

ABSTRACT

ATIKA SURI: Students' Perspective on Reading Fan Fiction to Foster Their Reading Interest

Reading interest, especially in Indonesia, is still reported to be one of the lowest in the world. However, in an era when technologies have developed rapidly as today, the phenomenon of reading fan fiction that appears on social media shows an interesting issue. Despite of low reading interest rank, fan fiction readers in Indonesia tend to be large, judging from the engagement in famous fan fiction stories get. The readers come from all ages, from teenagers to adults. Based on a brief survey conducted in the first and second year of English Education students at Islamic State University Bandung, several students read fan fiction daily. With this phenomenon, this study aims to find out how fan fiction, especially in English, fosters students' reading interest based on their perspective.

This study used a qualitative method with a case study design. The instrument used for this research is a Likert Scale questionnaire distributed to the first and second-year of undergraduate English Education students at Islamic State University, Bandung. Furthermore, the participants of this research were 80 students who experienced reading English fan fiction before. The data sources used were the result of a 5-day online survey questionnaire. The questionnaire contains statements that have been determined based on pre-existing theories and statements related to students' perspectives on English fan fiction based on reading interest indicators.

Research shows students' perspectives on reading English fan fiction foster their reading interest is positive. Students think fan fiction can foster their reading interest, especially in English text, under certain circumstances explained in this research findings. However, students also think that besides the character in the story, plot story is also important to determine whether they will read the fan fiction.

This result can be used for teachers when they decide to use English fan fiction as alternative text material in learning English, especially in reading. The teacher must pay attention to what genre students are attracted to. Beside that, teachers might have to find out students' favorite characters to use appropriate fan fiction stories in teaching.

Keywords: *reading interest, fan-fiction, students' perspective, reading interest indicator.*