

# **Reading English Novels Among English Language Students**

*A Skripsi*

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*Sarjana Pendidikan*



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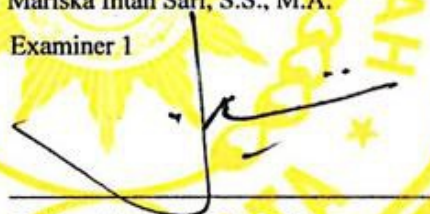
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## **Abstract**

Nowadays the use of English novel is not only to tell about a story but also can be the learning media on the learning process, so that the researcher interested to find out the students perception about reading English novel. The aim of this research is to find out the students perception about reading English novel as the learning media. To achieve the aim of this research, the researcher used qualitative method as the design of the research. To gather the data for the research was used interview guideline. Participants of this study were two participants. The participants are the students from one of private Islamic University in Yogyakarta. The findings of this research showed that the researcher found the different perception about reading English Novel. The first perception is the researcher found that participants feel challenged by reading English Novel and also the other side the researcher found that participant get advantages by reading English Novel. The challenges of reading English Novel took a place in a size of words, so many words and no picture on English Novel. The advantages of reading English Novel took a place in increasing their grammar and vocabulary and also made them more imaginative.

*Keywords:* English Novel, students' perception, vocabulary, grammar, learning media

## **Background of Study**

A textbook is an instrument that the students often use in their learning media. Based on the researcher experience, most of teacher use textbook as their teaching media. In addition, there are a lot of students that often read textbook in their learning process. Moreover to the textbook, there is a lot of learning media that can students' use in their learning process.

Nowadays, the use of English Novel is not only to tell about a story but also can be the learning media. The researcher interested to find out the perception of the students about English novel as their learning media. The reason why the researcher interested to find out the perception of the students because English Novel is unique learning media that maybe just the English language students that use English novel as the learning media. According to Agustin (2017) learning media is the thing that can be used as the tool or an instrument to help the students' learning process. The researcher believe that English novel is a unique learning media because English novel basically made for telling about the story, but nowadays there are some lecturer that use English novel as learning media.

English Language Education Department is a department of education that focused in English Language. Pradana 2018 stated that in ELED the lecturers teach standardized of English Language. In ELED, the students taught about English Language in education context by the lecturers. ELED is one of department that use English Novel as learning media. Based on researcher's friends from ELED in other universities in Yogyakarta, also there are some lecturers that use English Novel as learning media, it can be concluded that the

use of English Novel as learning media are in demand. In addition based on researcher's observation in English Language Education Department in one of private islamic university in Yogyakarta, there are some lecturers that use English Novel as their learning media. In addition, based on researcher experience those lecturers use English novel for their learning process because English novel can give a lot of benefit for the students.

A good English novel is a novel that can affect the reader especially the students' motivation. Agustin (2017) stated that by choosing the great English Novel can give the students motivation to learn the target language. English novel also can help some students to learning English language easily. English novel also has some factor that can help the students to increase their English language skills.

Ideally, students are interested in using English novel as their learning media because English novel can increase their English language skills interestingly. In fact, based on the researcher's experience, some of my friends are burdened when English novel became their learning media. In addition, some students are lazy to read lots of word in English novel, some students also did not understand about the content of English novel.

Based on the statement above, some students may often use textbook as their learning media. In addition, there are some students that probably has a different perception when they use English Novel as their learning media. There are several possibilities that each student has a different perception. So that this research want to investigate the student's perception.



## **Methodology**

The research setting took place in ELED at one of private Islamic universities in Yogyakarta. It aims to investigate and gain deep information about their perception about reading English novel as a learning media. There are two reasons why the researcher chooses ELED. The first reason is because there are some course like Basic Reading and Writing that use English novel as their learning media, so there are a lot of students who read English novel for their learning process. Based on the explanation above, the researcher believes that ELED is one of private Islamic university in Yogyakarta which is suitable to do this research and the researcher is able to gather the deep data from this setting. The second reason is because the researcher also studies at ELED in the one of private Islamic universities in Yogyakarta, so the researcher knows exactly about the criteria of the participants from ELED in the one of private Islamic university in Yogyakarta. This research was done in December 2018.

The participants of this research were the students from ELED in the one of private Islamic university in Yogyakarta. The criteria of the participants of this research were divided into 2 criteria. First criteria for the participant of this research was the students batch 2016 who already take a course that uses English novel as their teaching media for their learning process at least one course.

Moreover the researcher believes that one course is enough because the participants spent one semester for one course, and it took a long time for the participants to read an English novel, so that they have enough experience to share because they have been reading an English novel for a long time. Second criteria

for this research was the students who have good activeness in a class. It means the students who often answer the question from the lecturer in class. In addition, the total of the participants is two participants. According to Cohen, Manion and Morisson, (2011) said that there is no limitation of the participants in qualitative research, the number of participants is adjusted by needs.

The researcher believed that two participants are enough to gather the deep data to answer the research question. Those participants are two females from batch 2016. The first participant is Mawar and the second participant is Melati. Both of them are the students that already took a course that use English Novel as their learning media. Both of them also the students that actively participated in classroom and someone who can speak a lot on the course Basic Reading and Writing. Both of them are the students that read English novel be governed by the teacher. The two participants were recommended by the researcher's friend. She is the researcher's friend also the friend of the participants, so it can be trusted because she is the classmate of the participants.

The researcher used interview as the technique for collecting the data in this study. The reason why the researcher used interview to collect the data because the researcher wants to gain deeper data from the participants. The purpose of this technique is to gather the data deeper from the students of ELED in one of private islamic university in Yogyakarta. This interview has gathered the data about their belief, their experience, and their point of view about reading English novel towards their English language skills. There were several steps that the researcher use to gain the data from the participant.



The first step to gain the data is the researcher choose the participants who already took a course that used English novel as their learning media. Then, the researcher chooses two participants who ready to be interviewed by the researcher. The researcher choose only two participants because the researcher believes that two participants are enough to gather the data and gain deeper information. After that, the researcher interviewing those two participants based on the appointment via chat on social media. The next step was the researcher interviewing the participants one by one. The researcher did face to face interview and gains the information from the participants. In addition, the researcher interviewed the participants based on the guidelines. The interview took a place in ELED in the one of private Islamic university in Yogyakarta building and participants' boarding house. The range time of the interview is around 20-25 minutes for each participant. In this section, the researcher record the interview by phone recording.

The researcher use an interview to gather the data in this study. The instrument of this study use a phone recorder for interviewing the participants. In addition, by using a phone recorder it can record the detail data because the researcher can replay the result of the interview. Other instruments that the researcher use in this research are interview guideline, paper, and pen. This instrument also uses *Bahasa Indonesia* in the process of the interview. The reason why the researcher used *Bahasa Indonesia* because it can be appropriate for the participants and also *Bahasa Indonesia* is the first language of the participants so that can make the participants easier and feel free to answer the question from the

researcher without worry about their grammar. Besides that, the researcher only wants to gain the data from the participants' experience about reading English novel not about their speaking skills, so the researcher use Bahasa Indonesia during the interview process.

## **Findings and Discussion**

### **Participants feel challenged by reading English Novel**

The first students' perception about reading English Novel is they feel challenged everytime they read an English Novel. The first participant also said, " Become more challenged because I got a new challenge by reading English Novel" (P1.1) Some students felt challenged everytime they read an English Novel because the books are bold and there are so many pages, so that makes the students feel challenged. There are some students who have just read an English Novel for the first time. So it makes them feel challenged to learn a new thing on their learning process. After collecting the data from participants, the researcher found some disadvantages of reading English Novel. In this section, the researcher discusses those disadvantages of reading an English Novel.

**Participants faced the quantities of the pages.** The first challenge that students faced while they were read an English Novel was there are so many words in English Novel. Second participants said that " .... for the challenge of reading English novel, there are so many words in English Novel" (P2.3) . In addition there are so many words in English Novel and that makes the students read lots of thing in English Novel and thats why the students felt unmotivated to read an English Novel.

**Participants felt bored.** Another challenge that students faced while they were read an English Novel is there is no picture in English Novel. Maybe some of English Novel has a picture but just a little bit. The second participant stated that "... also there is no picture in English Novel and that makes me lazy and bored to read" (P2.4). In addition, some students feel bored everytime they read an English Novel because there are no words at there. Some students feel bored because they just read and try to understand about the new vocabulary and try to understand about the arrangement of grammar. That's why some students feel bored while they read an English Novel.

**Small fonts** also one of the disadvantages of reading English Novel. There are lots of words and the size is small that students faced while they were read an English Novel. The second participant said that " The words in English Novel are small, that makes me lazy to read" (P2.7). In addition, there are so many words in English Novel and the size are small, some students feel lazy to read small words. Another challenge that students faced while they were read an English Novel is they feel lazy to understand a new vocabulary in small words. The statement is presented " It's complicated to translating a new vocab that we don't understand about that" (P2.8). This problem in line with Yusnarso (2017) that said the problem that happened when the students do not have many vocabularies to understand. In addition, some students feel more confused everytime they found a new vocab in small words, and that makes them lazy to read an English Novel. Yusnarso (2017) also stated that the vocabulary problem will be important in the learning process. In addition, vocabulary mastery plays important on the reading

process, so if we do not understand about some vocabularies that might be the problem for students' learning process.

### **Participants felt advantaged by reading English Novel**

Based on the data gathered by the researcher, there are some advantages that students' feel after they read an English Novel. In this section, the researcher discusses those advantages that students' feel after they read an English Novel.

**Participants got new vocabularies.** Unconsciously, some students' got so many advantages after they read English Novel. One of those advantages is students' got lots of new vocabulary from English Novel. This finding was in line with Yusnarso (2017) that said the thing that plays important in the learning process is vocabulary. In addition, vocabulary is the important thing that students can get from reading English Novel. First participants said that "I got so many advantages after reading English Novel like got so many new vocabularies" (P1.3). Some students' found lots of new vocabulary from English Novel and they should translate them into Bahasa Indonesia. That the reason why some students understand about new vocabulary after they were read an English Novel. Another statement is presented "The positive impact that I got, I can learn a new thing and I got lots of new vocabulary ...." (P2.2). Agustin (2017) also stated that English Novel consists of the new vocabulary that they never knew before, and that makes them more aware about new vocabulary that they got. In case the students can increase their vocabulary mastery. According to Alkire (2010), English Novel has a unique characteristic that gives the benefits such as language improvement to

the students. In addition, English Novel can increase students vocabulary mastery to improve their language.

**Participants felt increased on their ability on grammar.** Another advantages that students' felt after they read an English Novel is increasing the students' ability about grammar. According to Setyarini (2017), there are some benefits found such as a skill that improved by vocabulary, getting new knowledge and improving grammar. Unconsciously, the students can increase their ability about grammar after they read an English Novel. Participant one stated, "Then, I got the lesson about grammar, like a good arrangement of grammar" (P1.3). In addition, while reading English Novel, the students unconsciously learn about the correct grammar arrangement. So that the students can know and can memorize a good grammar arrangement. According to Agustin (2017) English Novel in classes, can make the students more aware about grammatical terms. In addition, English Novel can make the students more aware about structure. Participant two stated that " ..... The positive impact has increased an ability about grammar" (P2.2). The students got a positive impact after they were read an English Novel include the ability about a good arrangement of grammar. This finding was in line with Setyarini (2017) that said by reading an English Novel the students can learn about the grammar because the students got a correct example of using grammar. In addition, the students have an example about correct grammar because English Novel usually uses correct grammar.

**Participants felt the learning process become easier.** Another advantage of reading an English Novel is made the learning process easier. This statement is

presented “I learn more easily with English Novel”. In addition, an English Novel can make the learning process easier because there are lots of advantages that students’ got from English Novel. Setyarini (2017) stated that one of benefits that students gained from reading English Novel is getting new knowledge and make the learning process easier. Moreover, the learning process can be more easier with English Novel because the students unconsciously can learn about new vocabulary, learn about a good arrangement of grammar and also the students can be more imaginative while they read an English Novel. That the reason why reading English Novel can make the learning process more easier.

**Participants felt the learning process become more interesting.** The advantages of reading English Novel not only about the vocabulary and grammar but English Novel can make the students more interesting. The first participant said that English Novel can make the students more imaginative “ an English Novel makes me become more imaginative” (P1.5). The first participant also said that “ We should imagine the story while we read an English Novel” (P1.5). In order, the students can imagine the story inside English Novel itself, so that can make the students more imaginative while they read an English Novel.

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