

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FANFICTION IN IMPROVING 11TH GRADE STUDENTS' READING COMPREHENSION AT SMAN 7 KEDIRI

Findieta Geo Rahmadecca¹, Agung Wicaksono², Khoiriyah³

¹ English Education Department/University of
Nusantara PGRI Kediri
findietarahmadecca@gmail.com

² English Education Department/University of
Nusantara PGRI Kediri
agungwicaksono@unpkediri.ac.id

³ English Education Department/University of
Nusantara PGRI Kediri
khoiriyah@unpkediri.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the effectiveness of fanfiction in improving the reading comprehension of 11th grade students at SMAN 7 Kediri. Many students initially struggled with identifying main ideas, making inferences, answering WH-questions, and finding detailed information due to low motivation and monotonous learning materials. Using a quantitative quasi-experimental design, the researcher administered pre-tests and post-tests to 34 students, with fanfiction used as the primary reading material during the treatment. The data were analyzed using SPSS and showed a significant improvement in students' reading comprehension after the intervention. The findings indicate that fanfiction is an effective and engaging medium that enhances students' understanding of English texts by providing relatable and enjoyable content.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

English is among the most commonly used languages across the globe. It plays an important role in various areas such as education, economy, and social interaction. In Indonesia, however, English is still regarded as a foreign language. Therefore, it is included as a compulsory subject taught from elementary to senior high school levels. To learn English or any other foreign language effectively, students must master the four core skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Moreover, supporting components such as pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar are equally important in achieving language proficiency. The main aspects involved in English learning include Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation. Reaching fluency in English becomes easier when all these elements are integrated into daily practice. Since every learner has unique strengths and weaknesses, choosing suitable learning methods according to individual needs is essential.

Reading comprehension is a crucial aspect of English language learning. It enables students to understand, interpret, and evaluate written texts effectively. Teaching and mastering reading comprehension should therefore receive great attention in the process of learning English as a foreign language. When students develop strong reading comprehension skills, they also improve their vocabulary, grammar, and critical

thinking abilities, which are all important for achieving overall language proficiency. However, in reality, many students still struggle with reading comprehension. They often have difficulty identifying the main ideas, making inferences, and understanding the meaning of texts written in English. This aligns with Austin & Santoso (2023), who note that *“students typically encounter issues in reading such as difficulties in understanding the content of a text, unfamiliarity with necessary reading strategies, and a lack of necessary vocabulary.”*

At SMA Negeri 7 Kediri, many 11th grade students face similar challenges in reading comprehension. This is evident when they are asked to complete reading tasks or answer comprehension questions during class. Some students fail to grasp the main points of the text, while others depend heavily on translations or peers for help. This shows that students still have limited reading strategies, low interest in reading English materials, and a lack of exposure to engaging reading resources. Moreover, the learning process in the classroom often becomes monotonous because the teacher mainly uses textbooks and rarely applies interesting media. As a result, students tend to lose motivation, become passive, and show less participation during reading lessons. This is supported by Khoiriyah et al. (2021), who emphasize that *“students are less motivated and averse to reading any kinds of texts due to difficulties in recognizing details, making inferences, and understanding explicit information.”*

The use of creative and interactive media can help overcome these problems. One promising approach is the use of fanfiction as a learning medium. Fanfiction refers to stories written by fans based on existing works such as movies, novels, or popular characters. It offers relatable and enjoyable reading materials that are more in line with students' interests. By using fanfiction, students can engage more actively with English texts because the content is familiar, interesting, and emotionally appealing. Reading fanfiction also helps students expand their vocabulary and improve comprehension skills through contextual learning. This is in line with Kuncoro (2021), who states that *“most students still have low competence in reading because they have limited vocabulary, which makes them struggle to understand texts.”*

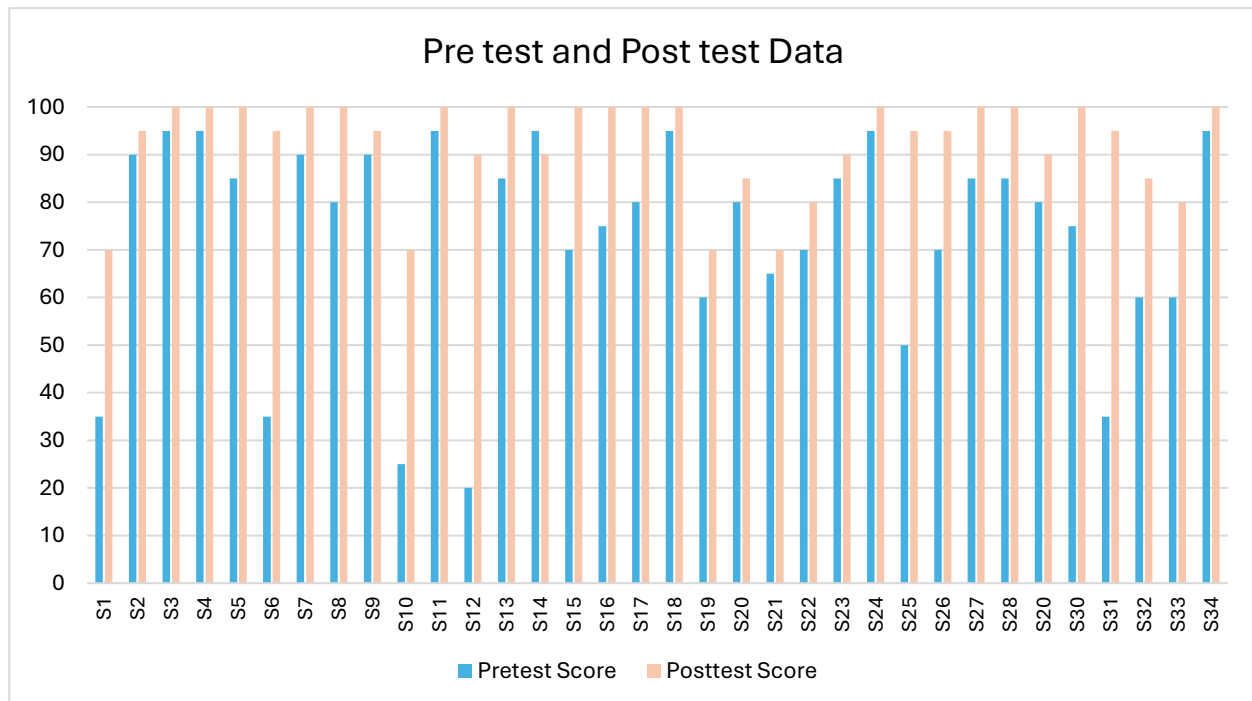
According to several studies, fanfiction can increase students' motivation to read and help them interpret texts more deeply. It also supports autonomous learning because students read based on personal interest. Fanfiction provides authentic language input from both native and non-native English users, giving students exposure to natural expressions. This is supported by a study published in Prologue: Journal of English Education and Applied Linguistics in 2023 titled *Exploring the Use of Fanfiction as Authentic Materials in English Language Teaching*. The study found that *“participants showed a positive perception towards the use of fanfiction in enhancing their reading skills.”*

Terbaru, penelitian *Exploring EFL Students' Engagement and Learning Outcomes through AO3 Fanfiction: A Descriptive Study at SMAN 1 Tenggarong* (2025) di sebuah SMA di Kalimantan Timur menunjukkan bahwa siswa melaporkan peningkatan motivasi membaca bahasa Inggris serta manfaat dalam pengembangan vocabulary setelah membaca fanfiction di platform daring. Hal ini sejalan dengan temuan bahwa *“students showed high motivation when reading content that matched their interests and perceived notable benefits in vocabulary development and interest in reading English.”*

Therefore, this study focuses on the effectiveness of fanfiction in improving 11th grade students' reading

comprehension at SMA Negeri 7 Kediri, aiming to explore how this medium can make the learning process more engaging, meaningful, and effective for students.

2.0 METHODOLOGY



This study analyzed by SPSS. The data from the mean of pre test dan total skor.

And then compared with post test using this steps or with following steps.

$$MPre = \frac{\sum pre}{N}$$

$$MPost = \frac{\sum post}{N}$$

$$3.1 \quad \text{FINDING} \quad \sum X^2 d = \sum d^2 \quad \frac{(\sum d^2)}{N}$$

This study shows that fanfiction is effective in improving students' reading comprehension. Before using fanfiction, students' ability in the four key indicators ; answering WH-questions, making inferences, identifying the main idea, and finding detailed information was still low due to limited reading motivation and less engaging learning materials. This is supported by the pre-test results given before the treatment. A total of 34 students participated. The highest pre-test score was 100, the lowest was 30, and the average score was 73.09.

The writer then implemented fanfiction as the reading material, focusing on improving these four key indicators through relatable and interesting texts.

After being taught using fanfiction, students' reading comprehension improved. The post-test results showed higher performance in all four indicators. The highest post-test score was 100, the lowest improved to 60, and the average score increased to 92.35.

Based on the SPSS analysis of the pre-test and post-test results, fanfiction was proven effective in improving students' reading comprehension across the four key indicators.

Table 1
Paired Sample Statistic

Paired Samples Statistics					
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	pretes	73.0882	34	21.84708	3.74674
	postes	92.3529	34	10.16793	1.74379

Based on the descriptive results, the pre-test mean score was 73.09 with a standard deviation of 21.85 from 34 participants. After the treatment, the post-test mean increased to 92.35 with a standard deviation of 10.17. This shows an improvement in participants' performance and a decrease in score variability, indicating more consistent results after the intervention.

Table 2
Paired Sample Corellation

Paired Samples Correlations				
		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	pretes & postes	34	.560	.001

Based on the correlation test, the number of samples (N) was 34, with a correlation value of 0.560 and a significance value of 0.001. This positive correlation indicates that higher pre-test scores tend to be followed by higher post-test scores. Since the significance value (0.001) is below 0.05, the relationship between the two variables is statistically significant. Thus, there is a significant positive relationship between the scores before and after the treatment.

Table 3
Paired Sample Test

Paired Samples Test									
		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	pretos - postos	-19.26471	18.22138	3.12494	-25.62245	-12.90697	-6.165	33	.000

Based on the paired-samples t-test, the mean difference between pre-test and post-test scores was -19.26 with a standard deviation of 18.22. The 95% confidence interval (-25.62 to -12.91) did not include zero. The t-value was -6.165 (df = 33) with a significance of 0.000, indicating a statistically significant difference.

This shows that participants' scores improved after the treatment, confirming the effectiveness of the intervention.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study is that fanfiction helps students improve their reading comprehension significantly. The four key indicators of reading comprehension, which are WH questions, making inferences, identifying the main idea, and finding detailed information, all showed clear improvement. WH questions and detailed information gained the highest progress, while inference making and main idea identification also improved well.

The data analysis also shows that fanfiction supports students' motivation to read. The interesting and relatable stories make it easier for students to understand the text and stay engaged during the learning process.

This study found that students respond positively to enjoyable and meaningful reading materials, and fanfiction is one of the media that can effectively support the improvement of their reading comprehension.

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