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## THE CRITICAL REVIEW OF USING E-BOOKS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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### Abstract

English has been a significant subject to be learned. It is a universal language that connected people from one country to others. There are so many ways to master English, such as by reading a book. A textbook is a tool as well as a source of learning. Reading is one of skill in learning a language. Interpretation is a skill or activity to get the information from texts. Today technology develops rapidly; it helps everything become easier than before. People no longer needed to run after information and to worry about living in a remote place with no libraries and bookstores. Data was there, by the numbers, available on our screen, often at no cost. E-books, as they are universally known, are texts based publication in digital form. While they may contain images and graphs of some kind, mostly their formats lead them to be text-based. There are so many advantages of using e-book yet disadvantages of it. However, learning is about how to get the information and to use it well. The source of knowledge is unlimited; it can be from anywhere, anytime, anything.

**Keywords:** foreign language, teacher motivation, professionalization, certification.

### INTRODUCTION

Can we learn without textbooks? That is a big question in a learning environment. The textbook is an important thing that used as a guide in learning. How to get the point of learning when there are no textbooks as guidance. A textbook is a tool as well as a source of learning. Although it is a conventional thing and have been used for quite a while and many consider traditional, textbooks are still quite able to contribute well to learning. Some learning materials cannot be taught without the help of textbooks.

Education is the fastest expanding sector which is sensitive to changes in the economic and social structure of a nation. The employment of innovation and technology are considered fundamental and are driving elements in education. Learning institutions have progressively adopted e-books as a medium of teaching and learning. The proliferation of electronic books has found its way into many classroom activities worldwide. In response to

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this development, educators, institutions, and organizations have been working on tactical plans to incorporate electronic books in education.

Nowadays, life is like turning your palms upside down. All things can be helped with growing technological sophistication. Now, the textbook is accessible. Most students complain of heavy bags containing textbooks. Today textbooks can be accessed in the form of soft files called e-books or electronic books. E-books established in the early 21st century. The paper will give the more explanations about e-books in English language teaching.

In addition, some of the e-books in a simple form, there is also a more complex e-book that integrates animation effects, audio, images, and other multimedia elements. Usually, this type of e-book has a larger size than e-books that contain only text and images only. An example is the Encarta Encyclopedia series of Microsoft output. The paper will give the more explanations about how students' benefit from learning with e-books.

## **METHOD**

This paper used literature study to explore the e-book utilization one ELT. The positive and negative benefits of e-book were explored to found the best techniques and strategies to use it. The approach of the discussion used deductive explanation.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **A Portrait of E-Learning in ELT**

English as a language can be taught in many ways. Electronic learning is one of the innovations in education that provide a way to learn something through a device or media, including English language learning. Electronic learning also is called e-learning. Information and communication technology has developed rapidly in the last decade. It affects the practice of teaching at schools, including the education of English language. Utilization of this technique is an opportunity for teachers to improve students' learning achievements.

Regarding the effectiveness of learning, e-learning should be able to provide personal experience and similar advantages to the level of fun and management of learning performance when used traditional class face to face (Arbaugh, 2005; Bolliger & Wasilik, 2009). With e-learning, teachers and students need internet facilities to keep connectivity in touch. The ability and quality of these interactions determine the sustainability of a distance education system. Web-based remote education is also a community where there is an interaction between students and teachers, as well as between students and students.

The general difficulty with this lesson is that it is not easy to move the habits performed by the teacher in front of the class into a virtual interaction involving the various components in it. The existence of this system makes the mentality of teachers and students should change, the difference of teacher characteristics in teaching is not visible in this method. This method should also be able to provide learning information to students. The report should always be accessible and continuously updated at all times. Information that is often required in the form of the syllabus, schedule lessons, announcements, who are participants learn, subject matter and assessment of student learning outcomes (Sulisworo, Sulistiyo & Akhsan, 2017).

E-learning is an innovation advanced teaching mode, it individually delivered or enabled by electronic technology and incorporating a wide variety of learning strategies and

techniques (Sulisworo, Yunita & Komalasari, 2017). Howard & Scott (2017) proposed the differences between conventional learning and e-learning. A traditional education uses chalks and board, the content of knowledge delivered by teacher; learning environment is limited to only teachers in class, and has the limited choice of learning. Whereas e-learning uses modern technology, the content of knowledge delivered by electronic equipment, learning environment ranges from being with technology in class to using the computer with teachers and using the laptop on one's own, and have various choices of learning (Howard & Scott; 2017).

Learning supported and facilitated through the use of information and communications technology, e-learning helps in covering a spectrum of activities from facilitated learning, to blended learning such as the combination of traditional and e-learning practices, to education that is entirely online. Whatever the technology, however, knowledge is the vital element.

In English language teaching itself, it is advantageous of using e-learning. Use of computers and new technologies has become a crucial part of learning as well as education. Today, e-learning has been a critical factor in various industries and teaching is one among them; especially teaching the language. E-learning has redefined some strategies and concepts of education that have enabled the teaching community to perform better.

### **A Glance of E-Books Concept**

Can we learn without textbooks? That is a big question in a learning environment. The textbook is an important thing that used as a guide in learning. How to get the point of learning when there are no textbooks as guidance. A textbook is a tool as well as a source of learning. Although it is a common thing and have been used for quite a while and many consider traditional, textbooks are still quite able to contribute well to learning. Some learning materials cannot be taught without the help of manuals.

Education is the fastest expanding sector which is sensitive to changes in the economic and social structure of a nation. The employment of innovation and technology are considered fundamental and are driving elements in education. Learning institutions have progressively adopted e-books as a medium of teaching and learning (Wu & Chen, 2018; Korat & Falk, 2017). The proliferation of electronic books has found its way into many classroom activities worldwide. In response to this development, educators, institutions, and organizations have been working on tactical plans to incorporate electronic books in education.

Nowadays, life is like turning your palms upside down. All things can be helped with growing technological sophistication. Now, the textbook is accessible. Most students complain of heavy bags containing textbooks. Today textbooks can be accessed in the form of soft files called e-books or electronic books. E-books established in the early 20th century. E-books have been readily available since the early 1970's. Everything has changed. However, the growth of technology increases rapidly. The learning process can be done through e-learning. In line with that, it is necessary that books can be sent through internet technology and read by using a computer or other device then it called e-books or electronic books.

Firstly e-texts are another name for the e-books. Michael Stern Hart is an American writer, known as the founder of electronic books (e-books) and Project Gutenberg (PG), the

first project to make e-books that freely available over the Internet. Hart devoted his life after establishing PG in 1971 for digitizing and distributing literature of works in the public domain with free and expired copyright (Bozkurt, Okur & Karadeniz, 2016). E-books (e-texts) are typed in plain text format and published as text files; other formats are available later. Hart typed most of his early e-book; then some of the people exposed it. It is nearly 47 years old already. Library has been developing constantly in providing access to e-books, either one available for viewing from an e-library service or ones that can be downloaded to a device. This is a short life compared to the 5-century old print book.

Also, the internet went live in 1974, with the creation of the protocol TCP/IP by Vinton Cerf and Bob Kahn. It began spreading in 1983 as a network of research centers and universities. It got its first boost with the invention of the web by Tim Berners-Lee in 1990, and its second increase with the release of the first browser Mosaic in 1993. From 1994 onwards, the internet quickly spread worldwide (Labert, 2009). Some of the e-books in a pure form, there is also a more complicated e-book that integrates animation effects, audio, images, and other multimedia elements. Usually, this type of e-book has a larger size than e-books that contain only text and pictures just. An example is the Encarta Encyclopedia series of Microsoft output. The paper will give the more explanations about how students' benefit from learning with e-books.

The e-book is an electronic or digital version of a book or a text published on the World Wide Web or other electronic formats. It is known as e-book or e-reader to the device electronic book reader. The e-book is defined as the digital version of a book originally published in paper or a book created directly in digital format. It can find different enterprises that evolve these devices in the world (Labert, 2009).

An e-book is kind of an electronic book of a traditional printed book that able to be read by using a personal computer or by using an e-books reader. An e-books reader can be a software application for use on a network, such as Microsoft's free Reader application, or a book-sized computer that is used solely as a reading device. The readers can purchase e-books on diskette or CD, but the most popular method of getting e-books through purchase a downloadable file of the e-book (or other reading material) from a Web site to be read from the computer or reading device. Frankly speaking, e-books can be downloaded in five minutes or less (Rouse, 2017).

Nevertheless, it is not necessary to use a reader application or device to read e-books (most books can be interpreted as PDF files), they are popular because they provide options similar to those of a printed book - readers can bookmark pages, make notes, highlight passages, and save selected text. In addition to these familiar possibilities, e-books readers also consist of dictionaries and alterable kind of font sizes and styles. An e-books reader hand-held device weights from about twenty-two ounces to three or four pounds and can provide four thousand to over half a million pages of text and graphics.

The term e-books or electronic book indicate the publication in electronic format, the format in which the digital text is converted and the reader devices of e-text. Based on Woodward (2014) e-books have the potential to engage with three key strategic priorities common to most universities: to enhance the student experience and academic outcomes within an increasingly competitive environment; to drive innovation in learning, teaching and research; and to help to use space and human resources more effectively and efficiently.

## **E-Books vs. Print Books**

E-books are becoming more and more common. The e-book is an evolution of the print books that used to read every day. It offers many benefits that make it easier to gain knowledge and gain insight. E-books are electronic books that can be stored easily on our electronic devices. The use of the portable electronic device that provides downloading the e-book databases more practice than the printed book. Rehora suggests that e-book publishers are increasingly trying to make their products look and function more like printed books, even as efforts to add cutting-edge interactive enhancements to digital books have seemingly foundered (Rehora, 2013).

Vassiliou & Rowley (2008) propose that e-books are digital form with textual and other content, which establishes as a result of combining the familiar concept of a book with interesting features that can be existed in an electronic environment. E-book, kindly has in-apply features such as search and cross-reference functions, hypertext links, bookmarks, annotations, highlights, multimedia objects and interactive tools.

Although printed books are not as sophisticated as e-books, there are many benefits that enjoyable in the published paper. In fact, printed books are still in high demand. Bookstores that offer printed books are still frequently visited. The written book can be read without the need for equipment and unique knowledge of the device, and this is the excellence of the book so that it still exists to this day. Likewise, the current generation of young people, the digital natives who should have no cultural bias for the printed word, report in survey after survey that they prefer learning from books to learning from screens; many statement that if they do discover an essential text on the internet they are likely to print it out before attempting in-depth reading (Jabr, 2013).

As print books, there are not only many genres of e-books, but also many kinds of them already providing and multiplying further as the technology develops. E-books scope from scanned copies of print books to database-type forms (Minčić-Obradović, 2011). According to Tedd (2005) in academic libraries, the general types of e-book likely to be acquired include textbooks, multimedia books, reference books, and directories as well as digitized versions of out-of-print books.

### **The advantages of Using E-books**

Nowadays most of the people have gadget, and some people prefer to carry device than the books. Reading by bringing some books is very troublesome. The electronic books or e-books make reading activity more practice and more accessible Alhammad & Ku, 2016). The emergence of e-readers such as Kindle, Nook, iPad, and others, has boosted the use of e-books. If a book is in electronic form, we can download it reasonably easy. Some e-books are free, and some are for purchase. Most of the people don't mind to pay it because the cost of an electronic book is usually a fraction of the cost of a printed book, and then they consider the convenience of carrying and storing the book, and the benefits of having many books on their reading device and at your fingertips. Through e-books, students can fulfill a word or phrase search efficiently with a screen touch, and some readers have the capability of highlighting and ability to take notes.

E-books also update more efficiently than traditional paper textbooks which have to be reprinted, making e-books more environmentally friendly. Technology holds improving e-readers and e-books, and now there are connecting capabilities to educational websites, and

interactive sites for student participation, collaboration, and engagement (Liaw & Huang, 2016). For students, it may find e-books easier to use than faculty, since the majority of students have been brought up in the technology age and use some form of technology every day. Most of the students have a cell phone, and most of their cell phones have internet. Students are also used to being linked to the internet through social sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and other social sites. An issue of having students pay a cheap course materials fee which would cover whatever e-book the instructor chooses would be an advantage for publishers, universities, and students.

This platform would ensure the publisher e-book was not copied illegally, and that the university was not bogged down with useless, not purchased printed textbooks. This need would then enable the school to buy the e-books in bulk, and that the student for a small fee would have a required e-book for their courses. For the students who want a hard copy of the textbook, a solution would be to print out the section needed. Surely, buying an old-cultured textbook is always a choice, but considering price, convenience, and a technology future, e-books appear to have the advantage (Young, 2010).

Finally, faculty could get benefit from e-books because there may be a way for them to customize the e-book to their course, to include lecture notes, practice tests, and links to relevant websites to enhance the course material (Alkadi & Johnson, 2009). Many faculties have utilized the advantages of technology in the area of online courses, and the addition of e-books can be proven to be an easy changing from the traditional printed textbook, or at least some incorporation of e-books to ease into the change.

One fundamental reason to incorporate e-books is the inevitable change to a more technologically driven educational environment. Stay on wide-minded and learning about technology will keep higher education institutions, faculty, and students' current on new technologies and will assure they remain cutting edge and not left behind in this technology-driven age.

In short, it can be said that some the advantages of using e-books as following:

- Interesting features. E-book features may especially influence children's literacy skills: font size manipulation, text-to-speech tools, dictionaries, automatic page turning, and animation hotspots. It means that e-book features are more complete and exciting. The e-book can build up the motivation of the reader by its features (Jones & Brown, 2011; Larson, 2010; Vaala & Takeuchi, 2012).
- Portable. The e-book is very easy to be carried and accessed anywhere and anytime. The e-book is very portable, just finding the comfortable place and reading can be started. It does not take a long time to find the topic of the e-book you want to read (Liaw & Huang, 2016; Jones & Brown, 2011).
- Low lighting. Gadgets needed to access the e-book. By using the device, it does not require illumination anymore, because gadget has its light. Reading e-book via gadget can be done in low light place, even in the darkness (Vaala & Takeuchi, 2012).
- Save world. The e-books are different from the books. The e-book is the electronic book that can be accessed through gadget or computer. Books consist of several sheets of paper and ink. It means the more people are using e-books, the less tree felling. It can be said that e-book can reduce the consumption of paper and ink (Vaala & Takeuchi, 2012).

## **The disadvantages of E-books**

E-books or electronic books are proven to have many advantages over textbooks. On the contrary, based on Nicholas and Lewis (2010) e-book also have some disadvantages. They are:

- The device. The device makes everything easy and practical. On the other hand, the device has limited battery life and has to be charged. In another case, the price of the invention is higher than the printed book.
- Internet connection. To access the e-book, it needs the internet connection. Sometimes, the reader may have technical problems, and the user would not have access to the e-book. Internet connection is not always available in the remote area.
- Eyestrain. Reading e-books always through the device and it is the impact on the readers' eyes moreover when the reader do it in a long time. Many of the readers get eye strain after reading the e-book.
- Resistance to change. In this modern era, there are many new technologies gadget innovated. Some people try it out, just because it is new, but the others avoid changing the core habit. Same as the e-book, some people try it out, but the others are still comforted by the printed book.
- Security vulnerabilities. The e-book vulnerable to the virus, the file will be lost. It needs some securities to protect e-book files. There are some securities applications are not free.

In Indonesia today, the source of legal e-books has not been too much, among others released by the Ministry of National Education with the opening of Electronic School Book (Buku Sekolah Elektronik or BSE). BSE is a legally licensed legal e-book covering textbooks from basic to advanced. To know the structure of e-books market in Indonesia is quite tricky because the market itself is still in the early process of development. Of the many that use e-books in Indonesia, more of them use external e-books service providers compared to those in Indonesia.

Yes, today's e-books have been successful as an alternative means used by the authors to be able to share their knowledge. No longer is limited to the publisher's taste usually based on profit and loss calculations. Thus, e-books create hegemonic counters over capital owners or significant publishers (Kobysia, Zarichanska & Bobliienko, 2017).

## **CONCLUSION**

E-learning contributes to learning, training or education program through electronic means. E-learning requires the use of a computer or electronic device like a mobile phone in some way to provide training, educational or learning material. The e-book is learning innovation that used through e-learning. The e-books are dedicated to those of readers of electronic media or e-books devices through computers, or it could be through mobile phones that can be used to read this e-book. With the presence of this e-book readers are made accessible not to keep their favorite books in physical form (current books) and also facilitate for writers in spreading his writings because through this e-book one does not need to come to the publishers just want his papers can be published. If a writer wants to sell or

distribute his writing with the e-book, this is one shortcut, and this also applies to readers or seekers of knowledge on the internet.

Like many document manuals/papers that can not necessarily be called books, there are so-called flyers, brochures, pamphlets, and more. Then the file document to be called an e-book must meet the rules of writing books and arrange in the form of books only not be realized physically (in-print). E-books extended pdf (portable document format) is an electronic book that can be opened with pdf reader programs like adobe acrobat reader, Foxit reader, and the like. The pdf format is more widely used in e-books making because this file is more practical and comfortable in the management of manufacture. We can convert document word into pdf with adobe acrobat or other programs. The advantages of this pdf file are the small file size can even be optimized for embedded images in it, comfortable to read/print, and most importantly there is a setting facility using a passcode in either reading, editing, or for printing.

In English language teaching, teachers may find helpful by the e-books. However, printed books will never be forgotten, it also an important thing in teaching and learning process. The e-book is a soft file of a published book itself. E-books help students more practice in access the knowledge and information from World Wide Web that may be the printed book are not available. However, the meaning of both e-book and published book are the same. It is guidance in seeking information about something.

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