Students' Perception towards the Importance of Twitter as Media of Learning English: A Case Study at University of Muhammadiyah Malang, Indonesia

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Abstract: Nowadays, Twitter has become learning media that allows students to enhance their English competence, and it helps students to improve their learning outcome. The perpose of the research is to describe the students' perception towards the importance of Twitter as Learning English Media. The study applied descriptive method and used questionnaire to collect the data. There were 100 students as respondents who responded to the questionnaire which consisted of five options for each statement. The results of the research showed that students had a positive perception towards the importance of Twitter as media for developing English skills. There were three aspects regarding the perception of students towards the Twitter: 1) Twitter facilitated communication, and it helped students promote their English skills; 2) Twitter enabled students to increase vocabulary from which they could improve reading comprehension; and 3) Twitter assisted students in developing translation skills that enabled them to translate English to Indonesian text or vice versa.

Keywords: students, perception, twitter, English, media

Introduction

The Use of Information and Communication Technology allows students to facilitate learning activities so that their learning outcomes increase (Hattem and Lomicka, 2016). The application of ICT in education is very important for teaching and learning process. For this reason, students are required to develop their ability to use ICT in order to facilitate the learning process. Along with the improvement of information technology, students need to learn skills to apply social media such as Twitter to access the source of information as an educational process. In this case, the use of Twitter is very important to obtain information regarding English learning materials. This is because Twitter plays an important role in disseminating information (Schreiner, 2018). The information is not only related to social political aspects, but also related to English education.

In the era of globalization, English plays an important role in the education, particularly English education. This is because English helps students improve their achievement. English as

a communication tool allows students to increase their knowledge because English is widely used by people to develop knowledge. Various media such as Internet, Twitter, TV, music, movies, books, magazines, and journals use English as a means of distributing ideas. Therefore, students need to enhance their competence to apply Information and communication Technology such as Twitter. The ability to use Twitter is useful to elicit information that uses the English as main media so that students are capable of promoting their English knowledge. McCorkle and Payan (2017), suggest that Twitter can be used to facilitate learning process in the classroom to improve students' English skills.

Twitter users come from various countries around the world, and they use it as a means of communication to communicate their ideas with friends. Twitter applications that use the Internet connection provide people with various types of popular communication facilities from which they are to convey thoughts, feelings and their experiences (Waterloo et al., 2017). In education, Twitter is widely used by students to communicate with their friends to share information related to learning materials (Chawinga, 2016). They not only send information about the lessons, but they also receive information from their friends or Twitter users that help them solve the academic problem. According to Erdem and Kibar, (2014), in the current era of information technology, lecturers and students are trying to find a way that supports to accesss information or knowledge through applications in the internet.

Twitter palys a meaningful role in the developing students' ability to obtain information related to the subject matter. It can also provide students with other useful information. Lecturers and students are able to use Twitter for 24 hours to access the information they need. This reason makes Twitter become a popular application (Rossi and Giglietto, 2016) among students because Twitter makes it easier for students to communicate and at the same time they are able to access information. When students apply Twitter to search for information, they need reading skills, especially the ability to read English texts. Therefore, the ability to use Twitter and reading skills can be seen as two sides of the same coin. Twitter applications can also be used to improve academic competence (Lackovic et al., 2017). Academic competencies include students' English skills that can be developed through Twitter.

Research on students' attitudes towards Twitter usage is very important because it helps them how to use Twitter as a means of improving learning outcomes. The study of the

application of Twitter in learning English has an important role in the developing students' English achievement.

In addition, students' attitudes towards the use of Twitter contribute to their academic activity and their experience in applying Twitter. Twitter applications can be applied as learning media that can improve their English skills. Although the Twitter of current use has been widespread in various aspects of life by its users like college students, however, there are still some studies that reveal students' attitudes towards the innovation use of Twitter. In other words, research on students' attitudes towards the implementation of Twitter is still getting little attention, so it needs serious efforts to conduct research on Twitter applications as media of learning English.

Media is a tool containing messages or information that can be used to facilitate learning process (Yusoff et al., 2017). Twitter as a means of communication allows students to promote academic achievement. It has procedural implementation in learning English: 1) students should understand the basic concepts of Twitter application to access information; 2) they should have an Internet connection to obtain information; 3) they should have a Twitter ID so that it can communicate with users; 4) they should correct and check message or information before sending or posted it; and 5) they apply it to communicate with Twitter users around academic subjects or difficulties so that communication can take place to enhance the English learning achievement. Therefore, students benefit from Twitter as a means of improving academic achievement (Prestridge, 2014). This is because Twitter enables students to access information related to English lessons. Meanwhile, Twitter also allows students to get English learning materials anytime.

Research Method

The study applied descriptive method, and data were collected by using questionnaire. There were 100 students as respondents who studied Reading Comprehension course in the English Language Education Department, University of Muhammadiyah Malang, Indonesia. Furthermore, they were asked to respond to the questionnaire. The questionnaire contained 21 statements and each consisted of five options ranging from strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, and strongly disagree.

Data elicited from the questionnaires were analyzed by applying SPSS 20 program after they were quantified. The data calculation process was intended to determine the percentage, mean and standard deviation that were used to interpret the data and to draw conclusions.

After testing the validity and reliability of research instruments that was questionnaires about students' attitudes toward the Twitter usage, validity test scores indicated that Sig. = 0.00 - 0.03 <0.05. This value showed that the 21 questionnaire statements werre significant which ranged from 0,000 to 0.003. The table of value was 0.05, while significant calculation was (0.000 - 0,003) that was smaller than table value (0.05). Therefore, all items of the questionnaire statement as a research instrument were valid. While the reliability value of 21 questionnaire statements was r = 0.894. Thus, all items of questionnaires were reliable. This could be seen from the table of reliable test results from SPSS 20 program as follows.

Case Processing Summary

		N	%
Cases	Valid	20	100.0
	Excluded[a]	0	.0
	Total	20	100.0

List-wise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.894	21

Findings and Discussion

The results of data analysis about the perception of students towards the importance of Twitter as media that facilitate learning English can be seen at Table 1.

Table1. Percentage, Mean and Standard Deviation of Students' Perception

NO	ITEM	Persen (%)					Mean	Std.
		SS	S	KS	TS	STS		
1	Twitter applications can be used to improve English skills.	18	65	11	4	2	3.93	0.795
2	Twitter is important to develop English knowledge.	15	65	19	1	-	3.94	0.617
3	Twitter has a community of English	21	64	14	-	1	4.0	0.6

	learners						4	65
4	Twitter is important to improve my English skills.	7	31	55	7	-	3.38	0.722
5	Twitter is important to access information about English.	35	49	13	2	1	4.15	0.796
6	Twitter is important to increase knowledge.	13	39	42	5	1	3.58	0.819
7	Twitter is important to improve communication among users.	16	54	24	5	1	3.79	0.808
8	Twitter is important to share information.	3	36	47	12	2	3.26	0.787
9	Twitter is useful for improving English grammar.	18	61	21	-	-	3.97	0.627
10	Twitter can be used to communicate in English.	46	49	5	-	-	4.41	0.588
11	Twitter is important to promote English vocabulary.	29	63	7	1	-	4.20	0.603
12	Twitter is important to enhance skills of translating Indonesian text into English.	25	66	8	1	-	4.15	0.592
13	Twitter is important to promote the translation skills.	24	68	8	-	-	4.16	0.545
14	Twitter is important to get examples of English sentences.	27	60	11	2	-	4.12	0.671
15	Twitter is important to get the English proverbs.	23	58	18	1	-	4.03	0.674
16	Twitter is important to get samples of correspondence in English.	8	55	34	2	1	3.72	0.683
17	Twitter is important to get English text.	10	70	18	2	-	3.88	0.591
18	English text from Twitter is easier to understand.	13	69	16	1	1	3.92	0.646
19	Doing English test from Twitter is meaningful.	7	52	33	7	1	3.57	0.769
20	Translating English text from twitter is fun.	12	64	22	1	1	3.85	0.672
21	Twitter can be used to share opinion among users.	33	55	12	-	-	4.21	0.640

In table 1, it can be seen that the students respond to 21 statements that showed their perception towards the benefit of Twitter that facilitates learning. In the table above, it can be indicated that the highest percentage of the students' responses that describe their positive attitudes is statement number 10, "Twitter can be used to communicate in English." (95% of students responded that they "strongly agree or agree" with the statement) mean of these values is (M = 4.41), and its standard deviation is (SD = 0.588).

The next statement that explains students' positive perception towards the Twitter as media that help students develop English skills is statement number 11, "Twitter is important for improving English vocabulary." (92% of students responded that they "strongly agree or agree" to the statement), this response has a mean number (M = 4.20) and has a standard deviation (SD = 0.603). Another statement that describes the students' positive attitude is number 13, "Twitter is important to improve the skills of translating English text into Indonesian." (92% of the students responded that they "strongly agree or agree" with the statement) the mean score of the values is (M = 4.16) and its standard deviation is (SD = 0.545).

Conclusion and Suggestion

On the basis of the research results, it can be concluded that the students' perception towards the benefit of Twitter is positive. It means that, there are three things that need to be addressed namely: firstly, students have a positive perception towards Twitter that aids students in improving English as a means of communication. Secondly, students support Twitter in developing English vocabulary that enables them to improve reading competence. Finally, students consider that Twitter can be used to improve translation skills. On the basis of the three ideas above, it can be explained that students who study in the English Education Program, University of Muhammadiyah Malang have a positive perception towards the importance of Twitter that enables them to enhance English competence. The perception supports their learning process of the Reading comprehension class. The result of this study is in line with the Schreiner's research (2018), which supports Twitter as an important medium for disseminating information. The information disseminated by Twitter has a diverse aspect, including information on English skills. For this reason, research on Twitter as media of learning English should obtain greater attention for researchers. It is also related to the industrial revolution 4.0,

which is now happening in the world. The industrial revolution 4.0 requires all students to have competence in applying information technology such as Twitter.

Acknowledgements

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