



The Use of Comic Strips in Teaching English Language Skills (A Library Research)

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Abstract

Comic Strips is a type of media used to help students improve their English language skills. The purpose of this study is to describe the procedure of applying Comic Strips and to analyse the success of applying Comic Strips in teaching English language skills. The researcher used the library research method in this study. Data sources were taken from articles published between 2015 and 2023. The data consisted of 16 articles and were subdivided based on the use of Comic Strips in English language skills, speaking skills with 3 articles, reading skills with 5 articles, and writing skills with 8 articles. The researcher did not find any articles that used Comic Strips in teaching listening skills. The data were collected by applying the documentation technique. The result showed that the sixteen articles applied the Comic Strips in different ways and had no negative impact on English language skills. After applying Comic Strips in the classroom, students' English skills improved. The researcher argues that the application of Comic Strips media in teaching English language skills is effective because students' English language skills improved as a result of the study.

Keywords: *Comic Strips, Language Skills, Library research*

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INTRODUCTION

There are four important language skills to learn when learning English namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. All of those skills are closely related and very important to be mastered. Each skill has a function and purpose in English. Utilizing the four communication skills is very important in effective communication. According to Regitasari (2023), English is one of the adaptive subjects that aims to improve students' language skills. English is used as a means of communication both orally and in writing to convey information, thoughts, and feelings. In addition, English is also important in the development of science, technology and culture.

A comic strip is a composition of other pictures that are sequential and have the purpose of conveying information and visual response in the display. According to McCloud (2008)

comic is interpreted as a literary work in the form of images. Comic Strip is a combination of cartoon and storyline, designed to be a series of picture panels that cross the page and are about a continuous character, the dialogue using "balloons" containing written speech. As one of the suitable teaching media in today's era, comic strips can be used in language teaching. The benefits can be seen from the use of comic strips to improve language components and skills, such as vocabulary, grammar, reading skills, and writing skills. In addition to the benefits, comic strips also have their own challenges in language teaching. Therefore, it is important to know the challenges of using comic strips in language teaching to maximize the use of comic strips in the learning process, such as the perception that comic strips are entertainment, limited information on how to use comic strips in language learning, lack of ideas from students, inappropriateness of content, and unbalanced language exercises for students (Wijaya et al, 2021).

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analysing the implementation of Comic Strips in teaching English language skills. Researchers expected this research can be useful for teachers, readers and other researchers. For teachers and readers, they got information about comic strips as a media to teach and new learning strategies. Finally, the researcher hopes that the short explanation of the implementation of comic strips in this study can be a reference and information to support other researchers.

METHOD

Instruments

The data sources in the study are subjects from which data can gather for research purposes. Researchers search and collect data by collecting information from various sources, namely Google Scholar. In this case, it refers to the method used by the researcher, that is the literature such as scientific works, books, theses, journals, articles, and other printed materials into data. Researchers collected the journal articles as a sample related to the research title is based on the studies conducted from 2015-2023.

Procedures

Researchers conducted the documentation of documents related to the topic of this research. Analytical procedures in document analysis according to Bowen (2009) include searching, selection, assessment (understanding), and synthesis of the data contained in the document. Based on Bowen statement to obtain the data researchers took several steps as follows:

Searching valid data.

In this part, the researcher takes and collects data from journal articles available on the Google Scholar with the keywords "comic strips, reading comprehension".

Selecting the data

First, researchers will sort documents or data that are suitable for research. Researchers will evaluate the data sources that have been selected. Then, the researcher reads and understands the information contained in the data.

Assessment (understanding)

When gathering data, researchers concentrate on key information sources. This is done to ensure that every researcher's data is linked to this study. Elaborating on the information found from

the resources, then the researcher will take the essential part that is needed and related to the research.

Synthesis of the data contained in the document

By developing the cases or problems found in each data set, the researcher elaborates and relates the relationship to the research. The researcher also organizes the described data into classification. Organizing data aims to make data in order and classification.

Data analysis

The model of data analysis in this study uses content analysis. Luo (2021) explains that content analysis is a research method used to identify patterns in recorded communication. To conduct content analysis, the researcher systematically collect data from a set of texts, which can be written, spoken, or visual. Such as books, newspapers, magazines, speeches, interviews, web content, social media social media, and even photos and movies. Relevant data will be analyzed to answer the research problem. The results of the data analysis will be presented descriptively to evaluate and understand the text of the content analysis findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Are comic strips effective in increasing skills in English, as documented by research? conducted from 2015-2023

From the data analysis, the researcher found that comic strips were effective. Data was obtained from academic writings totaling 16 articles. The articles were subdivided based on the use of comic strips in English language skills. The articles were taken from Google Scholar conducted in 2015-2023. No one used comic strips in teaching listening skills. Meanwhile, the largest number of articles is in writing skills with 8 articles, followed by reading skills with 5 articles and finally speaking skills with 3 articles. In the table below, these findings are listed and explained.

Table 1. Comic strips on speaking skills

No	Title	Author/Year	Findings	Settings	Methodology
1	Teaching Grammar to Young Learners Using Comic Strips and GTM and The Impact on Their Speaking Skills	Edy Suseno and Setiawan (2020)	In this research, it was found that there was a positive impact on students' speaking skills by using comic strip media	Public Elementary School	Grammar-Translation Method (GTM)
2	The Effectiveness of Comic Strips in Increasing Students Speaking Ability in The Second Year of Junior High School	Ni'matul, Gusti Nur Hafifah, and Armeria Wijaya (2015)	The use of Comic Strips proved to be effective. The experimental class that used comic strips scored higher than the control class	Mts. Hidayatus Salam	Experimental design
3	The Effect of Comic Strips and Motivation on the Senior High School Students' Speaking Ability	Zul Amri, Rusdi Noor Rosa, and Helvi Yosi (2023)	The researcher concluded that there is a significant effect of comic strips on students' speaking ability	SMA Adabiah 2 Padang	Experimental method



Table 2. Comic strips on reading skills

No	Title	Author/Year	Findings	Settings	Methodology
1	The Effectiveness of Comic Strips Use Towards Reading Skill of The Seventh Grade Students of SMP N 9 Yogyakarta in The Academic Year 2016/2017	Arifiana Tri Wulandari and Soviyah (2017)	The use of Comic Strips in reading class proved to be effective. The experimental class that used comic strips scored higher than the control	SMP N 9 Yogyakarta	Experimental research
2	Using Comic Strips to Improve Students' Motivation and Reading Comprehension at MA. Raudlatusshibyan NW Belencong	Zuhrotun Nafisah and Aditya Pratama (2020)	The researcher concluded that there is a significant effect of comic strips on students' motivation and reading comprehension	MA. Raudlatusshibyan NW Belencong	Classroom Action Research (CAR)
3	The Use of Comic to Improve Students' Reading Comprehension Skill at Junior High School	Afwun Kamil, Endang Komariah and Yuliana (2017)	In this study, it was found that students' scores improved significantly by using comic strip media	SMPN 17 Banda Aceh	True Experimental design
4	The Effect of Comic Strips on Secondary EFL Students' Reading Comprehension and Writing Ability	M. Ridhwan, Muhammad Taufik Ihsan and Naskah (2018)	By using the comic strip strategy, this research shows that there is a significant effect on students' reading comprehension	MTsN 1 Pekanbaru	A Quasi Experimental research
5	Improving The Students' Reading Comprehension by Using Comic Strips at SMAMUHAMMADIYA H-7 Serbelawan Grade XI	Bennarita Purba and Mustika Rini (2021)	Using comic strips effective in improving students' reading comprehension	SMA MUHAMMADIYAH-7	Experimental design

Table 3. Comic strips on writing skills

No	Title	Author/Year	Findings	Settings	Methodology
1	The Effect of Comic Strips as Instructional Method in Enhancing Students' Writing Skills	Amrizal (2022)	This research finds that comic strips may improve students' descriptive writing	The Islamic Education at STAIN Mandailing Natal	Experimental method
2	The Influence of Comic Strips Media in Teaching Writing Skills to Tenth Grade Students in Cianjur	Syifa Butsainah Ulfa Suherman and Evie Kareviati (2021)	Comic Strips have a significant effect on students' writing skills	SMKN Cianjur	Pre-experimental design
3	The Effect of Comic Strips Technique and Learning Motivation Toward The Students' Achievement in English Writing in Nursing Students of STIKes Buleleng	Kadek Devy Marleni (2018)	The result shows that there was a significant difference on the students' writing competency between the students who were taught by using comic strips technique and conventional writing technique, in which the students who were taught	STIKes Buleleng	Experimental study



No	Title	Author/Year	Findings	Settings	Methodology
			by using comic strips technique had higher writing competency than those students who were taught by using conventional technique		
4	The Effectiveness of Using a Chain Writing Method with Comic Strips to Teach Writing to Junior High School Students	Herlina Rahmawati and Ratna Nurlia (2022)	This study shows that learning to write more effectively through chain writing with comic strips than through lecturing	SMP N 1 Sutojayan	A Quasi Experimental Methodology
5	The Implementation of Comic Strips to Improve Students' Writing Skills of The 11 th Grade Students of SMAN 4 Yogyakarta	Elizabeth Emmanuela Sulistyawati and Yohana Veniranda (2021)	The result in this study state that comic strips can improve students' writing skills	SMAN 4 Yogyakarta	Classroom Action Research (CAR)
6	Enhancing The Students Writing Ability by Using Comic Strips	Yusda Humola and Rasuna Talib (2016)	The use of comic strips can improve students' writing skills in narrative text	SMA Negeri 1 Tapa	Action research
7	Improving Writing Skill of The Eight Graders Through Comic Strips	Nur Hamidah, Sriati Usman and Muhsin (2015)	In this study, the use of comic strips is effective to improve the students' skill in writing narrative text	SMP Negeri 9 Palu	Pre-experimental research design
8	The Effect of Comic Strips on Students' Writing Skill in Narrative Text	Veren Widya and Ashari P.Swondo (2021)	There was a significant effect of comic strips on students' writing skill in narrative text	SMKS Sinar Husni 1 BM	Experimental research

All the studies analyzed had the same findings, namely that all of them could improve students' speaking, reading, and writing skills. However, the researcher did not find the data regarding comic strips in teaching listening skills. The researcher found that comic strips were effective. This is proven by the increase in scores before and after the research carried out by the researchers from the articles that have been researched. The average increase can be up to 41.78. This is in line with the results of research from Losi et al., (2023) who stated that comic strips are a useful educational tool in language teaching. Comic strips have the advantage of improving vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing skills. The research answered the question by displaying figures and their description of each of the English skills that had been researched from the articles. The pre- and post-treatment results of the articles are displayed in the figure below.

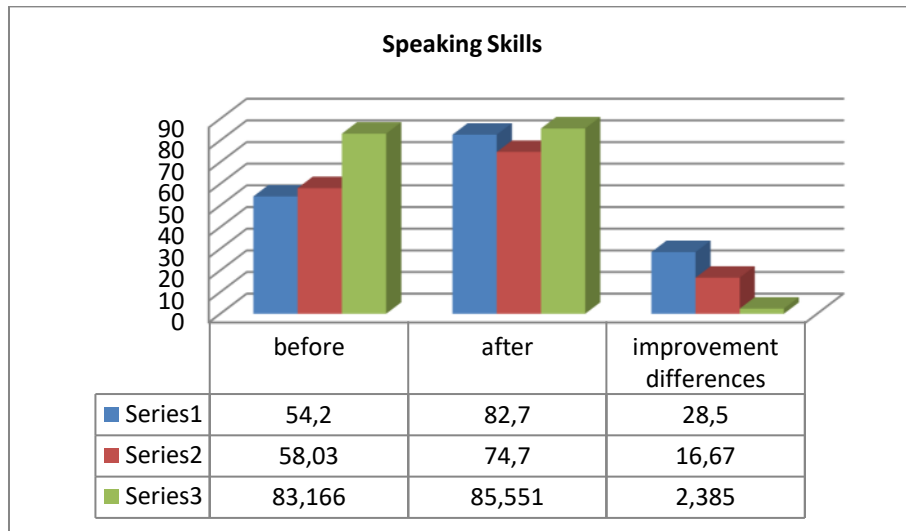


Figure 1. Improvement difference in speaking skills

Based on figure 1 which explains the difference in improvement in speaking skills, the results show that the application of comic strips in speaking skills has increased. Judging from before and after treatment, the research results were obtained. Previously, the first study had an average value of 54.2 and after being given the treatment the value increased to 82.7 with an increase in the difference value of 28.5. For the second study, the total difference value increased by 16.67 with an average value before treatment of 58.03 and after it became 74.7. The last study had a total increase of 2.385 with an average value before treatment of 83.166 and after treatment of 86.551.

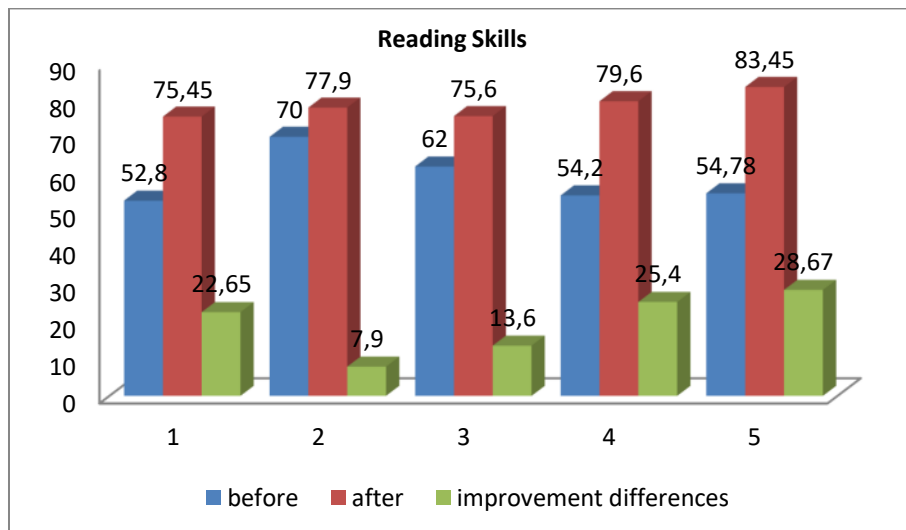


Figure 2. Improvement difference in reading skills

Figure 2 was created to explain the difference in improvement in reading skills. The data shows that the use of comic strips in reading skills has increased as seen from the numbers listed in the table. The first article experienced an increase in score of 22.65, where the average score

before treatment was 52.80 and afterward became 75.45. The next article had a previous average score of 70 to 77.9 where the total difference in improvement was 7.9. The third article had a difference in value increase of 13.6 with an average value before treatment of 62 and after treatment of 75.6. While the fourth article has an increase difference value of 25.4 where the average value before treatment is 54.2 and after treatment is 79.6. The last article has a total improvement difference value of 28.67 where the average value before treatment was 54.78 which changed to 83.45 after treatment.

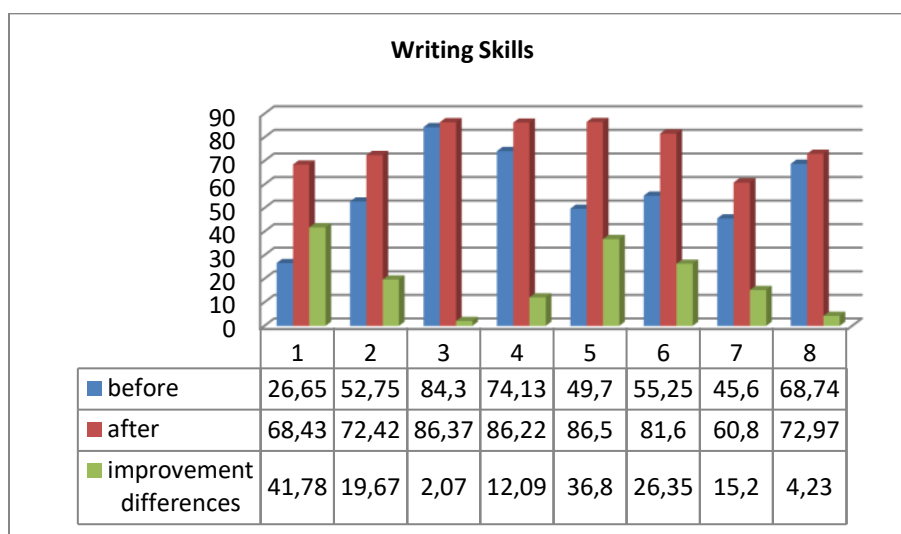


Figure 3. Improvement difference in writing skills

Based on figure 3 which explains the difference in improvement in writing skills, it can be seen that comic strips improve students' writing skills. All articles experienced a difference in improvement. The first article got a total difference in value of 41.78 where the average value before treatment was 26.65 changing to 68.43. The second article has an average value before treatment of 52.75 and after treatment of 72.42 with a difference in improvement of 19.67. The third article has an average value before treatment of 84.3 and after treatment of 86.37 with a difference in improvement of 2.07. The next article had a total increase of 12.09, the value before treatment was 74.13 and after treatment was 86.22. The fifth article has a previous average value of 49.7 changing to 86.5 after treatment with a difference value of 36.8. While the sixth article has a total difference of 26.35, the value before treatment is 55.25 and the value after treatment is 81.6. The seventh article has an average value before treatment of 45.6 and after treatment of 60.8 with a difference value of 15.2. The last article has an average value before treatment of 68.74 and after treatment of 72.97 with a total difference of 4.23.

From the three figures listed above, it is evident that comic strips are effective in teaching English language skills as seen from the improvement after treatment. The implementation of comic strips as a learning tool has several advantages, such as facilitating students' understanding of the subject matter, increasing students' participation and productivity, preventing boredom in the classroom, and improving the learning process. Based on the data, method is one aspect that needs to be considered in the teaching and learning process. The use of learning media is an important strategy and comic strips is appropriate to be applied in teaching English skills.

Which skill has the most impact on the implementation of comic strips?

The implementation of comic strips to increase skills in English language as has been discussed, based on the results, it was found that there was not a single article that said that comic strips were used in listening. Therefore comic strips are only effectively implemented in 3 skills, namely speaking, reading and writing. However, of the three the most achieved is writing skills. Based on one of the writing ability journals collected by researchers, research by Suherman & Kareviati (2021) entitled "The Influence of Comic Strips Media in Teaching Writing Skill to Tenth Grade Students in Cianjur" stated that comic strips are an influential media for improving writing skills. Comic strips have a positive influence in improving students' writing skills, in teaching and learning activities comic media has contributed to building writing skills. In addition, Wijaya et al. (2021) investigated that the use of comic strips can improve students' writing skills as well as vocabulary, grammar, and reading. They also state that comic strips are one of the media that are suitable for teaching in today's era.

CONCLUSION

Comic strips are effective in increasing skills in English, as documented by research conducted from 2015-2023, and writing skill has the most impact on the implementation of comic strips. The application of comic strips is one of the media that can be used for English skills lessons. The use of comic strips has proven to be effective.

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