

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

One of the four skills necessary in English is reading. When a person reads, they engage with the text to get access to all the information and knowledge it contains. One of the most important ways to improve one's command of the English language is via exposure to the language itself, and reading is widely recognized as the primary means of doing so.

It is mentioned in Firman of Allah QS. Al-Imran: 164 about the importance of reading:

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ
وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

This verse gives us the directive to read all the time. Reading helps us understand what we do not know, advances science, and directs us to the correct information to avoid making severe errors.

The importance of reading is also explained in QS. Al-Anfaal: 31:

وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الصُّورُ قَالُوا هَذَا الَّذِي كُنَّا نَقُولُ هَذَا لَئِن لَّا إِسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ

This verse explains why reading is the most crucial component of learning. Reading will make knowledge easier to comprehend and communicate.

Solid reading ability is a must for readers. The capacity to read and comprehend written material is known as reading comprehension (Sari, 2020). The ability to swiftly comprehend and retain the meaning, message, or information offered through reading relies on the reader possessing and honing their reading skills. Readers need to read extensively to gain perspective and information to get better at reading. Skimming and scanning are two such tactics that can significantly aid a reader's comprehension of text, and they are both skills that need to be learned and mastered.

Reading can be done with more than just books. To read is wider than the pages of books, as Aebersold and Field (1997) pointed out. Many items around us, including billboards, movie subtitles, posters, and many more, contain lots of words and sentences that can be read. Supportive media for teaching reading include audiovisual material like videos, films, and cartoons. Decant (1991) noted that material in the form of alphabet letters is necessary for reading. Subtitles allow viewers to use a video as a reading tool. Subtitles in a video can teach pupils to read and help them learn from the film's content.

Reading comprehension in English as a Second Language can be enhanced with engaging learning material, such as anime. Anime refers to

any Japanese popular culture that is animated or presented in a visual medium. The success of anime has spread far beyond Japan. For most people, watching anime is a form of entertainment because of the wide variety of storylines available. For instance, the action genre is well recognized as the preferred choice for fans of such popular series as Naruto, One Piece, Dragon Ball, Bleach, Gintama, etcetera., among young and old. The anime's subtitles and dubs are tailored to the broadcast country. In addition, anime has exploded in recent years. It is because watching anime online for free at numerous legal websites is possible. These online resources are elementary to reach. As a bonus, this shows students how to find anime on legitimate streaming services.

Given this context, the study's primary question is whether or not anime may be employed as a medium for enhancing language acquisition. Improvements in English proficiency may be possible by using anime as a learning medium. Anime, once more, features striking images and enticing audio. That learning may be a source of excitement for the kids.

Subtitles are included in anime to give viewers a more in-depth understanding of the story. Some legitimate anime streaming services have multiple subtitle languages, including English. Furthermore, of course, the subtitles are read alongside the anime. Thus, the researcher is interested in learning more about whether or not having students watch anime with subtitles will help them become good at reading.

Several studies (Corpuz, 2022; Han and Ling, 2017; Showmik, 2018) and previous works provide foundational context for this investigation. The researcher also noted that the use of visual and auditory media and the emphasis placed on education were two significant departures from earlier studies. Both vocabulary and animation have been the subject of research, with the former finding a correlation to Japanese idioms and the latter finding JFL to be a viable language option. The consumption of western cartoons was also linked to improved reading comprehension in a separate study. Therefore, this study will focus on using English-subtitled anime in reading skills. The researcher is interested in studying how students hone their reading comprehension skills through anime with English subtitles. So, in this study, the researcher took the title "The Investigation of Watching Anime with English Subtitles on Students' Reading Comprehension Skill."

The Islamic State University of Antasari in Banjarmasin served as the site of this study. More specifically, a few first-semester English Department students. In addition to giving participants a reading test based on the anime they were required to watch, researchers also distributed interview tables about the reading techniques they employed while watching the anime.

B. Definition of Key Terms

1. Reading Skills

Reading Skills refer to an individual's capacity to read, comprehend, and make sense of the words in reading or the material being read.

2. Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is the reader's ability to understand what is read. Readers need to use and master several reading strategies to understand the contents of the text they read.

3. Reading Strategies

Reading strategies are a collection of skills that help readers comprehend the text or what they read.

4. Anime

Japanese animation and cartoons are known as anime. Typically, anime is created by an anime production studio based on stories from manga or light novels, although it may be an original work. This term refers to the media used to hone students' reading comprehension skills.

5. Subtitle

Subtitles are text used as a language translation in shows, films, or any other video format. The subtitle itself is positioned underneath the show's screen. The objective is to aid the viewer in comprehending the context of a scene in a show or film that does not use their native tongue. The subtitles that were used in this research are in English.

C. Research Questions

From the background explanation above, this research tried to find out the answers to the following question:

1. How did the students' reading comprehension skills after watching anime with English subtitles?
2. What reading strategies are applied by students while watching anime with English subtitles?

D. Objective of Study

Based on the research question above, the aim of the study is:

1. To determine how students' reading comprehension skills after watching anime with English subtitles.
2. To investigate some kinds of reading strategies applied by students while watching anime with English subtitles.

E. Significance of Study

The result of this study is helpful for the following parts.

1. For the English Teachers

The findings of this research help English teachers decide whether or not to employ anime as a supplementary learning tool.

2. For the Students

Students and others could benefit from the research by using anime and other forms of interactive media to hone their reading skills.

3. For Other Research

As such, more research could benefit from the data gathered in this study.

4. To Researcher Himself

The researcher can gain new insights from this investigation. The author thinks that its findings may aid in fostering better reading habits and practices.