati *et al.*, 2022; Nisaa', 2022) as follows: 1) Positive perception that is the positive result of the perspective evaluation process toward the object of perception. Temel, *et al.* (2020) described that positive perception shows the increase of positive value in a person toward the event or phenomenon such as self-confidence, self-worth and abilities; and 2) Negative perception that is the negative result of the prospective evaluation process or considered not suitable by the students.

2.1.3. Factors Affecting Students' Perception

Several factors which affect students' perception include (Thoha, 2003):

1. Internal factors

Internal factors that affect perception of students are:

- a) Physical condition is the condition of the health of students which affects the ability for students to process information.
- b) Feelings is the impression of students toward the experience of the situation given.
- c) Attitudes and personality are the character of students in taking opinion of the situation given.
- d) Attention is the attraction of students toward the situation given.
- e) Belief is the faith which students take attention toward.
- f) Desire or hope is the will of students in giving opinion toward the situation given.
- g) Learning is the process to achieve understanding of a subject.
- h) Values and needs are the importance of deciding the meaning of a situation toward the students.
- i) Motivation is the desire to achieve a goal from students.
- j) Interest is a set of interactions toward a goal from students.

2. External factors

External factors that affect perception of students are:

- a) Acquired information is the information learned by students from being taught or experienced.
- b) Knowledge is the information learned by students to store inside the brain.
- c) Needs are the things that are acquired by students for their daily learning.
- d) Intensity is the motivational effort to achieve goals from learners.
- e) Size is the amount of effort to achieve goals from learning.
- f) Opposition is the relationship in understanding the goals in learning.

- g) Repetition is the key learning strategy to allow students to retain memory.
- h) New and familiar objects are subjects that are learned to distinguish from students between the differences.
- i) Unfamiliar objects are subjects that are new for students to learn.

These internal and external factors may also influence how students perceive the use of Wattpad in their writing activities.

2.1.4. Process of Students' Perception

According to Thoha (2003), there are three stages in forming perception. Stimulation is the first stage in the process of forming perception which is considered the most important. A situation confronted to the individual triggers the stimulus presence in forming perception. Internal stimuli comes from sensing each individual's different feelings, background, culture and life experiences based on the event (Walgito, 2010). External stimuli are sensory inputs that come from the environment such as light, sound, temperature and pressure through the eyes, ears, skin, tongue and nose for interaction and survival. The second stage is individuals select the most crucial stimuli by listing all the known information after listening to or viewing the object of perception and disregard the rest. The third stage is the process of giving meaning to the stimulus received known as interpretation. Interpretation is viewed as the critical cognitive aspect in the perception process.

2.1.5. The Cognitive, Affective, and Conative Dimensions of Students' Perceptions

Students' perceptions of using Wattpad as a medium for developing writing skills can be understood through three interrelated components: cognitive, affective, and conative. These components help explain how students think about Wattpad, how they feel when using it, and how they act in response to its use in writing activities.

1. The cognitive dimension

According to Cognitive Evaluation Theory (a sub-theory of Self-Determination Theory by Deci & Ryan, 2000), in the context of writing,

cognition involves how students evaluate their own abilities (self-efficacy). When students use a digital writing platform, their cognitive motivation is strongly influenced by their perceptions of the platform's usefulness and ease of use.

2. The affective dimension

The affective dimension relates to the emotional and feeling-based responses experienced by students during the learning process. Motivation is highly dependent on an individual's emotional state, ranging from positive feelings such as joy, interest, and pride to negative emotions such as anxiety, boredom, or frustration (Pekrun, R. 2006).

3. The conative dimension

The conative dimension bridges the gap between thought (cognition), emotion (affect), and actual behavior. Conation refers to the intention, will, effort, and perseverance required to carry out a behavior and maintain it over time, especially when faced with obstacles (Heckhausen, H. (2008)

2.2. Writing

2.2.1. Definition of Writing

One of the most crucial skills to be acquired as part of learning English is writing. When studying a language, children also need to be able to write. Furthermore, communicating knowledge to readers through written form is a global act of writing. It indicates that pupils use writing as a medium of communication to express their thoughts or opinions.

Writing, as defined by Nunan (2003), is the physical process of creating words or developing ideas for certain media, either in typed form on a computer or in written form on paper. He also added that writing is a cerebral process that involves coming up with ideas, considering how to communicate them, and organizing them into sentences and paragraphs that the reader can comprehend because the author plans and imagines. Rereads, tweaks, and drafts. Writing is a process as well as a final product. Writing usually produces cyclical and sometimes disorganized results.

Furthermore, Rohman (1965) says good writing is writing that has integrity that dominates and a combination of words with the fresh and original patterns owned by an author. Students who learn to write can express their opinions, ideas, and imaginations in journals, letters, or make stories.

Meanwhile, Harris (1990) stated that there are several important components in making good writing:

1. Content: the substance in writing or ideas that must be developed.
2. Form: the arrangement of the content.
3. Grammar: the placement of grammar and syntactic pattern.
4. Style: structured placement and selection of lexical items that give tone in writing.

2.2.2. Process of Writing

To create good writing, the writer should do several processes when writing. According to Langan (2008), the four stages of writing include prewriting, first draft writing, revising, and editing. The following is Langan's explanations of the writing process:

1. Prewriting

Some people usually have difficulty starting a topic or developing a topic about their writing. The following are five prewriting approaches that can in the development of ideas or words for writing:

a. Free writing

Free writing means writing words that come to mind about the topic to be written. Free writing can help someone get used to writing because when someone does freewriting someone does not need to think about the mistake they make in their writing. They just need to focus on developing their ideas in writing. By doing the habit of continuing free writing practice will make someone accustomed to thinking when writing.

b. Questioning

With questioning, the writer can generate and develop ideas by asking questions to the subject to be written.

Questioning can be asked as much as possible according to what the writer thinks. The following questions can be asked such as why, what, where, who, when, and how.

c. Making a list.

Making a list or can be called brainstorming, is by gathering ideas that can support the topic you want to write.

d. Clustering

Clustering, also known as diagrams or mapping, is a technique that can help produce material in writing. This technique is useful for someone who thinks using visuals. Clustering can use lines, arrows, boxes, or circles by connecting between topics and details of their development in writing.

e. Preparing a scratch outline.

A scratch outline is the most important part of the four above. A scratch outline can arise after freewriting, questioning, making list, or clustering techniques; or gradually appear in the midst of previous techniques. A scratch outline is a technique that can help writers to achieve writing that is integrated, supported, and well organized.

2. Writing a First Draft

When writing a first draft, there may be some changes and improvements. If there are problems in writing, do not worry. Give a blank space and add a sign, add if you already have inspiration again. Do not worry about punctuation, grammar or spelling too.

3. Revising

Revising is a step similar to prewriting, planning and writing the first draft. Revising means rewriting the text, building and reinforcing existing writing. The revision process is divided into three stages; content revision, sentence revision, and editing.

4. Editing.

After revising the writing, the next step is editing. Editing means checking and correcting grammar errors, punctuation and spelling.

2.3. Wattpad

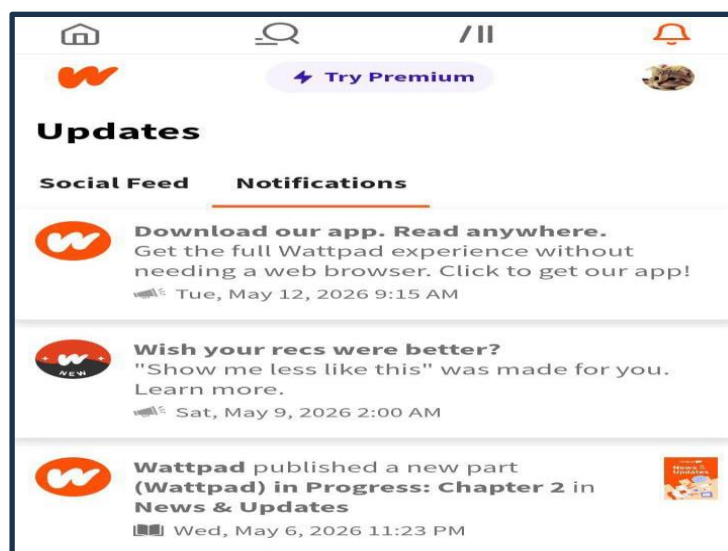
2.3.1. Definition Of Wattpad

According to Rahmawati (2022) Wattpad is a website for users who enjoy reading and writing articles, short stories, series, poems, and more. Users are based in Toronto, Canada; Russia; Libya; the United Arab Emirates; and, of course, Indonesia, among other countries. People can write on Wattpad and read short stories, series, articles, poems, etc., by starting or reading posts. Users can also comment and vote for each read. Wattpad can also be read by computers, cell phones, or tablet readers. Not only that, but when a user explores the application and produces a work that is widely seen and favored by other users throughout the world, the author can make money by printing books and then selling them.

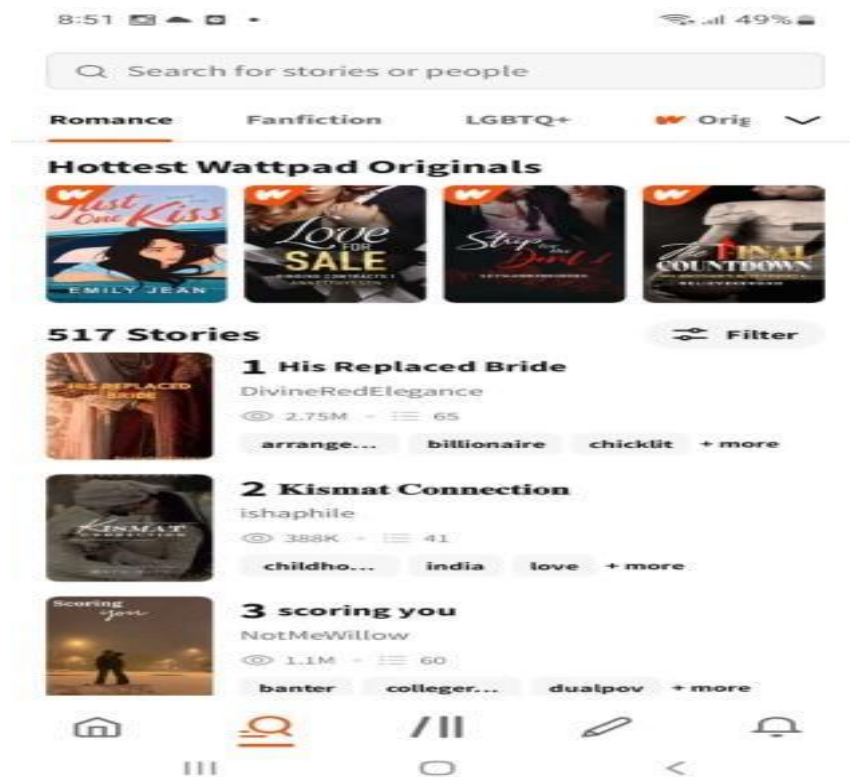
Furthermore Allen Lau (2006), Many Wattpad stories have been taken into consideration and turned into books by publishers. One of these stories, Dear Nathan, written by Erisca Febriani, has been published and became a best-selling novel because it has been read by more than 20 million users. Because of the novel's popularity, a production company was hired to make it into a movie that had 716,500 viewers when it was released in 2017.

2.3.2 . Wattpad Feature

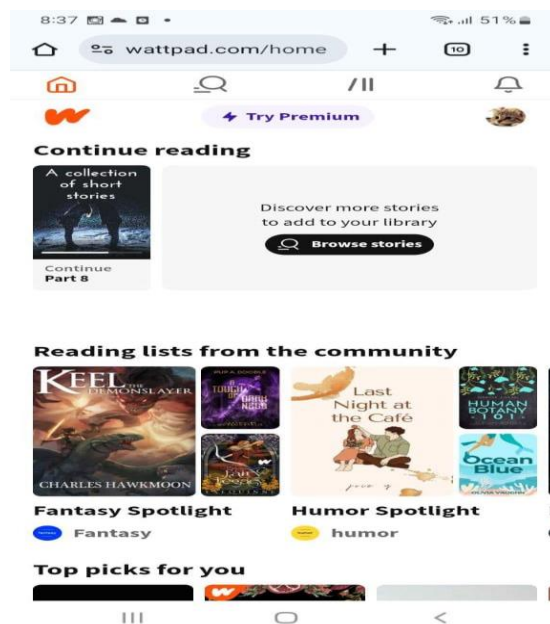
1. Update feature that shows notifications related to wattpad.



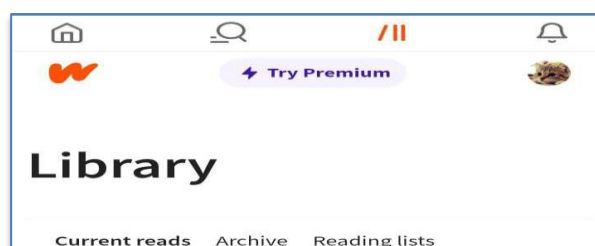
2. Search feature to find specific reading material based on



3. Home feature to display the latest and most popular reading selections available.



4. Library feature to save specific readings so can be more easily searched and read



5. The write feature allows wattpad account owners to write stories that are published to the general public.



2.3.3. Functions of Wattpad

According to Arsyad (2019), Wattpad gives users the opportunity to choose the type of writing they like best. Short stories, fantasy, science fiction (fan, teen, historical, and general), horror, humor, poetry, and many other forms of writing are included.

Users can rely on wattpad to read whatever they want, including fan fiction, teen fiction, romance, action, and other genres, without having to carry heavy books. According to Karp (2015), wattpad is designed for people who love to read, especially stories, but don't want to bother carrying big books. One can access it anytime and from any location by simply opening the wattpad app or website address.

If wattpad users like to write but don't know where to write, then they can try writing on wattpad. Through the application, users can make a place to practice writing skills and can use it as a place to exchange information about writing or reading. In addition, read stories to increase your knowledge about writing. If lucky

and have many fans on wattpad, people will like to create the stories. If this happens, users can profit from creating books and selling them. Wattpad itself has published many previous best-selling stories in movies, such as Mariposa, Dear Nathan, The Perfect Husband, Serendipity, and many more.

2.3.4. Procedure of Using Wattpad

Users can access the Wattpad app on the website at www.wattpad.com ,but they can also download it from the app store and then enter the login information they need using either their email address, Google, or Facebook account. Rebora and Pianzola (2018),The Wattpad mobile app looks the same, but it can be accessed from anywhere.

Immediately, the Wattpad message category menu appears and the mobile menu appears easier. The notifications menu will display any notifications related to posts that the user is currently following. At first, the app displays a selection of Wattpad's recommended posts that users may like. Therefore, users can use the “Explore” feature to discover different stories.

According Yuliana and Nurcahyono (2021) Wattpad is not only a place to read other users' works but also a place to channel their own writing. Through the comment section, users can chat and comment with others and interact with each other about their writing. In addition, there is a “Vote Support” function (voting) that serves as support for writers.

2.4. Previous Studies

In this case, the writer finds some previous studies that are relevant to the research that the writer has been conducting. Those are in the form of journals and theses. The previous studies are as follows:

The first study was conducted by Dhara Amalia Tanjung (2022), entitled “Utilizing Wattpad Application to Improve the Students’ Skill in Writing Narrative Text at the Eighth Grade of SMP Yayasan Perguruan Keluarga Pematang siantar in

the Academic Year. ” 2020/2021. ” The result of students’ scores shows that the students’ average score keeps improving in every test. The students’ average score in pre-test was 57.7, There were 2 students (8 %) who passed the Minimum Mastery criterion (75). In the Post-test in cycle I, there were 10 students (40%) who passed the score 75. In the Post-Test in cycle II there were 22 students (81.8%) who passed the Minimum Mastery criterion (75). Based on the quantitative data above, it can be seen that the students’ score showed the improvement from the first to the last test. Furthermore, the qualitative data showed that all the learning activities gave contributions not only improved the students’ skills in writing Narrative Text but also the students’ confidence, interest, enthusiasm, and motivation

The key difference between this study and the present research that will be conducted lies in the research approach and objectives. This study employed a Classroom Action Research (CAR) method, focusing on enhancing students’ narrative writing skills through the use of Wattpad by analyzing their pre-test and post-test results. In contrast, the research conducted adopts a qualitative descriptive approach, aiming to explore in depth the students’ experiences, perspectives, and motivations in using Wattpad as a medium for writing. In other words, while the previous study emphasized learning outcomes, the research conducted is more concerned with understanding the writing process and the students’ engagement with Wattpad.

The second study conducted by Syarif Nur Fadillah Said, Muhammad Saleh, and Abdul Azis (2023) is titled "The Impact of the Wattpad App on Writing of Grade XI Students at SMK Negeri 1 Makassar." The results of the students' pretest showed an average score of 50.10 in the poor category and the posttest with an average score of 81.70 in the good category. Based on the results of the Wilcoxon Nonparametric test, the results of the pretest and posttest data analysis show that the sig value of $0.000 < 0.05$ is obtained, so H_a is accepted and H_0 is rejected.

This research utilized a simple experimental design, specifically a One-Group Pretest-Posttest Design, which focused on comparing scores before and after the use of Wattpad. In contrast, the research will not employ an experimental design

or compare pre- and post-scores; instead, it emphasizes providing an in-depth description of the phenomenon through observation and interviews.

The third study, "Using the Wattpad Platform to Improve the Writing Skills of the Tenth-Grade Students of SMA Negeri 2 Palu," was conducted by Fitra Syahwalya Konder Manurung and Andi Patmasari Mukrim. The results showed that the post-test t-counted value (6.608) was greater than the t table (1.670) by applying a significance level of 0.05 with degrees of freedom (df) = 64. Based on the results of the study, if the value is greater than the t table, then H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted. In other words, the effect of using Wattpad platform on students' writing skills has a significant effect.

Fundamental differences lay in the research focus. While previous studies were quantitative and assessed the magnitude of students' progress through test scores, this study was qualitative and sought to explore how and why students responded to Wattpad, specifically examining their attitudes and writing processes within the digital medium.