The Use of Microsoft Sway as A Learning Medium for Teaching Reading at 8th Grade Junior High School

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Abstract
Nowadays, education and the learning process are changing rapidly along with the development of technology used as a learning media. There are many digital-based media platforms that can be easily accessed and used as learning media to support the smooth learning process. One of the digital-based media platforms used is Microsoft Sway. This digital-based media platform is part of the Microsoft Office Family of Products managed by Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft Sway is a Microsoft Office application that you can access through Microsoft Office 365. It makes interactive essays, reflections, projects, and presentations simple to create and share. The purpose of this research is to examine how the Microsoft Sway application is used, especially in teaching reading at the 8 grade of junior high school level. The method used in this study was qualitative research. Collection technique the data used in this study namely interviews, observations and documentation with research subjects, there are teacher and student of SMPN 7 Penukal. The results show that Microsoft Sway is suitable for use as a learning medium for teaching reading in 8th grade of junior high school.

Keywords: Microsoft Sway; Learning Media; Teaching Reading; 8th Grade Junior Highschool

INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, technology is developing very rapidly. The process of technological development almost covers all fields, including the field of education. Technology has four important roles in education, as part of the curriculum, as instructional delivery system, as a tool instruction and also as a tool to improve the overall learning process (Raja and Nagasubramani, 2018). Nowadays, education and the learning process are
changing rapidly along with the development of technology used as a learning media. Moreover, at this time the learning process is experiencing difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Where the learning process in this pandemic needs to be done in online class. The learning process is greatly helped by the existence of technology and digital-based media platforms that support the learning process. By carrying out the learning process using digital-based media, not only makes learning more effective, but also more influential (Usman, 2020).

Currently, there are many digital-based media platforms that can be easily accessed and used as learning media to support the smooth learning process. Everything that can be used to provide information in the teaching and learning process so that it can stimulate students’ attention and interest in learning (Utomo et al, 2021). One of the digital-based media platforms used is Microsoft Sway. This digital-based media platform is part of the Microsoft Office Family of Products managed by Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft Sway is a presentation program that was first released in August 2015. Microsoft Sway is software that students and teachers can use as a medium to publish study results, research results, reports, or presentations (Nissa and Benedikta, 2021). Microsoft Sway is flexible and can be used to develop content that supports various media types, such as text, images, video, sound, diagrams, and create presentations, etc. Microsoft Sway allows users to be creative to combine text and media to create a presentation. Microsoft Sway can also take content available on the internet that can be used to make presentations more interesting. In other words, Microsoft Sway presents a variety of creative things with a fairly simple and easy to use.

In this research, we chose Microsoft Sway as the medium technology used in Grade 8 Junior High School because there are several reasons that support Microsoft Sway as a suitable learning medium for both teachers and students. Microsoft Sway will be very helpful for teachers to share ideas, stories, collect materials, format materials, and can make presentations on a web-based canvas that is suitable for use and displayed on all screens. Teachers can also easily create new Sways if they want to add text, documents, videos, images, charts, or other conventions. With the use of Microsoft Sway, of course, teachers can present material in a very interesting way and add to its own attraction for students (Liana, Ramadhan. 2017). Teachers can pour their teaching materials into the media according to the existing indicators. For example, teachers can make newsletter in Microsoft Sway, with specific titles relevant to specific chapters or sections in the course outline for the course code/name were created. The specific chapters or sections were named based on an organized lesson plan that was distributed to the students at the start of the semester (first day of class). Headings (titles), texts, and media were arranged in accordance with each chapter. Photographs and videos were also uploaded to Microsoft Sway and the newsletter was distributed to students prior to the event’s date asynchronous gathering (Amizon Azizan, 2021). In addition, students can also use Microsoft Sway to present their assignments. Students can create stories, share ideas, create engaging presentations with Microsoft Sway. By utilizing the Sway application from Microsoft, learning about narrative text will be easier, creative, and innovative. introduction should be concise but meaningful.

According to Rini (2020) As one of the online learning media Microsoft Sway can help teachers and students in learning development and make their learning experience. In the
digital era the use of Microsoft Sway is very helpful in the process of learning to be more interesting. Mila, et al (2021) Claiming as students learn to use Sway media, students become more interested in learning lessons and motivating them. In accordance with Wulan, et al (2021) The attractive appearance of Microsoft sway as a medium of learning in research shows the enthusiasm and spirit of student learning, arguably the use of Microsoft sway successfully in increasing student learning motivation. In addition to making learning more efficient, teachers can also use this media as a means of helping students to overcome problems in the growing digital era. Based on Wihartanti and Wibawa (2017) Microsoft Sway can be a solution to many students’ problems in wading through today’s digital era. Students tend to have the pleasure of online gaming and also things that have nothing to do with education, by using Microsoft sway teachers can share learning media so that the negative impact of technological and information advances can be overcome.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested to investigate the “use of Microsoft Sway as a learning media for teaching reading at 8 Grade of Junior High School”. This study aims to examine how the Microsoft Sway application is used, especially in teaching at 8th junior high school level.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Learning Media

A teacher is required to be able to convey the subject matter well in order to be accepted by students, so that participants are more easily accepted of the material a teacher can use the right learning media. Based on Tafona (2018) Learning media It is one of the components of learning which has an important role in learning process. The selection of the right learning media determines the learning process in the classroom, which is hoped that the media can help students understand in learning. As stated by Rahmayanti (2015) Using the right learning media is able to cultivate students’ thinking power where students will look for the knowledge they want to understand, where it makes learning feel fun and interesting.

Microsoft Sway

To ensure effective T&L, a synchronous meeting in MT was held. Asynchronous meetings were also extremely beneficial in terms of conveying adequate information or teaching materials to students. It is stated that students will be able to relisten to recorded video meetings during synchronous meetings, as well as refer to Teaching and Learning materials saved in the cloud for continuous referencing, using other applications such as Microsoft Streams and OneDrive. Assignments were assigned using MT to evaluate the Teaching and Learning outcome, and grades were made available to students for viewing following either online or offline evaluations using MT. Another M365 application, Microsoft Sway (MS), is shown to be highly appealing for conveying more information to students in a more modern-like presentation.

Sway is a Microsoft Office application that can be used to collect, format, and share ideas, stories, and presentations on a web-based interactive canvas (BPTIKP, 2016:48). Microsoft Sway, according to Laurent Horwitz (2016), is a presentation tool in Microsoft’s
Office suite of business productivity apps. Sway is intended to be a more versatile tool that can be used in place of Microsoft PowerPoint for visual presentations and storytelling for a more digital audience. A sway is a tool for creating instructional media designs.

Sway can be used as an online presentation tool in a variety of situations and conditions, such as research conducted by (Zakia, 2017) that can improve teachers’ ability to create digital storytelling and research conducted by (Meikayanti & Huda, 2017) that can improve student presentation skills. Sway is a type of software that can be used to create products that combine text, sound, video, and images when the presentation is run, according to (Huda, 2017). Microsoft Sway, as one of the online learning platforms, can assist both teachers and students in developing and advancing their learning experiences. Olofsson (2010) argued that an online learning design environment could help teachers with their professional development.

Reading

Reading is an activity carried out with the aim of getting information and knowledge from reading texts. Reading is about how someone can understand the content of the reading text. Reading can be interpreted as an interactive activity that occurs between the reader and the text being read which can bring the reader to reading proficiency (Alyousef, 2006). Reading needs to connect the reader’s knowledge with the content of the reading text so that it can be understood better. The reading process also requires the expertise of the reader such as knowledge, vocabulary, and experience of the reader in understanding the contents of the reading text. Reading is a complicated activity carried out using perception and thinking (Pang, 2003). In other words, reading connects the reader’s thoughts with the reading text so that the information contained can be understood.

After knowing the purpose and essence of reading, the reader needs to dive deeper into reading comprehension. Activities that prepare understanding in developing the author’s important message by using information already in knowledge of the language are called reading comprehension (Anderson, 2003 cited in Nadirah et al, 2020). The purpose of reading comprehension is understanding the true meaning reading text. The process of searching and finding the meaning of a text can be referred to as reading comprehension (Kintsch, 1998, Van Dijk and Kintsch, 1983). Reading comprehension is trying to understand the message that are conveyed by the writer, not just only understanding the meaning of each word. So, reading comprehensive is understanding between readers and the writers.

Reading can be categorized into two exercises depending on the purpose, intensive and extensive reading (Christine Natal, 1982). In other word, reading is classified to intensive and extensive reading. Intensive reading focuses more on important core vocabulary, text organization patterns and the type of text processing required to understand the text adequately. Extensive reading alone is “not sufficient for developing reading skills, and a more focused approach, including explicit instruction, is also needed: it deals with more detailed comprehension and has important role in teaching reading strategies”.

METHOD

Type of The Research
The method used in this study was qualitative research. Collection technique the data used in this study namely interviews, observations with research subjects, there are teacher and student of SMPN 7 Penukal. According to Sugiyono (2018:9), Qualitative research methods are research methods based on the philosophy of post-positivism, used to examine the condition of natural objects where research is a key instrument, data collection techniques are carried out triangulated, data analysis is inductive or qualitative. The results of research emphasize more meaning.

**Subject and Object of The Research**

The subject of this research are the English teacher and 8th grade students of SMP NEGERI 7 PENUKAL, Air Itam Timur, Kec. Penukal, Kab. Penukal Abab Lematang Ilir Prov. Sumatera Selatan in the academic year 2022/2023. In this study researchers took one class from each other class as a sample. In one class there are 19 students who will volunteer to be interviewed by the researchers.

| Respondent  | Code | Sex  |
|-------------|------|------|
| Agus Munir, S.Pd. | T1    | Male |
| Aliyantoro  | S1    | Male |
| Indah Lastari | S2    | Female |
| Lesi Anggraini | S3    | Female |
| Dewi Sintia Bela | S4    | Female |
| Andrian Kaspari | S5    | Male |
| Sela Ita Purnamari | S6    | Female |
| Talita       | S7    | Female |
| Atthorik Zulhtiar | S8    | Male |
| Aril Petarpen | S9    | Male |
| Dedi Dores   | S10   | Male |

**Table 1. Subject of The Research**

**Limitation of The Research**

This research only focuses on analysing the teacher and students' perception of the use of Microsoft Sway Application as their course in the learning of reading.

**Techniques of Collection Data**

Data collection techniques are the most strategic step in research because the main purpose of the research is to get data. Without knowing data collection techniques, the researcher will not get valid data. In this study, researchers used data collection techniques of observation, interviews, and documentation.

1. **Interview**

   The researcher use interview as collection techniques to find problems that need to be investigated, and the researcher wants to know things from respondents in more depth. Esterbergh (2002) in (Sugiyono, 2018) stated that interview is a meeting of two persons to exchange information and idea through question and responses, resulting in communication and joint construction of meaning about a particular topic.
2. Documentation
   Documentation is an amount of information on one or more related topics prepared for a specific purpose and presented as a unit. Documentation can be from someone’s writings, drawings, or monumental works. In the most traditional of qualitative research, the personal phrase document is used broadly to refer to any first-person narrative produced by an individual that describes his or her own experience, and belief. In this research, the researcher used the notes and photo as documentation.

3. Observation
   Observational data collection method is done by looking at people in certain settings or places at certain times and days. Briefly, researchers study the behavior of individuals or the environment in which they are analyzing. It can be controlled, spontaneous, or participant-based research.

FINDINGS

Along with the development of technology, education in Indonesia is also experiencing rapid development. Evidenced by the many technologies that help and support the learning process in the classroom online and offline. One of them is learning media. At this time, teachers are required to be creative in carrying out the learning process, including also in choosing the learning media that will be used so that learning is more effective. The researcher of this paper aims to determine the effectiveness of using Microsoft Sway as a learning medium for teaching reading. The researcher conducted interviews with a teacher and several 8th grade students from SMP N 7 Penukal who had used Microsoft Sway as a medium of learning in the teaching and learning process.

This research was founded based on student activities using the Microsoft Sway application in 8th grade of SMP N 7 Penukal, Sumatera. The use of the Microsoft Sway application at the school is considered to help students there in participating in learning. This study found that the Microsoft Sway application can help students to present both material, short stories, and others with very diverse templates and certainly not boring. In the Microsoft Sway application, you can also edit it again when you want to add or reduce the images available in the Microsoft Sway.

Why Microsoft Sway?

The use of Microsoft Sway is very effective in eliminating student boredom during online learning, because this service not only requires students to do exercises, but without realizing it, students are required to read and watch videos of the learning material delivered. In accordance with the opinion of the interviewed teacher:

   T1: “They look interesting, cause Sway is media that has complete comprehension”

Student responses are quite positive in responding to the use of Microsoft Sway as their learning media. They think Microsoft Sway as an interesting thing, even they tend to ask to use Microsoft Sway in every lesson.

Advantages of Microsoft Sway

The use of Microsoft Sway provides many advantages as a learning media. There are many features that make it easy to use. Microsoft Sway is easy to access on all devices, you can
install Ms. Sway on your macOS laptop, Windows laptop, tablet, and smartphone. Microsoft Sway is also interesting and fun to use. Project Sway can only be shared with other Office 365 users. Microsoft Sway provides many features, and the features are always up to date. In other words, the features will be updated automatically without paying any additional fees. Besides getting all the features of Office 365, you can also save your work in the 1TB OneDrive cloud storage. As the opinion of the interviewed teacher:

T1: “Microsoft Sway is easy to use and accessible. The program is interesting and has complete comprehension and features”.

As we saw during the learning process, using Microsoft Sway is quite easy and can be accessed on various devices. In the class there are two types of devices that are used to access Microsoft Sway, that are laptop and smartphone. The teacher uses a laptop and is connected to a projector to display ms sway, and the students use smartphones to open the material in Microsoft Sway. Microsoft Sway also provide many complete and interesting features. This advantage gives quite good results, where the learning process becomes more interesting and students become more motivated.

Disadvantages of Microsoft Sway

One of the obstacles in using Microsoft Sway is an internet connection, Sway is an online application, without a strong internet network, you have to say goodbye to Sway. Likewise with the opinions of the interviewed teachers:

T1: “When using it, you need fast internet, otherwise it will be a bit complicated. Then, the students become too much interested and asked to use Ms. Sway continuously in every lesson. That’s little bit troublesome”.

The students also gave the same opinion about the obstacles they faced when using Microsoft Sway. All students who were respondents said that internet signal was the main obstacle when using Microsoft Sway.

S4: “The most noticeable obstacle is internet signal, really need fast internet”.

During the class, the teacher needs a little time to be able to share and display material using Microsoft Sway due to internet signal problems. When the learning process using Ms. Sway is about to started, there are still many students who have problems with their internet signal and have difficulty opening the shared material. This obstacle takes a lot of learning time. The strength of the internet signal greatly determines the smoothness of using Microsoft Sway. In addition, the teacher also admitted that it was a bit difficult when his students always asked to use Microsoft Sway in every learning process. Use of Microsoft Sway is not always suitable for all things, so it needs the right choice in its use.

Teacher and Students Perspective on Using Microsoft Sway

The teacher statement about Microsoft Sway application is very interested in being used in learning.

T1: “By attract their interests, cause Sway is media that has complete comprehension. Not only reading, but also listening. Second it is easy to access as long as the students have internet connection and a smartphione.”

Teachers found Microsoft Sway an interesting tool. According to the teacher there, this application is very interesting because in this application there are features such as displays
and animations that can be edited as desired, so that in use it does not make students feel bored. Microsoft Sway also can increase confidence in teaching. With the Microsoft Sway application, students also feel more confident when understanding the material presented by the teacher. Besides that, there are views from 8th grade students of SMPN 7 Penukal where students there can also use the Microsoft Sway application as a medium for their learning. By using Microsoft Sway, students can create short stories with the appearances they want. They can also make presentations using the Microsoft Sway application where there are templates such as power point with various attractive appearances. They find it easier to write stories and present material.

Students’ perspective on Microsoft Sway, the opinion expressed by students is that learning with Microsoft Sway is very fun and not boring, but there are also some students who state that using Microsoft Sway has problems, one of which is the lack of a strong signal. Without a strong signal, the Microsoft Sway application will be difficult to use.

**Teacher and Students Perspective on Using Microsoft Sway**

Microsoft Sway is an application that can be used by students to improve reading skills, motivate learning, and also critical reading. In accordance with the opinion of the teacher’s interview:

T1: “*By presenting the reading material from the Microsoft Sway application, students will be more concentrated and motivated and eager to participate in learning activities, there are also many features in the Microsoft Sway application and it keeps students from getting bored, making learning activities creative and fun*”.

Besides being interesting, Microsoft Sway can train students in reading skills because by using the application the atmosphere will be more interesting and make students excited in the process of learning to read.

T1: “*Easily understand the existing readings*”.

When viewing reading text on Microsoft Sway, students are asked to skim first. Then, students are asked to come to the front of the class to read the text displayed in Microsoft Sway. Overall, the students seemed to be able to understand the reading text displayed on Microsoft Sway without any problems.

**DISCUSSION**

Microsoft Sway is arguably still not well known among the public, especially in the world of education. It is rare to find a learning process in a class that uses Microsoft Sway as their learning media. It becomes very interesting to see how conclusions can be drawn from using Microsoft Sway as a learning medium in teaching reading. Based on the findings above, we can be concluded that the use of Microsoft Sway as a learning media in teaching reading is suitable. This can be explained from the results of interviews conducted by researchers with teachers and several grade 8 students of SMP N 7 Penukal about the use of Microsoft Sway in their learning process. The result of the observation also used to explain the conclusion.

Microsoft Sway is considered a very interesting media because it has a complete comprehend. Microsoft Sway is a refresher in the learning process which is usually done in a monotonous and boring way. Microsoft Sway also has many features that provide benefits
to its users. The most highlighted is the ease of access and use. Microsoft Sway can be accessed with many types of devices, its use is quite simple with various features that make it easier for users. Microsoft Sway's ability in visual presentation and storytelling for the audience is very helpful in the process of learning to read. The Digital storytelling with Microsoft Sway reveals how Sway can be used to capture and share digital stories that need to be told in and around classroom activities by allowing teachers and students to focus on content rather than format. With an interesting way and visuals, of course it will increase students' interest in learning to read. Even though it has many advantages, Microsoft Sway is not without its drawbacks. Constraints related to internet signal is the main problem in using Microsoft Sway. A good internet signal is required in order to operate Microsoft Sway smoothly. However, these deficiencies do not have much effect on the impact of the teaching-reading process. Microsoft Sway is very helpful and has a positive impact on students when it comes to learning to read.

Microsoft Sway can increase student motivation. The process of teaching and learning activities can help and encourage student motivation and improve results study. This is in related with opinion the teacher, which states that learning using the Microsoft Sway application can help the students in reaching a good score by the test. Microsoft Sway has good potential to be used as an effective learning media because it can stimulate visual and verbal components. Besides being able to increase motivation, students also think that the Microsoft Sway application can improve students' abilities, especially in reading skills. With this application, students can indirectly learn to improve their reading skills. They are required to be able to understand the readings of the material presented by the teacher, so the Microsoft Sway application is considered very useful for students.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research that has conducted at SMP N 7 Penukal can be concluded that since Microsoft Sway is implemented, students' achievement on reading are increased. Student responses are quite positive in responding to the use of Microsoft Sway as their learning media.

Microsoft Sway is one of the media that can create a conducive learning atmosphere and meaningfully, and increase student enthusiasm for learning. With the use of Microsoft sway as a learning media for teaching reading makes the learning process is more varied and can attract the interest of learning all students.

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