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Research Article

The Use of Wordwall Web Applications in Improving English Vocabulary

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KEYWORDS

Wordwall;
 Vocabulary;
 Language of English.

A B S T R A C T

The importance of vocabulary is expected to be a provision for individuals in developing the ability to communicate and socialize in a global society. The first step A new language is absorbed, indeed, by enriching vocabularies of the new language before finally learning the rules and the context. The introduction of vocabulary can be started with simple vocabulary until, it forms a sentence or paragraph. One of the efforts to enrich vocabularies is through interactive learning, one of which is the use of Wordwall web applications. Wordwall is a web-based application that can be used as learning media such as interactive quizzes, pairings, random words, and anagrams. From the field observations, it appeared that the interest in learning English by students of Informatics study program is very high, but they have difficulty expressing their thoughts in English due to the lack of vocabulary. Regarding this, research was designed in the form of a class action research. The research was conducted in three cycles in which the first cycle was before using Wordwall and another two cycles were conducted after using Wordwall. Each cycle provided data in a form of students' scores. The results of this study revealed an increase in vocabulary understanding after conducting learning and tests using the Wordwall Web Application.

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INTRODUCTION

In the current era of globalization, the importance of early introduction to English as a foreign language has been highlighted. This aims to provide individuals with sufficient provisions in developing the ability to communicate and socialize within the scope of the global community. Knowledge and skills in English acquired through consistent learning will have a positive impact on individual development, from mastery of vocabulary to the ability to speak and write in English (Na'imah, 2022). As stated by linguist Vigotsky, language has a central role in the process of understanding and absorbing new information by individuals. When individuals learn a new

language, they are also absorbing new understandings, including values that are considered useful. Therefore, it is important to enrich vocabulary in a new language before learning its rules and contexts (Arumsari, Andini Dwi, Bustomi Arifin, 2017). The importance of vocabulary introduction in the early stages of learning, especially in children, cannot be overlooked. The richness of a person's vocabulary also reflects their intelligence and level of education (Okfia, Wahyutri, 2021).

Online Learning requires alternatives that create diverse learning. Online learning is managing learning using electronic media. Online learning between teachers and students is in different contexts and locations, so it requires

the formation of interactive exchanges that requires the support of various stakeholders (Pohan 2021).

Therefore, efforts to improve the understanding and use of vocabulary in appropriate contexts is an important step. In this context, interactive learning media such as the Wordwall web application plays an important role. Wordwall provides a variety of quizzes and activities that can be used as a medium of practice and assessment in English learning. This application is the result of technological innovation in education and has been proven effective in improving students' understanding of English concepts and shaping scientific attitudes in students (Arimbawa, 2021). Through field observations, it can be seen that the interest in learning English in Informatics Engineering students is very high. However, they have difficulty in expressing their thoughts in English due to limited vocabulary. Therefore, a class experimental research was designed by using Wordwall media to enrich students' English vocabulary. The reliability of Informatics Engineering students in using web-based applications such as Wordwall is also a major consideration in the selection of this media. This article aims to show whether the use of Wordwall web application can improve students' English vocabulary and to explore their perceptions towards the use of this application. Although English is only taught as a foreign language in Indonesia and rarely used in daily life, it is important to understand that learning English is a basic step in preparing the younger generation as global citizens. English learning at primary school level focuses on four basic skills: speaking, writing, reading and listening. This learning is considered a process that supports the growth of new knowledge and understanding (Wijaya, 2015). Learning media has an important role in the learning process. The media serves as a communication tool between teachers and learners, as well as a stimulus to encourage students to think and learn. Learning media also functions to convey messages through various channels with the aim of stimulating learners or students to think and feel motivated to add new information to themselves (Hamid et al.2020). The selection of appropriate learning media has a direct impact on student learning outcomes. There are two approaches in selecting learning media: closed and open. Both approaches have

To encourage students to become more involved in their online education, Wordwall can be created to help them become more active participants (Rahmawati & Wijayanti, 2022). Students' abilities and progress can be tracked through this media or game. Using this media, students can improve their reading and writing skills while having fun. However, this media has both benefits and drawbacks in teaching reading. The benefits of using this application include that it is simple to access, offers basic options at no cost, and comes with several templates (Rahmi & Angraina, 2021). Teachers allow delivering the materials

or assessments they make in the form of a game through WhatsApp, Google Classroom, or another platform. This platform is user-friendly and easy to use, and all steps are well explained. The games that have been made can also be printed out in PDF format, which will help students who are having trouble with the network. Students can find it easier to understand what they are learning online with Wordwall, and it's easy to find out how well they are learning (Mahyudi, 2022). Besides, the Wordwall platform is also a convenient tool for teachers who are short of time or not very confident with technology. Additionally, any materials you have created can be shared with the Wordwall community.

their own advantages, one of which is to give teachers the opportunity to be more creative in using learning media Anderson, 1976 in (Falahudin, 2014). Research by Hartatiningsih (2022) which aims to analyze the increase in vocabulary mastery related to pronouns: subjective, objective and possessive adjective in class VII MTS Students. Through the use of wordwall learning media. Various learning media have characteristics of each type of media which are of course adapted to the student's character. In general, teaching aids have the benefit of building students' imagination and creativity so that students can be active learning (Kaltsum 2017). The Wordwall application is a medium or teaching aid in English that helps students understand learning visually.

The use of English in Indonesia is only studied at school but is not used in everyday life. That's why English in Indonesia is generally taught as a foreign language (Maduwu 2016). However, learning English is the basis for preparing students for global society so it is important to introduce it to students from an early age.

This learning media can also be interpreted as a web application that is used to create fun quiz based games. Wordwall can also be used to design and review assessments in learning (Hanafi Halid dkk 2021).

Research by (Silvia, Widian, and Wirabrata 2021) which developed wordwall media to improve the vocabulary skills of early childhood. The result of this research indicate that the wordwall media developed is suitable for use in the learning process. The implication of this research is that the media developed in the form of wordwall media can be used by teachers to improve children's vocabulary skills.

The current educational system makes greater use of technology, which affects becoming a more modern learning system Hameed, (2020) in (Arsini et al., 2022). The use of technology in education, as supported and claimed by Alkamel & Chouthaiwale, (2018) makes the learning process more dynamic, interactive, and interesting for each learner. Students' interest in learning can be

stimulated through interactive teaching strategies in the classroom. Yet, the teachers typically use the traditional teaching methods, in which they answer the students directly, which aims to make learning easier. The challenges teachers face in the modern era are essentially the same as in the past. These challenges center on utilizing instructional strategies that cater to the students' requirements while remaining relevant. Along with the instructor, the students find it challenging to comprehend and acquire information in reading text.

Learning in junior high school also uses online or distance learning through parental guidance. According to Eastman, online learning is the use of the internet network in the learning process. With online learning, students have flexibility in study anytime anywhere. Students can interact with teachers using various applications, such as classes, video conferences, telephone or live chat, zoom or via whatsapp group (Dewi. 2020).

Research by Rachmawaty (2017) who conducted classroom action research on play group students with the aim of improving children's initial reading skills through word walls. Children's reading ability can be improved through word walls, this can be seen from the increase in the lowest score in the first assessment by 26.3% to 75% with the total achievement of the class percentage from 30.8% increasing to 94.5%.

It is also important to understand the characteristics of students in receiving learning materials. There are three forms of student acceptance of the material taught, namely auditive, visual, and kinesthetic. Considering these characteristics in the selection of learning media can improve learning effectiveness (Maimunah, 2016). In the context of English learning, Wordwall app plays an important role as a teaching tool that helps students understand the material visually. The app not only helps in teaching vocabulary, but also encourages students to use English in their communication. The use of Wordwall creates a positive learning environment for the understanding and use of English vocabulary (Ismayati, Warda Latifah, 2020). In this article, we will explore how the use of Wordwall web application can help enrich the English vocabulary of Informatics Engineering students. This article will also reveal students' perceptions of the use of Wordwall in the context of English language learning in Indonesia. Thus, this article has a clear objective in exploring the positive impact of using innovative learning media such as Wordwall in improving students' English comprehension and skills in Indonesia.

METHOD

This research uses a classroom action research approach conducted in a class to determine the effects of actions

applied to a research subject in that class. More broadly, action research has the aim of improving quality or solving problems in a group of subjects under study and observing the level of success or the effects of its actions. The action taken in this study is the use of Wordwall to improve English vocabulary. The research sample was 50 students of the Informatics Engineering Study Program at Indraprasta PGRI University. The sample selection used purposive sampling by considering access to the research object. The purposive sampling technique is one of the methods for selecting samples in research carried out with a specific or predetermined purpose. This method is used when researchers want to select samples that have certain characteristics that are relevant to the research objectives. In purposive sampling, researchers do not select samples randomly but deliberately select individuals or sample units that are considered the most relevant or representative of the population being studied. The purpose of doing sampling like this is so that research can be carried out effectively and efficiently, especially in terms of supervision, the condition of the research subject, the research time set by the conditions of the research site, and licensing procedures.

In this study, the instrument used was the scores or learning outcomes of three learning cycles. Each cycle was allocated in one meeting of 100 minutes. In the first cycle, students learned vocabularies by reading passages then they were given a fill in the blank test consisting of 20 questions. Then, in the second and third cycle, the students were introduced to Wordwall Web app where they learned vocabularies through games in a form of fill in a blank and crosswords. At that point, the students were given a fill in the blank test consisting of 20 questions in each cycle. Additionally, a questionnaire was also given as a reinforcement of the results from students' scores. The data collected were presented in a table and described through qualitative approach by referring to prior research.

The research objective to be achieved in this writing is to discover whether students' vocabularies mastery can be increased by using Wordwall web Application.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study gave three tests, one before introducing Wordwall to students and two tests after using Wordwall in learning activities. The discussion regarding the use of this media is that wordwall media is able to increase students' interest in learning. This can be seen from the aspect of students' activity, the observation assessment criteria are measured through several indicators, including: Students activity when participating in online teaching and learning activities as evidenced by filling in absences. Student activity when completing assignment with on time. Ask question about material that is not yet understood. This

situation is clearly different from the online learning process if the teacher only gives instruction to the child to read. Or the teacher just asks the child to re-note the material in the theme book. The test comparison results are presented in the following table:

Tabel 1. List of student grades

Student	test 1	test 2	test 3	Student	test 1	test 2	test 3
1	70	75	75	26	80	80	85
2	75	75	80	27	80	85	85
3	70	80	85	28	80	85	90
4	70	80	85	29	85	85	90
5	85	80	85	30	70	80	85
6	85	80	85	31	85	80	85
7	80	80	85	32	80	85	85
8	80	80	85	33	80	85	90
9	80	80	85	34	80	85	90
10	70	75	85	35	80	85	85
11	70	75	85	36	80	85	85
12	75	80	85	37	80	85	85
13	75	80	90	38	80	85	90
14	75	85	85	39	80	85	85
15	80	85	85	40	80	85	85
16	80	80	85	41	80	80	85
17	80	75	85	42	80	80	85
18	80	85	90	43	80	80	85
19	80	80	80	44	80	80	85
20	80	80	85	45	80	85	85
21	80	80	85	46	80	85	75
22	80	80	85	47	80	85	85
23	80	85	85	48	80	80	85
24	75	90	80	49	80	90	85
25	75	80	85	50	80	85	90
				Avarage	78,6	81,9	85,1

In the average test results above, it can be seen that there is an increase from the test before using Wordwall. In the second test, there was an increase of 3.3 points from the previous test, and in the third test, there was an increase of 3.2 points.

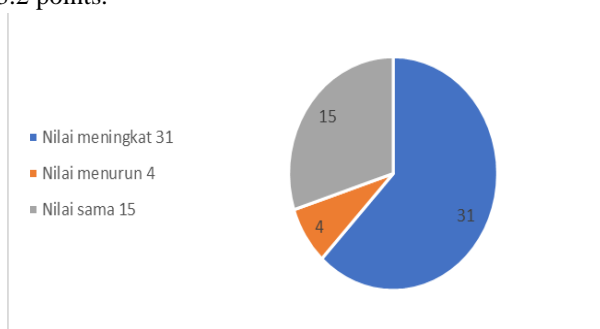


Diagram 1. Comparison of cycle 1 and cycle 2 scores

From the results of the scores after the first use of wordwall.net, there was an increase in grades for 31 students, no change in grades for 15 students, and a decrease in grades for 4 students. Furthermore, the comparison of cycle 2 and cycle 3 scores has also increased.

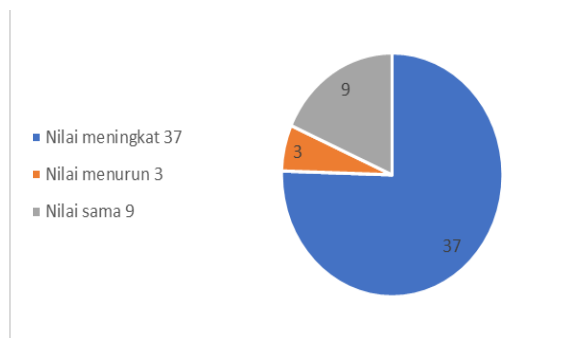


Diagram 2. Comparison of cycle 2 and cycle 3 scores

In the second Wordwall experiment, there was an increase in grades for 37 students, no change in grades for nine students, and a decrease in grades for three students. From both cycles, it can be seen that the majority, or most, students experienced an increase in grades after the use of wordwall in understanding English vocabulary. Wordwall is an effective learning medium for improving vocabulary; this is in line with the opinion of (Shiddiq, 2021), who stated that wordwall can be a reference for students who have difficulty understanding new vocabulary.

One of the reasons for the increase in student grades is also due to student interest and motivation in the Wordwall application. This can be seen from the student responses to the questionnaire results shown in the table below:

Tabel 2. Students' perception of the use of Wordwall in English learning

No.	Questions	Answer	Number of answer	%
1	Semester berapakah Anda saat ini?	Semester 2	50	100%
2	Apakah Anda mengambil mata kuliah Bahasa Inggris di semester ini?	Ya	50	100%
		Tidak	0	0%
3	Apakah Anda pernah menggunakan Web Apps Wordwall	Ya	50	100%
		Tidak	0	0%
4	wordwall membuat pembelajaran menarik dan menyenangkan	Sangat Setuju	29	58%
		Setuju	21	42%
		Tidak Setuju	0	0%
		Sangat Tidak Setuju	0	0%
5	Wordwall memiliki tampilan yang menarik dan banyak fitur yang menantang	Sangat Setuju	14	28%
		Setuju	36	72%
		Tidak Setuju	0	0%
		Sangat Tidak Setuju	0	0%
6	Wordwall membuat Saya menyukai sesi pembelajaran daring dan lebih aktif dalam pembelajaran	Sangat Setuju	14	28%
		Setuju	36	72%
		Tidak Setuju	0	0%
		Sangat Tidak Setuju	0	0%
7	Wordwall tidak membuat Saya tegang dalam mengerjakan soal tes	Sangat Setuju	15	30%
		Setuju	33	66%
		Tidak Setuju	2	4%
		Sangat Tidak Setuju	0	0%
8	Belajar dengan menggunakan Wordwall terasa seperti bermain	Sangat Setuju	31	62%
		Setuju	18	36%
		Tidak Setuju	1	2%
		Sangat Tidak Setuju	0	0%

9	Wordwall menciptakan suasana kompetitif dan Saya merasa terdorong untuk menjadi nomor satu di papan peringkat	Sangat Setuju	16	32%
		Setuju	34	68%
		Tidak Setuju	0	0%
		Sangat Tidak Setuju	0	0%
10	Wordwall membuat Saya bisa mengoreksi diri sendiri ketika melakukan kesalahan pada tes	Sangat Setuju	17	34%
		Setuju	33	66%
		Tidak Setuju	0	0%
		Sangat Tidak Setuju	0	0%
11	Mengerjakan tes melalui wordwall membuat Saya lebih tertarik untuk belajar Bahasa Inggris	Sangat Setuju	12	24%
		Setuju	37	74%
		Tidak Setuju	1	2%
		Sangat Tidak Setuju	0	0%
12	wordwall membuat Saya lebih tertarik memperbanyak kosa kata Bahasa Inggris	Sangat Setuju	15	30%
		Setuju	35	70%
		Tidak Setuju	0	0%
		Sangat Tidak Setuju	0	0%
13	Berikan kekurangan yang Anda alami selama pembelajaran dan latihan Bahasa Inggris menggunakan Wordwall.	Kekurangan di awal tidak ada petunjuk bagaimana cara kita menjawab di Wordwall, karena tidak ada petunjuk harus di isi menggunakan kotak yang tersedia ke kotak yang kosong.		
		Mungkin tampilan background yang terlihat terlalu rame jadi agak susah klo buat baca		
		Meskipun Wordwall menyediakan berbagai jenis latihan dan permainan pembelajaran, ada kemungkinan bahwa konten yang Anda butuhkan mungkin tidak sepenuhnya tersedia di platform tersebut. Anda mungkin perlu membuat sendiri atau mencari sumber tambahan untuk memenuhi kebutuhan spesifik Anda.		
14	Berikan saran membangun untuk pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris menggunakan Wordwall selanjutnya	Kekurangannya ialah saat menempelkan jawabannya susah sekali di ganti		
		sebaiknya lebih sering digunakan dalam pembelajaran		
		Harus lebih berinovasi agar pembelajaran jadi semakin menyenangkan		
		saran dari saya mungkin lebih di perbanyak variasi soalnya		
		Harus perbaiki manajemen waktunya		
Menggunakan batasan waktu pada setiap pertanyaan akan membantu meningkatkan keterampilan pemahaman siswa dan melatih mereka dalam mengambil keputusan dengan cepat.				
Waktunya tolong dipanjiangkan				

The results above show that 100 percent of students gave a positive response to the question, explaining that Wordwall is an interesting application that can encourage student motivation in learning English, especially increasing vocabulary. The Wordwall application is proven to increase students' interest and motivation, especially in the online learning process. (Aidah, Nur, 2022). However, there are still 1 or 2 percent of students who disagree with the statement that learning by using Wordwall feels like playing. In addition, students also assess learning using the Wordwall application, which has several shortcomings, including a lack of instructions before learning using Wordwall. Therefore, students provide several suggestions, including the need for a variety of questions and setting the time to work on questions that are more appropriate and in accordance with the level of difficulty of the questions, to support learning using wordwall to be maximized.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion, it is concluded that the Wordwall web-based application can improve the evaluation results for English vocabulary. In addition, students are motivated to enrich their English vocabulary by using the Wordwall application. Although most of the students' results show an increase and positive response to

the use of the Wordwall web application in learning English. However, lecturers or teachers need to provide innovations in terms of the form of questions and materials presented in wordwall so that the vocabulary learning process using wordwall is maximized. This research is still limited to the use of wordwall applications in English learning only, so it is important to develop this research in other subject areas. In addition, it is expected that there will be an increase in the number of samples in future studies to obtain more reliable and valid results.

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