The Use of Wattpad as Media in Language Learning Strategy: Teacher’s and Student’s Perspective of Writing Performance

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Abstract  
Technology is playing an increasing role in education worldwide and is having a growing impact on the design and delivery of English language teaching. Teachers are expected to understand how to integrate technology into their teaching as well as know how to help learners make use of resources such as media and the internet to improve their learning of all four skills. As such technology offers both new challenges as well as new opportunities for both teachers and learners. This article investigates the use of Wattpad in language teaching and explores more from the perspective of teachers and students in the online classroom. It offers teachers and learners to vary the process of the teaching and learning processes by using technology-mediated teaching and learning. However, this study presents a mini research project on how the teacher of one school has used technology as a medium to teach the students in online classes recently due to Covid 19. Teachers and students should be collaborative so the process of teaching-learning able to run well. It will become a big challenge for the teacher to engage the students during the teaching process.

Keywords:  
EFL, media, writing performance, Wattpad
INTRODUCTION

The landscape of language teaching has changed recently. Although only a few years ago the main contexts and resources used in language teaching were classrooms, textbooks, and video recording or playback devices, learners today live in a different world. Interactive whiteboards, mobile devices, computers, and the internet are increasingly seen as integral and essential components of the teaching and learning process and teachers are challenged to find effective ways to integrate technology into their lessons. Especially during Covid-19, many students study and do school activities at home online. Classes may make up only a small part of their learning environment because they do a lot of learning outside of the classroom - at home to be able to keep their safety from the spreading of the coronavirus. Moreover, the use of technology should be a concern for the teacher and student due to a successful teaching-learning process.

Teaching and learning process innovation that has been proven by researchers is using media. Media provides several benefits for the teaching and learning process. The media can help teachers in the classroom and the media as an innovation in education. According to Rukun (2019), integrating technology in schools is very important for teachers to create more inventive and interesting ways of learning English, especially students' writing skills. Media can facilitate students who wish to exchange studies with other students from other countries.

Technology has been used as a medium to support the process of the teaching and learning process for decades. It started to show up in the 1930s and used in the classroom from the 1960s until now. While media or multimedia were known in 1962 and when a computer has grown in the global market. In the 1990s, educators began to combine technology resources, including media, instructional systems, and networks as a base support system (Pardede 2020). At that time, the researcher also tried to use technology as a medium to teach some English skills, such as; Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Writing is one of the primary skills in English which is in written form. English is crucial to facilitating EFL learners to interact globally. They can communicate with the world outside in written form. According to Nystrand (1989), writing that should be truly accepted by the readers includes the idea that can be implemented in the passage of writing. Meanwhile, writing means a process that enables writers to share a thought in a paper form. Along the same line, writing is a skill that has meaningful truth value so that the readers have a lot of ideas to catch and gain based on the topic they read (Liu & Sadler, 2003).

Recently, writing is one of the great skills that should be learned by the learner during an online class. It is because most teachers give several tasks in written form such as writing a text, an invitation, a dialogue, and also an application letter. It is more complex than speaking, reading, or listening (McKay, 2003). The learner should also face certain difficulties in writing English although a native language. In line with the idea above, the struggle of writing is not only in generating and organizing ideas but also in interpreting the idea into a readable passage (Richards & Rodgers, 2014).

Regarding the importance of English above and the difficulties faced by the students, the teacher should be able to make innovative and creative ways which acceptable to teach them writing. The teacher must be creative to teach the material in the learning activity and be more concerned to choose some media before the teacher delivers it to the students. Moreover, the effectiveness of online network technologies can
contribute to the way learners study, communicate and socialize. According to Broughton, Brumfit, Pincas, and Wilde (2002).

It is stated that students in the world will be more powerful in academic performance when socializing informally with a great network. Therefore, it is a challenging idea for non-digital-native teachers to master the learning issues online in terms of socializing and communicating with the students using an online platform such as Wattpad.

Previous studies show that Wattpad's online platform is a free application that is similar to Facebook, but Wattpad provides educational tools to achieve classroom activities. According to (Bal, 2018), by using the Wattpad platform through Middle School students in and out of school activity, students think that Wattpad is a place where they can do anything efficiently. Other students said they were happy because others read their work. Students' perceptions differ from the use of Wattpad in schools. They think of new followers on their social media; others think about how important the feedback they get is. However, there are results from activities outside of school that use Wattpad. Students show others the readership of their work. Students give positive perceptions about these activities; they say they love writing on Wattpad because they feel free when they do. They also said that they write on Wattpad without pressure from others, and students can write different genres they like.

In the same line Aytan (2017) also mentioned that the use of Wattpad to improve students' writing skills could be effective and efficient. He stated that using Wattpad has several benefits such as readability, spell-checking, writer & reader interaction, and time consumption. But then there are also disadvantages such as plagiarism, character limitations, and unreal interactions that should be a concern. So, using Wattpad might have equal strengths and weaknesses.

Furthermore, this study aims to explore teachers' and students' perspectives on the use of Wattpad in teaching and learning English writing skills, and how to implement Wattpad to the students in improving writing skills.

LITERATURE REVIEW
Technology as A Teaching and Learning Resource
Technology in learning activities can change the way teachers teach, and students learn and even the rules that have been made will be more effective and efficient. Computers and interactive whiteboards are increasingly common in schools around the world and the speed at which schools can connect with the world is increasing. For teachers and students, technology is now mobile, and laptop computers, tablet devices, and smartphones are a normal part of the teaching and learning context in many schools. More and more teachers and school administrators accept the role that digital resources and the internet can play in increasing levels of motivation and involvement in students, supporting learners with different learning styles, and helping improve the quality of teaching and learning (Zhao Y, cited from Richard, 2015). The use of technology in schools is no longer an option but is at the core of current school requirements. Teachers are expected to be technology literate as well as quality schools are expected to make effective use of the resources provided by technology.

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Digital Tools (ICT) in Language Learning

In the current study, there are various ways of using technology as a medium in teaching language and learning. When it comes to teaching a foreign language, the beginner is better off learning in the classroom situation. Once they move to medium levels, the best way is to induce competence and skill through speech and one-on-one tutoring, which these times are more expected to be presented via web conferencing than in person. Leading online education platforms, such as zoom and google meet run completely in the cloud and allow language teachers to manage their meetings and tutoring completely from the cloud.

It is important to think that technology is a tool, not the savior. In the classroom, technical tools are just as useful as this education they help, which is even with any classroom app or product and is particularly so in the example of learning a foreign language. Research is required about the effect of current language teaching technologies to communicate new ventures and to give knowledge to entrepreneurs who are looking to make an effort in the area of language acquisition (Kurshan, B, 2017).

Furthermore, according to Floris (2014), Digital tools have been a worldwide issue in language learning to overcome the problem of distance teaching and the learning process between teachers and students’ digital tools. Traditional ways of teaching have been transformed into modern ways of language learning by using and combining technology in language learning. ICT tools use in language learning and teaching have provided an increasing range of possible solutions for refining teaching and learning inputs, processes, and outcomes (Pardede, 2012). During covid-19, teachers conduct online classes in the teaching-learning process. By implementing digital tools, the teacher and students can keep in touch even though there is no direct teaching and learning process between them. ICT (Information and Communication Technology) is well known as a digital tool that is used by the teacher or the expert of technology in education. It provides the opportunity for the teacher to create new innovative media in language learning.

Besides that, ICT also supports teachers to encourage and motivate students in their learning process. It brings advantages to language learning for both teachers and students. They have up-to-date information and source and provide the students for helping at their pace and needs, with easy and fast access to better materials in language teaching and learning process which is motivating for language learners. But still, it has some disadvantages during its implementation such as necessary essential training for the teachers and students about the use of ICT in ELT, some of them are expensive and few are free, and it has minimum exposure and experience in the use of ICT (Floris, 2014).

Wattpad Application

Wattpad is an application founded by Allen Lau and Ivan Yuen in November 2006. Wattpad is an online program that can be viewed via the web or an application on a smartphone (Yuniar, Widiati, & Astuti, 2019). Wattpad is a type of Multimedia that users can freely share and readers can read it without paying or downloading it. Wattpad is the biggest platform for writers and readers to interact with more than 70 users in a month and more than 565 stories are uploaded (Kardiansyah, 2019). It was reported that in 2018 there were more than 65 million Wattpad users (Bal, 2018). This app is also referred to as the larger community of writers and readers because everyone has the same changes.
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in reading and writing in it. According to Rukun (2019), Wattpad is a social networking site and service where users can upload content, comment on, and share photos, or other interesting content.

Furthermore, Wattpad has several genres such as thriller, drama, fiction, action, horror, spiritual, and so on. Authors can publish their creations based on the genre they want easily and conveniently. Users just need to download, then create an account by logging in with their email. According to Bal (2018), Wattpad is a platform where users can share experiences and entertainment with others comfortably. Wattpad is an easy application because users only need to download the application on a smartphone or can also browse the internet. After that, users log in with their email, click on the "pencil" sign and just write. Other users can read and comment on each sentence they want to comment on. It also motivates writers to report their work because people from other countries can read and comment on them. This will also assist them in writing text better.

The steps of using Wattpad are simple and practicable. First thing is, they should register themselves with a google account. There are some information and rules over there that the users must obey. Second, after the users register themselves they can use it freely. If they want to write the story, they can start with click the symbol "pencil". After that, they can click "create a new story". 3 columns include a box for a picture, the title of the story, and a box for the story. In the last box, the users can write anything that they want. After the users write a story, they can click "publish" and the story published in their account. Before publishing the story, they should the genres they want, and several hashtags to make it easy to find, for example, news stories, horror stories, and furthermore. That will help users focus on their desired genre. On the other side, when users want to read a story, novel, or short story they can search based on the genres that they want to read. The best story and novels are also provided there. They can click the symbol "book" to save it in their book list on Wattpad.

The Use of Wattpad in Teaching Writing
The students simply sign in to Wattpad with their email accounts. The teacher gives writing assignments to students. The teacher instructs students to write and read Wattpad. Bal (2018) wanted to find out which students were outstanding without any pressure to enter and leave school hours. Aytan (2017) investigated the use of Wattpad in Turkish language teacher candidates. Prospective teachers must write at least one narrative text and informative text a month. The results of the study show that fifty percent of prospective teachers have a positive response, among others, are more time-efficient, have quick responses and criticisms, and so on. It is still limited to discussion about other research in using Wattpad for teaching writing.

However, there have been four studies that investigate learners' writing toward Wattpad. Isti Rokha (2019) in her studies stated that in the academic year 2018–2019, usage of the Wattpad application as media can increase students' learning motivation for the tenth graders at SMA Negeri 3 Temanggung's recount text writing skills since 75% of them are very motivated to master this talent. So that the students have better motivation to join the teaching-learning process. They are so enthusiastic and have better participation in the recount text writing class. The second studies mention each student enhanced their writing skill. The ability to understand word choices to make the material they write more effective. Some pupils also use additional specifics while describing an
occurrence. Even if there was an issue with the kids who still don’t know how to use Wattpad, the teacher and other students may still assist. The rapport between the instructor and the students is improving. It results from their interactions with one another while they are teaching and learning. In cases where a pupil is still puzzled, the teacher provides direct feedback. The instructor can present the topic more effectively and the students can focus more intently on the subject matter when the class is more involved (Cyntya, 2020).

Novita (2019) found that before utilizing the Wattpad, pupils’ writing skills were limited by their lack of vocabulary and inability to structure sentences using proper syntax. By making writing easier and more motivating, the Wattpad program helps students improve their writing skills. They are interested in using Wattpad as a medium for conducting the learning process, especially writing. Using Wattpad can also enhance the student's writing ability. It proved that Wattpad could enhance their ability in writing English. On the similar side, particularly in language lessons, the use of digital tools is particularly beneficial to the teaching and learning process. Technology's existence greatly aids teachers in piquing students' interest in English language lessons. Teachers use the advancement of the digital world as a tool to support student learning. This may infer that the respondent's use of the Wattpad, has an impact on the variable measuring their English language proficiency. Based on the findings of this study, the researchers assume that using Wattpad to teach and learn English can aid in improving students' English proficiency. An engaging learning tool like Wattpad may be utilized as an alternative to boost interest in learning English, beginning with being interested in reading English tales from this online platform and progressing to reaping its advantages (Nurus, 2021).

Furthermore, the advantages of the online app writing experience are time-saving, reader-writer interaction, quick feedback from readers, and spell-checking. However, this also appears some disadvantages such as not being comparable to handwriting, and the limitations of the character of the participants, affecting the authenticity of the writing because they had to make sentences simpler to save time and the meaning of their words. Handwriting is more meaningful when you want to tell someone something. Although Bal (2018) found some students experience negative experiences while doing assignments at school because they know their responsibility to read and write. These factors cause several differences in the atmosphere in the classroom, as well as pressure from the teacher. However, they show positive experiences when working on assignments outside of school time. They don’t feel pressured at home, even though their parents are always paying attention to them.

METHOD
Participants
Based on the information above about the use of Wattpad in teaching writing, the researcher conducted further research. In this study, the researcher used Wattpad as a medium for language teaching. However, various ways in materials and implementation given by the teacher might have deep results. In this study. The researcher focused to explore the use of Wattpad in teaching the writing of recount text to five vocational high school students in the third grade.
Instruments
Here the observation and interview will be the main instrument of this source. It helps the researcher for deep understanding and gains more information relate to the use of Wattpad during the online classroom.

Procedures
To investigate the implementation of the Wattpad in teaching writing of recount text, the researcher used descriptive qualitative research, which would be proper to answer the research questions (Ary, Jacobs, Sorencsen, & Razavieh, 2010). The outcome of qualitative research is in the form of words rather than a number. The goal of this research was to find out the use of the Wattpad by the teacher and students’ responses to the implementation of the Wattpad in teaching writing English. The subject of this study will be an English teacher and five students of a vocational high school.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
The result of the Interview
The interview result is an additional instrument that helps and supports the main instrument of this study to answer the second question for both teachers and students. It aims to know deeply how well teachers use the Wattpad app in the teaching process and students’ responses concerning it. Based on the data which the researcher obtained from a teacher and five students, has meaningful points and aspects that highlight the use of the Wattpad app in the teaching-learning process.

Beginning with the teacher’s response toward the Wattpad as media in teaching English. There were four questions asked by the researcher for the teacher. The result of the interview showed that teacher uses the Wattpad app as an innovation in teaching English, the use of the Wattpad media in teaching English, especially in writing skills, is based on student boredom that occurs because there is no innovation in learning. Previously, he only used the WA group and Google meet, but he found the free the Wattpad app that has interesting features and easy access for students to use. In addition, the Wattpad also offers a variety of readings available that can be read and stored by students. students and teachers also have the opportunity to write and publish their essays or stories, they can even comment on each other and respond to the essays or stories they made. But still, she mentioned that the use of the Wattpad as a media innovation to support the students in writing English had a big challenge. One of them is the availability of adequate facilities and networks (Kardiansyah, 2019). such as a decent cellphone and the internet network used to access the Wattpad App. In addition, guidance and clarity of instructions from the teacher about using the Wattpad are very important, so that students will find it easier to use and maximize the use of the Wattpad in writing English, and hopefully, they will be more motivated and inspired during the process of using it.

On the other side, the interview result of five students answer mostly the same about two questions stated. Four students have no difficulties in using the Wattpad as a medium in writing English that the teacher asked for, but then two of them might have little difficulty in understanding the instruction and explanation by the teacher and they asked their other friends as a solution to noting important information that they missed. They felt enjoy and motivated of using Wattpad due to the feature which is offered by this free application. A lot of reading materials and genres were provided and it makes the students

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read a lot. Then, they were also inspired by using it because when the teacher asked them an assignment in writing a Recount text, they not only write it but can publish it and other friends can read, comment, and respond to the story they made. Here, a student doesn’t like using Wattpad as a medium for learning writing (Bal, 2018). He stated that without a proper phone and good quality internet connection will make the use of Wattpad is meaningless. He felt discouraged and motivated when he lacks adequate facilities so the learning process is not optimal even though he had a solution by borrowing his brother’s handphone. Due to those problems, he preferred to write English on paper and submit it by picturing and sending it to the teacher (Isti, 2019).

The result of the observation

Based on the observation that the researcher did twice through Wattpad as a non-participant. The researcher obtained the data when the students used Wattpad in terms of accomplishing a writing assignment from the English teacher. The researcher observed them by joining Google meet in the first meeting and the second on the 15th and 22nd of December. The researcher tried to have a note of important instructions and information that the teacher gave to the students during an online class. The interview is conducted to be an additional instrument to support field note observation. At this time, the teacher thought a recount text relate to the past experiences of the students.

In the first meeting, at the beginning of the class, the teacher asked all students to download Wattpad app on their gadgets. It might be on their phone or laptop if it is possible, for those who don’t have any proper facilities such as an internet connection and a phone which is compatible with the Wattpad app, they needed to be able to write down in their book. Then the teacher gave a short explanation about how to write a recount text in terms of experiences or unforgettable moments in their life. The teacher begins with certain examples of recount text and then explains and elaborates on its features and general structure that should be known by the students. Here, the teacher used PowerPoint as one of the media in teaching recount and told them clearly and allow the students to ask about the recount text. at the end of the first meeting, the teacher gave them the assignment to write in a book and it was about an unforgettable experience or moment in their life, it might be a happy or sad experience then the teacher closed the teaching-learning activity by evaluating and resuming abut recount text that being taught. She also informs students that in the next meeting, they had to make sure their Wattpad app was ready to use.

In the second meeting, the use of the Wattpad app is told to the students. The teacher discussed the student’s work of recounting text that they wrote in the book and evaluate it, then the teacher asked them to open Wattpad app on their gadget and told them how to use it starting to register and create an account also giving their picture. Then the teacher told them how to use it beginning with showing a lot of book references with various genres that they might be interested to read. After that, the students were asked to add their friends’ accounts as a friend list in the Wattpad app, this made them able to read their work or story each other.

Furthermore, the teacher continued to instruct them to put their recount text work to their Wattpad app and allowed them to make a variation by adding pictures to their Wattpad story and how to publish it if it was done. However, the teacher had a big challenge to guide them carefully and to make sure that the students understood how to
write their work in the Wattpad app. At the end of this meeting, the teacher asked the students to continue their work at home and allowed them to ask if there were difficulties then publish their work and sent the screen shoot as proof of accomplishing the assignment. Besides that, the teacher also can check directly their students' work by looking at the id of the story in the Wattpad app and giving them feedback in form of comments about the story and generic structure.

Discussion
There are some points presented in this part based on the result of this study. The problem of this study mentioned above will be discussed in this part. The result of this study showed that teachers used the Wattpad app properly and carefully. She used it to teach writing English, this media helps her to support the teaching-learning process, moreover motivating and inspiring the students in writing English. A lot of features are provided and facilitated in Wattpad such as reading materials by various genres that deserve the students.

Then, all students are allowed to contribute and participate in giving responses and feedback about their assignment given by the teacher. Besides, the teacher also needs effort to guide and supervise the students in using Wattpad so they can understand well how to write English on Wattpad. For the students, the four students have an interest in using Wattpad as a medium for learning to write English. They are motivated, comfortable, happy, and excited to learn because of the various reading materials available on the Wattpad app. Although there is one student who prefers to write in writing books because of the lack of support an internet connection and handphones, then all the students have their solutions facing the problems.

Furthermore, it is in line with the result of Aytan (2017) stated that the Wattpad environment gives some advantages in terms of time-saving and quick feedback also Rahmawati mentioned that the use of technology can solve some problems in the class such as time consuming, the benefit of technology and the ability of the students to absorb the material in the online classroom. Wattpad as a media innovation can help students to solve some problems such as motivation and do the task without pressure. In addition, the teacher is also helpful in explaining the application to the students.

CONCLUSION
Based on the result and discussion, several points can be drawn. First, the teacher uses the Wattpad app for a long period to help her teach writing English. There are certain steps in using the Wattpad app during the teaching-learning process. Using it also needs an effort how to explain and guide the students to be well-prepared and familiar with it. This one might be a big challenge for the teacher to conduct it. The use of Wattpad also helps the students to gain new vocabulary and well-organized grammar in writing recount text.

Second, using the Wattpad app can make students more active in writing recount text due to the features contained in it. this makes them more attractive and less bored. Students also feel comfortable and enjoy using the technology they know as a learning medium. The use of technology in learning also helps students take advantage of technology to get information about the subject matter they need.
Third, during the pandemic, Wattpad helped students to be more creative and varied in writing English, especially making recount text. This is because many types of reading available can be read for free in various genres. students can read anytime and anywhere in the Wattpad application. In addition, with face-to-face limitations, teachers and students can still interact on WhatsApp by giving feedback and commenting on their work or stories they made. this is enough to contribute to both students and teachers.

Furthermore, some suggestion was made for teachers who are involved in English education to make teaching and learning better and more innovative, especially for both teacher and students. During this pandemic, teachers need to vary their teaching strategies by using technology as an innovative teaching aid. although some teachers have to face difficulties in the teaching and learning process. It will be better and more effective if teachers learn to operate all kinds of technology in the teaching and learning process. The benefits of technology will be very useful for teaching English language skills. Because technology has become a medium of learning and is increasingly developing, technology can be used to improve the atmosphere in the classroom so that students are more active and creative. In addition, the current situation encourages teachers to understand technological media in teaching, and today's students who are very knowledgeable of technology are one of the reasons for creating innovative classes.

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