

# THE BENEFITS OF INTERNET IN LEARNING ENGLISH FOR ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENT

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**Abstract:** This study aims to evaluate the perceptions related to the benefits of using the internet in English learning for fifth-semester students of the English Education Department. This research study used qualitative research. Instrument in this study was questionnaire, the data was collected from 15 statement items covering aspects such as the importance of the internet in learning, the benefits of using the internet, learning independence, improvement of language skills, and the positive impact of the internet in various language skills. There were 15 respondents who were asked to answer the questionnaire. Based on the questionnaire, the results showed that the majority of students agree that the internet is important in learning (73.3%) and provides significant benefits (60%). They also tend to agree that the internet improves learning independence (26.7%) and English language skills (33.3%). However, there were variations in perceptions regarding speaking and listening skills. Although most felt motivated by online content (46.7%), this study highlights the importance of developing teaching strategies that suit students' preferences and needs.

**Keywords:** Internet, English Learning, Students' perception

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The internet has become essential to many aspects of life in the rapidly evolving the digital era, including education. Technology is popular with everyone in every area, including education (Costley, 2014). One area that has significantly adopted this technological development is English language learning. In general, the use of the Internet in the context of English teaching provides many benefits for both teachers and students. According to Anderson (2008) argued that the internet or online learning provides flexible access, real-time interaction, and worldwide connections, even as instant content changes facilitate situated learning. Thus, the use of the Internet in English language learning not only expands accessibility to learning resources, but also opens up new opportunities for teachers and learners to improve their language skills. The use of technology in English language learning is increasingly widespread and productive for students (Van et al., 2021). Internet is the most popular source of information used to find the information needed.

It is important to understand that students as recipients of education have their own needs and demands. In the context of English language learning, the internet provides various advantages that can improve the quality of learning. Learners are not only limited to traditional textbooks, but can also utilize websites, learning videos, mobile applications, and online platforms specifically designed to improve language skills. According to Islam (2011) stated that the website cannot replace the library, but it has special functions that the library

does not have, such as search speed, immediate information, etc. In addition, interaction with various materials and online learning platforms can improve the quality of learning (Imran, 2023). Moreover, interaction with various learning materials and methods can increase learner motivation and engagement. It provides convenience and flexibility in adjusting each student's learning style.

On the other hand, the benefits of using the internet in English language learning are not only in accessing learning materials, but also in developing language skills. Various online platforms provide interactive exercises, real-life simulations and communication with native speakers. We cannot always communicate with native English speakers face-to-face therefore using the Internet to learn English helps to compensate for the lack of common approaches without a real English environment (Islam, 2011). Thus, it can improve students' speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, producing graduates who are better prepared to face global demands.

Vrtič (2012) explained that the Internet and Information and Communication Technologies have modernized education by introducing new methods, distance learning, and e-learning to better prepare students for life in the twenty-first century. In addition, the Internet also allows students to engage in online learning communities, whether through discussion forums, virtual classes, or joint projects. These interactions not only broaden their horizons to cultures and language variations, but also develop cooperation and communication skills in the digital environment in this modern era.

Several studies have been conducted regarding the use of the internet in learning, the students showed a good response to the use of the internet as a tool or media in assisting English learning. Research conducted on students' perspectives on internet utilization revealed that there are various positive perceptions given by students in learning ranging from infrastructure, quality of interaction, and usefulness received by students (Diana et al., 2021; Laksana, 2020). In the learning process by utilizing the internet as a complement to learning can effectively improve student learning outcomes and allow students to better control their own progress in mastering English (Tao, 2023; Prasetyo, 2021). This research aims to explore more deeply the benefits of using the internet in English language learning for students, considering the positive aspects that need to be known to maximize the potential of technology in improving the quality of education.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1. Internet**

The internet is widely used in all aspects of life, especially in connecting people around the world through social networks with the aim of sharing ideas, interacting with friends near and far, exchanging data, obtaining information, etc. According to (Leiner et al., 2009) defined that the Internet is a global broadcasting platform, a tool for information dissemination, and a medium for

worldwide collaboration and interaction, transcending geographic boundaries. Similarly, the Internet is a worldwide system of interconnected computer networks utilizing standard internet protocols and serves billions of users and comprises a vast network of private, public, academic, business, and government networks, spanning local to global scopes (Arrasul, 2017). As more people utilize the internet and computers, the rule is clear that digital education will become the norm in the future.

## **2.2. Internet and Academic Aspect**

The internet must align with the academic. According to a study conducted by Ani (2010), the internet has gained widespread popularity among both academic staff and learners in academic environments. According to Arrasul (2017), the internet has various beneficial impacts on education, the first of which is the chance for learners to investigate the subject they wish to study due to the range of information available online. Second, there is an incredible amount of knowledge available on a single platform. Third, a learner becomes global since they do not confine his knowledge to a single text. Lastly, it raises learners' interest, which motivates a greater interest in studying. Thus, the use of the internet enhances the abilities of learners while reducing their learning difficulties.

## **3. METHODS**

The method used in this research is qualitative research. Qualitative researchers select their participants based on their characteristics and knowledge related to the research question being investigated (Lodico et al., 2006:140). Lodico et al. (2006:159) that a survey or questionnaire is the main tool or instrument used to collect data in a descriptive-survey research study. This study used a questionnaire to obtain information about students' perspectives on the use of the internet in learning English. A total of 15 students were selected for the purpose of analysis. They were chosen as respondents because they have studied courses related to the internet and they keep in touch with the internet during lectures. Students who became respondents in this study were fifth semester students in the English Education Study Program of STKIP YPUP Makassar.

## **4. RESULTS**

In this section the researcher presents the results and discussion. The researcher also describes the data collected from the questionnaire results. The questions in the questionnaire were designed to find out students' perceptions from very simple information. The results show that the majority of respondents (73.3%) strongly agreed that using the internet is very important in the process of learning English. Most of the respondents (60%) agreed that using the internet in English learning has many benefits. The majority of respondents (53.3%) feel that they can obtain relevant English learning resources through the internet. Most respondents (66.7%) agreed that the

internet improved their academic performance in English. The majority of respondents (80%) felt that using the internet in English learning can motivate them to be more actively involved in the learning process. Most respondents (73.3%) agreed that using the internet in learning English makes them more independent learners. The majority of respondents (66.7%) felt that using the internet in learning English helps improve language skills and knowledge. The majority of respondents (60%) agreed that the utilization of the internet in English language learning can facilitate the process of language acquisition. Most respondents (53.3%) felt that the internet made it easier for them to learn English reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. The majority of respondents (53.3%) feel more motivated to learn English because of access to various online content such as learning videos, podcasts and interactive materials. Most respondents (53.3%) felt that the internet helped them in taking online exams. The majority of respondents (53.3%) agreed that the internet helps make learning English interesting and enjoyable.

**Table 1. Recapitulation of Questionnaire**

No	Statement	Answer	The total of Students' Answer	The Percentage of Students' answer
1	The use of internet is very essential in learning English <i>Penggunaan internet sangat penting dalam proses belajar bahasa Inggris</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 11 b = 4	a = 73.3% b = 26.7%
2	Using the internet in English learning has many benefits <i>Menggunakan internet dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris memiliki banyak manfaat</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 9 b = 6	a = 60% b = 40%
3	I can have the relevant English learning resource through the internet <i>Saya dapat memperoleh sumber belajar bahasa Inggris yang relevan melalui internet</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 8 b = 7	a = 53.3% b = 46.7%
4	Internet increases my academic achievement in English <i>Internet meningkatkan prestasi akademik saya dalam Bahasa Inggris</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 5 b = 10	a = 33.3% b = 66.7%
5	Using internet in English learning can motivate me to be	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree	a = 4 b = 12	a = 26.7% b = 80%

	more actively involved in learning process <i>Menggunakan internet dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris dapat memotivasi saya untuk lebih aktif terlibat dalam proses pembelajaran</i>	d.Strongly Disagree		
6	Using internet in learning English makes me become more independent learners <i>Menggunakan internet dalam belajar bahasa Inggris membuat saya menjadi pembelajar yang lebih mandiri</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 4 b = 11	a = 26.7% b = 73.3%
7	Using internet in learning English helps me improve my language skills and knowledge <i>Menggunakan internet dalam belajar bahasa Inggris membantu saya meningkatkan keterampilan dan pengetahuan berbahasa</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 5 b = 10	a = 33.3% b = 66.7%
8	Using internet in English teaching and learning can simplify the language acquisition process <i>Pemanfaatan internet dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris dapat mempermudah proses penguasaan bahasa</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 9 b = 6	a = 60% b = 40%
9	Internet makes it easier for me to learn reading skills in English <i>Internet mempermudah saya dalam mempelajari keterampilan membaca dalam bahasa Inggris</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 7 b = 8	a = 46.7% b = 53.3%
10	Internet makes it easier for me to learn writing skills in English <i>Internet mempermudah saya dalam mempelajari keterampilan menulis dalam bahasa Inggris</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 6 b = 9	a = 40% b = 60%
11	Internet makes it easier for me to learn speaking skills in English <i>Internet mempermudah saya dalam mempelajari</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 5 b = 10	a = 33.3% b = 66.7%

<i>keterampilan berbicara dalam bahasa inggris</i>				
12	Internet makes it easier for me to learn listening skills in English <i>Internet mempermudah saya dalam mempelajari keterampilan mendengarkan dalam bahasa inggris</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 6 b = 9	a = 40% b = 60%
13	I feel more motivated to learn English because of access to various online content such as learning videos, podcasts, and interactive materials <i>Saya merasa lebih termotivasi untuk belajar bahasa Inggris karena adanya akses ke berbagai konten online seperti video pembelajaran, podcast, dan materi interaktif</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 7 b = 8	a = 46.7% b = 53.3%
14	Internet assists me in conducting online assessment <i>Internet membantu saya dalam melakukan ujian online</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 6 b = 8 c = 1	a = 40% b = 53.3% c = 6.7%
15	Internet assists in making English language learning exciting and enjoyable <i>Internet membantu untuk membuat pembelajaran bahasa Inggris menjadi menarik dan menyenangkan</i>	a.Strongly Agree b.Agree c.Disagree d.Strongly Disagree	a = 7 b = 8	a = 46.7% b = 53.3%

## 5. DISCUSSION

Based on the questionnaire results, it can be seen that the internet is not something new for students, because most of them are familiar with the internet. The popularity of the internet can help students in learning English. According to Arifah (2014) stated that accessing the internet will help motivate readers to learn. The students have shown good efforts in improving their English learning, one of which is by utilizing the internet as a learning resource. They use or open some websites written in English. Inadvertently, as they browse the information, they are reading. As they read, they discover many new vocabularies. These new vocabularies help them in writing and speaking. It is a kind of integrated learning circle.



In addition, in improving English language skills, on listening and speaking skills, students can utilize the internet to access educational videos, audios, songs, and games. Furthermore, in reading and writing, students can access pages that provide examples of English reading and writing texts to practice. In summary, the use of the internet to learn English independently will be positively beneficial if students can also make good use of it and manage time for learning and time for playing because with the internet there is so much useful information. This result correlates with Agarwal (2010) claimed that independent internet English learning is one of the most significant learning strategies that accurately represents individual main concerns and learning orientations. The findings from the questionnaire presented a strong positive inclination towards the use of the internet in the English learning process, and students realized the benefits and positive impact of the internet on motivation, independence, and academic performance.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The usage of the internet in English language learning procedures is unavoidable given its significant importance in English language instruction. Based on the data analysis, the researcher concludes that using the internet to study English has made a range of learning possibilities more inclusive, efficient, and enjoyable. It assists students in developing their English language proficiency in a way that is more attractive and appropriate for the digital world of today. According to the analysis, the majority of students support using the internet for purposes that are needed for them. The students have been learning English independently through the internet accessing for academic purposes, browsing learning materials, doing assignments, taking online exams, apps and other useful resources to support English learning. The use of the internet can also support academic achievement and attract students to be actively involved in the process of mastering English, especially in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. In view of this, when students use the internet to maximize their time while learning English, their proficiency in the language is expected to increase. Furthermore, when they use the internet to search for English language learning materials, their English language proficiency will also increase.

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