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USING PADLET AS A MEDIA TO IMPROVE WRITING SKILL OF L2 LEARNER: STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic which has not ended so far has made the education system still run an online system. This is certainly a challenge for L2 learners at the university level. The use of technology can certainly cause the motivation to attract students' interest in learning L2. Padlet is a platform that is being accessed intensively during online learning. This platform is like an online note that can be accessed by everyone. This study was shown to determine students' perspectives on the use of Padlet to increase writing skills in L2 learning. In this research, a qualitative method with a questionnaire and interview instruments was used to analyse the data. The questionnaire instrument is used to reach a wider range of research participants. Then, the interview is used to collect the argument or students' point view about the content of the research. In data collection techniques, the researchers adapted from Putri and Umam (2018). This research was shown to 4th semester students in English language education study program, Tidar University. The results of this study indicate that the Padlet is the one platform that can improve the writing skills effectively for the L2 learner.

Keywords: education system, Padlet, writing skill

Introduction

According to Cleland, et al. (2020), WHO has declared that COVID-19 become pandemic on 11 March 2020. It gives a serious impact in many aspects, especially education. This occasion has forced people to be willing to study in their home. Since everyone is prohibited to gather in a huge number of people in the same place as a classroom. However, it is a challenge that is not easy to be faced. The education system of this matter should be considered. People who have not been trained to learn online will not be easy to adapt to this new circumstance. The transformation of conventional class to online class should be done properly to make this process can be accepted by everyone.

Problems that occur in online learning relate to the engagement of the students with the learning process. Since the teacher and the students are not in the same place, it will be difficult for the teacher to access them directly at the same

time. The teacher may not recognize if the students focus on the different matter in front of their screen through online learning. The teacher has a huge responsibility to make the students still interested in the learning process. Subsequently, online media is a tool that can be utilized to attract students with the learning process. With the monotone way of teaching, the students may get bored. Then, they will get difficulty engaging with the learning process.

Subsequently, the teacher should choose the right online media for learning. Since it should be interesting and easily accessible, there are four important skills that need to be learned in learning the English language. However, this paper will focus on learning writing skills. Shah, Mahmood and Ishaq (2020) argue that writing skill is an ability that can be utilized to express thoughts and ideas of a person to write English in proper grammatical structures. Moreover, one of the online media that can be utilized to learn writing skill is Padlet. Padlet is a platform that can be utilized to share text, documents, images, audio files, and videos. This media is easy to access and it also has an interesting background that can attract students. Subsequently, this paper will focus on the students' perception of improving the writing skill by using a Padlet. The result can be the parameter about the students' attitude of how effective using Padlet is for learning the English language.

Literature Review

Padlet is an easily accessible platform. However, it can be used for sharing text. The students will be able to share their writing product by using Padlet in order to improve the students' writing skill. Thus, several researchers are interested in investigating the usage of Padlet to learn writing skills. Ismawardani and Sulistyanto (2019), found that teaching writing is effective by utilizing Padlet. Moreover, Mahmud (2019), revealed that Padlet is a good tool so that the students think by using it, they have evolved new ideas and knowledge from the activities, sharing their ideas with friends, collaborating and interacting with friends. This online media can ensure that all of the participants have a role in sharing their idea and accessing the result. It means that it is a good platform for collaborating and interacting in making the writing product.

Method

Based on the established research questions, the method used in this study is the qualitative method. Qualitative according to Boghdan & Biklen (1975) is a method that produces descriptive data such as speech, writing, or the attitudes of the person being observed. The use of this method is to obtain information on Padlet application user experience data in writing skills. So, researchers need data directly on people's opinions about the application in honing their writing skills. The researcher used two stages of data search, namely by using a questionnaire and interview.

Johnson and Christensen (2019) highlight that a questionnaire is a form of data collection in which participants fill out the questions given by the researcher. This data can be used by researchers related to the measurement of the characteristics of the participants. With a questionnaire, researchers can analyse the level of experience of the participants and how the changes they feel with the use of the website. The researchers adapted the questionnaire from Putri and Umam

(2018). The questionnaire was distributed using an easily accessible Google Form that contained student perceptions. The questions to be asked in the questionnaire include an open-ended question containing 4 levels of choice from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The list of questions can be seen below. The data from the questionnaire will be selected for several participant samples for subsequent interviews.

- a. I know how to use Padlet for getting information in English language
- b. learning.
- c. Learning language via Padlet is a good idea.
- d. My interaction in Padlet messaging was clear.
- e. Learning language using Padlet is convenient for me
- f. Padlet is useful for my language learning during Covid-19
- g. Padlet is useful for my writing skill.
- h. Padlet is allow me to academically engage with peers and
- i. lecturers at any time and any place.
- j. My writing performance in language learning was improved by the
- k. use of a Padlet.
- l. Interaction via Padlet helped me to become active in language
- m. learning process.
- n. j. In the future, I will use a Padlet in my learning English language.

Researchers need to interview several participants to add data on their experiences directly and to find out if other factors could be obtained that could affect them. According to Moleong (2012), an interview means a conversation with a specific purpose by both parties (interviewer and resource person). Interviews were conducted using Zoom media due to the Covid-19 pandemic and social restrictions. The meeting is then recorded and then transcribed to make it easier to analyse the words that appear. The main questions in the interview can be seen below.

- a. Is the use of Padlet as a learning medium in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic effective for students?
- b. Can students easily use Padlet?
- c. Can Padlet help students improve their writing and reading skills during the Covid-19 pandemic?

The subjects of this research were students in 4th semester in Tidar University, and the research conducted in 2021. The data collected in this research, first the author created the question, second makes the questionnaire on Google form, third shared the link of Google form, and then collecting the data from the questioner has been answered. Then, the researcher also interviews some of the participants. After the data were collected, the researchers analysed it by reading all participants' responses and analysing the responses to get the finding.

Findings and Discussion

Padlet is a free site that can be accessed by anyone. This allows everyone to connect and communicate with each other or exchange information via text or add videos. Padlet is a free web-based application that provides a blank wall or free space that allows the accessor to post text, images, and videos, which can be seen by anyone who has the link to access it (Rashid, Yunus, & Wahi, 2019). At this time, the use of Padlets penetrated part of the learning. The online learning system

causes both teachers and students to look for alternative media to facilitate learning. The use of Padlets can certainly help become a learning medium. In this condition, Padlet is used as a medium in improving students' writing skills.

This research is shown based on the use of Padlets that are familiar to students. In addition, this media was chosen because it is easily accessible to all students and is a free site. In this study, researchers used a questionnaire and interview instruments. The questionnaire instrument was used to make it easier to get a wider range of data and respondents. While the interview instrument is used to find out the opinion or validate the data provided by the respondent. The questionnaire and interview instruments used were adapted from Putri and Umam (2018).

In the questionnaire research that was distributed there were 10 statements that had to be approved or not approved by the respondent. The researcher used an open-ended question with rating Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2), and Strongly Disagree (1). This study was followed by 50 respondents who had filled out questionnaires and conducted interviews. As the results, it can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. The response of the questionnaire

No	Questions	Strongly agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly disagree (1)
1.	I know how to use Padlet for getting information in English language learning	15,4%	61,5%	23,1%	0%
2.	Learning language via Padlet is a good idea.	15,4%	53,8%	23,1%	7,7%
3.	My interaction in Padlet messaging was clear.	7,7%	38,5%	53,8%	0%
4.	Learning language using Padlet is convenient for me.	7,7%	46,2%	46,2%	0%
5.	Padlet is useful for my language learning during Covid-19.	15,4%	38,5%	46,2%	0%
6.	Padlet is useful for my writing skill.	7,7%	46,2%	46,2%	0%
7.	Padlet is allow me to academically engage with peers and lecturers at any time and any place.	15,4%	61,5%	15,4%	7,7%
8.	My writing performance in language learning was improved by the use of Padlet.	7,7%	53,8%	30,8%	7,7%
9.	Interaction via Padlet helped me to become active in language learning process.	23,1%	38,5%	30,8%	7,7%
10.	In the future, I will use Padlet in my learning English language.	15,4%	46,2%	30,8%	7,7%

In table 1 shows the responses from the questionnaires that have been distributed. Based on the table, it can be concluded that the use of Padlet can improve language skills, especially writing. The majority of respondents gave positive responses to the use of Padlets. The response to the first statement shows that the choice of "agree" is the peak or the highest choice with a calculation of 61,5% which shows that almost all respondents understand how to use Padlet. Then, the second statement also shows that the response "agree" occupies the highest number, namely 53,8%.

However, in the third statement which shows the effectiveness of the interaction in Padlet, many respondents disagreed, the response did not agree, and got 53.8%. In addition, a balance between "agree" and "disagree" was also found in statement number four, both of which were 46,2% indicating that the use of Padlet should be reviewed and in terms of convenience as a learning medium. Then in statement number five also found the number "disagree" was also high, namely 46,2%, which means that the use of Padlet must also be re-evaluated. The draw was also found in statement number six, which was 46,2%. However, from the calculation results of statements number three to six, the highest calculation is still found with a positive response, namely "agree and disagree". This is because the response "strongly disagreed" occupies the lowest position, namely 0% until 7,7%. Furthermore, statement number seven that gets the most responses is in the "agree" option, which is 62,5%. It means that respondents can be directly involved in learning activities. The choice of "agree" with a large response is also shown by statement number eight, which is 53,8%. The "strongly agree" response count was 23,1% and the choice of "agree" was 38,5% as indicated by statement number nine. It can be concluded that the use of Padlet still gets a lot of positive responses from respondents. The last statement also shows that the choice of "agree" is the most preferred choice by the respondents, namely 46,2% of respondents "agree" that the use of Padlet can be used in the future.

Table 2. Data interview of the respondents

No.	Questions	Responses
1.	Is the use of Padlet as a learning medium in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic effective for students?	1. Quite helpful, I had a little trouble accessing Padlet because I had to borrow my friend's gadget 2. Yes, I can learn to use Padlet, I can also find out if Padlet is an interesting application. 3. Yes, because students can open the Padlet anywhere as long as they have access that the teacher provides. Besides that, it can also be used as a form of variation in learning media. 4. In my opinion, it is effective because the 2.features available there m3.ake students more interested in learning. Besides that, because the Padlet can be accessed easily, its use is also quite easy. 5. Padlets can support learning in the midst of a pandemic, but their use is only limited to supporting media, not the main source. So, Padlet was deemed effective enough to support activities.
2.	Can students easily use Padlet?	1. I had a little trouble using Padlet at the beginning of the lesson, but in the

	<p>3. In the second lesson I was able to use it smoothly.</p> <p>2. I was able to use the Padlet well after getting the directions and trying it myself.</p> <p>3. Maybe not all students can easily use Padlets because they are new to students so students are not used to using them. In addition, sometimes there are still difficulties in accessing the Padlet due to an unstable internet connection.</p> <p>4. Yes, students only need to open the link provided by the teacher so that students can use the Padlet easily.</p> <p>5. Yes, because the features are simple so it's easy to apply. Other than that, because the Padlet is in the form of a website so that it is easily accessible.</p>
<p>3. Can Padlet help students improve their writing and reading skills during the Covid-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>1. Yes, I can practice self-defense by writing on Padlet which my friends can see. I will also receive corrections from the comments given.</p> <p>2. Yes, I can learn to write and understand recitation commands. I can also learn from the work of other friends.</p> <p>3. I think you can, because the Padlet can be set to be colorful which will attract students' attention in writing. other than that we can find and write a lot of information via the Padlet</p> <p>4. Yes, because the Padlet can display the text clearly and students can write their ideas freely on the Padlet.</p> <p>5. Of course, this is coupled with interactions between lecturers and fellow students. Padlets can help improve writing skills especially for collaborative writing</p>

Based on the results of the interviews summarized in table 2, it shows a positive attitude in using Padlets. However, the use of Padlet is also the most difficult with an internet connection. This is because the Padlet site can only be accessed if the user has an internet connection. This response is certainly one of the evaluations for teachers and students who are doing distance or online learning. Based on table 2, it can also be concluded that the use of Padlet can help online learning models. In addition, its use can also improve writing skills if it is adjusted to the right writing strategy. The use of Padlet allows users to interact directly with the teacher so that learning can go according to plan.

Besides that, the convenience and features available in Padlet are also the main reasons why respondents give a positive response to Padlet application. This reason is also supported by research conducted by Lestari and Kurniawan (2018) which underlines that the use of Padlet can be used to improve the original writing ability to be applied with the right strategy. In addition, the use of Padlet also shows that technological advances have entered and been applied in learning. In other words, the application of technology in learning is expected to help improve education in Indonesia. The use of Padlet is also a technological breakthrough in the field of education which can certainly help learning, one of which is in improving students' writing skills (Taufikurohman, 2018).

Conclusion

Based on the research results above, it can be concluded that Padlet can improve writing skills. Padlet is a platform that can be utilized to share text, documents, images, audio files, and videos. This media is easy to access and it also has an interesting background that can attract students. However, in its implementation using Padlet still has several problems. Internet connection, students' activeness in interacting and the learning methods used have an influence on the use of Padlet in improving writing skills. The writing skills that every student must have certainly make Padlet an alternative in helping improve students' writing skills.

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