

Indonesian Students' Voices on Utilizing U-Dictionary in English-Medium Instruction Classroom



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ABSTRACT: Fluency in reading is crucial for students learning English as a foreign language (EFL) in today's society. Digital media like e-books and audio books are essential for reading methods in this age of technology advancement. Because of this, resources like the U-Dictionary are necessary for learning English. The first goal of this study is to describe how students feel about using U-dictionary, and the second is to outline the benefits and drawbacks of using U-dictionary to improve reading comprehension. This study employed a descriptive research design and a qualitative methodology. Six students in the Islamic Studies Department of an Islamic institution in Central Java, Indonesia, participated in the study during the 2024–2025 academic year. They were fifth students of the International Class Program that used English as a medium of instruction in teaching the learning process. Interviews and documentation were used as data gathering methods. Data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or verification were all done using data analysis techniques. According to the findings, most students utilize U-Dictionary to translate words, pronunciation, and synonyms instantaneously. Additionally, because it offers a wide range of capabilities and is user-friendly and effective at determining the meaning of words or even paragraphs while reading, it is a wonderful tool for improving reading comprehension skills. Students struggle with a variety of reading passage comprehension issues, including lengthy texts, foreign vocabulary, pronunciation, and complex sentence patterns. Finding new words and pronunciations in reading texts and improving reading comprehension are two challenges that U-dictionary helps readers face. The benefits include a user-friendly interface, offline capabilities, practice speaking vocabulary words, and a variety of learning resources. However, utilizing U-dictionary has drawbacks, such as limited free features, ads, insufficient offline capability, and an excessive dependency on instant and internet-limited access.

KEYWORDS: English-medium instruction, Indonesian students, reading comprehension skills, U-Dictionary

I. INTRODUCTION

As a result of globalization in the twenty-first century, English has become the universal language, allowing people who speak hundreds of different languages to communicate with one another. The fact that English is widely used more than 60 countries use it as a de facto official language, and 54 have made it their official language, and the main language of teaching in international organizations and higher education is proof of this. This worldwide domination emphasizes how important English competence is for navigating many facets of life, including social contact, political debate, economic trade, artistic expression, and academic endeavors. The importance of English is especially noticeable in Indonesia's educational system. The government stresses the value of providing young people with a variety of learning options in order to prepare them for the challenges of globalization, acknowledging that education encompasses more than just traditional teacher-led training. Many universities have international class programs with English as a medium of instruction in conducting classroom activities.

According to (Mufida, N., Nabhan, 2023; Simatupang, A.S., & Siregar, 2022; Syahfutara, W; Daud, W.A.A.W; Hafezah, 2024), the twenty-first century requires a certain set of skills, such as the ability to think critically and solve problems, collaborate and lead effectively, be flexible and agile, take initiative, communicate effectively both orally and in writing, access and analyze information, and cultivate curiosity and imagination. One important instrument for fostering the development of these critical skills is fluency in English. Reading comprehension is one of the crucial components of learning English. Reading comprehension skills also assist students in understanding literature and academic sources relevant to their field of study. The challenges faced by students in improving their reading comprehension abilities are diverse. One of the main challenges is the difficulty in understanding complex vocabulary and intricate sentence structures in English texts. Moreover, lack of motivation, limited time, and insufficient practice in regular reading also contribute to students' reading comprehension abilities. In Indonesia, English holds a paramount position as a foreign language, mirroring trends observed in numerous other nations. This emphasis is rooted in its pivotal role across various

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domains, notably within the formal education system. From the earliest stages of schooling to tertiary education, students encounter English as part of their curriculum, with the overarching goal of attaining proficiency. However, a prevalent expectation imposed upon these learners is the mastery of translation skills. The task of proficiently translating English and Indonesian presents formidable challenges.

The grammatical structures inherent in each language often diverge significantly, resulting in obstacles when attempting to convey the original message accurately. Translation, fundamentally, entails the transfer of meaning from a source language to a target language, encapsulating the endeavor to comprehend foreign language content and articulate it cogently in the desired language. Achieving successful translation necessitates a comprehensive grasp of both languages. This encompasses fluency in grammar and syntax, alongside a nuanced understanding of diverse translation methodologies and techniques. Despite its apparent simplicity, translation constitutes a multifaceted skill. Numerous methodologies exist to facilitate the process, encompassing approaches such as word-for-word, literal, faithful, semantic, adaptation, free, idiomatic, and communicative translation. Familiarity with these methodologies empowers students to navigate the translation process judiciously, making informed decisions to convey meaning effectively. These statements are supported by (Barokah, O.M., 2024; Fedora, F., Hasan, 2024; Ismailia, 2023; Siahaan, B.L., Manurung, N.G., Sianturi, O., Sinaga, 2023).

Students can broaden their knowledge in a variety of areas, including the social, cultural, and political spheres, via reading. Additionally, it provides a way for students to understand the content they have already studied, which helps them to improve their comprehension of vocabulary and sentence structures and develop their ideas, ultimately leading to an improvement in their reading ability. Additionally, (Adinda, F., Rahayu, 2023; Fiqri, D.A., Sofiana, 2024; Krismonika., Norahmi, M., Asi, 2021; Sari, D.M., Pratolo, 2024) emphasize the process of combining words and sentences to aid in comprehension and defines reading as the act of inferring meaning from individual words or groups of words. Word clusters are therefore a useful aid for pupils in this process. Proficiency in reading is becoming more and more important in today's environment, especially for those learning English as a foreign language (EFL). The study's primary objective is to characterize how students perceive using U-Dictionary to enhance their translation and reading comprehension skills. The second step is to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of using U-Dictionary to enhance reading comprehension skills.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

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This is due to the fact that a large portion of the content is provided mostly in English, which presents a problem for students from non-English-speaking nations. Such students must first become proficient in the English language in order to understand this material. (Dila, Y.R., Safitri, 2022; Jihad, N., Nasriandi, N., Jusriati, 2023; Umamah, S.B; Ardiya; Niah, 2023) list a number of reasons why EFL learners must become proficient readers. First of all, reading can make up for a lack of exposure to English in cultures where it is not the main spoken language. Second, a wealth of research highlights the importance of reading for job advancement, higher education, professional achievement, and personal intellectual development. Finally, improving reading skills helps students comprehend the different facets of language learning. Furthermore, translation is more than just changing words; it involves a deep investigation of linguistic subtleties and cultural contexts, necessitating a sophisticated knowledge of both the source and target languages. Students who explore the complexities of translation improve their language proficiency while also developing a greater understanding of the diverse range of human expression that is captured in written works. Larson goes on to explain that this language transference process is a means of bridging disparate linguistic and cultural landscapes, promoting intercultural communication and mutual understanding. Understanding how technology changes how students interact with reading materials is one of the most important issues facing education today.

With the proliferation of hypertexts, multimedia-rich content, and digital formats like e-books and audiobooks, students encounter a diverse array of texts that demand varying reading strategies. Consequently, educators find themselves tasked with equipping students with the requisite skills to navigate these twenty-first-century reading landscapes effectively. According to (Lin, T., Lei, 2021; Pun, J., Thomas, N., & Bowen, 2022; Yani, 2022) collaborating learning techniques independently makes students more productive, because reading passages consist of many words. It is important for students in reading comprehension that students can share systematic thoughts around the content. To help English teachers use modern procedures, they can be applied. Students now encounter a wide range of texts that require different reading methods due to the widespread use of hypertexts, multimedia-rich content, and digital formats like e-books and audiobooks. Teachers are therefore faced with the challenge of providing students with the necessary tools to successfully traverse these reading environments of the twenty-first century. (Hua, 2019; Mc.Kinley, J., Rose, 2022; Pujiani, T; Sukmawati, I.D; Adzkiyah, 2023) claim that students are more productive when independently collaborating on learning strategies since reading passages are lengthy. It is crucial for reading comprehension that students are able to exchange methodical ideas about the material. Modern methods can be used to assist English teachers.

In addition, (Krismonika., Norahmi, M., Asi, 2021; Mustika, Y., Dashela, 2024; Sari, D.M., Pratolo, 2024) noted that this website already offers educational resources in the form of films, animations, or tests, which will help to make learning even more enjoyable. Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL), also referred to as m-learning, is a method where teachers are

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progressively incorporating smartphones and mobile applications into language learning curricula in answer to this difficulty. The discipline of Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) as a whole is the source of this trend, which shows a move toward using portable technology to improve language instruction. Initial assessments of these applications' efficacy are being conducted with the goal of determining how they affect language competency and acquisition (Angraini, 2023; Garner, 2024; Guo, L., He, Y., & Wang, 2022; Oraif, I and Alrashed, 2022).

On March 24, 2016, Yuodao, a Hong Kong-based company, released U-Dictionary, a flexible app that can be used both online and offline. By the year 2019, globally, U-Dictionary has received over 50 million downloads. The software is appealing since it is free, easy to use, and accessible through straightforward download processes (Barokah, O.M., 2024; Fiqri, D.A., Sofiana, 2024; Ismailia, 2023) state that U-Dictionary, which is accessible on the App Store for Apple devices and the Play Store for Android users, has features that evaluate and rank speaking fluency and pronunciation, making it even more useful for language learners. In light of these characteristics, it becomes necessary to carefully consider the possible advantages of incorporating U-Dictionary into English language instruction. According to research, the use of technology and its applications can drastically change teaching strategies, especially when it comes to encouraging student-centered approaches. Additionally, it promotes collaborative learning among students and acts as a catalyst for skill improvement. Technology's capacity to improve instructional strategies and encourage active participation in the learning process highlights its revolutionary significance in higher education. Her thorough meta-analysis of instructors' use of technology highlighted the fact that teachers frequently need convincing about how technology might boost students' motivation and engagement. This emphasizes how crucial it is to allay teachers' concerns and show them how beneficial technology can be in order to increase acceptance and adoption of cutting-edge teaching strategies.

Translation enables people to actively engage in educational discourse and contribute to the worldwide advancement of knowledge by transcending language barriers. The rise of English translation in education is significant because it creates new channels for information sharing and intercultural connections. English has emerged as the universal language of commerce, academia, and technology in today's globalized society, making translation a vital instrument for information access and dissemination. Translation makes it easier to transfer concepts, theories, and instructional materials across linguistic and cultural divides, which promotes accessibility and inclusivity in learning contexts, especially in the field of education. Additionally, by adapting and localizing instructional materials to the requirements and preferences of varied learners, translation helps teachers improve understanding and engagement. Students enrolled in foreign classes that use English-medium instruction must have a solid understanding of reading comprehension skills. Students who are proficient in reading comprehension are better able to understand and evaluate complicated texts, which is crucial for both academic achievement and career advancement. Additionally, by giving users access to a wealth of real materials and resources in other languages, the incorporation of English translation with online apps enhances the educational process. This develops critical thinking and intercultural communication abilities in addition to improving students' language and cultural proficiency.

Students can connect with a variety of literary works, educational resources, and interactive exercises by using online programs that translate texts into English. This improves their language skills and comprehension of reading comprehension techniques. There are several ways for people to overcome the difficulties of learning to speak in the digital age, and many people choose the ease of use provided by smartphone apps. Smartphones are now used in almost every aspect of daily life, especially while using social media. Using cell phones for education can completely transform teaching and learning approaches and offer a compelling chance to accelerate students' development of speaking skills. As a result, people in this digital age have never had greater access to a wide range of educational materials via online platforms, with online learning tools like U-Dictionary.

Although U-Dictionary can be a useful resource for learning English, using it excessively has many drawbacks: 1). Instead of comprehending the context or meaning of English words, students could concentrate on literal translations. This may slow down the English thought process, which is necessary for fluency. 2) Students who use the dictionary a lot may become discouraged from making context-based word meaning guesses, which is a crucial language acquisition ability. It may impair one's capacity for inference and problem-solving. 3) Even while audio pronunciation is useful, students who do not comprehend phonetics may find it difficult to accurately mimic sounds. Students who rely too much on digital technologies may neglect to acquire patterns and principles of pronunciation. 4). Because U-Dictionary is frequently used on a smartphone or tablet, social media, games, and notifications may divert students' attention while they are studying. Some people might abuse it for unrelated chores rather than using it for scholarly reasons. 5). Partial knowledge may result from definitions or translations that lack thorough justifications or examples. 6) Students who are constantly looking up terms may not be able to internalize terminology. Because they aren't paying close attention to the words, they could forget them easily. 7). Students who rely too much on resources like U-Dictionary may prioritize reading and writing over practicing their speaking and conversational skills. 8). U-Dictionary might not work well in places with inadequate internet connectivity, which could interfere with students' ability to learn.

There are several ideas for getting past these drawbacks before utilizing a dictionary namely: 1) Encourage students to infer meanings from context, 2) Avoid using dictionaries when speaking or participating in discussions, 3) Strike a balance between digital learning and more conventional approaches, like as reading, grammar drills, and group discussions, 4) Encourage taking notes rather than doing frequent lookups to aid with vocabulary retention. U-Dictionary can be utilized as an additional resource

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without impeding successful English learning by resolving these issues. Teachers provides guided usage of best practices in the classroom. They show students how to make the most of the app's capabilities. Students should be limited to excessive dependency prior to using a dictionary, promote critical thinking and word meaning guessing. Teachers incorporate it into activities by using it for group projects, vocabulary tests, and games. Students can become more confident and fluent in English while maintaining the interest and accessibility of the lectures by utilizing resources such as U-Dictionary in the classroom.

III. METHOD

This study employed a descriptive research design and a qualitative method. Furthermore, according to (Creswell, J.W. & Timothy, 2019; Creswell, 2014; Miles, M.B., Huberman, A.M & Saldana, 2014), qualitative research is characterized by qualities of substance, process, and meaning as opposed to being tested empirically or measured in terms of quantity, amount, intensity, or frequency. Using qualitative research methods, data was gathered through interviews and observation. The qualitative descriptive method was selected since the researcher was able to clearly define more societal phenomena, and the analysis could not be expressed in numerical form. To get a true sense of how people understood a scenario, the researchers in this study employed interviews to provide participants the opportunity to speak in-depth and use their own words.

To confirm and solidify their beliefs regarding the usage of U-Dictionary to improve reading comprehension skills, the researcher conducted interviews. There were five questions in the actual interview. Thus, the purpose of this study is to qualitatively ascertain how students view the use of U-Dictionary to improve their reading comprehension skills, as well as the benefits and drawbacks of doing so. Six participants, who are students in the Islamic Studies department of an Islamic institution in Central Java, Indonesia, were interviewed to gather the research's data. The participant's interview results were presented both narratively and descriptively. The selection process for research participants is a crucial step in the research process. A purposive sample strategy was employed in this study. According to (Creswell, J.W. & Timothy, 2019; Creswell, 2014; Tracy, 2013) purposeful sampling is the deliberate selection of informants based on their capacity to expound on a certain theme, concept, or phenomenon.

Data Collection Technique

The data-collecting technique described how the researchers collected the information pertaining to the study's focus. Six students were interviewed in order to collect data for this study. The level of formality and structure of an interview sets it apart. An interview that follows a preset set of questions is called a structured interview; an interview that does not follow a predetermined set of questions is called an unstructured interview. Semi-structured interviews, on the other hand, integrate both unstructured and structured methods (Creswell, J.W. & Timothy, 2019; Creswell, 2014; Miles, M.B., Huberman, A.M & Saldana, 2014; Tracy, 2013). To gather student responses for this study, the researcher used a semi-structured interview. During the interview, students responded to open-ended questions on how they felt about using U-Dictionary to improve their reading skills. In qualitative research, document analysis is a useful adjunct to observation and interviewing techniques. In order to support the research findings gathered from the field, the author employed a cell phone as one of the tools in this technique. Images and recorded, and the entire conversation were also taken from the start of the query to the end.

Technique of Data Analysis

When organizing and searching for the data for the study, the researcher used three components of data analysis based on Miles and Huberman's (2014) descriptive qualitative approaches to analyze and describe the data. The first step was a reduction of data. It means the process of choosing, concentrating, streamlining, abstracting, and altering the information found in transcriptions or written field notes is known as data reduction. The second step was information display. A data display is a condensed, structured compilation of information that enables inference and action. Following the collection and identification of the relevant data, the researcher in this study categorized the interview and documentation data and displayed the information in the form of descriptions about the students' perceptions of using the U-Dictionary to improve their reading comprehension skills. The last step was concluding. Its activities, namely drawing and verifying data conclusions. Verification is the process of confirming the conclusions that have been drawn from Miles and Huberman's interactive model scheme (2014). As a result, various data analysis components were applied to the interview data. These include reducing data, displaying data, and drawing conclusions. All of the interview data are presented in a narrative way.

IV. RESULTS

Views of Students Regarding the Use of U-Dictionary to Improve Their Reading Comprehension Skill.

Six people participated in this study, and all of them used U-Dictionary, according to the interview data.

S1 (Student 1): "Yes, I read my English main handbooks using U-Dictionary. This software is really useful to me because it provides example sentences and instantaneous translations for words I don't understand. It helps me pick up new words more quickly and improves my comprehension".

S2: "To be honest, I don't often utilize U-Dictionary in favor of looking up word definitions in other print or online dictionaries. However, U-Dictionary is quite helpful and makes it simpler for me to learn new words when I truly need immediate assistance".

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S3: "The pronunciation and synonym aspects of U-Dictionary were particularly beneficial in enhancing my reading comprehension abilities. I can listen to the pronunciation of challenging words and look up synonyms to improve my comprehension of the material".

S4: "Yes, I use U-Dictionary to help me improve my comprehension of what I read." I can easily look up the definitions of unfamiliar words while reading thanks to this app. Additionally, I can better comprehend how to utilize words in the right context thanks to the sample sentences function."

S5: "U-Dictionary greatly aids in the development of my reading comprehension abilities. I frequently check that I grasp the meaning of words and how to pronounce them correctly by using the translation and audio functions. I feel that my reading abilities are improving in this way.

S6: "While reading, I primarily utilize U-Dictionary to look up the definitions of new words. Although this software is really helpful, I believe that to enhance my general reading comprehension abilities, I also need to use more resources and read frequently. According to the participants' answers, students commonly utilize electronic dictionaries like U-Dictionary for learning, especially while reading and comprehending English texts. The participants emphasized a number of U-Dictionary's useful features, such as synonym recommendations, pronunciation assistance, example sentences, and immediate word translation.

For example, (S1) highlighted how U-Dictionary is highly useful while reading English-language texts since it provides sample sentences and instantaneous word translations, which improves vocabulary learning and speeds up understanding. (S3) observed that the app's synonym and pronunciation tools greatly enhanced their reading comprehension abilities by enabling them to hear words to better comprehend them. However, other participants pointed out that although U-Dictionary is helpful, it isn't always required. (S2) reported that although they don't use the U-Dictionary very often, they do find it to be quite helpful when they need immediate assistance with word-meanings. (S6) added that although U-Dictionary is useful for searching for new terms, they still believe that using additional resources and reading frequently is necessary to enhance their reading comprehension abilities in general. In conclusion, every participant uses U-Dictionary to improve their reading comprehension abilities. They do this by utilizing its vocabulary, translation, audio, and example sentences to better comprehend English texts. In support of this, (Fiqri, D.A., Sofiana, 2024; Hutaeruk, R.M., Manihuruk, L.M.E, 2024; Krismonika., Norahmi, M., Asi, 2021) state the use of new learning resources, U-Dictionary can help students grasp concepts like appropriate verb choice, spelling, pronunciation, and speaking abilities. It can also help students master grammar and vocabulary. The conclusion thus highlights the usefulness of U-Dictionary in promoting English language learning, as all participants use it to improve their vocabulary and reading comprehension.

Using U-Dictionary to Improve Reading Comprehension Competence

According to (Cem, C., Sophie, B., Shopie, 2023; Mustika, Y., Dashela, 2024; Sari, D.M., Pratolo, 2024), U-Dictionary is an application for language learning that can assist in learning languages, including English. Based on the interview data, it was discovered that every participant agreed that the U-Dictionary is a useful tool for improving vocabulary, pronunciation, and reading comprehension skills. It is particularly beneficial for the learning process.

S1: "I think U-Dictionary is a great resource for enhancing reading comprehension abilities. I can comprehend texts faster thanks to their extensive dictionary features and capacity to translate unfamiliar words. I suggest U-Dictionary since it lets us read a variety of materials and increase our vocabulary.

S2: "I have some doubts regarding U-Dictionary's ability to enhance reading comprehension abilities. Although the app is excellent for translating words, I believe that excessive usage of it can result in an overdependence on it and a lack of expertise in reading in context. Therefore, it is not advised to rely exclusively on U-Dictionary, even though it can be helpful.

S3: "U-Dictionary is a great resource for enhancing reading comprehension abilities, particularly for anyone learning a foreign language. This software gives us examples of how to use new words in sentences and aids in our understanding of them. Since we may pick up new language while reading, it's also excellent for enhancing our overall reading comprehension abilities.

S4: "I believe U-Dictionary is really helpful; however, when used alone, it is insufficient. It assists us in verifying the meaning of words, but it's equally critical to practice reading the text in its entirety without continuously consulting the dictionary. U-Dictionary is one of the resources I advise using, although it needs to be matched with more in-depth reading exercises.

S5: "U-Dictionary is a great tool for helping me improve my reading comprehension, especially when I'm reading complicated texts." I can better comprehend the context and meaning of challenging words thanks to its translation tool. I recommend U-Dictionary because it speeds up the learning process and helps me understand texts better without having to look up printed dictionaries constantly.

S6: "I believe U-Dictionary is a helpful resource for rapidly comprehending new words, which can improve reading comprehension." I wouldn't, however, depend on it by itself to improve my general reading comprehension abilities. It works best when combined with other reading exercises like text analysis and group discussion. Therefore, while I do suggest it for vocabulary support, it should also be used in conjunction with more comprehensive reading practices.

According to the aforementioned claims, the majority of participants concurred that the U-Dictionary is a helpful resource for improving reading comprehension abilities and suggested that it is an effective medium for doing so. Faster text comprehension is

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made possible by the app's extensive features, which include vocabulary expansion and translation capabilities. Language learners benefit from U-Dictionary's contextual examples and ability to assist users in understanding unknown words, according to participants. For instance, S1 highlighted how the app speeds up text comprehension, while S3 pointed out that it facilitates vocabulary acquisition by providing real-world sentence examples. This dual purpose improves the learning process in addition to improving comprehension. Concerns over an excessive dependence on U-Dictionary were raised by a few participants, nevertheless. Additionally, (S2 and S4) excessive use may impede the growth of more complex reading comprehension abilities. Although U-Dictionary is helpful for instant translation, they recommended that the software not be used in place of reading documents in their entirety. In particular, (S2) noted that depending just on the app may result in a lack of context awareness, which is essential for proficient reading. In a similar vein, (S6) advised utilizing U-Dictionary to help with vocabulary but emphasized the value of integrating it with other reading techniques like text analysis and group discussions. This result is consistent with earlier studies that demonstrate how well u-dictionary aids students in developing their vocabulary proficiency.

It is supported by (Ismailia, 2023; Mustika, Y., Dashela, 2024; Sari, D.M., Pratolo, 2024) research that U-dictionary makes language training more dynamic and interesting, which not only helps students learn new words but also motivates them to study. Additionally, there is compelling evidence from educational studies supporting the advantages of electronic dictionaries, particularly the U-dictionary app. According to a study by (Adinda, F., Rahayu, 2023; Fedora, F., Hasan, 2024; Sari, D.M., Pratolo, 2024), students' vocabulary was significantly improved using the U-Dictionary app. These results show how effective the U-Dictionary app is in assisting students in improving their vocabulary. Additionally, the U-Dictionary app may motivate students to actively participate in their English language instruction. Seventy percent of pupils reported that this software made learning easier and more interesting, per the survey. In conclusion, research backs up the usage of U-Dictionary as a useful aid for enhancing vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension in language learning environments, notwithstanding worries about dependence on electronic resources. The software is a useful tool for enhancing comprehension and enhancing the educational process because it offers contextualized examples and real-time translations. As a result, greater results for students and more balanced language development can result from including U-Dictionary in larger reading practices.

Students' Challenges with Reading Comprehension Skills in English-Medium Instruction Classroom.

Many students read to understand a text or other educational resource. However, most participants struggled to learn how to comprehend what they were reading. The problems are as follows:

S1: "Yes, I frequently struggle with reading comprehension, especially when it comes to comprehending lengthy materials. It is challenging for me to comprehend lengthy texts because I frequently become distracted when reading them. Yes, I believe the U-Dictionary can assist me in understanding unfamiliar words, but I also need to work on improving my reading comprehension.

S2: "Yes, learning new words is challenging for me. I frequently run into a problem when reading: I frequently come across new terms that confuse me since I have to stop reading until I understand what they mean and how to pronounce them. Yes, I believe that utilizing U-Dictionary enhances my comprehension of the text and helps me understand the meaning of the words.

S3: "Yeah, I frequently struggle with sophisticated phrase constructions and reading comprehension skills. The most frequent issue I have is that occasionally the sentences are excessively lengthy and complex, which makes it hard for me to follow the text's flow. Though I still need to work on comprehending more intricate phrase structures, I believe that using the U-Dictionary can be helpful in determining the meaning of terminology, pronouncing words and sentences, and translating them.

S4: "I frequently struggle with reading comprehension, particularly when it comes to comprehending a small vocabulary, reading lengthy and intricate texts, and deriving important information from the reading." I feel that using U-Dictionary helps me get past these issues because it makes it easy for me to rapidly look up new terms, increase my vocabulary, and comprehend the context in which they are used.

S5: "Yes, I occasionally have trouble deciphering the text's intended meaning. I find it difficult to understand what the author is trying to say with the words. Finding the correct meaning is still challenging, but I frequently feel the need to read the passage again in order to get the broader context. Yes, I believe that extending my vocabulary and learning the meaning of challenging terms are made much easier by utilizing the U-dictionary. It facilitates my comprehension of the texts I read.

S6: "Yes, I find it challenging to read rapidly and smoothly since I frequently have to pronounce each word in its proper order. I frequently struggle with pronunciation, especially when it comes to unfamiliar terms, which makes it difficult for me to read rapidly. Yes, I do believe that using U-dictionary can be quite beneficial. That is, rapidly searching for a word's explanation and pronunciation so that I can grasp its meaning and pronounce it correctly, which will help me become a better reader. The aforementioned responses from the participants indicate that they struggle with reading comprehension, particularly when it comes to comprehending lengthy texts, unfamiliar words, and intricate sentence structures.

These issues frequently cause readers to become distracted when reading, which makes it challenging to comprehend the text's entire substance. Furthermore, participants experience inhibition when they come across new terminology since they must pause their reading to check up the word's definition and pronunciation. This may interfere with the reading's flow and impair comprehension. Long, complex texts can also be challenging since readers may find it hard to follow the plot due to the intricate phrase structures.

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Additionally, some participants found it difficult to grasp the text's implicit meaning, which frequently necessitated rereading in order to grasp the deeper context. The study is backed by (Barokah, O.M., 2024; Fedora, F., Hasan, 2024; Ismailia, 2023) "English reading challenges include grammatical errors and a deficiency in vocabulary. Similar findings were also discovered with (Agustiani, D., Gumelar, R.E., Munawaroh, 2022; Hasanah, 2024; Hutauruk, R.M., Manihuruk, L.M.E, 2024), which investigated students' challenges with comprehension of texts, including their inability to read complex words or vocabulary, comprehend sentences and paragraphs, comprehend the entire reading or content of a text, and recognize the main idea, text flow, text types, and English structure. It is corroborated by the discovery that inferior reading skills are the cause of reading comprehension difficulties (Mustika, Y., Dashela, 2024; Siahaan, B.L., Manurung, N.G., Sianturi, O., Sinaga, 2023). It takes a lot of studying to retain the knowledge that has been read. Reading the text to solve the issue takes a long time.

Reading material that is too difficult. The unfamiliar reading material and the complexity of grammar also become a failure to understand the reading text correctly. The sentences in the reading text are too long or have complicated sentences. New words and long texts are considered the main obstacles to understanding the reading text. The strategy used by the students to overcome this problem was to use the u-dictionary to find the understanding of the reading text. This is supported the research by (Adinda, F., Rahayu, 2023; Cem, C., Sophie, B., Shopie, 2023; Fiqri, D.A., Sofiana, 2024; Krismonika., Norahmi, M., Asi, 2021; Sari, D.M., Pratolo, 2024). Mobile-assisted language learning such as the U-dictionary is a platform that offers advantages for students such as improving their vocabulary acquisition, grammar competence, reading speed, and reading comprehension as well.

2. The Benefits and Drawbacks of Using U-Dictionary to Enhance Reading Comprehension Skills

Electronic u-dictionary has some advantages and disadvantages.

a. Benefits

Some of the benefits of utilizing the U-Dictionary app to improve reading comprehension abilities were mentioned in some of the student comments. Students have shared their opinions about how user-friendly U-Dictionary is. They find the software to be user-friendly and intuitive, which enables them to swiftly access all of the functions without feeling overloaded. They stated: "The benefits of using U-dictionary, it has many features that can help, and make learning more interactive and interesting." This ease of use is particularly advantageous for people who might be unfamiliar with digital learning tools. Additionally, it is simple to use.

(S1) "The benefit of using U-dictionary, in my opinion, is that it is simple to translate."

(S3) "For the benefits, perhaps because of the numerous features, such as early learning, you can quickly learn vocabulary without opening a large dictionary as you used to do, and the application is user-friendly; so far, users who have tried it have no trouble finding the features."

(S4) "I think the benefits of this dictionary are that it's easy to use, has an audio translation for sounds, and has a translation for rich photos or photographs so you can see the meaning right away. This makes it easier for me to figure out what words I don't know mean and how to pronounce them."

(S5) "This benefit is that it may be downloaded, allowing offline use without the requirement for hotspot or an internet package when necessary. It is, in my opinion, also useful for everyday usage, simple to use, and offers articles that enhance reading."

(S6) Some students also emphasized the value of U-Dictionary's offline functionality, saying that it greatly improved their learning experience to be able to access dictionary and translation tools without an internet connection. For people who don't always have dependable internet connectivity, this ease makes it possible for them to study and practice language skills at any time and from any location. "The advantages are that it can be used offline," stated (S 6 and S2).

(S2) "This benefit is that it can be downloaded, allowing offline use without the need for hotspot or an internet package when necessary." Additionally, student 5 mentioned that the app has a pronunciation tool to aid in vocabulary searches, which the students thought was a big plus. According to the student, this feature makes it easier for them to practice and enhances their speaking abilities by enabling them to hear how words should be pronounced. In addition to improving their educational experience, this pronunciation function boosts their self-assurance in their ability to use the language successfully.

"This dictionary's benefits, in my opinion, are its ease of use, its audio translation of sounds, and its translation for rich photos and photographs so you can see the meaning right away. It makes it easier for me to find the meaning of words I don't know and how to pronounce them." (S5) Additionally, U-Dictionary was mentioned by students 1 and 3 as a broad learning resource. According to Student 1, it has a lot of elements that can be useful and enhance the dynamic and engaging nature of learning. Additionally, student 3 mentioned features like audio translation, word games, and quizzes. These features offer a fun approach to practice language skills in addition to strengthening vocabulary and pronunciation. The benefits of utilizing U-dictionary include its numerous elements that can be helpful and enhance the dynamic and engaging nature of learning.

(S1) According to me, the benefits of utilizing U-dictionary include its ease of translation, its ability to translate both words and images, and its selection of numerous languages. Quizzes and word games are also available.

b. Drawbacks

In addition to its benefits, U-dictionary has certain drawbacks that students experience when they use it to improve their reading comprehension. Students list a number of drawbacks to utilizing U-dictionary, including: U-Dictionary's restricted feature availability for free users is a regrettable benefit. For students who don't want to pay for a subscription, the fact that many features

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are only available in the premium edition can be annoying. For casual users, these restrictions lessen the app's overall usefulness. According to them, "there are a lot of features that are not free to use, and some of them require a subscription, which is a drawback of using U-dictionary."

(S1) "U-dictionary's drawbacks include frequent advertisements that annoy and discomfort users, as well as the fact that certain premium features come with extra costs."

(S2) "Disadvantages: Some features require payment, and the frequent advertisements make using this application uncomfortable." As for the drawbacks, it turns out that there are a lot of other functions, but they require a paid subscription, which makes them feel less fulfilled".

In reality, there are other characteristics that greatly assist us, including magic translation or perhaps a language word check. However, it must be a premium.

(S6) "Another significant drawback of utilizing U-dictionary is the display of advertising. Ads, according to some students, disrupt their experience and make using the app unpleasant. The learning process and student happiness may suffer as a result of these distractions. According to students two and three, "U-dictionary's drawbacks include frequent advertisements that annoy and unnerve users, as well as the fact that some premium features come with extra costs."

(S2) "Disadvantages: Some features require payment, and the frequent advertisements make using this application uncomfortable."

(S3) When offline, U-Dictionary's usefulness is likewise lacking. According to (Student 4), there are fewer functionalities accessible while not connected to the internet than when they are. When using the dictionary in places with inadequate connectivity, this restriction may be inconvenient for users who require access."

One of the drawbacks might be that it needs to be read online; even if it is read offline, the features won't be as comprehensive as they are online." Furthermore, although this dictionary's rapid translation feature is practical, it could lead to pupils being overly dependent on it. According to (Student 5), "U-dictionary's ease of instantaneous word and sentence translation can cause users to become overly dependent on it and become lazy about learning more in-depth."

(S5) Barriers are also created by U-Dictionary's reliance on a shaky or constrained internet connection. Additionally, students encounter poor or inconsistent internet, which can impair the app's functionality and restrict access to its features, influencing use in a variety of contexts. According to Student 5, "the feature cannot be used properly when my internet connection is poor."

DISCUSSION

First, the study discovered that the majority of students had a favorable opinion of using the U-Dictionary to improve their reading comprehension abilities. This suggests that the U-Dictionary can be a valuable tool for enhancing students' English learning, particularly in the areas of vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension. According to every participant, U-Dictionary offers a wide range of features, including synonyms, example sentences, pronunciation, and quick word translation. According to students, U-Dictionary facilitates comprehension of English texts by offering brief translations and sample sentences, which speeds up comprehension and enhances vocabulary acquisition. Although most participants considered the U-Dictionary beneficial, some other participants felt that the U-Dictionary was not always required. Although they acknowledged its use as a quick reference when required, some participants stated that they only sometimes used it. In order to enhance their overall reading comprehension abilities, participants also mentioned how crucial it is to add frequent reading exercise and additional resources to the U-Dictionary. This result is consistent with the findings of (Barokah, O.M., 2024; Fedora, F., Hasan, 2024; Ismailia, 2023).

Through the use of new learning resources, U-Dictionary can help students grasp concepts like appropriate verb choice, spelling, pronunciation, and speaking abilities. It can also help students master grammar and vocabulary. The second is using U-dictionary as a tool to improve reading comprehension. The majority of participants concurred that U-Dictionary's many qualities, such as its capacity for translation and vocabulary development, make it a useful tool for enhancing reading. By enabling users to comprehend unknown words and provide contextual examples, U-dictionary enhances the learning process and speeds up text comprehension.

Although some participants cautioned against over-reliance on U-Dictionary, and suggested that it should complement rather than replace overall reading practice, existing research shows its consistent superiority in improving vocabulary acquisition and motivating students. This is supported by (Adinda, F., Rahayu, 2023; Fiqri, D.A., Sofiana, 2024; Mustika, Y., Dashela, 2024). U-dictionary not only helps with vocabulary acquisition but also motivates students during the learning process by making language learning more interactive and interesting. The last, students' difficulty in reading comprehension skills. Most participants experienced significant difficulties in reading comprehension due to difficulties with long texts, unfamiliar vocabulary and complex sentence structures. These barriers often lead to a loss of focus, hindering their overall understanding of the material.

This study is corroborated by (Cem, C., Sophie, B., Shopie, 2023; Krismonika., Norahmi, M., Asi, 2021; Sari, D.M., Pratolo, 2024). (Adinda, F., Rahayu, 2023; Fiqri, D.A., Sofiana, 2024; Ismailia, 2023). who claimed that students struggle with vocabulary and grammar, and (Barokah, O.M., 2024; Fedora, F., Hasan, 2024), who found that students struggle with comprehending complicated words and the text's main theme. Additionally, (Agustiani, D., Gumelar, R.E., Munawaroh, 2022; Hutauruk, B.S., Sinaga, Y.K., Sitingjak, 2021) noted that these difficulties are exacerbated by inadequate reading proficiency, which necessitates a

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significant time investment on the part of the students in order to understand the reading. Utilizing aids like u-dictionary is the method employed to solve this issue. Meanwhile (Cem, C., Sophie, B., Shopie, 2023; Fiqri, D.A., Sofiana, 2024; Siahaan, B.L., Manurung, N.G., Sianturi, O., Sinaga, 2023) endorse it. Students can improve their vocabulary acquisition, grammar proficiency, reading speed, and reading comprehension by using mobile-assisted language learning platforms like the U-dictionary. Even though these resources offer helpful assistance, they might not be able to completely address the difficulties associated with comprehending difficult reading material. Regarding the second research question, which asked about the benefits and drawbacks of using U-dictionary to improve reading comprehension, the researcher discovered that every student agreed that there are benefits and drawbacks to utilizing U-dictionary. Easy to use, offline functionality, practice pronouncing words or vocabulary, and a varied learning tool are the four main benefits of utilizing U-dictionary. The first benefit is its ease of use; students have evaluated the U-Dictionary app well, stating that it is very simple to use and straightforward to comprehend.

Students can easily utilize it thanks to its straightforward design, which prevents users from becoming surprised or perplexed when looking for important functions. An ideal user experience was also produced by the clear presentation provided by the numerous simple options. Additionally, an acceptable dictionary's operation enables users to do activities like spell checking, immediate translation, and translating related discussions quickly. These results are consistent with (Fiqri, D.A., Sofiana, 2024; Ismailia, 2023; Mustika, Y., Dashela, 2024), who noted that electronic dictionaries offer benefits such ease of use, quick translation, and audiovisual aspects that make learning new words easier for students. Second, offline functionality: A few students mentioned how important U-Dictionary's offline feature is because it enables them to use the dictionary and translation features without an internet connection, thus enhancing their educational experience. Students no longer have to worry about erratic internet access when learning and practicing languages thanks to this feature. They may quickly seek up word definitions, synonyms, and antonyms with this offline tool. They can also use mini games and quick exams to engage in interactive language learning. U-Dictionary is therefore a useful and efficient educational resource for people who wish to learn languages on their own thanks to its offline feature.

This result is consistent with a prior study by (Agustiani, D., Gumelar, R.E., Munawaroh, 2022; Fedora, F., Hasan, 2024; Ismailia, 2023), which identifies the U-Dictionary as one of the offline English dictionaries available for download by all students. Third, practice pronouncing terms or vocabulary. (S5) reported that the U-Dictionary helped them understand the pronunciation and meaning of words they were unfamiliar with. This result is consistent with research by (Adinda, F., Rahayu, 2023; Fiqri, D.A., Sofiana, 2024; Mustika, Y., Dashela, 2024), which claims that MALL (Mobile Assisted Language Learning) through U-Dictionary can help students grasp concepts like correct verb choice, spelling, and pronunciation, as well as enhance speaking abilities, vocabulary and grammar mastery, and students' comprehension of the learning process through the use of new learning resources. In addition to offering comprehensive information on a variety of vocabulary topics, U-Dictionary also has interactive elements that let users hear and mimic proper pronunciation. As a result, U-Dictionary helps students become more confident by acting as a reference and language learning aid. The fact that U-dictionary is a varied learning resource is its last benefit. "There are word games and quizzes too," students stated. Learning a language is made more engaging by the variety of tools offered, like word games, tests, and various audio translations. This is corroborated by (Fiqri, D.A., Sofiana, 2024; Krismonika., Norahmi, M., Asi, 2021; Sari, D.M., Pratolo, 2024) who claimed that u-dictionary is a learning tool since it is useful, effective, and multipurpose.

A number of issues surfaced regarding the disadvantages of utilizing U-Dictionary, as most students had opinions about these issues. First of all, many students expressed dissatisfaction with the restricted feature access, asking, "Are some of the features have to be pro?" due to the fact that many functions are only available with a premium subscription, which restricts the experience for users of the free version. Additionally, students brought up the need for an internet connection, pointing out that while U-Dictionary has offline capabilities, many of them are significantly constrained in the absence of one. Concerns are then raised over the potential for an excessive dependence on this software for translation, which could lead to laziness and a lack of enthusiasm for in-depth language learning. The issue with the internet connection prevents the U-Dictionary from translating as effectively as it could. As a result, U-Dictionary, an electronic dictionary, needs a strong internet connection. This result is consistent with (Agustiani, D., Gumelar, R.E., Munawaroh, 2022; Hasanah, 2024; Hutauruk, R.M., Manihuruk, L.M.E, 2024), which found that electronic dictionaries can be distracting in the classroom, that internet connectivity is limited, and that definitions and credentials are not complete. Inappropriate usage of electronic dictionaries by certain students occurs in the classroom. Similarly, the only issues with (Cem, C., Sophie, B., Shopie, 2023; Mustika, Y., Dashela, 2024; Siahaan, B.L., Manurung, N.G., Sianturi, O., Sinaga, 2023) are translation faults and issues with internet connections. Based on the results, it can be said that although U-Dictionary offers a number of tools that are helpful for language learning and translation, users frequently encounter issues that negatively impact their experience using the program.

According to this study, students have both favorable and negative perceptions. Every student primarily uses U-Dictionary to translate synonyms, pronunciation, example sentences, and instant words. Additionally, because it is user-friendly, efficient at determining the meaning of words or even paragraphs, and has a wide range of functions, it is a wonderful tool for enhancing reading comprehension abilities. Due to challenges with lengthy texts, new vocabulary, pronunciation, and intricate sentence patterns, students struggle greatly when mastering reading comprehension abilities. Additionally, U-Dictionary aids in overcoming challenges related to reading comprehension and identifying new words in texts. There are four advantages of utilizing U-Dictionary,

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namely; the user-friendly interface, offline functioning, practice the speaking words or vocabulary, and different learning tools. Using U-Dictionary has five drawbacks: limited free features, ads, insufficient offline capability, excessive reliance on rapid translation, and restricted internet connection. An excellent software for learning languages is U-Dictionary. It can aid in vocabulary expansion with its many capabilities, which include text translation, pronunciation, and use examples. However, it is advised to combine speaking and listening exercises outside of the U-Dictionary app with its use in order to enhance communication skills. Learning can be accelerated by participating in group discussions or having direct conversations with native speakers. Significant language acquisition improvement can be achieved by integrating U-Dictionary with other interactive learning techniques.

CONCLUSION

In an English-medium classroom, using a dictionary, like the U-Dictionary, can be very helpful for both teachers and students. It can be used efficiently if certain conditions are met, specifically: 1) It enhances the growth of vocabulary. Students may easily checkup definitions, synonyms, antonyms, and sample sentences for new words. Bilingual translations are frequently offered by U-Dictionary, assisting students in bridging the gap between their original tongue and English. 2) Practice pronunciation with the help of the dictionary's audio pronunciations, students can practice speaking confidently by hearing how words should be pronounced. 3). Enhancement of writing by using the dictionary, students may avoid using the same words over and over again, make better word selections, and compose sentences more effectively. Students can improve their essays and projects by using synonyms and antonyms. 4) Students can utilize the dictionary to get clarification on meanings in challenging texts without interfering too much with their reading. Learning is more effective when examples and translations are provided quickly. 5). Self-study promotes self-directed learning in which students use the tool rather than constantly seeking clarification from the teacher. As they improve their comprehension and problem-solving abilities, it boosts their confidence. 6). Students may use the U-Dictionary instantaneously without requiring physical dictionaries because to its mobile-friendly accessibility and real-time learning, which saves time in class. 7). Spelling and Pronunciation Checks for students who have trouble pronouncing words correctly, teachers can provide examples and explain spelling.

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