The Effectivness of Webtoon for EFL Student in Mastering Vocabulary

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Abstract

This research is discussed using Webtoon as media to develop millennial learners. We already know if practicing vocabulary mastery once in a week is not enough. Vocabulary just once in a week will cause their mark; they will get a bad mark due to the lack of vocabulary activities. Webtoon is a new platform that can be used to develop student vocabulary skills by using words and interesting pictures. The purpose of this study is to explain whether or not webtoon is able to increase students' interest in learning vocabulary. The respondents of the study are from the students of fourth semester at Tidar University. The result of the study indicates that the students are more interest and get the motivation by using webtoon in learning vocabulary in the class.

Keywords: *millennial learners, webtoon, media, vocabulary.*

Introduction

Nowadays teaching English become a phenomenon, especially to millennial learners. There are many reasons of important English particularly as a media to find the information. The one of problem in learning English is the difficulty to memorize the vocabulary. The definition of vocabulary is central to language and of critical importance to the typical language learning (Zimmermman, 1998; Coady & Huckin, 1998). It means that vocabulary is a word that we have to know to communicate with other people.

Current issue indicates that teaching vocabulary may be problematic because students are not interesting to learn vocabulary. They have difficulties in mastering vocabulary and even believe if vocabulary is one of the most difficult things in learning English. Generally, the difficulties of learning vocabulary could be divided into two categories. Firstly, the lack of interest to engage during in learning vocabulary. It is caused they feel bored in the classroom, which finally make the

students are not understanding the concepts of vocabulary. Secondly, the lack of various ways teachers to explain the material. Actually, some of the teachers have been used the various ways to engage the students' interest in learning process, but most of them have not done the new method in teaching. We are as an English teacher have to find a new method or the way to increase students' interest in learning vocabulary.

Besides that, teachers are not confident to teach millennial learners. According to McCoog (2008), a millennial is the generations that always bring her gadget or cellphone and connect to the internet in the school, home and everywhere. These students were found technology that provides constant connection to friends and family. Cell phones, text and instant messaging, blogs, and social network are a common part of their everyday life in anytime. Teaching millennial learners is difficult than the others. Teacher in millennium generation should combine the materials with many circumstances. The teacher can use their phone as a media to teach vocabulary. By using their own mobile phone which is installed with an application that is useful to improve their vocabulary skills, teachers can handle and make sure all the learners get more practicing.

In this paper, the writer tries to solve those problems by using Webtoon application. Webtoon is one of the application to this case because this is the interest for practicing vocabulary skills with the pictures combination of web and cartoon or comic. Then it can be access from anywhere and anytime.

Review of Literature

What is webtoon?

Webtoon is the combination of web and cartoon (comic). It was coined in Korea to refer to web comics launched by Naver in 2014. Comic can be defined as the form of cartoon to express the characters and apply story that have a related with the picture. The preference for comics are so high because it can entertain the reader. It is the reason for making comics as media learning.

Webtoon is one of the solutions as teachers to make the class to be more interesting. In this case, Webtoon is the free application to be read. The way to use it is so easy. First, the learner has to download it either on the Apple App Store, Google Play Store or read it on the site version (automatically switches to the mobile

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site). Then, the learners sign or login with their account email or gmail to make the account in Webtoon. After that, the learners choose the theme or title that they want to read. They can download the story in Webtoon or just read it by online.

The definition of Millennial Learners

According to McCoog (2008) a millennial is the generations that always bring her gadget or cellphone and connect to the internet in the school, home and everywhere. These students were found technology that provides constant connection to friends and family. Cell phones, text and instant messaging, blogs, and social network- ing are a common part of their everyday life and allow connection anytime and anywhere. It means that millennial learners are the learners in technological era who always use their phone in everyday life.

The important of Vocabulary

According to Alqahtani M. & Schmitt (2015), vocabulary knowledge is a critical tool for second language learners because a limited vocabulary in second language impedes successful communication.

Alqahtani M. & Nation (2001) argue that the relationship between vocabulary knowledge and language use as complementary. The importance of vocabulary is appearing daily in and out of school. In classroom, the achieving students possess the most sufficient vocabulary.

Meanwhile, Alqahtani M. & Rivers and Nunan, (1991) explain that vocabulary is essential for successful second language because without an extensive vocabulary, we will have less communication and unable to use the structures and functions for great communication.

Furthemore, Alqahtani M. & Wilkins (1972) describe that a large vocabulary is essential for mastery of a language. On the other hand, vocabulary does not have rules the learners may follow to acquire and develop their knowledge. Many researchers argue that vocabulary is one of the most important components in learning a foreign language.

The Relation between Webtoon and Vocabulary Mastery

Innovative Teaching of Language and Literature in Digital Era

Halliwell (1991) assumes that because of the creative language skill young learners bring into the classroom, teachers have to give them a communicative atmosphere where they could express themselves. Teachers have to support the learners to encourage their vocabulary by technology.

When using Webtoon to teach the vocabulary for millennial learners, teachers should train students in reading and mastering the linguistic part of the language. Webtoon is used to help millennial learners during their language learning. It makes the class are interesting to study. Reading English webtoon series is indeed quite an interesting way to improve ourselves in the English language especially for vocabulary. Some of vocabularies posted are learned from reading English Webtoon. The language in Webtoon uses vocabulary that we do not encounter before.

Besides that, there are a lot of pictures to attack the interest of the students. Then, it has a simple conversation on it. The important thing for this application is free. The use of pictures makes it more funny and interesting when reading. Understanding a simple conversation is important to improve the learner's vocabulary proficiency. Furthermore, Webtoon is useful for intermediate and advanced learners, particularly for millennial learners who are want to get mastering of vocabulary.

Method

The aim of this study to know the interest of using Webtoon in increasing vocabulary for millennial learners. Thus, as the teacher we can use it in learning vocabulary and make the learning process more interesting and get positive result.

The research design that is used in this study is using qualitative research. Qualitative research is a kind of research method to gather non-numerical data. Thirty of students of fourth semester of English Department at Tidar University (within the age range of 19-22) are the participants of this study. The data are collected by giving questioners to participants. To get easier when collecting the data, the writer sends the questionnaire by Whatsapp and the respondents were asked to fill out the question. The questioner consists of eight questions that cover the purpose of the study. The data collection procedures of this study were follows.

1. Creating the questionnaire questions and giving it to the participants
2. Asking the participants to fill in the questionnaire.

3. Compiling the questionnaire that had been answered.

The questioner was chosen by adopting the research from Osha Saeed Al Neyadi, the research is from Al Ain Women's College. Which conducted a research entitled *The Effect of Using Games to Reinforce Vocabulary Learning*. After the data collection procedures had been completed, the data were analyzed in order to answer the research question. These are the question of the questionnaire:

1. Does Webtoon increase your vocabulary? (YES/NO)
   Reason: _____

2. Is there any difficult in learning vocabulary by using Webtoon? (YES/NO)
   Reason: _____

3. Are you interest learning vocabulary by using Webtoon?why? (YES/NO)
   Reason: _____

4. Do language in Webtoon enhance your ability to memorize and words? why? (YES/NO)
   Reason: _____

5. Do languages in Webtoon develop positive interaction? (YES/NO)
   Reason: _____

6. Do languages in Webtoon enhance your motivation to learning vocabulary? (YES/NO)
   Reason: _____

7. Is it necessary to use Webtoon in learning vocabulary? (YES/NO)
   Reason: _____

8. Do you agree if Webtoon as a media in learning process? Why? (YES/NO)
   Reason: _____

Finding and Discussion

From the questionnaire that has been given to the respondents, the writer got the data. The result shows that all of the respondents need a new teaching method that can attract their interest when sharpen their vocabulary skill. Then the results are as follows.

Table 1. The Result of Questionnaire

Questionnaire number	Yes		No	
	(n)	Percentage	(n)	Percentage
1.	23	76,67%	7	23,33%
2.	17	56,67%	13	43,33%
3.	21	70%	9	30%
4.	22	73,33%	8	26,67%
5.	24	80%	6	20%
6.	20	66,67%	10	33,33%
7.	22	73,33%	8	26,67%
8.	23	76,67%	7	23,33%

Learning method that has been applied by the teachers can cause the boredom in learning situation. In this modern era, the teacher is required to be able to make their learners understand and master the knowledge from two sides, both in giving a theory by the teacher when learning in the classroom or ask their learners to enrich knowledge through advanced technology that has been provided by the school or their own self. As millennial learners, they are required to mastering advanced technology, so Webtoon is expected can be a platform that can increase the learners' vocabulary skill. Then, it can enhance their interest when learning vocabulary.

After collecting and analyzing the questionnaire result, some conclusions can be made as follows.

a. **Using Webtoon is able to improve students' vocabulary skill to be better.**

This application reaps a positive response from almost all of the respondents. The writer found that is only nine of them who cannot interesting if learning vocabulary by using Webtoon. They found difficulties when used it because the

application is hard to find series of Webtoon that can improve their vocabulary. Then the other reason is most of them are too much lazy to open the dictionary when they are read the story. Even nine respondents disagree with that statement, the rest of the respondents agree if using Webtoon is interesting in their learning process. Moreover, all of them have the same reason why they could agree with that statement. They assumed that Webtoon is very interesting and fun. Webtoon provides a variety of interesting images and stories that make them easier to quickly memorize the vocabulary. They assume that they do not have to come to the class, just tap the connect to their Webtoon account, the Webtoon is ready to used. The words that use in Webtoon are clearly enough to understand. Thus, it is very helpful for the students to understanding. Besides that, there are many new words that they can find in Webtoon.

b. Students are find the facilities that make them more motivate to practice more.

The rest of the respondents think that they can practice their vocabulary skills while enjoying some meals at home. They can read the Webtoon stories in everywhere and every time they want. Due to the easiness when it used, almost respondents interest to increase their vocabulary skill using Webtoon. They also have the newest spirit and motivation to practice more. The bigger reason is they do not feel bored and they can get new words while enjoyed the stories. This application has a combination of web and cartoon or comic. Webtoon also contains pictures and it has an exciting story to read. They can learn not only about vocab but also about grammar. Not only have that, Webtoon freed to read with slide per slide whether realize or not it can make the students more interest with it.

c. The use of Webtoon to increase students' interest in learning vocabulary.

These facilities make the respondents feel interested. Most of them also agree if Webtoon used to sharpening their vocabulary skill in the learning process. They assumed that Webtoon can be applied when learning process in the classroom because it is pretty easy to use, really fun and very interesting. This platform also can support the learning process runs well, and can be the new innovation. It is

different with the previous method that still use traditional method such as just read a lot of book then find the new words. They almost have the same reason that this platform is more fun because they can get a new word while read the story. Furthermore, they can enjoy learn new vocabulary through Webtoon. Webtoon can develop their positive interaction because Webtoon use dialogue. This platform also should be as a media in learning process because we life in this modern era, so there are several way to learn vocabulary by using technology, such asWebtoon.

Although Webtoon has so many positive sides, this platform also reaps many bad responses from the respondents. They give response such Webtoon need strong connection to runs well. If the learners are in a place with poor signal, the quality of the pictures will be extremely bad and the learners cannot access the account. If the learner will practice the vocabulary skill using Webtoon, they have to make sure that they have quota data or there is a public connection like Wifi.

Furthermore, it seems like Webtoon cannot support learning process. The result of learning using Webtoon is not effective. Another difficulties, it will be a little bit difficult if the leraners do not know any vocabulary, they should open a dictionary and find the meaning of it. Then, it will make them hard to understand the story that will be convey by the author. Moreover, the learners may not focus on the new vocab, they will be more focus on the story that conveyed by the author. Not only that, sometimes the words in Webtoon are unfamiliar and there are so many slang words here.

Conclusion

This study are talking about the using of Webtoon that develop millennial learners in increasing the vocabulary. Webtoon can be the media for millennial learners because it has a big opportunity to make them practice more anytime in anyplace. Vocabulary is important thing in creating an ideal communication process. However, some of students are having some problem with learning vocabulary. The main problems are students bored during the learning process and monotonous way in delivering the vocabulary material to the students. As the student-learning center, Webtoon provide many features that can be used for pursue their own goal, they will have their own motivation. This application can be used in every situation.

From the data, it can be concluded that all of the respondents agree that this application suitable in learning vocabulary. In this era, it is very suitable to use Webtoon as a tool or media learning to teaching vocabulary. The materials in Webtoon are suitable enough to the learners because they can strengthen their skill by reading many stories here. They are interest using it as a media when learning process in the classroom, even one or two from them do not like about this platform. It means that they are interested and practice continuously at home. Furthermore, using Webtoon is one of the methods that can improve vocabulary for millennial learners because Webtoon is the solution to adapt the development of technology that make the learners more interest and also improve their vocabulary skill.

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