

# STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF WEB BLOG AS AN ENGLISH READING MATERIAL AT PURWOREJO MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY

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**Abstract.** This research was to find out the Students' Perception Towards Web Blog as English Reading Material at Purworejo Muhammadiyah University. This research generally answered the question: how is students' perception towards web blog as English reading material at Purworejo Muhammadiyah University. The researchers collected the data through a questionnaire. There were twenty-seven of fourth semester students at Purworejo Muhammadiyah University participated in this research. This research used case-study design. Descriptive analysis was used to analyze the data from questionnaire. The result of this research showed that the students had high perception on web blog as an English reading material. The mean score of the questionnaire was 3.55 which can be interpret in the "High" category. Besides there were some difficulties faced by students and teacher in using web blog, such as limited mobile phone facilities, limited internet packages, and poor signal problems.

**Keywords:** Perception, Web Blog, English Reading Material Students'

## 1. Introduction

English is an essential language in the world. English has become a universal language and plays an important role in many aspects such as education, health, technology, etc. In order to master English, an L2 learners should master four basic language skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Actually, all of those skills are important to learn, but at the implementation, reading seems to be given priority.

The net has been well known on the planet, and individuals use it to help their regular exercises and needs satisfaction. The dramatic late development of innovations associated with the web has prompted radical changes in practically all life perspectives, especially the modern, exchanging and instructive areas. Through the web which has been all around the world interconnected to PCs gives different advantages, including admittance to data from distant archives and information bases that can be perused and contemplated to prove information. Universe of computerized which is associated with the web can give any sort of data individuals need to know, and this has changed the propensity for students in gathering information. Rather than visiting the library to discover printed books, students will in general access advanced texts through the web. The web doesn't only give data to students yet in addition working with devices for talking about class materials and sharing scholarly issues through different web-based media. [1].

Computerized reading enjoys the two benefits and detriments for students. From one viewpoint, it makes reading and data openness simpler and more agreeable. Then again, it represents a danger to understanding society. One of the upsides of web based reading is that reading is presently not centered around one spot, quiet and begins to peruse. Students would now be able to peruse anyplace and whenever as long as they feel appreciate and agreeable. One more benefit is that utilizing the web associated with media innovation (PC) can create a

major inspiration and excitement to peruse. This reality is proof that students have a good impression of the utilization of the web in getting the hang of reading appreciation subjects [1].

There are a lot of reading materials on the internet that can be easily found and of them is on the web blogs. Web blog is like an online journal to keep and an electronic book to read. The subject matter of a blog can be anything like a personal diary, personal opinions or general information about any topic. Publishing on blog is easier than publishing something in magazine or comic. The most compelling motivation for utilizing blog in language educating is websites give students more power over their own realizing when it is made by students themselves. In fact, from the researchers experience during his study in the English education department at Purworejo Muhammadiyah University, he found that the lecturer of reading subjects is rarely use web blog as reading materials in the learning process.

Web blog is totally different from regular books in terms of the learning materials, the way it delivers the material and the media used. It becomes a dilemma in the use of web blog, when the minister of education encourages productivity to move forward, but on the other hand the abilities of lecturers and students have not gone in the same direction. With those differences and dilemmas, there are many perceptions about web blog as an English reading material. Students might be enthused to use the web blog or maybe not. So, it is important to know whether the students' perception on web blog as an English reading material are positive or negative.

## **2. Literature Review**

### ***Perception***

According to Slamento in [2] perception is characterized as an interaction wherein people decipher and coordinate their tactile impressions to give significance or impressions to the climate. discernment is additionally an interaction about the passage of data or messages into the human cerebrum. Brown in [2] said that Perception can be characterized as our acknowledgment and translation of tactile data. Discernment permits us to take the tactile data in and make into something significant.

Insight is a cycle where people can make the method involved with noticing something complex in reacting to something and the data around by utilizing our own five faculties so we can know, comprehend and furthermore acknowledge something. Discernment is a stage which expects to secure and handle the hypothesis information [3]. With insight as an interaction, people can identify with the general climate. This relationship can be made through the human faculties like the feelings of sight, hearing, smell, contact and taste. Furthermore, discernment is a comprehension of the human climate which is produced from data caught and processed by our faculties. Not just with regards to the faculties and the arrangement, discernment can be surveyed by giving the sign of concur, emphatically concur, nonpartisan, differ and furthermore firmly differ for a bunch of explanations about something that given to the respondents. Our capacity to deliver discernment will absolutely help us in acknowledging numerous things in our current circumstance that we might not have known about the presence of our perspective in reacting to or responding to something that is going on in our current circumstance and around us [3].

According to [4], perception is the interaction by which an individual picks, arranges, perceives, and deciphers tangible data to appreciate his general climate. Furthermore, Walgito in [5] states that perception is gone before by the detecting system, which is the method involved with getting improvement by people through tangible gadgets, otherwise called tactile cycles. Notwithstanding, the cycle doesn't end there; the improvement is proceeded, and the following system is discernment.

According to Irwanto in [6], there are two types of perception that result from the interaction of a person and an object.

(1) Positive perception

Positive perception is a positive description of all information and knowledge (known or unknown). Furthermore, positive perception refers to positive interpretations that involve humans evaluating something in their environment. In this case, if someone has a positive perception, he will accept and support the perceived object.

(2) Negative perception

The negative perception is the perception of information (known or unknown) as something that is negative or unsuitable for the object being perceived. In other words, negative perception is the result of a human evaluating something around them. In this case, if someone has a negative perception, he will reject and defy any perceived effort.

**Web Blog**

Blogs are one of the arising on the web conversation advances; they offer adaptable and open freedoms for executing communitarian and intelligent composition and learning, either with teachers as well as companions [7]. In education, blogs have been utilized as an intelligent learning apparatus, and the advantages of companion work and association are expanded by planning a learning climate that empowers students to foster social, shared, informative, and intelligent abilities [7]. Contributing to a blog can assist students with turning out to be more media and data proficient by assisting them with explaining their decisions about the substance that they have composed. Writing for a blog additionally assists students with creating certainty, work on self-articulation, and accomplish a feeling of satisfaction from distributing their work, since others can peruse those works [7].

In Vurdien's research [8], blogs can persuade students to assemble their composing abilities through self-reflection and companion input. The blog is the fascinating media for students since they can share and expound on their encounters. The commitment in the exchange of importance between peers prompted better arranging and the decision of the right register/style needed in each errand before composing and presenting their work. They can actually take a look at one another what error is recorded as a hard copy. Checking each other by learning together spices up the learning circumstance helpful and positive. Synergistic abilities were likewise cultivated through students' customary connection in the websites where they go to for learning together. For significant figuring out how to occur, academic intercession could urge students to consider their companions' remarks so they can alter their own work with the end goal of improving their composing undertakings and delivering botch free texts. A blog can fill in as a spot to distribute one's composition or utilized as a gathering for getting criticism on composition. Students can compose cooperatively or fill in as guides as they draft, update, and alter their composing cooperatively in a virtual climate. Coordinating contributing to a blog into homeroom composing guidance can connect with students and rouse them to partake all the more completely in the creative cycle [8].

In language learning, the blog has been tentatively utilized as devices to foster composition and reading understanding abilities. The ramifications show that despite the fact that writing for a blog ought not supplant up close and personal association, it might give a training climate where students can think, reflect, and make language gradually for a genuine crowd [8].

**Teaching and Learning**

According to Howard in [9], a teaching activity is one that guides someone to obtain, change, or develop the skills, behaviours, ideals, appreciation, and knowledge. Besides, Uzer Usman in [10] states that teaching is a process that consists of a series of teacher and student actions that take place in educational situations to achieve specific goals.

According to Gagne et al. in [11], learning is a natural process that changes what we know, what we can do, and how we act. Besides [12], learning is a long-term change in behavior or

the ability to behave in a certain way that results from practice or other forms of experience. This statement of learning emphasizes behavioral change from the results of practice or experience. Furthermore Harold Spears in [11] states that learning entails observing, reading, imitating, attempting something new, listening, and following instructions. The learning activities in question are to follow systematic rules in observing, reading, imitating, and trying new things.

### ***Reading***

Reading is characterized as getting data from the text and translation. All in all, reading is the capacity to draw from the printed message and decipher the data fittingly [13]. According to Daiek, a functioning cycle that relies upon both an author's capacity to pass on significance utilizing words and your capacity to make importance from them [13]. According to Chettri and Rout in [1], the cost of involvement through which an individual might grow his viewpoints of information, distinguish, spread and increment his mindfulness and advances a more profound comprehension of himself, of others and of the world. With regards to schooling, a lot of reading is fundamental since all acquiring exercises include understanding abilities and the accomplishment of students' concentrate likewise relies upon the larger part in their capacity to read.

In the EFL setting, reading is basically the main expertise each students should dominate [13]. Pardede in [13] identified three reasons why reading is urgent for EFL students. To begin with, EFL students need inputs from their day by day associations since English isn't the essential language of the general public where they concentrate on it. To beat the information impediment, reading is the best arrangement. Furthermore, reading altogether adds to one's close to home and scholarly turn of events, further investigations, work achievement, and vocation improvement, and the capacity to meet changes. Third, reading abilities improve a student's dominance of different spaces of language educating in light of the fact that it offers the students with different great sentence structures so often that they become acclimated with them. Reading additionally creates EFL students' jargon by allowing them to get the most habitually utilized and valuable words and learn them in setting. It additionally further develops composing abilities for it empowers the students to sort out some way to communicate thoughts through words, how to utilize accentuation effectively, etc. Reading is even the premise of guidance in all parts of language learning.

There are various motivations behind reading. In some cases individuals read a text to learn material, once in a while individuals read for unadulterated joy, and at times they need to follow a set bearing. In the event that a peruser wishes to find out about text content, they will try to ignore the detail of the text and he might peruse in totally different manners than if he is concentrating on a text to distinguish key data. Along these lines, it becomes inescapable to say that the explanation he is reading a text will impact the manner in which he understands it. Reading brief tale at sleep time is reasonable not the same as reading a hand out for an assessment to the following morning obviously. A readers' reason decides the manner by which he treats an entry and which understanding abilities he employs. Since, as indicated by Hennings, what the perusers get from reading additionally relies upon what they bring to the reading of choice and the reason for understanding it. On different hands, it is obvious to say that reading reason will impact the abilities required or utilized. Expertise isn't just to acquire information, yet additionally capacities to deal with data [13].

### ***Review of related research***

The first previous study is a research conducted by [14]. The objectives of this review are to realized the Surabaya students' discernment about internet getting the hang of during Coronavirus pandemic. The exploration was subjective examination. The information assortment utilized a survey and meeting strategy. The outcome students in Surabaya accepted that online talks during a pandemic were adequate to slow the spread of the Covid. Most of

students in Surabaya believe this online talk to be powerful. Aside from being founded on sincere beliefs from the experience of online talks held by their individual every college, most of the subject idea that online talks during this pandemic were very acceptable on the grounds that they could accumulate with families despite the fact that some subject referenced grievances or inadequacies like offices, organizations, task power, and about the material most profound.

The second previous study is a research conducted by [15]. The reason for this review was to find out with regards to the students' insight and inspiration in learning English through infographics in the Practicing TEFL Using ICT course at IAIN Salatiga. This review was a spellbinding report that utilized subjective techniques. The information is gathered through poll and meeting. The discoveries of this review are introduced engagingly to give an extensive image of the students' discernments and inspiration. The review found that learning English through infographics enjoys the two benefits and disservices. It likewise found the challenges and inspiration of the students.

The third previous study conducted by [16]. This was a descriptive study that employed both quantitative and qualitative methods. The reason for this review was to discover what students' impression of the execution of web based getting the hang of during the Covid19 pandemic at the University of Bengkulu's Graduate Program of English Education. The information assortment utilized a poll and composed meeting. The discoveries of this review show that students' impression of internet learning at the University of Bengkulu's Graduate Program of English are good and that learning through online stages supported them during the pandemic.

### 3. Method

This study was a descriptive study that used case-study design. The researchers' goal in this study is to learn about students' perceptions on web blog as an English reading material at Purworejo Muhammadiyah University. The subject in this research was twenty-seven students class A fourth semester English education department at Purworejo Muhammadiyah University. The researchers used questionnaire as the instrument to collect data. In collecting the data the researchers conducted several steps. The first was preparing the instrument (questionnaire), the second was to have the respondent fill out a questionnaire that was already available through the Google Form application, there were 15 items of questionnaire, respondent were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with these item by marking such giving tick mark (✓) on the scale of "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". The data were obtained by scoring the subjects' responses, Strongly Agree (SA)=5, Agree (A)=4, Neutral (N)=3, Disagree (D)=2, and Strongly Disagree (SD)=1. The third, the results of the questionnaires were analyzed. Finally, the research findings were analyzed and conclusions were drawn from the data. To analyze the data, the researchers used descriptive nanalysis. Below is the interpretation of the mean score of students' perception.

**Table 1.** Interpretation of mean score based on interval

No.	Interval mean score	Interpretation of mean score
1	1.00 – 1.79	Very Low
2	1.80 – 2.59	Low
3	2.00 – 3.39	Medium
4	3.40 – 4.19	High
5	4.20 – 5.00	Very High

(Source: Educational Planning and Research Division, MOE, 2006) [17]

#### 4. Finding And Discussion

This section presents the findings of this study. The questionnaire items were measured by applying a Likert scale from 5-1. 5 (Strongly agree), 4 (Agree), 3 (Neutral), 2 (Disagree), and 1 (Strongly disagree). The research findings for each indicator are presented in the table below.

**Table. 2** Descriptive statistics of students' perception towards web blog as an English reading material

No	Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	M	Interpretation
1	Web blog makes the English learning process easier.	2	11	12	2	0	3,48	High
2	Web blog makes the English learning measure more viable in accomplishing learning targets.	1	13	11	2	0	3,48	High
3	The process of learning English with web blog is more fun.	1	7	12	6	1	3,04	Average
4	Getting the hang of reading by utilizing web blog can work on my energy in picking up reading.	1	15	8	3	0	3,52	High
5	Web blog can improve students' understanding in learning English.	0	16	9	2	0	3,48	High
6	Getting the hang of reading by utilizing web blog can't work on my inspiration in picking up reading.	0	12	11	4	0	3,30	Average
7	Learning reading by using web blog can help me focus more.	3	21	3	0	0	4,00	High
8	Students have issues in utilizing web blog as a result of restricted cell phone offices, restricted web bundles, and helpless sign issues.	8	11	7	0	1	3,89	High
9	Web blog is difficult to use because of the lack of students' understanding the use of web blogs.	0	9	13	3	2	3,11	Average
10	Learning reading by using web blog is make me easier to rewrite what I have read.	1	13	12	1	0	3,56	High
11	Web blog is a learning process that utilizes internet networks as a learning tool.	3	17	6	1	0	3,81	High
12	Web blog makes it simple for students or educators to impart and communicate whenever and anyplace.	2	18	6	1	0	3,78	High

13	Web blog can save times in the learning process.	1	19	5	2	0	3,67	High
14	Learning English using web blog is wasteful of internet data.	1	9	14	3	0	3,30	Average
15	In light of the refinement of innovation in this advanced period, Web blog can keep on being created.	5	14	7	1	0	3,85	High
Total							3,55	High

**Table 3.** Descriptive statistics of problem faced by students' perception towards web blog as an English reading material

No	Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	M	Interpretation
6	Concentrating on reading by utilizing web blog can't work on my inspiration in picking up reading.	0	12	11	4	0	3,30	Average
8	Students have issues in utilizing web blog due to restricted cell phone offices, restricted web bundles, and helpless sign issues.	8	11	7	0	1	3,89	High
9	Web blog is hard to utilize due to the absence of students' understanding the utilization of web websites.	0	9	13	3	2	3,11	Average
14	Using web blog is wasteful of internet data.	1	9	14	3	0	3,30	Average
Total							3,40	High

After analyzing the data obtained from the questionnaire, it was found that most of the students of English Education Department at Purworejo Muhammadiyah University have high perception about the using web blog as English reading material as the mean of the questionnaire is 3.55. However, in using the web blog many students still faced some difficulties, it calculated that the mean was 3.40 lays on the fourth category which can be interpreted "High". Based on the table 3, students agreed that they faced several problems in using web blog such as limited mobile phone facilities, limited internet packages, and poor signal problems. It calculated that the mean was 3.40 lays on the fourth category which can be interpreted "High". The data presented above clearly demonstrated students' perceptions of the five previously mentioned indicators.

## 5. Conclusion

This study has shown that 4<sup>th</sup> semester students of English education department at Purworejo Muhammadiyah University have "High" perception toward web blog as an English reading material as the mean score was 3.55 that lays on the "High" category which can be interpreted that the process of learning reading is easier with web blog and it can foster students' enthusiasm. Furthermore, the poorly internet connection was affected to the used of web blog. So that make the students straightforwardly bored and sometimes was difficult to comprehend

the material, it calculated that the mean was 3.40 lays on the fourth category which can be interpreted “High”.

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