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Exploring Students' Perspectives on Extensive and Intensive Reading Methods to Enhance Reading Skill

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Abstract—Reading skill is one of the important aspects of English language learning that plays a major role in supporting students' vocabulary acquisition, text understanding, and critical thinking skill. However, many students still experience difficulties in understanding English reading texts, both in terms of content and language structure. This shows the need for the right approach or strategy in learning to read. One of the efforts that can be made is by using extensive reading and intensive reading methods. Both methods can be used in the learning process to help students develop their reading skill more effectively and diversely according to the learning needs. This study aims to explore students' perspectives on the use of both methods in enhancing their reading skill. This research used a qualitative case study approach or method. The results show that both reading methods can enhance students' reading skill. Extensive reading provides relatively little enhancement in reading skill, especially in enriching vocabulary and reading fluency. Meanwhile, the intensive reading method provides a more thorough reading enhancement, including in-depth understanding of the text, analytical ability, and answering questions in detail. The conclusion of this study is that using extensive and intensive reading methods together can provide more effective results in enhancing students' reading skill.

Keywords— Students' Perspectives, Extensive Reading, Intensif Reading, Reading Skill.

abstrak—Keterampilan membaca merupakan salah satu aspek penting dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris yang berperan besar dalam mendukung penguasaan kosakata, pemahaman teks, serta kemampuan berpikir kritis siswa. Meskipun demikian, banyak siswa masih mengalami kesulitan dalam memahami teks bacaan berbahasa Inggris, baik dari segi isi maupun struktur bahasa. Hal ini menunjukkan perlunya perlunya pendekatan atau strategi yang tepat dalam pembelajaran membaca. Salah satu upaya yang dapat dilakukan adalah dengan menggunakan metode membaca ekstensif dan membaca intensif. Kedua metode ini dapat digunakan dalam proses pembelajaran untuk membantu siswa mengembangkan keterampilan membaca mereka secara lebih efektif dan beragam sesuai dengan kebutuhan pembelajaran. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplor perspektif siswa terhadap penggunaan kedua metode tersebut dalam meningkatkan keterampilan membaca mereka. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan atau metode studi kasus kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kedua metode membaca tersebut dapat meningkatkan keterampilan membaca siswa. Membaca ekstensif memberikan peningkatan keterampilan membaca yang relatif sedikit, terutama dalam memperkaya kosakata dan kelancaran membaca. Sementara itu, metode membaca intensif memberikan peningkatan membaca yang lebih menyeluruh, termasuk pemahaman

mendalam terhadap teks, kemampuan analisis, dan menjawab pertanyaan secara detail. Simpulan dari penelitian ini bahwa penggunaan metode membaca ekstensif dan intensif secara bersamaan dapat memberikan hasil yang lebih efektif dalam meningkatkan keterampilan membaca siswa.

Kata kunci – Perspektif Siswa, Membaca Ekstensif, Membaca Intensif, Keterampilan Membaca.

INTRODUCTION

There are four main skills in English language learning that students must master, namely listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Among the four skills, reading is an important aspect that needs to be taught intensively because it can open new insights and opportunities for learners (Mustaviyah et al., 2018). According to Fitriyani, et al. (2019), reading skill is a cognitive process that involves attention, understanding, and analysis of text to obtain information optimally. Meanwhile, Zaini, et al. (2016) stated that reading skills include the ability to recognize, understand, interpret, and evaluate text in an effective manner in order to achieve certain goals. It can be said that reading skill is an important aspect of English language learning because it not only helps students understand information, but also trains critical thinking skill and supports the mastery of other language skill. By mastering reading skill effectively, students are able to absorb information and broaden their knowledge horizons.

Learning reading skill should focus on developing students' ability to understand the content of the text. According to Slamet (2020) reading skill are the ability to access the meaning of written text with various strategies such as skimming, scanning, intensive, and extensive reading. Based on this statement, teachers need to choose effective methods so that students can understand the material easily and the learning process remains fun without causing boredom. The strategies or methods used in enhancing reading skill that are most commonly used in teaching reading skill are extensive reading and intensive reading.

Previous research has extensively discussed the effectivity of these two methods separately. Day and Bamford (2017) stated that extensive reading, which is reading a large amount of text with general understanding, can enhance students' reading fluency and learning motivation. Meanwhile, Grabe (2014) emphasized that in-depth intensive reading of short and complex texts plays an important role in the development of analytical skill and detailed understanding of language structures. In addition, research by Hsu (2018) shows that extensive reading helps students build positive reading habits, while Snow (2018) highlights the importance of intensive reading in structured academic and language learning contexts.

However, most studies focus on how effective the method is in terms of student learning outcomes or how teachers teach it. The approach is also mostly quantitative. In fact, not many have really explored how students themselves experience the reading process with extensive and intensive methods. In addition, understanding how students interpret the process of learning to read through these two methods is important to know the extent to which these methods suit their preferences and comfort such as, whether they feel suitable, comfortable, or even difficult when learning with these methods.

I also found this in the school where I researched, SMAN 1 Parengan, especially in class XI. Although teachers have applied both methods in reading activities, there has been no systematic study that explores how students respond to these methods, whether they feel helped, motivated, or even experience obstacles in understanding the material. Some students tend to enjoy reading light reading freely or extensive reading, while others feel they understand better when reading deeply and guided or intensive reading. This difference in experience and perspective indicates the importance of further research to understand the real situation in the field from the perspective of the students themselves.

Based on the explanation above, there are several problem formulations as follows: (1) What are students' perspectives on the extensive reading method to enhance reading skill? (2) What are students' perspectives on the intensive reading method to enhance reading skill?. In relation to the problems mentioned, this study aims to achieve the following objectives: (1) To explore students' perspectives on the extensive reading method (2) To explore students' perspectives on the intensive reading method.

METHOD

This research was conducted at SMAN 1 Parengan, located in Sukorejo Village, Parengan, Tuban Regency. This research was conducted on January to - April 2025. The subjects in this study were eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Parengan, with a sample of 37 students from class XI-2. This class was chosen based on the consideration of a representative number of students and a stable attendance rate, as well as being able to provide a relevant overview of students' perspectives on the use of extensive and intensive reading methods in English subjects with a focus on enhancing students' reading skill.

The research method used by researchers was a qualitative case study. According to Yin (in Yazan, 2015), case studies were one of the most frequently used qualitative research methodologies. However, this method still did not have a legitimate status as a social science research strategy because it did not have a well-defined and structured protocol (Mustaviyah., 2018).

The data collected in this study is qualitative data. The data was obtained through observation during the learning process and implementation of actions in the field. In addition, researchers also used questionnaires to explore students' perspectives on the methods applied, and conducted interviews with several students as supporting data. Documentation in the form of photos in learning activities, materials used by students, and interviews with students were also used to be part of the data analyzed in this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Researchers process, present and analyze data obtained through observation, questionnaires, interviews, and documentation methods. In this study, observations were made by making field notes containing important things that occurred during the learning process. The questionnaires given consisted of two types, namely closed questionnaires that provided answer choices, and open questionnaires that allowed students to give their opinions directly. For interviews, researchers used structured

interviews with pre-prepared questions to keep the discussion focused on the topic under study.

The first problem, related to students' perspectives on the extensive reading method to enhance reading skill. Based on the data obtained from observations, questionnaires, interviews, and documentation, the majority of students showed a positive view of the extensive reading method in enhancing their reading skill. The results field note of observation during the use of the extensive reading method showed that during reading, some students seemed to enjoy the text. After reading, the teacher asked questions that made the discussion more active, especially among the less enthusiastic students. Some students were able to explain the content of the text well, while others had difficulty remembering important points. The lesson ended with an assignment to find a short article in English and write a summary. Overall, the lesson went well although some students still had difficulty understanding the text. The results of the closed questionnaire also showed a positive reaction from students to this method. A total of 78.4% of students agreed and 8.1% strongly agreed that they felt encouraged to discuss their reading with friends or teachers after extensive reading. In addition, 81.1% of students agreed and 8.1% strongly agreed that they enjoyed reading a large amount of text using this method. Most students also felt motivated to read more after using the extensive reading method, with a percentage of 75.7% students agreeing and 10.8% strongly agreeing. Furthermore, 56.8% of students agreed and 10.8% strongly agreed that the extensive reading method could enhance their English reading skill. Based on these results, it can be concluded that the majority of students feel that the extensive reading method is effective in enhancing their reading skill, as can be seen in the following table of the closed questionnaire results regarding the extensive reading method.

Table 1. Result Data of the Questionnaire Extensive Reading

| No | Statements | SD | D | A | SA |
|----|---|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | I enjoy reading large amounts of text using the extensive reading method. | 5,4 % (2) | 5,4 % (2) | 81,1 % (30) | 8,1 % (3) |
| 2. | Extensive reading helps me understand the overall content of the text without having to analyze it in detail. | 2,7 % (1) | 24,3 % (9) | 59,5 % (22) | 13,5 % (5) |
| 3. | I feel more confident when reading long texts | 5,4 % (2) | 18,9 % (7) | 64,9 % (25) | 10,8 % (4) |

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | using the extensive reading method. | (2) | (7) | (24) | (4) |
| 4. | Extensive reading helps me understand the meaning of new words through context. | 8,1 % | 27 % | 56,8 % | 8,1 % |
| | | (3) | (10) | (21) | (3) |
| 5. | By reading extensively, I feel that my understanding of grammar has been enhanced. | 5,4 % | 18,9 % | 62,2 % | 13,5 % |
| | | (2) | (7) | (23) | (5) |
| 6. | Extensive reading enhanced my reading speed without compromising my comprehension of the content. | 5,4 % | 16,2 % | 64,9 % | 13,5 % |
| | | (2) | (6) | (24) | (5) |
| 7. | I find it easier to remember and add vocabulary that often appears in extensive reading. | 5,4 % | 16,2 % | 62,2 % | 16,2 % |
| | | (2) | (6) | (23) | (6) |
| 8. | I feel motivated to read more after using the extensive reading method. | 2,7 % | 10,8 % | 75,7 % | 10,8 % |
| | | (1) | (4) | (28) | (4) |
| 9. | With extensive reading, I feel more comfortable reading the text without having to translate each word one by one. | 8,1 % | 21,6 % | 59,5 % | 10,8 % |
| | | (3) | (8) | (22) | (4) |
| 10. | Extensive reading helps me to understand the general ideas and information in the text more quickly. | 5,4 % | 21,6 % | 59,5 % | 13,5 % |
| | | (2) | (8) | (22) | (5) |
| 11. | I can understand the content of the reading without having to use a dictionary frequently when applying the | 10,8 % | 29,7 % | 48,6 % | 10,8 % |
| | | (4) | (11) | (18) | (4) |

| | extensive reading method. | | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 12. | I find it easier to understand academic reading after frequent and extensive reading of various texts. | 8,1 % (3) | 27 % (10) | 54,1 % (20) | 10,8 % (4) |
| 13. | Extensive reading helps me build the habit of reading in English independently and sustainably. | 5,4 % (2) | 24,3 % (9) | 62,2 % (23) | 8,1 % (3) |
| 14. | I feel encouraged to discuss my reading with friends or teachers after extensive reading. | 2,7 % (1) | 10,8 % (4) | 78,4 % (29) | 8,1 % (3) |
| 15. | I feel that the extensive reading method can enhance my English reading skill. | 5,4 % (2) | 27 % (10) | 56,8 % (21) | 10,8 % (4) |

These results are in line with the results of the open-ended questionnaires from the students which showed that most of them felt the method helped enhance their reading skill. The majority of students reported that the method helped enhance their reading speed, understanding of text content, and overall reading fluency. Many of them admitted that they became faster in reading long texts, understood the content more easily without having to translate word by word, and acquired more new vocabulary during the reading process. This made the reading process feel more natural and enjoyable. In addition, students also feel more motivated to read because they do not feel burdened by analyzing the text too deeply. Factors such as interest in reading, internal motivation, as well as the selection of readings that are suitable for ability are considered important aspects that support the success of this method. The strategies used in learning also play an important role, especially strategies that aim to influence students' motivational or emotional conditions, as well as how they select, acquire, organize, or process new knowledge (Nurdianingsih, 2018).

On the other hand, some students still experienced problems, such as difficulty understanding the content of the text as a whole and felt that the benefits of this method had not been maximized. The obstacles they mentioned included lack of concentration, laziness while reading, and limited vocabulary and understanding of sentence structure. Although students' experiences of using the method varied, their responses were generally positive. Many felt more confident when reading, got used to summarizing their reading, and began to form the skill of reading independently. These results are reinforced by the results of the structured interviews, based on which all respondents stated that they were familiar with the extensive reading method and stated that this method is often used in English language learning.

However, although the method is familiar and some students find it efficient and fun, some students feel that its benefits have not had a significant effect on enhancing their reading skill. Some students also shared that they still have difficulties in comprehending the reading passage or applying effective reading strategies. In general, students' feelings towards this method tend to be neutral or only slightly favorable, and the perceived enhancement of reading skill is still limited. Thus, although the extensive reading method is considered quite effective by most students, its use still needs to be adjusted to the needs and abilities of students so that the results achieved are more optimal. One way to increase the effectivity of this method is to utilize interesting and varied teaching materials (Nurdianingsih et al., n.d.).

The second problem formulation is related to, students' perspectives on the intensive reading method to enhance reading skill. Based on the data obtained from observations, questionnaires, interviews, and documentation, the majority of students showed a positive view of the intensive reading method in enhancing their reading skill. The results of observation notes during the use of the extensive reading method showed that most students seemed focused and serious when reading texts using the intensive reading method. When discussing and answering questions, students who are used to reading in English are more confident, while students who are less accustomed appear hesitant and need help. In general, students' understanding varied, with some being able to explain the content of the text and others still having difficulties. In addition, the intensive reading method can help students develop a deeper understanding of the text, especially in terms of structure, vocabulary, and content. Overall, the method proved effective in helping students understand the text in depth, although it requires adjustments to support students with different levels of reading skill.

The results of the closed questionnaire showed a positive response to this intensive reading method. A total of 70.3% of students agreed and 13.5% strongly agreed that this method helped them build reading skill in a thorough and structured manner. In addition, 73% of students agreed and 8.1% strongly agreed that they felt more confident when reading difficult texts using this method, which shows that intensive reading is able to enhance students' confidence in dealing with challenging reading. Moreover, 83.8% of students agreed and 8.1% strongly agreed that they enjoyed reading texts carefully and thoroughly with this method. Intensive reading is also considered to help them understand the content of the text more deeply, as seen from 62.2% of students who agreed and 24.3% strongly agreed that this method made it easier for them to understand the details of each part of the text. Students also felt other benefits, namely easier to remember and add new vocabulary because they are accustomed to analyzing the text thoroughly. 81.1% of students agreed and 5.4% strongly agreed to this. In addition, 81.1% of students agreed and 8.1% strongly agreed that they felt more motivated to understand the text in depth, and 86.5% of students agreed and 5.4% strongly agreed that they felt more comfortable in analyzing the meaning of each word and sentence in the reading. Finally, 70.3% of students agreed and 16.2% strongly agreed that the intensive reading method had enhanced their overall reading ability. Based on all these data, it can be concluded that the majority of students found the intensive reading method effective and enjoyable, as well as able

to enhance various aspects of their reading skill. Questionnaire results of intensive reading can be viewed in table 2.

Table 2. Result Data of the Questionnaire Intensive Reading

| No | Statements | SD | D | A | SA |
|----|---|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | I enjoy reading texts carefully and thoroughly using the intensive reading method. | 5,4 % (2) | 2,7 % (1) | 83,8 % (31) | 8,1 % (3) |
| 2. | Intensive reading helps me understand the details of each part of the text better. | 8,1 % (3) | 5,4 % (2) | 62,2 % (23) | 24,3 % (9) |
| 3. | I feel confident when reading difficult texts with the intensive reading method. | 2,7 % (1) | 16,2 % (6) | 73 % (27) | 8,1 % (3) |
| 4. | Intensive reading helps me understand new meanings by deeply analyzing the context. | 2,7 % (1) | 8,1 % (3) | 78,4 % (29) | 10,8 % (4) |
| 5. | By reading intensively, I feel that my understanding of grammar has been enhanced. | 5,4 % (2) | 10,8 % (4) | 70,3 % (26) | 13,5 % (5) |
| 6. | Intensive reading enhances my accuracy in understanding the content. | 5,4 % (2) | 8,1 % (3) | 73 % (27) | 13,5 % (5) |
| 7. | I remember and add new vocabulary more easily because I often analyze it in the texts I read intensively. | 2,7 % (1) | 10,8 % (4) | 81,1 % (30) | 5,4 % (2) |

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 8. | I feel motivated to understand the text more deeply after using the intensive reading method. | 2,7 % (1) | 8,1 % (3) | 81,1 % (30) | 8,1 % (3) |
| 9. | I feel more comfortable reading the text by analyzing the meaning of each word and sentence. | 5,4 % (2) | 2,7 % (1) | 86,5 % (32) | 5,4 % (2) |
| 10. | Intensive reading helps me understand the ideas in the text in more detail. | 5,4 % (2) | 10,8 % (4) | 64,9 % (24) | 18,9 % (7) |
| 11. | I can understand the content more accurately when applying the intensive reading method. | 2,7 % (1) | 10,8 % (4) | 67,6 % (25) | 18,9 % (7) |
| 12. | I find it easier to understand academic reading after frequent intensive reading of texts. | 2,7 % (1) | 13,5 % (5) | 73 % (27) | 10,8 % (4) |
| 13. | Intensive reading helped me build the skill of reading in a thorough and structured manner. | 2,7 % (1) | 8,1 % (3) | 73 % (27) | 16,2 % (6) |
| 14. | I feel encouraged to discuss the details of my reading with friends or teachers after intensive reading. | 2,7 % (1) | 13,5 % (5) | 70,3 % (26) | 13,5 % (5) |
| 15. | I feel that the intensive reading method can enhance my overall reading skill. | 5,4 % (2) | 8,1 % (3) | 70,3 % (26) | 16,2 % (6) |

In the table above, the abbreviations SD, D, A, and SA refer to (1) Strongly Disagree (SD), (2) Disagree (D), (3) Agree (A), and (4) Strongly Agree (SA). This scale is part of the Likert scale used to assess the respondent's level of agreement with the statements in the questionnaire. The function of using the questionnaire table is to

systematically collect data regarding students' attitudes, opinions, or perspectives on the use of extensive and intensive reading methods in enhancing reading skill. By providing structured response options such as SD, D, A, and SA, the researchers was able to identify emerging response patterns and understand the students' views more deeply.

These results are in line with the results of the open-ended questionnaires from the students which showed that most of them felt that this method helped enhance their reading skill. Many students felt that the method was very effective in deepening their understanding of the text, both explicitly and implicitly, as well as helping them to be more thorough, accurate, and focused when reading. In addition, students also found it useful in enriching their vocabulary, enhancing their understanding of grammar, and enhancing their ability to write and analyze texts. Most respondents stated that this method enhanced their confidence when reading more complex texts, this is in line with the statement of Agustin, et al. (2024) which states that students' self-efficacy plays an important role in enhancing their reading skill. However, some factors such as difficult texts or lack of motivation can be barriers to the application of this method. Support from the learning environment, such as teachers and classmates, is essential to maintain students' enthusiasm and motivation. The experience gained by students after using the intensive reading method was very positive. They revealed that they experienced enhancement in their understanding of text content, vocabulary expansion, and text analysis and evaluation skill. In addition, students also felt an enhancement in their concentration, focus, and self-confidence. This method also helped them to enjoy the reading process more because they were used to doing it in a thorough and structured manner. Factors that facilitate the application of this method include student interest and motivation, good reading skill, and the use of appropriate learning strategies. Therefore, it is important for teachers to choose materials that match students' interests and create a supportive learning atmosphere to enhance the effectivity of intensive reading learning.

These results were reinforced by interviews conducted by the researchers. Based on the interviews, most students gave positive responses to the intensive reading method. They considered this method effective in helping them understand the text more deeply, enrich their vocabulary, and enhance their accuracy and concentration while reading. Many students also felt that this method could enhance their overall reading skill, although there were some who felt the enhancement was not very significant. In addition, students stated that intensive reading made them more focused and thorough in their reading, this is in line with Fitrianiingsih (2020) statement that students' verbal linguistic intelligence can be enhanced through focused and in-depth reading activities. Even though some felt that this method was sometimes too in-depth or difficult in some parts of the text.

Although there were challenges, such as difficulty understanding some words or sentences, the majority of students did not feel inhibited in applying this method. Most students also revealed that they enjoyed the reading process in this way as it enriched their knowledge, while enhancing their overall reading skill. Thus, this shows that the intensive reading method is an effective and suitable method for enhancing students' reading skill in a more structured and in-depth manner, as well as providing a more thorough and meaningful reading experience.

CONCLUSION

By using extensive and intensive reading methods, students' reading skill enhance, students can more easily understand the general ideas in the text, enhance reading fluency, enrich vocabulary, and also help students in enhancing their reading skill (extensive reading). Many students also felt that (intensive reading) helped enhance their overall reading skill by understanding the content of the text in more depth and analysis, as well as effectively enhancing accuracy and concentration while reading. It also enhanced students' understanding of grammatical structures and enriched their vocabulary. Thus, it can be said that both extensive and intensive reading methods can enhance students' reading skill. The use of these two methods can enhance students' reading skill. By using extensive and intensive reading methods together, it can provide more effective results in enhancing students' reading skill.

Students' perspectives on the use of extensive reading methods in enhancing reading skill were generally positive and varied. Students' responses to this method are very positive and also diverse. This means that students are happy and like the use of this method because they feel or think this method helps them in enhancing reading skill, enhancing reading fluency, enriching vocabulary, and more easily understanding the general ideas in the text. Some students also felt that this method helped them build reading skill and enhance their motivation to read. Although there are some students who have negative opinions about this method, most students think that this method is effective in enhancing reading skill.

Students' perspectives on the use of intensive reading methods in enhancing students' reading skill were generally positive and varied. Many students' responses to the use of this method are very positive and also diverse, which means that students like and feel happy or like the use of this reading method. Many students stated that this method helped them enhance their overall reading skill. In addition, this method can enrich vocabulary, strengthen understanding of grammatical structures, and enhance accuracy and concentration when reading. Students can also understand the content of the text in depth with this method, this method also provides critical thinking skill when reading. Even so, there are also those who think negatively about the use of this method, but many students think this method is effective in enhancing reading skill.

This shows that the use of extensive as well as intensive reading methods can enhance students' reading skill.

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