An Analysis of Students’ Reading Interest in New Normal Era

Thariy Wulansari
English Language Education Department University of Pahlawan Tuanku Tambusai

ABSTRAK
This research aims to analyze the students reading interest in new normal era, in academic year 2019/2020. This research is a descriptive research. The writer chose the sample by using random sampling technique. It involved one class from grade IX Ahmad Yani Junior High School 1 Bangkinang Kota that consisted of 32 students. The writer distributed questionnaires to 32 students and took 5 students to be interviewed. To answer the research question, the questionnaires were distributed and the writer do interview for 5 students. It do to know the students’ reading interest in new normal era and the differences of book media in new normal era. After collecting the data, the result of this research showed that students had high interest in reading during the pandemic. It was also supported by the result of the questionnaire. The percentage was 62.5%. The students mostly interested to read because that their hobby and they do reading activity during the pandemic. While in book media during the pandemic, the students feel difference with book media in face to face. The result, the students more easy, simpler and save their time to reading a book without bring the book anywhere or anytime. Based on the results of the research, the writer concluded that the students had high reading interest although in pandemic situation and they take the advantages from the technology in New Normal Era.

Keywords: Reading Interest, New Normal Era

INTRODUCTION
English is used to exchange information in many aspects such as science, technology, culture and also social aspects. The Indonesian government puts English as a compulsory subject starting from Junior high school. The aim of this subject is to create students who have good abilities to use English effectively and efficiently. In order to reach these goals, and to improve the quality of teaching English, the language should be focused into four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing (Marleni, 2017).

According (Masrul, 2015) the four Basic English language skills are have developed different definitions of the purposes divided into two categories such as receptive skills and productive skills. Reading and listening are considered receptive skills whereas speaking and writing are known as productive skills.

The rapid development of science and technology in various fields of life requires humans to always be ready to accept a change. One of the fields affected by the progress of science and technology in the field of education...
In the Republic of Indonesia Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System states that education is a conscious and planned effort to create an atmosphere of learning and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have spiritual-religious strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills needed by themselves, the community, the nation and the state. This fact requires all elements involved in the world of education, both students and education policymakers in Indonesia to always learn to be ready to face changing times. That is certainly not easy to realize. Many obstacles must be faced to realize these expectations in the era of globalization.

To face this era of globalization, all problems and information can be quickly known by the entire world through a variety of existing media, including information about the development of science and technology. One of the activities used as information dissemination in learning is reading which is one of the most important activities. Information obtained only from seeing and hearing, it is possible to be quickly forgotten and lost, but if obtained from print media, the information will be stored for a relatively long time and can be searched again if needed in reading activities. In this globalization era, where technological advances have developed rapidly, interest in reading in the new generation tends to decrease and is not better than the previous generation. The causes include the increasingly sophisticated audio-visual devices that cause the new generation to be more comfortable spoiling their eyes and ears than to foster enthusiasm and reading habits and the lack of reading subjects that should be taught early on in basic education (Hayati, 2009).

Reading is considered as the most important skill for people especially for students. Usually, reading can make them get new vocabulary. Vocabulary, as one of the language components, is very important in learning English. Many teachers have the same ideas that to master a language, the learners should master its vocabulary (Rianti, 2017).

As we know, reading is the most important study skill. Reading also is one of the effective learning activities getting knowledge. The main purpose in reading is to get information. The reader will get information and more useful knowledge for life every day, and then Reading will make a source of inspiration and can give a source of knowledge. Reading must have a high interest to someone who interested in reading. Interest in reading contains elements of attention, willingness, encouragement, and pleasure that arise from within and from the influence of others. (Clark & Rumbold, 2006) argues that interest in reading is a desire accompanied by one's efforts to read, and (Bawawa et al., 2019) said that the interest as strong attention, intensive, and individual mastery deeply to diligently perform an activity. Interest in reading is considered as a strong and deep concern accompanied by happy feelings towards reading activities so that one can say someone to read with his own volition. Further, interest implies desire attention to doing anything. Interest also mean something that someone like willingly without any associated.

The interest in reading also takes apart to understand and get the idea. A high interest produce greater comprehension which often enable a child to read beyond his measured reading skill. Interest in reading is influenced by several things. They are the previous experience, a conception of self, level of involvement pressure and complexity of the material.
Based on the results of pre-observation and interviews with teachers at SMP Negeri 1 Bangkinang Kota, there are some problems. First, the students are less enthusiastic about reading. They often ask questions about the answers that already available in the text. After that, they do not like a long text and make them laziness. Second, students have no special time for reading activity. Usually students in schools read related to lessons in school and are targeted by the test. It means they only manage the time for reading when it has related to lesson at school. This results in students' interest in reading as a target value, not to be enjoyed. Low reading interest will affect the low level of knowledge and insight of students. Students who have a high reading intensity will have a broad level of knowledge and insight. Because by reading, a student can get information. The more you read, the more information they absorb. In the world of education, students who rank well in class generally have broad knowledge and insight compared to students who have a class rank below that students.

Since the world was shocked by a new virus called the Corona virus or the term (COVID-19) many activities stop directly. Due to the rapid development of this virus prompted the government to make a regulation called PSBB (Large Scale Social Restriction). The government gives instructions to stop all activities including teaching and learning in schools to avoid viruses. Moreover, the students should have a smartphone to get the lesson by online learning. In fact, to support the students read the e-book they used their smartphone to access the e-book sent by the teacher through the application. The teacher used some application, like WhatsApp Group, Google Classroom or Email. Usually, the teacher shared the link and then the students opened it and read it around 5-10 minutes.

Moreover, some people think it is not effective for the students. It can make them difficult to understand about the lessons but beside that, the government encouragement to study at home makes many students use this time to play with gadgets and do things outside the context of learning. Many of them use gadgets not for learning, but there are some students who use gadgets for learning. One of which is getting information and knowledge from various social media. According to (Marleni & Asilestari, 2019) SocialMedia (SosMed) is an online media, where users can easily participate and share information. Social media can help to identify additional content to strengthen or expand learning. For example, Instagram, Line, Twitter and even online news. With social media, the teachers can form a network of collaborative online learning groups that can save time and energy.

In the field of technology, they are no longer interested in reading newspapers, magazines, or watching television. Therefore, the government provides solutions so that people increase productivity in the midst of the COVID-19 corona virus pandemic with a new order called the new normal.

The new normal is a new order, habits, and behavior based on adaptation to civilize clean and healthy life behavior. Clean and healthy living behavior is done by washing hands with soap, wearing a mask when leaving home, keeping a safe distance and avoiding crowds. To realize a normal new scenario, the government has now involved all relevant parties including community leaders, experts, and experts to formulate a protocol or SOP to ensure that people can continue their activities, stay safe from COVID-19. This protocol is not only in the economic field but also in the fields of education and religion, of course it depends on the epidemiological aspects of each region, so as to enhance positive protection.
In the new normal era, the world of education is permitted to return to activity. However, not all regions were permitted to reopen schools. The government has considered that if the area is already in the green zone, the school can do activities but with SOP and health protocols that have been determined.

According to the explanation above, this is important to conduct research. An Analysis on Students’ Reading Interest in New Normal Era is very necessary to be investigated at SMPN 1 Bangkinang Kota.

**METHOD**

This research is descriptive research. Descriptive research is research that provides an overview or description regarding the social phenomenon or phenomenon that is studied by describing the value of the independent variable, either one or more variables (independent) based on the indicators of the variables studied without making a comparison or linking between the variables studied for exploration and classification with the variables studied.

The researcher used the Descriptive Method in this research. Three main purpose of descriptive research is to describe, explain, and validate findings. Based on the explanation above, descriptive research is a researcher only used one variable, namely students’ reading interest and the purpose of this research is to analyze the students’ reading interest in new normal area.

The population of the research is the nine grade students’ of SMPN 1Bangkinang Kota. There are 9 classes in the ninegrade. The classes are divided into two groups, they are superior class and ordinary class. In superior class consist of 3 classes while in the ordinary class consist of 6 classes.

**Research Finding and Discussion**

The result of the questionnaire would be interpreted as follows:

1. **Question 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing a game</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checking social media</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching movies</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4

The Students' Activities in Pandemic
Based on the table above, the students who completed the questionnaires made reading activities as a way to spend their spare time along the pandemic. It could be seen that half of students chose reading as their activity during the pandemic rather than other activities. Besides, there were 4 students playing a game during the pandemic, 2 students were checking the social media status and 6 students were watching movies. In general, they were still reading during the pandemic to spend their time.

**Question 2**

**Tabel 4.2**

The Frequency of Times that the Students Spend in Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.375 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>34.375 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.25 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table that is displayed by almost half of students made reading as a routine activity. It can be seen around 16 students answered 4-5 times in a week they would do reading. Beside that, the second highest was 2-3 times a week they do reading activity. Only 3 students answered 0-1 time in a week do reading. It also meant that reading activities was their daily activities.

**Question 3**

**Tabel 4.3**

Time Spend in Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Time spend in reading</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Less than 1 hour</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28.125 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>More than 4 hours</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>34.375 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table above, almost of the students answered they spend their time more than 4 hours per day. It could be seen from their reading habits with more than 4 hours per day was considered enough. As a junior high school student, they were required a lot, especially in completing the task. Moreover, in adolescence they need new knowledge and find their identity before their entering in senior high school. In technology area, it is better for them to know anything to reach their ambition. Cause reading is the bridge of knowledge. Other students spent 3-4 hours. It means that there were some students who cared about reading. Besides that, the data also showed that only 8 of the students made the schedule for reading with less than 1 hour.
Question 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Reasons in Reading</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fulfill the assignment</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28.125%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hobby</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>46.875%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spend the leisure time</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Add knowledge</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above identified that most of the students like reading activities. It was because their main reasons for reading were hobby. There were 15 students. It meant they like reading without a forced. Most the students did have the desire to read with the willingness. It was only 2 students who preferred reading to spend their time while another student chose to fulfill the assignment and 6 student to add the knowledge. So, although in pandemic they still had a time and hobby to reading.

Question 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Reading Activity in New Normal</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the table above, the result was all the student chose yes if in new normal still had reading activity. Although they used phone or online learning they still did reading activity. It meant, they still care about their knowledge and they wanted add many knowledge by reading. Cause reading is the bridge of the knowledge.

Question 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.125%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Textbook</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>59.375%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Instants article in web (internet)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>E-book</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the table above, almost all the students mostly used textbooks as their sources in completing the assignments in online learning. It was very good to make their reading interest better and they had much knowledge. Besidethat, in technology era they should used their phone to find another text and there were 12 students used their phone to looking for the instants article in web to did the assignment during online learning.
Question 7

**Tabel 4.7**
The Way of the Students Get the Book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>How the students get the book</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Buy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Borrow</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>68.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Download</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Given by someone</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data showed that almost half the students got the books through borrowed from school or borrowed from their friends. It because every school has a completed library and the government support every school to had the complete book and the student were not confused to find the book. Moreover, in new semester they will get a packet of books from school to support their learning process. It was only some of the students were given by someone. 4 of the students preferred to download, and the last 4 students bought it.

Question 8

**Tabel 4.8**
Reading Learning Material Before Attend the Online Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Frequency of Like</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>65.625%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>34.375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The result was most of the students chose yes to read the material before attend the online class. It because, along the pandemic the students never came to school and the teacher never taught directly. So to made them understood and connected when start for study, they read the material and it easy for them to ask the teacher about a difficult lesson. However, there was some of students chose no. It indicated that the students’ reading interest was high because the word “yes” meant more learning to do has desire to read.

Question 9

**Tabel 4.9**
Improving the Reading Interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Improve the reading interest</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The result was most of the students agreed that reading a lot could improve the reading interest. It meant that most of the students knew one of the most benefits of reading. But there were 4 students chose no about reading a lot can improve their reading interest.
The data showed that more than half of the students had good achievement in reading subject. It can be seen most of the students got B (good) in reading score. Beside that, almost the rest of students got A, except one person got D, and no one got C.

Another solution to increase reading interest was the school should give access to get the various books, especially in the library. The library should provide new books and up to date. It can make the students often go to the library. Beside that, along the pandemic the teacher should give some time for read some books or news in online. It caused every students have phone or laptop to read it. In summary, there were some solutions to increase students’ reading interest both from the teacher and students. The solutions from the teacher gave the assignment, used good attractive methods, recommend the books to the students, and asked them to read. Meanwhile, some of the solutions from students were grow motivation, be aware to have high interest in reading, know the benefit of reading, start to read, change the perception about reading, and etc.

DISCUSSION

Based on the research, it can be seen students reading interest still high in pandemic. According to the data of questionnaire and interview the students dominate do reading activity during the pandemic.

The first question asked about students’ reading activity in pandemic. As we know, start from March until now every school and all students do their activity at home using online learning. The finding showed that, during the pandemic the students from Junior High School 1 Bangkinang Kota specially in grade IX Ahmad Yani showed that the student still have high interest in reading although they do online learning. It can see from the percentage, 62.5 % of the students choose reading for their activity. Then, it support by one method that the school do. It is literacy process. In literacy process they have time 5-10 minutes to read before continue the lesson. So, it meant reading still important for them although in different situation.

Second, the students have special time to do reading activity in a week. Based on the data, they spend 2-3 times in a week with the percentage 34.375%. Beside that, they spend more than 4 hours in a day for reading activity. Furthermore, in online class they use digital media for support their activity. It can be a tool to support them although they in urgent situation. Some of students have a smartphone to do online learning but they also use smartphone to do reading without worried if they do not bring the book in the bag. Media digital is very important for them it can help them for online learning in pandemic. Usually they use e-book, blog, zoom or google classroom.
Third, the students have one big reason about do reading activity in pandemic. It can see from the data, 46.875% of the students tell if reading as their hobby. Moreover they do by digital media. They feel happy and enjoyable for reading in anywhere or anytime. After that, reading using digital media more simple than book, effective than media print because it easy to understand. Then, digital media has changed how they read because in world of literacy especially about the culture of reading technological development are growing rapidly. Accessing reading material through digital media is faster and all types of reading can be obtained as desired for buying a book. It can make the students like and comfortable for reading activity.

According to Puslow and Levit (2008), the feeling of like, basically had good relation with the feeling of enthusiasm. The individual which had enthusiasm in reading should have the feeling happy in doing reading. Then they would make it as their happy. In this case, the writer found that reading was their activity during the pandemic beside online learning at school.

In addition, the students still do reading activity in new normal era. The data showed that 100% of students do reading activity in new normal. In new normal, they use digital media in online learning specially for reading activity. They think reading activity in pandemic was interesting. It because reading in pandemic make them happy and can reading urgently although they forget bring the book. They can have many book just in one hold because they use their smartphone to do the activity.

Fourth, in online learning every teacher always give them many assignment. Based on the data, almost of the students used the textbook as their sources in completing it. It is 59.375% of them. Even so, it can make their reading interest still high in pandemic. It because they had new knowledge from many sources. Everyone think, reading by real book is the tradition. They believe there is unique way how to read a real book by opening the page by page. But, around 37.5% of the student had been search their assignment by instant article in web. They think it c can easier and simple for them. Reading can sourced not only by textbook but also by instant article in web. The more sources, the more new knowledge is gained.

Fifth, not all the students had a smartphone to get the book and do reading activity. From the data, 68.75% of the students get the book by borrow from the school or their friends. Moreover the government always support every school to make the students easy to get the book by borrow in the library. Beside that, it more efficient and effective to the student because their parents not required to buy their children a smartphone for reading.

Sixth, in online learning 65.625% of the students still do reading activity before they attend the online class. It mean, their reading interest is high although in pandemic or different situation. Reading before online class make them connect and understand about the material. It can make them easy and ask to the teacher about a difficult lesson. However, there was some of the students choose no. But the students dominated do reading before attend in online class. It indicated that the students’ reading interest was high in pandemic because the word “yes” meant more learning to do has desire to read.
Seventh, in online learning they always do learning process by digital media. Even so, they always do reading a lot by literacy process to improve their reading interest in pandemic situation. It can see, 87.5% of the students agreed reading a lot can improve their reading interest. Usually, they use digital media like e-book, blog or online article in web. Moreover, they get some benefit from digital media in using for reading activity during pandemic. They feel can read the information anywhere and anytime because they always bring their smartphone that supply many digital media and they do not need long time to get the information because they can find out all of that in digital media whenever they want. Beside that, media digital more complete than book and save the expenses for buying the books.

The last, although in online learning the students still have good score in reading subject. It is about 68.75% of them get B (good). Beside that, 28.125% of students got A except one person got D and no one got C.

During pandemic, media digital and smartphone has connected each other. They can be a solution for the students’ reading interest during pandemic. But another solution is the school should give access to get the various books, especially in the library. Every school can make e-library and after that the school share the link how to get the book easily. It because, most of the students have smartphone or laptop to read it. In summary, although in pandemic students’ reading interest can be a high if both the teacher and the students still support each other. From the teacher, they can use good attractive methods, recommend the books by share the link and ask them to read it. Meanwhile from the students, they can grow the motivation, be aware to have high interest in reading although in pandemic, know the benefit of reading, start to read, and change the perception about reading.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data and discussing the result in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that:

Reading interest of the students Junior High School specially in grade IX Ahmad Yani in general was high. It can see from the result of questionnaire that showed that reading as their activity during the pandemic. The teacher design one method that make their interest still high although in different situation. Its literacy activity, usually this activity do before continue online learning process along 5-10 minutes. The teacher will share a link or blog. After that, the students have special time for reading activity. Based on data, they do 4-5 times in a week and more than 4 hours in a day only for reading activity. Since Pandemic, digital media in online learning and reading activity give the contribute the students’ reading interest. From the data above, it can see the digital media more easy, effective and efficient than book media. Then, digital media can save our time and our money. Then, when we are busy in outside we can finding urgent articles and get information anywhere and anytime just using our smartphone without worry if we do not bring a real book.
SUGGESTIONS

The writer gives some suggestions according to the result of the study about students’ reading interest in new normal area and the problems in reading interest along new normal area, as follows:

1. The school; although reading interest of the students can be categorized in high level, the school should increase the facility and the curriculum at school. For instance, provide a comfort library using air conditioner, a computer to searching the book, arrange the book alphabetically and up to date about new book. For the curriculum, the school shoud make a literacy 10-15 minutes before they have class every morning.

2. The teacher; the teacher should give a lot of assignment to the students. the assignment require some references from journals, textbook, and instants article in web. The teacher can also ask them to read a lot from various sources, especially the textbooks, journals and instants article in web. In addition, the teacher can also give them interesting text and recommendation of books that related to the assignments.

3. The students; the students should truthfully understand the importance of reading. They should start and maintain their hobby or their activity to still have high reading interest although in new normal area.
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Author Information:

Thariy WulanSari:
Email: tharriywulansari98@gmail.com English Language Education Department, Faculty of Education at Universitas Pahlawan
Tuanku Tambusai. Tuanku Tambsuai Street, No. 23, Bangkinang City, 28412, Indonesia.