

## Utilization of Digital Literacy Technology in English Language Course Institutions

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### ABSTRACT

Technological developments of education are increasingly influencing institution, such as English language courses. This study aims to determine the benefits that can be felt from the existence of digital literacy technology in English language course institutions. The method used in this research is a descriptive method through a literature review or literature study. According to Milya Sari and Asmendri (2020: 44) literature study is one of the research methods carried out by collecting information and data using various kinds of sources in the library, such as reference books, research results similar, previous articles, notes, and various reviews related to research problems. This literature study will produce secondary data. According to Edi Riadi (2016: 48) (in Meita Sekar Sari and Muhammad Zefri, 2019: 311), secondary data is data generated indirectly from the research object. The results of the study found that using digital literacy in English courses is beneficial for improving students' English skills, for example, by giving assignments to review and create an article, which can then be presented in learning activities. Thus, students can improve their knowledge, writing, and communication skills using English.

**Keywords:** Digital literacy, english course, technology.

### INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, all aspects of life are highly dependent on information and communication technology. The role of an educator as a whole is as a teacher, mentor, and parent at school. The current

technological sophistication cannot replace the role of an educator. Although the teaching profession is not significantly affected by the industrial revolution 4.0, educators should not be complacent about the current conditions. According to Muliadi (2019) (in Shalahudin Ismail, et al., 2020: 199), educators must continue to update and improve their abilities to become educators who can produce higher quality resources. Thus, in executed their work, teachers need to have skill that are following their era.

Technological developments in education are increasingly influencing each other, such as in English language course institutions. It is undeniable that the first international language that has been widely used so far is English. English is widely taught in many countries around the world. This information technology must be considered and utilized by educators and students in disseminating information. The current generation needs to improve digital literacy in order to be able to use information and communication technology (ICT) carefully, wisely, critically, and appropriately. Many irresponsible people can quickly spread information that is not true. Thus, technology and communication are currently a new challenge for educators in dealing with problems related to irresponsible people.

From research by Dinie Anggraeni Dewi, et al., (2021: 5255), character education with digital literacy is an effort to fulfil the use of digital literacy in today's all-technological world and is a challenge for teachers. In addition, from research by Entri Anggeraini, et al., (2019: 388), the focus of the digital era is not only on learning facilities, internet access, and online resources but also on the readiness of teachers to be literate in digital literacy, which is the most important in order to deal with digital teaching. Thus, a teacher needs to have skills in using this growing technology.

As a course institution that focusing on the language field, it certainly has challenges in many ways. These challenges can encourage English teachers to adjust their role in language learning, and fulfil their responsibilities as English teachers (L. Angelianawati, 2019). Therefore, this study aims to determine the benefits of digital literacy technology in English language course institutions.

## **METHOD**

The method used in this research is a descriptive method through a literature review or literature study. According to Milya Sari and Asmendri (2020: 44), the literature study is one of the research

methods executed in a way collecting information and data using various kinds of sources in the library, such as reference books, similar previous research results, articles, notes, and various journals related to research problems. The steps in the literature study, according to Zed (2008) (in Milya Sari and Asmendri, 2020: 44), comprises the following steps:

1. Identify a broad concept related to the research topic.
2. Conduct a search for relevant information that supports the chosen topic.
3. Refine the focus of the research based on the gathered information.
4. Search for and locate the necessary reading materials, then organize them into appropriate categories.
5. Read and take research notes while going through the selected materials.
6. Review and further enhance the collected reading materials.
7. Reassess the categorized reading materials and commence the writing process to compile the research report.

In conducting this literature study, the aim is to generate secondary data. As stated by Edi Riadi (2016: 48) (in Meita Sekar Sari and Muhammad Zefri, 2019: 311), secondary data refers to information acquired indirectly from the research object. The compilation results of several previous studies were then used to conclude the benefits of digital literacy technology are for English language course institutions.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

In the contemporary era of the 21st century, technological advances are developing rapidly and various digital technologies have been designed to facilitate people's activities. Technology is developing very fast, which can easily influence and change people's daily lives. Currently, technology is not a foreign thing. According to Martinus Tekege (2017: 42), information technology in education today is practical, easy, and helps in learning so that it can seek knowledge or insight more easily and widely. With this increasingly sophisticated information and communication technology, of course, every element of society needs to have good digital literacy skills. Digital literacy includes more than just skills in operating technological devices, but to receive and share information to live prosperously.

Livingstone (2004) (in Ajani Restianty, 2018: 85), in his study, highlighted that in the context of modern media advancements, such

as the internet and social media, it is imperative to undertake efforts in analyzing multimedia texts, interactions, cultural diversity, and visual aesthetics. The distinct characteristics of social media can be observed through the classification of seven categories, which are as follows:

1. A social network refers to a platform that enables users to establish and manage their profiles, share various types of content, and form connections and friendships with others. Prominent examples of social networks include Facebook and Instagram.
2. Blogs, commonly known as online journals, allow users with a platform to document a range of information, ideas, thoughts, perspectives, and personal experiences. Examples of blogging platforms include Kompasiana and Blogspot.
3. Wikis allows users to collaboratively contribute, modify, and edit data or information, with the ability to save the changes made. A notable example of a wiki platform is Wikipedia.
4. Forums are online community platforms where individuals with similar hobbies, interests, or talents can gather to engage in discussions, share insights, and contribute to the creation of trends or public discourse. An example of such a forum is Kaskus.
5. Content-sharing platforms provide users with the ability to distribute and manage various forms of content, including photos and videos. A prominent example of a content-sharing platform is YouTube.
6. Microblogging is a hybrid of social networking and blogging, focusing on sharing content in a concise and rapid manner. It emphasizes brevity and quick dissemination of information. Twitter serves as a prime example of a microblogging platform.
7. Commercial social media platforms are utilized for selling various types of content, such as music or videos. An example of such a platform is iTunes.

Given the inevitable advancements in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), it becomes imperative for every individual to enhance their literacy in ICT. Consequently, it is crucial to promote the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) literacy from an early age within the educational sphere. Various training programs for state officials, ministries and internal institutions are required to be integrated with Information and Communication Technology (ICT). So that several programs or policies in the world of education and learning must be integrated with Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Helaluddin (2019:52-53) outlines various forms or policy programs in the field of education that have successfully integrated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into their implementation. Some of these include:

1. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Based Selection Process.
2. Management of Electronic Scientific Journals.
3. Online Libraries (on the network).
4. Campus Academic System.
5. Utilization of the Internet in Learning (blended learning)

In addition, the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in study as well be done by using the intranet, using mobile phones, using CDs, using ROOM/flash disks, teleconferences, and others. If at this time there are people who stutter with technology, it will be too late to get information. Thus, falling behind to get more opportunities and opportunities to move forward. This is because information plays an important role in the era of information society (information society) and knowledge society. Therefore, Indonesia needs to cultivate digital literacy which does not only boast literacy and numeracy, but also applies digital literacy to all aspects of life including education. Every community should know that digital literacy is the most important thing that will be used to contribute and play a role in the global era.

Digital literacy is a life skill that cannot be separated from reading, counting and writing. An advanced and developed education can be measured by citizens who are able to compete and accompany other citizens and even other countries in creating prosperity. Education in the 21st century emphasizes mastery of six basic literacies so that students can collaborate and win global competition. These six basic literacies are reading and writing literacy, numeracy literacy, science literacy, digital literacy, financial literacy, and cultural and civic literacy (Word Economic Forum, 2015).

Apart from technology, digital literacy is also very useful for improving English skills. Therefore, technology also plays a role as a learning medium, including in English courses. Learning that uses information and communication technology media can produce a considerable influence in the process of transforming conventional education into digital form. According to constitution in Indonesia Number 20 of 2003 Article 26 paragraph 5, courses and training are a form of continuing education to develop a student's ability by emphasizing mastery of skills, competency standards, developing an entrepreneurial attitude and developing a professional personality.

Teachers also cannot convey material optimally due to space and time limitations during online learning. Therefore, currently, teachers need to be more creative in compiling media, and methods, and also looking for various learning resources to make students more motivated to study. Learning during the past pandemic required teacher expertise and skills to find and apply the right solutions to various problems, such as the introduction of digital literacy-based learning. The teacher must also be able to invite students to adapt to changes in the learning environment which demands more students to be more active and able to learn independently wherever they are. This finding aligns with previous research, which emphasizes the importance of teachers staying updated and assuming various roles as agents of change. Teachers should act as learning consultants with strong moral values, social sensitivity, and the ability to think critically and honestly, enabling them to work effectively in an ever-evolving educational landscape (Wartomo, 2016:202).

According to Farhana's research, some of the weaknesses in the current English learning process that are often encountered are teachers who do not innovate with learning resources or teaching materials used, so the material provided by teachers is not up to date or out of date. In addition, the teacher's lack of competence in using appropriate learning methods can also make students easily bored because they are only instructed to record vocabulary, translate, memorize and then given homework assignments with unclear instructions so that answers become ambiguous (Farhana, *et al.*, 2021:5).

Teachers will have varied digital-based learning methods and media and the negative impact of digital developments in education can be minimized. Digital literacy in learning English has many benefits, including making it easier for students and teachers to get various and inexpensive learning references. This is in accordance with Farhana's statement (Farhana, *et al.*, 2021:16), which says that armed with internet quota and opening applications on their devices, students and teachers can find various kinds of up-to-date information free of charge. Learning also becomes more fun because digital-based teaching materials in English lessons that have been designed by teachers are potentially effective in increasing learning and teaching outcomes and interest in students.

Apart from technology, digital literacy is also very useful for improving English language skills. Therefore, technology is utilized as a medium of learning, one of which is in English courses. Learning that uses information and communication technology media can produce considerable influence in the process of transforming conventional

education into a digital form. According to constitution in Indonesia Number 20 of 2003 Article 26 paragraph 5, courses and training are a form of continuing education to develop a learner's ability by emphasizing mastery of skills, competency standards, development of entrepreneurial attitudes and professional personality development.

Technology has a very important for every community who wants to improve their ability to keep up with the increasingly competitive competition in various fields. One of them is the ability to communicate well and precisely. The most important means of communication throughout the world is language. Without language, people cannot communicate to express their thoughts and feelings. Integrated language mastery includes speaking, listening, reading and writing skills which are important components of learning. As we know that the international language that is widely used is English. An example of the utilization of digital literacy in English courses is to make educators create discussion topics and send them to learners via email, then learners start writing compositions or essays in English and discuss work and send it back to the educator (Yentri Anggeraini, et al., 2019).

Another application of digital literacy conducted by the English course is giving assignments to review an article and create an article that can be presented in the lesson. Thus, learners can improve their knowledge, writing and communication skills using English. Digital literacy can affect learners' performance. Factors that affect performance are the effectiveness and efficiency of a job that can ultimately facilitate members (Dadan Darmawan, 2017).

Implementing digital literacy in English course institutions requires competent instructors who always keep up with the times. As stated by Dadan Darmawan (2016), instructors is a professional educator whose job is to educate, teach, guide, direct, train, assess, and evaluate students at training course institutions. Dewi Retno Wulandari (2021) (in Darmawati, 2022: 213) through her research entitled "The Effectiveness of Digital Literacy Services to Increase Student Reading Interest during the Covid-19 Pandemic", obtained research results that this digital literacy is considered effective in increasing students' interest in reading, especially during covid-19, in this study also shows that many students are diligent in reading through digital literacy services because the information provided is diverse and easily accessible.

Digital literacy brings about a multitude of advantages in online learning, saving time, expedited information retrieval, cost-effectiveness, enhanced safety, access to up-to-date information, constant connectivity, informed decision-making, increased

productivity, enhanced well-being, and the potential to make a positive impact on the world. Technological literacy does not mean we have to accept everything in the flow of technology, so technology must be accompanied by capabilities, namely digital literacy skills. Therefore, it is essential to incorporate digital literacy technology in English language course institutions, aligning with students' internet accessibility requirements, to facilitate effective and successful learning outcomes.

## CONCLUSION

This journal research employs a descriptive methodology through a literature review or literature study, utilizing existing sources such as books, similar research results, articles, notes, and relevant journals pertaining to the research problems, for the purpose of data collection. Through this literature study, it will produce secondary data, where this data is not obtained directly from the object of research but only compiled with several previous studies, then analyzed the source of the discussion, and concluded the results that have been obtained.

The utilization of digital literacy carried out by English course institutions is by giving assignments to review an article and create an article which can then be presented in learning. Thus, students can increase their knowledge, write and communicate using English. In addition, the advantages of digital literacy in facilitating the execution of online learning activities amid the Covid-19 pandemic, based on research conducted by Dewi Retno Wulandari (2021), are considered effective, namely saving time, finding information faster, saving costs, being safer, get updated information, make decisions more effectively, making individuals work, feeling happier, and influencing the world.

Technological literacy does not mean we have to accept everything in the flow of technology, so technology must be accompanied by capabilities, namely digital literacy skills. Digital literacy is an ability that will lead us to become technologically literate individuals in current, future, and so on technological developments. Consequently, the integration of digital literacy technology becomes essential in English language course institutions to align with students' requirements in accessing the internet, thereby fostering effective and successful learning outcomes.

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