

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Comprehension was an essential aspect of learning because it allowed students to make connections between different concepts and ideas. Students with strong comprehension skills were more likely to do well in their studies and in exams. However, traditional teaching methods such as lectures and written assignments may not have effectively engaged students or accommodated their individual learning styles.

The use of educational media in modern classrooms had become increasingly prevalent because of its potential to enhance the learning experience for students. This was particularly important because many students may have struggled with traditional face-to-face learning methods for a variety of reasons. For example, some students may have had limited attention spans, making it difficult to maintain focus during lecture-style classes. In addition, the language barrier may have been a challenge for students who did not speak the language spoken at home. Different learning styles and limited access to resources may also have hindered the effectiveness of face-to-face instruction.

These challenges could have been overcome by using educational media to provide students with a more engaging and interactive learning experience. For example, videos and interactive software could have held students' attention for longer periods of time, while subtitles or translations could have helped students who were not native speakers of the language of instruction. In addition, educational

media could have been adapted to different learning styles, providing visual aids or hands-on activities for students who might not have benefited from traditional teaching methods. Access to a wider range of resources through educational media could also have helped students explore topics in greater depth.

According to Hattie (2009), an expert in education research, "feedback is one of the most critical factors in improving student learning outcomes". Test Me can provide an effective feedback mechanism for students. As Dr. Hattie notes, "Feedback is one of the most powerful influences on student achievement. The most effective feedback provides students with an understanding of what they know, what they don't know, and how to close the gap."

According to Hattie (2011), an educational researcher and author, the effectiveness of a learning medium depends on its ability to engage students and promote their participation. He states, "The best learning occurs when students are actively involved in the process, and the medium used for instruction can have a significant impact on their level of engagement".

Based on the preliminary study in SMPN 2 Senayang, the students reading comprehension were still low, it was proved that only 40% of students who pass the KKM. Furthermore there is no media used for reading comprehension. therefore in this research, the researcher propose the study entitled Developing "Test Me" to Reading Comprehension of Grade 8 Students of SMP Negeri 2 Senayang.

In the case of Test Me, its interactive exercises encourage active participation and engagement among students, which can enhance their

understanding of various subjects. Additionally, research has shown that conventional learning media can be just as effective as digital multimedia when used correctly (Clark et al., 2006).

The author had also included references to relevant studies and research related to reading comprehension, instructional design, and learning media development. For example, a study by Johnson & Johnson (2019) found that the use of interactive learning media tools can significantly improve students' reading comprehension skills.

Overall, the use of educational media had the potential to overcome many of the challenges associated with traditional face-to-face teaching methods and ultimately improve the learning experience for students. Various learning media had been developed to improve students' comprehension skills. However, most of these media were not specifically designed for grade 8 students in Indonesia. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the existing learning media in improving comprehension skills needed to be evaluated to ensure that they could effectively support the learning process. Ethical considerations, such as the appropriateness of content and the safeguarding of student data, are essential. Experts highlight the need for learning media to adhere to ethical standards and prioritize the well-being of learners (ISTE, 2020).

Thus, there was a need for an innovative learning media that could stimulate students' interest and improve their reading comprehension. This study aimed to develop a learning medium called "Test Me" that would help improve the reading comprehension of grade 8 students in SMP Negeri 2 Senayang, Indonesia. The

learning media would be specifically designed to meet the learning styles and needs of grade 8 students with the aim of improving their reading comprehension and academic performance. By developing effective learning media, teachers could reduce their workload in terms of preparing instructional materials and assessments, while students could have a fun and interactive way of learning that would enhance their reading comprehension and improve their performance in examinations.

In summary, this study aimed to address concerns about the comprehension skills of grade 8 students in Indonesia and the effectiveness of existing learning media. By developing an innovative learning media that meets the learning styles and needs of grade 8 students, this study contributed to the improvement of reading comprehension, leading to improved academic performance and better outcomes for students in Indonesia. This study aimed to develop a learning media called "Test Me" that would help improve the reading comprehension of grade 8 students in SMP Negeri 2 Senayang.

1.2 Research Question of the Study

Based on the background of the study, researcher had research question as follow “How Test Me for teaching reading comprehension at grade 8 in SMP Negeri 2 Senayang be developed?”.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The Purpose of this Study was to develop a learning media called “Test Me” for grade 8 students in SMP Negeri 2 Senayang to reading comprehension.

1.4 Specification of Product

The Test Me which was the product in this study had the following specifications:

1. The product was formed based on the basic competencies contained in the syllabus.
2. The product had a 3D form (conventional media).
3. In Test Me, there were 5 boxes with different colors, a bottle containing straws with 4 different colors and group cards. The box section will contain each question from the sub chapter of the first chapter of It's English Time from the book When English Rings a Bell grade 8 Junior High School. Then the bottle containing straws will be taken by each group with a certain amount and the group card that had been used will be useful to get one clue from the teacher.
4. Test Me was designed for writing skill in English learning.
5. English teachers could use this media.

1.5 Significance of the study

This study aimed to develop Test Me media to teach student's reading comprehension in English lessons. The findings of this study were expected to contribute as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

The theoretical significance of this study was enriching the existing theory about ELT.

2. Empirical Significance

- a. Students: The use of “Test Me” provided students with a fun and interactive way of learning, which could enhance their comprehension skills and improve their performance in exams.
- b. Teachers: The development of innovative learning media that could improve students’ comprehension ability will benefit teachers by reducing the failure that will be experienced by students.
- c. Researchers: This research contributed to the literature on the development of effective learning media to improve comprehension skills.

1.6 Delimitation of the Study

This research focused on the development of "Test Me" learning media to improve reading comprehension ability of grade 8 students at SMP Negeri 2 Senayang, Indonesia.

1.7 Definition of key terms

Learning media : Any tool or platform used to support learning and teaching.

Test Me : A Conventional learning media.

Reading comprehension : Ability to read text, process it and understand its meaning