

Student Perceptions towards Wattpad - (Writing Skill)

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Abstract

This study investigates student perceptions of Wattpad as a digital platform for enhancing writing skills among high school and undergraduate students. With the growing popularity of online storytelling communities, Wattpad has emerged as a space where students can both consume and produce written content, potentially influencing their narrative abilities, vocabulary usage, and confidence in writing. The study employed a mixed-method approach, using a combination of surveys (quantitative) and focus group discussions (qualitative) to gather data from a sample of 150 students was collected and analyzed through descriptive statistics, ANOVA, and Friedman rank tests. This study concludes that how Wattpad positively influences students' writing skills by enhancing creativity, vocabulary, and grammar.

Keywords: Digital story writing, Improve Creativity, Educational technology, Language development.

Introduction Of The Study

Technology has rapidly evolved which resulted in what we have nowadays. Smartphones, iPads, computers, laptops are the replacement for books, people choose light and small gadget to communicate, reading, find entertainment and much more. Thus, we discover Wattpad, an alternative way to read and write. Wattpad is an application or more known as a user generated content-based platform. Wattpad provides a unique space for students to develop their creative writing skills. Wattpad has emerged as a popular platform for students to engage in both reading and writing, offering a space where creativity thrives and stories are shared globally. Wattpad, a widely popular online platform for reading and writing stories, has gained significant attention in recent years, particularly among students and young adults. With its vast library of user-generated content, Wattpad provides a unique space for writers to share their creativity. This type of writing environment allows students to experiment with different genres, styles, and narrative techniques, providing them with valuable opportunities to develop their writing skills outside the traditional classroom. It allows users to write stories, share their own creations, and interact with a global community of writers and readers. Wattpad may encourage in writing practices, particularly in grammar, vocabulary, punctuation, and structure, which could potentially help student's development in more academic writing contexts. Exploring how students perceive Wattpad's impact on their - writing skills whether it gives improvement in creativity, technical aspects of writing, or both is essential to understanding its role in shaping students as writers. This investigation is not only valuable for assessing the platform's effectiveness as a tool for enhancing writing abilities but also for examining how digital platforms are influencing the future of writing education in a world. Statement Of The Problem Writing skills are essential for academic success and professional growth. With the rise of digital platforms, students now engage in writing through various online communities. One such platform, Wattpad, has gained popularity among young writers and readers, providing a space to create and share literary works. This study seeks to explore students' perceptions of Wattpad as a tool for improving writing skills. It aims to investigate whether Wattpad enhances their writing abilities, fosters creativity, and provides constructive criticism or if it negatively affects their formal writing proficiency.

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The findings will help educators, students, and policymakers understand Wattpad's role in shaping modern writing skills and literacy development. This study aims to explore students' perceptions towards Wattpad as an informal learning tool that enhances their writing skills.

Scope Of The Study

This study will focus on understanding the Student's perception towards Wattpad as a (writing tool). It also examines key areas such as the influence of Wattpad on creative writing, including storytelling, vocabulary, and grammar, as well as its impact on academic writing proficiency. The research will specifically target students who actively use Wattpad for reading and writing, including high school and college students. Additionally, it will analyze the role of peer feedback in improving students' writing and explore whether Wattpad serves as an informal learning tool.

Objectives Of The Study

- To identify the factors influencing the usage of Wattpad app.
- To assess the level of satisfaction towards Wattpad app.

Methodology Of The Study

Research methodology is the specific procedure or technique used to identify, select, process, and analyze information about a topic. To achieve the objectives of the study and to analyze the data collected, an appropriate methodology has been developed. A research methodology is a master plan for the conduct of formal investigation. The various aspects of the methodology are discussed below.

Review Of Literature

Richard & Jack Renandya (2002) described that, "The process of Wattpad writing consists of planning, drafting, revising, and editing". The objective of this study is to evaluate the writing strategy of the students. The writing process in the classroom is extremely organized, and teachers frequently create suitable classroom activities to facilitate the writing skills at each level. The data is collected from 80 students' users of Wattpad. This study finds the details of the writing process in the Wattpad app. The study concludes that the writing process and techniques for the students to write their own stories and the reader undertakes to gain understanding through that reading.

Diwi Rukmini (2003) states that, "Student's Perceptions of Wattpad as a Tool for Learning". The objective of the study is to investigate the students' perceptions of Wattpad as a tool for learning and gaining more knowledge which helps to improve the student's language skills and vocabulary skills. Based on simple random samplings are collected from 180 school students. The findings of the study have been analyzed as students had positive perceptions of Wattpad as a tool for learning. The study concludes that the Wattpad can be an effective tool in promoting students' learning and students perceive Wattpad as a valuable tool for learning, appreciating its interactive and creative nature that enhances both reading and writing skills.

David Wong (2004) has searched, "The Impact of Wattpad on Students' Writing Anxiety". The objective of the study is to explore the impact of Wattpad, a popular online platform for writing and reading, on students' writing anxiety. The data samples are collected from the 180 respondents. The findings of this study indicated that students who used Wattpad regularly reported a significant decrease in writing anxiety, as the platform's supportive community and non-judgmental environment allowed them to express themselves freely. This study concludes that Wattpad contributed positively to reducing writing anxiety by providing students with a less intimidating space to practice and improve their writing skills.

John Fredrick Michael (2005) investigates that, "The Effectiveness of Wattpad in Improving Students' Grammar Skills". The objective of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of Wattpad, an online platform for reading and writing, in improving students' grammar skills. The samples were collected from 230 respondents. This study finds that students who actively engaged with Wattpad demonstrated significant improvements in grammar, particularly in areas like sentence structure, punctuation, and verb tense. The study concludes that Wattpad proved to be an effective tool in enhancing students' grammar skills by providing a dynamic, engaging environment that supports both learning and self-correction through peer interaction.

Dwi Hastuti (2006) has researched that, "The Use of Wattpad in Developing Students' Critical Thinking Skills". The objective of this study is to investigate the use of Wattpad in developing students' critical thinking skills. The secondary data is collected from the 240 students. The findings of this study show that Wattpad was found to be effective in developing students' critical thinking skills. This study concludes that the Wattpad can be a useful tool in developing students' critical thinking skills. It also promotes critical thinking by encouraging students to analyze narratives, make interpretations, and engage in discussions about stories and help students to develop essential problem-solving and analytical skills.

Sri Rejeki (2007) has analyzed that, "Students' Perceptions of Wattpad as a Tool for Learning new Knowledge". The objective of the study is to assess whether Wattpad helps students learn new concepts, explore different subjects, and develop critical thinking skills. The sample consisted of 200 students from various academic backgrounds who actively used Wattpad. The findings of the study revealed that students appreciated Wattpad as a resource for learning new knowledge, particularly in genres like fiction, self-help, and educational stories. The study concluded that while Wattpad

can be a useful tool for informal learning and to ensure accuracy and depth of knowledge. SOPHIA CHEN (2008) published that, "Students' Perceptions of Wattpad as a Tool for Reflective Writing". The objectives of this study is to examine students' perceptions of Wattpad as a tool for reflective writing. The data sample are collected from 160 academic students. The study finds that students in the experimental group perceived Wattpad as an enriching and effective platform for reflective writing, as it provided a creative space for personal expression. This study concludes that, Wattpad was seen as a valuable tool for reflective writing, fostering authentic self-expression, enhancing reflective cognition, and promoting a collaborative sense of community through peer interaction.

Findings Of The Study

Areas of statement	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std.Deviation
It provides a variety of writing skills	150	1	5	3.48	1.48
Inspire you to write more creative stories and novels	150	1	5	3.28	1.255
It a good platform for self-publishing your stories	150	1	5	3.57	1.069
Wattpad community is a good supportive platform for new stories	150	1	5	3.62	1.091
Do you believe Wattpad has a positive effect on writing development	150	1	5	3.66	1.345
Valid N (listwise)	150				

Areas Of Statement Regarding The Student Perception Towards Wattpad– Descriptive Statistics

(SOURCE: Computed data)

Interpretation

The table above reflects students' perceptions regarding various aspects of Wattpad's influence on their writing skills. Overall, the mean scores indicate a moderate to positive perception across all areas, with Wattpad being seen as a useful platform for improving writing abilities. The highest mean score (3.66) is associated with the belief that Wattpad has a positive effect on writing development, followed by the supportive nature of its community for new stories (3.62). The platform is also viewed positively for self-publishing opportunities (mean = 3.57) and for providing a variety of writing skills (mean = 3.48). However, the slightly lower mean score for inspiring more creative writing (3.28) suggests some neutral perceptions in this area. Standard deviations show a moderate level of variability in responses, indicating differing opinions among students, particularly regarding the variety of writing skills offered and the inspiration to write more creatively. Despite this, students generally agree on Wattpad's positive impact on their writing development, with most considering it a helpful and supportive tool for improving their writing skills.

Demographic Factor Vs Areas Of Statement -One Way Anova

Ho: "There is no significant difference in the student perception towards Wattpad's influence on writing skills based on demographic factors such as Age, Gender and Education.

Demographic factors Vs Area of statement

Factors	Classification	No of Respondent	Mean	Standard Deviation	f	Sig.	S/NS
Age	10-15 years	123	3.4123	.99433	.282	.755	NS
	16-20 years	32	3.4554	.92968			
	Above 25 years	5	3.7429	1.16672			
Gender	Male	40	3.8286	1.03533	9.175	.003	S
	Female	120	3.2988	.93118			
Education	High school	99	3.5152	1.03757	1.451	.237	NS
	Undergraduate	56	3.2577	.89543			
	Postgraduate	5	3.7143	.50508			
	Diploma	19	3.3158	1.09790			

(Source: Primary data)

Interpretation

The above table presents the ANOVA results to examine whether there is a significant difference in the perception towards Wattpad learning based on demographic factors such as age, gender, education level, academic discipline, and experience with blended learning. The results indicate that age, education level, academic discipline, and prior experience in blended learning do not show significant differences in perception, as their p-values are greater than 0.05, making them statistically insignificant. However, gender shows a significant difference, with males having a higher mean score (3.8286) compared to females (3.2988) and a p-value of 0.003, which is below the 0.05 threshold.

Satisfaction Of Factors Of Using Wattpad – Friedman Rank Test

Satisfaction of factors of using Wattpad

Factors	Mean Rank	Rank	N	160
Ease of use for navigation	2.76	VII	Chi-Square	160
speed and performance	3.05	VI	df	184.268
Satisfaction with the app design	3.59	V	Asymp. Sig.	6
Enjoyment of the writing experience	3.91	IV		<.001
Customization option for writing preference	4.48	III		
Effectiveness of the search feature in Wattpad app	4.93	II		
Overall Satisfaction of using Wattpad	5.28	I		

(Source: Primary data)

Interpretation

The above table presents the ranking of various factors influencing students' perception towards Wattpad (writing skills) blended learning based on their mean rank values. The highest-ranked factor is overall satisfaction with blended learning (5.28), followed by the use of technology and learning tools (4.93) and technical support and accessibility (4.48). The balance between online and offline learning (3.91) is ranked fourth, while engagement in online discussions (3.59) and interaction with instructors (3.05) are ranked lower. The quality of online learning materials (2.76) is the lowest- ranked factor.

Suggestions

- Explore how students perceive Wattpad as a platform for improving their creativity and storytelling abilities.
- Investigate whether students feel more confident in their writing skills after using Wattpad to publish their work.
- Examine how students perceive the feedback from other users and whether it helps them enhance their writing.
- Assess whether students believe Wattpad contributes to their understanding of grammar and syntax.
- Explore how writing on Wattpad affects students' personal writing styles and voices.
- Analyze how students perceive the effectiveness of Wattpad compared to formal writing classes or workshops.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Wattpad is perceived by students as a powerful platform that has both positive and negative impacts on their writing skills. Many students see it as an inspiring and motivating tool, helping them develop creativity, confidence, and their unique writing voice. The interactive nature of the platform, through peer feedback and engagement, fosters a sense of community that encourages students to improve their writing over time. Additionally, Wattpad exposes students to diverse writing styles and narrative techniques, enriching their understanding of storytelling. However, there are also concerns about the quality of writing and the potential lack of formal structure compared to traditional writing education. While some students may benefit from the creative freedom that Wattpad offers, others might struggle with the absence of professional guidance in areas like grammar, structure, and literary techniques.

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