CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

Language is a method of interaction that humans use to communicate and connect with others. English is becoming an international language, and many individuals desire to learn it to speak or connect with people from all over the globe. In academics, students must comprehend English since many occupations now need the ability to speak English, and several benefits may utilize in the current period of globalization. Here are some skills that can help students learn English more effectively. Four basic skills in learning English are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. According to Supina (2018), these four language skills are frequently referred to as the "macro-skills." Because these four skills are interconnected, people who want to learn English must master them because they can increase knowledge about grammar or tenses, make learning easier, speak fluently faster, understand the essence of a conversation or piece of information, and write papers that can be read by the international community.

One's ability to read, understand, and interpret written words in reading material is a reading skill. Good reading skills will enable individuals to absorb written work while reading it. Continuous reading is the way to improve reading skills. When we read something, the objective is to understand what it means. Pais (2020) said that before readers read the material, they must know why they are

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reading and what knowledge they must acquire. If students want to get the most out of the material given to them, they must learn to read critically or structurally.

Reading practice is the only method for students to become fluent readers. Reading practice is crucial for students. It enhances their communication and comprehension abilities in reading. Moreover, students also learn to think deeply about a topic or subject. Reading a story, an article, or any other form of writing is crucial if students want to enhance their reading skills. Good reading practices are essential to getting the most out of a student's reading skills. Students must equip themselves with proper reading skills. There are various challenges that students face when learning to read. For example, students need more vocabulary, are less motivated to read, have limited time to understand the content cognitively, and teachers use boring methods when teaching English. Learning does not have to be limited to the classroom. It can happen in different environments and situations. The learning process can be controlled and eased by using innovation and technology.

Technology has a significant part in areas of human requirements in this current season, from the older to the younger generation, making technology a basic human necessity. Technology is one method of acquiring information, and many individuals utilize it to increase their knowledge. The Internet is one of the most rapidly growing information and communication technologies. The Internet has brought about significant changes in human lives and activities. Students may utilize the Internet as an alternate learning resource to obtain additional knowledge.

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They can also get information about education by using the Internet. Therefore, social media is also growing. Now, it can be enjoyed in pictures, music, movies, and even digital comics. The first digital comic took the form of a website. Digital comics are just one of the many services social media platforms offer consumers so they can enjoy them on their computers or mobile devices. Digital comics use a combination of images and text bubbles to engage readers from different backgrounds, making them a form of online media that entertains.

Digital comics release on many platforms. Find popular comic apps like LINE Webtoon, Kakao Page, Mangatoon, Bilibili Comics, and Tapas on the App Store or Play Store. The LINE Webtoon application is one of the most widely used digital comic platforms. Downloading and using the LINE Webtoon application are both free. However, readers may see the preview episode early by using money to purchase the episode. The vertical paneling and style of the LINE Webtoon application make it easy on the eyes. *Webtoon* is a valuable tool for learning English and can increase students' interest in reading (Puspitasari, 2017). Students would not only read a text; they may also view colorful illustrations and engaging stories.

This study has some previous studies; Supitri (2019) analyzes how using comic webtoons in English improves students' reading comprehension. The study's findings indicate that English webcomics can improve students' mastery of reading abilities, and students who study English comics online do better on reading comprehension tests than their non-taught counterparts. Khairani (2020), the study's goal was to locate natural resources that would help improve reading

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comprehension. A Webtoon application can help students improve their reading comprehension responses. The results showed that the student's reading abilities had improved noticeably.

Another study by Rosdiana (2022) aimed to examine the improvement of students' reading achievement through webtoon applications to boost students' literal understanding. Research has shown that using the Webtoon app can significantly enhance students' comprehension of fundamental concepts in reading.

Based on several previous studies, researcher is interested in seeing and knowing students' perceptions of English reading practice using the Webtoon application. The researcher knows that the webtoon application is a digital comic reading application in which the average person reads only for personal enjoyment without any elements of learning activities in it. Hence, the researcher wants to know student perceptions about whether the webtoon application can be an English language learning medium to improve student reading due to the webtoon feature, which is very interesting and makes it easy for students to learn English actively. This study is entitled "Student Perceptions of English Reading Practice Using Webtoon Application." The findings of this study aim to provide crucial information to readers and fellow researchers clearly and concisely.

B. The Problem of Study

Based on the background of study, the problem of the study is formulated as the follows: "What is the students' perception of English reading practice using LINE Webtoon application?"

C. The Objective of Study

Based on the background, the problem, and the purpose of this study, the objective of the study is to determine students' perception of English reading practice using LINE Webtoon application.

D. The Significances of Study

The researcher hopefully that this research can be useful for English teachers, students, and other researchers as follows:

1) For teachers or lecturers

   This research is expected to provide information needed by teachers or lecturers to maximize new learning media to improve students' reading practice through digital comic applications.

2) For students

   This study will provide information about students' perceptions of English reading practice using the LINE Webtoon application. Students are expected to be diligent in reading English texts in the future.

3) For further researchers

   Hopefully, the findings of this study will be valuable for future research on the same subject.