

**The Utilization of Comic Strips  
for Educating Reading Skills in  
Primary School**

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**Abstract**

Primary school is one of the school levels that learn English. There are four English language skills, those are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. one of the important skills is reading because it is a basic skill that primary school students have to master due to the lot of information and knowledge can students get through reading. The use of various media can be utilized by teachers to support the learning process, such as comic strips. A comic strip is media that contains images, text, and other visualization to tell information in the form of a story. This research aims to implement a comic strip for educating primary school students' reading skills and also expand their vocabulary. The result shows that the utilization of comic strips helps teachers to facilitate and support the students to enhance their reading skills. In addition, the utilization of comic strips as learning media is useful to enhance reading skills at any level for students.

**Keywords:** *comic strips, primary school, reading*

**Abstrak**

*Sekolah dasar merupakan salah satu jenjang sekolah yang mempelajari Bahasa Inggris. Terdapat empat keterampilan berbahasa Inggris, yaitu mendengarkan, berbicara, membaca dan menulis. Adapun salah satu adalah keterampilan yang harus dikuasai oleh siswa sekolah dasar karena banyak informasi dan pengetahuan yang dapat diperoleh siswa adalah membaca. Penggunaan berbagai media dapat dimanfaatkan guru untuk menunjang proses pembelajaran, seperti komik strip. Komik strip adalah media yang berisi gambar, teks, dan visualisasi lainnya untuk menyampaikan informasi dalam bentuk cerita. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengimplementasikan komik strip untuk mendidik keterampilan membaca siswa sekolah dasar dan juga memperluas kosa kata mereka. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pemanfaatan komik strip membantu guru dalam memfasilitasi dan mendukung siswa untuk meningkatkan keterampilan membaca mereka. Selain itu, pemanfaatan komik strip sebagai media pembelajaran bermanfaat untuk meningkatkan kemampuan membaca bagi siswa pada tingkat manapun.*

**Kata kunci:** *komik strip, sekolah dasar, membaca*

## **1. Introduction**

Nowadays, the use of English as a foreign language becomes so important to learn since we are in primary school. Learning English at an early age will definitely deepen our understanding and knowledge of the language (Rokhayani et al., 2014). It is also already known that in Indonesia, the school levels start from primary till high schools teach English as a general subject that must be taught. Furthermore, English is not merely about the language itself, but it has four skills that learners have to master. Those skills include listening, speaking, reading, and writing, which are integrated into each other. It can be known, for mastering English we have to master those skills and especially for the primary school level where reading is the basic skill that has to be mastered because it is like a foundation for gaining a lot of information and knowledge (Setyawan, 2018).

Reading is such a daily activity that students do at school every day (Sadiku, 2015). Whatever subjects students get at school, it cannot be separated from reading activities (Setyawan, 2018). In mastering a language, reading skill is indeed the most important ability that must be mastered so that we understand the use of English as a foreign language. Enhancing students' reading skills will automatically improve their language ability. Occasionally, reading can be a boring activity for many students. Moreover, young learners who are still at the elementary school level will quickly feel bored if the reading activity cannot give them a different atmosphere. Providing interesting learning media to support students' reading skills is needed and teachers should be able to do it and give an appropriate reading that suits students' levels (Nafisah & Pratama, 2020).

The main key in the classroom that can provide proper reading for students is the teacher (Sulistyawati & Veniranda, 2021). Especially as teachers who teach at the elementary school level, they are required to be more adaptable and creative as possible to create a comfortable learning environment. There are many ways the teacher can do to support the learning process during reading activities, such as utilizing media (Yuliansih et al., 2021). Using media for the

teaching-learning process is such a miracle that can help the teacher to provide the exact activity for students (Kamil et al., 2017). Currently, in the educational field, there are already a lot of learning media that can fulfill students' needs (Kustyarini et al., 2020). Many varieties of media, such as visual, audio, audio-visual, tactile, and virtual can be utilized by teachers. One of example in a visual form that can be an interesting idea is comic strips.

The difficulty in providing a learning media that can support students' needs really affects their learning process (Rokhayani et al., 2014). The teachers' role is crucial so that students can get proper learning media to support their learning process, especially for enhancing reading skills. As stated by Setyawan, (2018) said that in teaching English as a foreign language, teachers will be experienced many obstacles, such as the limitation of time, learning media, learning sources, and the way to inspire students for gaining their interest so that they can enjoy during the reading activity. Therefore, by providing the right learning media it will be very helpful to increase student motivation so that they are enthusiastic and excited when getting reading activity.

One of the media that can be used for teaching reading skills is comic strips. Comic has been around for years (Darsalina et al., 2016). Comic is a medium that contains images, text, and other visualization to tell a piece of information in the form of a story. There are two types of comics, namely comic strips and comic books (Novitasari, 2020). Both of those types, comic strips can be an alternative for teachers to utilize as learning media that can support students' needs. In the teaching-learning process, especially as a learning media comics are very beneficial because they can stimulate students to gain their attention and motivation to be more attractive in reading. Comic strips can be defined as the combination of words and pictures to represent a story in the form of multimodal text (Wijaya et al., 2021). On another hand, comic strips refer to a series of drawings and pictures that tell a sequence of a story (Novitasari, 2020).

Comic strips are quite easy to find out on internet sources. Moreover, currently, there are

many applications that help to make our own comic strips. Previous recent research mostly mentioned that the use of comic strips for educational contexts brings a positive value as learning media during the classroom activity. For instance, the research conducted by Nafisah & Pratama, (2020) the result showed that most students gain their interest and motivation during the reading class using comic strips. On the other hand, similar research conducted by Maulana & Fitrawati, (2018) found that the use of comic strips helps to create such a good circumstance during the teaching-learning process, various strategies can also be implemented in order to make the reading activity to be more attention-grabbing. In addition, the research conducted by Aniza et al., (2022) also revealed that teaching reading by using comic strips merely helps students to get the better score and gain enthusiasm. Based on those previous research, it can be concluded that the utilization of comic strips for reading skills really give a positive effect on the students' improvement.

## **2. Research Questions**

There are three research questions are constructed to guide the analysis as follows:

1. How is the utilization of comic strips for educating reading skills in primary school?
2. What is the benefit in utilizing comic strips for educating reading skills in primary school?

## **3. Method**

This research uses PQRST (Preview, Question, Read, Summary/State, and Test) Method by Robinson, (1970) which is cited from Maulana & Fitrawati, (2018). The aim of the method is used to enhance students' comprehension of a text, especially for reading skills by utilizing comic strips. The PQRST Method is one of the strategies for reading a book that is intended to get benefit for the learning process, and this method also helps the students to comprehend the reading skill well. There are some steps that need to be followed in using PQRST Method. The instrument uses for this research is comic strips. Comic strips can be

defined as a series of pictures with a lot of illustrations that are packaged in a story. The data analysis technique used is descriptive qualitative, therefore it can clearly describe the benefits of utilizing comic strips for educating reading skills in primary school and the step by step of utilizing comic strips for educating reading skills in primary school.

## **4. Result and Discussion**

### **The Utilization**

There are three stages in implementing PQRST Method that has to be followed and the stages can be seen below.

### **Pre-teaching Activity**

Before getting into the core activity, the teacher begins the class with pre-teaching activity in order to boost students' motivation. The activities such as greeting, praying, taking attendance, and brainstorming.

### **Whilst-teaching Activity**

Whilst-teaching activity is the core part of the learning process. This is the part where PQRST Method is implemented to educate the reading skills by utilizing comic strips. There are three main stages in implementing PQRST. The stages can be seen below.

#### **a. Exploration**

The exploration step aims to help students discover more about the activity conducted during the core learning process. There are several activities that need to be done by students in this step, those are:

##### **1. Preview (P)**

In this step, the students are divided into a small group that can consist of 3-4 students. After that, the teacher shows and gives the comic strips to each group. In this case, the teacher asks students to think about what arises in their minds about the content of comic strips. This step aims to activate students' prior knowledge.

##### **2. Question (Q)**

In this step, the teacher asks some questions to students that arise out of curiosity about the content of comic strips. This step aims to broaden

students' insight into the content after reading in general.

**b. Elaboration**

The elaboration step is the core step in PQRS Method which aims to elaborate and expand students' knowledge in learning the reading skills. There are several activities that need to be done by students in this step, those are:

**1. Read (R)**

In this step, the teacher asks each group to read and understand the comic strips. After that, the representative of each group will be asked to represent the whole content of comic strips and also take note of difficult words that will be discussed together. This step aims to train students' critical thinking of their reading skills.

**2. State (S)**

In this step, the teacher asks each group to make a summary and state using their own words and knowledge about the content of comic strips that they have read. The students are not allowed to copy and paste because they have to state the summary originally based on their understanding. The representative of each group presents their work in front of the class. After that, the teacher and students discuss the difficult words that they have taken note of before.

**c. Confirmation**

The confirmation step is the last step which aims to reconfirm the students' understanding after getting into the reading activity. There is an activity that need to be done by students in this step, namely:

**1. Test (T)**

In this step, the teacher tests the students randomly by pointing at them in each group. The questions are only about the contents of the comics that have been read. This step aims to measure students' understanding of their comprehension in reading skills.

**Post-teaching Activity**

Post-teaching activity is the last step in the learning process. In this step, the teacher

evaluates the whole activities during the class conducted. The teacher also reassures students' understanding of what have they learned, therefore they also provided some homework or assignments.

**The benefits**

Utilizing comic strips for educating reading skills, especially in primary school gives several benefits to the students. The benefits can be seen below.

- Comic strips can stimulate students' metacognitive to understand the meaning easier because its catchy visualization.
- Comic strips can encourage students' reading skills.
- Comic strips can persuade the students during the reading activity.
- Comic strips that contain a lot of stimulating pictures can lead to the positive impact for readers.
- Comic strips offer a different reading experience because the content is quite different from other reading texts.
- Comic strips can help students to faster understand about authentic material during reading activities.
- Comic strips can help students to have strong memory in remembering the text's content because the text is accompanied by pictures.

This also supports by several similar previous studies that have been conducted. The research conducted by Purnama et al., (2023) revealed that the use of comic strips brings a very good effect on students' reading comprehension or it can be said that it improves students' reading skills significantly. In addition, the research by Setyawan, (2018) showed that several benefits can be gotten by students in using comic strips as learning media, besides students also agree that the use of comic strips gains their interest and enthusiasm. The other research conducted by Yuliani, (2020) discovered that the implementation of comic strips for teaching reading skills really influences the students' knowledge that can also expand their reading comprehension achievement. Thus, it can be known the utilization of comic strips according to

this research matches several similar previous research about the use of comic strips in teaching reading skills that gives a great impact for students.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the result above, the conclusion can be drawn that the method of this research is used PQRST (Preview, Question, Read, Summary/State, and Test) where there are several activities that must be followed by the teacher and students. Conducting a teaching-learning process, especially at the primary school level is actually tricky because the teachers have to suit the exact material and activity that can match students' levels and needs. The exact learning media also impact the students' achievement. The result shows that utilizing comic strips will give several benefits, such as stimulating students' metacognitive, encouraging students' reading skills, persuading the students during the reading activity, etc. This is also approved by several similar previous research, therefore the utilization of comic strips totally brings many changes to support students' reading skill.

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