

Digital Media as English Language Learning Facilities and Infrastructure

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Abstract

Technological developments in the era of the industrial revolution 4.0 affect everything, including the education sector. The national education sector must be ready for major changes in the face of current technological developments. MTs Nurul Qomar Tawangrejo are very supportive of utilizing digital media as English language learning so that they provide complete facilities and infrastructure, especially internet access as a major component in the sustainability of digital-based learning. With the complete facilities and infrastructure, it makes it easy for teachers and students to do learning. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, data analysis is carried out through three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The purpose of this research was to find out and analyze the utilization of digital media as English language learning facilities and infrastructure at MTs Nurul Qomar Tawangrejo. After adapting to distance learning which uses digital media, it has now become commonplace and even makes it easier for teachers to carry out the learning process, so MTs Nurul Qomar Tawangrejo is increasingly maximizing the utilization of digital media as English language learning facilities and infrastructure. Through digital media, it can provide various facilities for teachers and students to carry out learning.

Key Words: *Digital Media, English Language, Learning, Facilities and Infrastructure.*

INTRODUCTION

In this era of globalization, we are required to be more prepared in all respects. In which the success of learning is supported by the utilization of all educational facilities and infrastructure in schools effectively and efficiently (Fatmawati, Mappincara, & Habibah, 2019). One component that is very important to support and support the successful implementation of the learning process is facilities and infrastructure. Given that facilities and infrastructure are the success factors of the teaching and learning process, the standards and use of learning facilities must be following the learning objectives. Every element of the school, including teachers, principals, and students, must be able to utilize existing facilities and infrastructure because the availability of existing facilities will support the learning process. Educational facilities and infrastructure are also used to facilitate students' understanding of the material presented by using appropriate educational facilities and infrastructure in teaching and learning programs to be more effective and efficient (Megasari, 2020).

One way to make learning more effective and efficient is by using learning media. There are so many learning media that can be used, especially at this time digital learning media is being intensively used by educational institutions both from elementary level to college. Many terms mention digital learning media such as technology-based learning media or virtual learning media. In the era of the industrial revolution 4.0, many countries have suggested learning supported by technology, including Indonesia. However, since the beginning of 2020, the world has been faced with the Covid-19 pandemic which has caused many countries around the world to take special policies in the field of education, namely eliminating face-to-face classes and ready or unprepared schools must replace face-to-face learning with online learning. This makes digital learning media have an increasingly important role and learning by using digital learning media it helps students understand learning concepts.

Seeing the rapid development of technology, the digitalization process continues to grow. The application of technology in the digital era will encourage various fields such as IT and will improve education in particular. The new digital era will require a new set of skills. The national education sector must be ready for major changes in the face of the digital era. Consequently, new approaches and capabilities are needed to build innovative and sustainable production systems. In the context of education, digitization is interpreted as an effort to transform various aspects and processes of education into various types of digital forms to achieve educational goals. Aspects that need to be considered to achieve educational goals include aspects of management and teaching and learning activities (Anita & Astuti, 2022).

The rapid development of technology now requires innovation and transformation in learning. One of these innovations is to utilize digital-based learning media. In this era, science has developed rapidly. The main technology that becomes the foundation is a computer through the internet network. The internet is used as one of the learning resources without space and time limits. The impact of this development is that there is a tendency for learning, especially in future learning; has changed the traditional learning approach towards future learning referred to as knowledge century learning, that people can learn: anywhere, whether in the classroom/college, in the library, at home, or on the road and anytime. The learning delivery model can be through many channels such as multimedia-based, namely combining text, diagrams, and images with video and sound, which greatly supports the ability to transmit meaningful and virtual information. Along with the development of the

internet, learning strategies have shifted and various digital information and communication technology-based learning models have emerged, such as e-learning, smart classroom technology, virtual classroom, blended learning, and others.

The learning media carry messages that can be used for learning purposes and convey learning materials more clearly, especially in English. Furthermore, the media contains instructional material that stimulates learners to learn (Hendraningrat & Fauziah, 2022). Learning media can be in the form of videos, television, printed materials, computers, and instructors. All of these learning media have benefits to facilitate the delivery of material by teachers.

As in the case of MTs Nurul Qomar Tawangrejo, which is equipped with internet networks. This shows that the school is very supportive of utilizing digital-based learning media to provide complete facilities and infrastructure, especially internet access as a major component in the sustainability of digital-based learning, especially in English. English is a foreign language for most students here, so the presence of digital media can help students better understand the material visually.

However, the obstacle is the number of computers available in the computer laboratory (multimedia) which is not proportional to the number of students and the limited schedule for using the computer laboratory. In addition, other obstacles occur in teachers/teachers who have not been able to maximize in using digital learning media, have not been able to fully adapt to utilizing digital media and some teachers still use conventional learning methods. This is a challenge as well as the hope that in the future teachers and students will be able to utilize digital learning media properly so that it can provide convenience and can also provide motivation to be more active in learning English. This is the focus of writing this research, namely the utilization of digital media as English language learning facilities and infrastructure.

The use of digital media and technology can trigger the creativity of teachers and students in carrying out the learning process, and also be able to create higher quality and more efficient education. Moreover, digital learning media can clarify teaching material that is still abstract so that students can quickly understand the aims and objectives of learning, also through digital educational media it can be a driving force to create innovations for teachers to create effective learning.

The researcher focuses more on the use of digital media as English language learning facilities and infrastructure at MTs Nurul Qomar Tawangrejo, which has been implementing

digital-based learning media during the pandemic until now has maximized the learning process through digital-based learning media.

METHOD

The research used a descriptive method by taking a qualitative approach, namely describing and analyzing the use of digital media as English language learning facilities and infrastructure at MTs Nurul QomarTawangrejo. Researchers chose principals, teachers/teachers, and students as research subjects. Then, for data collection, researchers conducted observation, interviews, and documentation and analyzed the data using the Miles and Huberman model through three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing (Miles & Huberman, 2007).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Utilization of Digital Media as English Language Learning in MTs Nurul QomarTawangrejo

Learning media is a tool in the teaching and learning process, anything that can be used to stimulate the thoughts, attention, skills, and abilities of students so that it can motivate them to carry out learning activities. Meanwhile, digital learning media is learning that is carried out using IT-based media such as LCD projectors, laptops, tablets, and smartphones (Saragih et al., 2021). Suwarna explained that in general, the benefits of learning media are to facilitate teacher and student interactions and to help students learn optimally. With the help of interesting media, students will find it easier to understand the subject matter, this will have a positive impact on student learning outcomes, especially in English which students will find difficult without the help of media. It can be concluded that digital learning media is a set of tools in digital form that is used to attract the attention of students when carrying out learning so that utilizing this media can support and provide convenience in the teaching and learning process.

Digital-based learning media can be an alternative for teachers to package learning materials to make them more interesting. Learning using digital media can facilitate learners to be able to learn more widely and more varied. Through the facilities provided by the media, learners can learn anytime and anywhere without being limited by distance, space, and time. Learning materials are more varied, not only in verbal form, but more varied such as text, visual, audio, and motion (Hendraningrat&Fauziah, 2022).

Based on the results of research through interviews conducted with school principals, it was

explained that the utilization of digital learning media at MTs Nurul QomarTawangrejo has been implemented there, but it has not been fully used due to limitations on existing facilities such as computer or laptop devices. The utilization of digital learning media is currently often used by teachers in providing learning explanations through PowerPoint, images, and videos, which are displayed through the LCD projector screen (in focus). The utilization of digital learning media is increasingly maximized during the Covid-19 pandemic, the learning process cannot take place face-to-face so it requires online through a digital platform that has been developed such as WhatsApp Group, Google Classroom, Google Meet, and also through Zoom Meeting. Besides, in evaluation used liveworksheets, wordwall, quizizz, and Google Forms.

Digital-based learning media is needed in the learning process during the Covid-19 pandemic. As we all know, as a form of support from all elements of society to the government in limiting social mobility, all schools in Indonesia are temporarily closed and the learning process takes place online to stop the spread of Covid-19. Until now, digital-based learning has continued to develop with the use of electronic terms in learning, such as electronic books, electronic libraries, digital-based learning media, and so on. Seeing this, of course, optimizing digital-based learning media as an alternative to optimizing the learning process is the most effective choice.

In addition, it was explained that the Covid-19 pandemic brought wisdom to the world of education, especially at MTs Nurul QomarTawangrejo, after a long time adapting to distance learning using digital media has now become a common thing and even makes it easier for teachers to carry out the English language learning process. Seeing the current conditions where the learning process is no longer carried out remotely / online, the leadership of MTs Nurul QomarTawangrejo is maximizing the use of digital learning media as an English language learning facility and infrastructure. With the internet network already available at school, utilizing digital learning media through handphones or laptops will provide another alternative for teachers and students to carry out learning.

Digital-based learning media is the starting point in creating an effective learning atmosphere. It is undeniable that all levels of education currently use digital learning media to assist students in optimizing the learning process so that learning objectives can be achieved optimally. Learning media, especially those in contact with technology, have a very important role in the learning process (Gunawan, 2017). Through the utilization of digital learning media, the English language learning process will be more fun, and not boring, and is the right choice for teachers to teach English which is considered quite difficult for most students. The complexity and obscurity of the material can be helped by presenting innovative learning media.

Moreover, digital-based learning media has an important role in the learning process. For example, when anteacher presents material by utilizing digital media, where learners can hear the

voice of the teacher along with seeing animated images. Then when evaluating learning, students and teachers can immediately know the score and what the mistakes are using the live worksheet or wordwall so that the evaluation will feel more fun and not subjective. This will stimulate the creation, taste, and spirit of students in the learning process. So it can be said that through digital learning media students can more easily understand the material because learning by utilizing digital media by displaying images, and sound (audio visual) will increase learning activities in the classroom, and for students, the learning process will be more meaningful.

Learning that was previously carried out conventionally, now with supporting facilities and infrastructure, makes it much easier for teachers to carry out learning so that it becomes more effective and efficient. By giving students the freedom to explore many things related to learning through extensive digital media, they can solve problems faced while learning so that they understand the material being taught better.

Challenges of Digital Media Utilization as English Language Learning in MTs Nurul QomarTawangrejo

The development of science and technology and changes in various educational policies will continue to occur. To be able to continue to grow and develop following the flow of these changes, ready or not, educational institutions must be able to adapt in preparing learning that is more flexible and to the needs of students. One of them is by utilizing digital learning media as English language learning facilities and infrastructure because by utilizing learning media it can provide other choices and also new methods in carrying out the learning process. The need for digital media in learning has now become commonplace because digital media can provide various facilities for teachers and students to carry out learning.

Despite the convenience gained through digital learning media, there are some challenges in it. In its implementation, teachers experience several obstacles in utilizing digital learning media. The obstacles that become challenges for teachers at MTs Nurul QomarTawangrejo include limited laptops/computers in the computer laboratory (multimedia) and there are still teachers who are nervous about technological advances, so they cannot utilize digital learning media optimally. To overcome these obstacles, the school allows students to bring gadgets, tablets, or laptops that will be used during learning. In addition, for teachers, the school has conducted training in using digital learning media, and how to utilize it optimally. It is hoped that the training can overcome the obstacles that have occurred.

This is done to provide convenience to teachers and students in achieving learning. By

utilizing digital learning media as English language learning, students can freely explore related to the material being taught and can be creative in completing the tasks given by the teacher. Furthermore, the student can practice their skill in listening, writing, speaking, and reading using digital media. The utilization of digital learning media in the implementation of learning is not just following current global trends but is a strategic step to improve access to and quality of educational services. Digital learning currently has quite good prospects, so it can be used as an alternative education system (Arikarani&Amirudin, 2021). This is because the development of information and communication technology and its devices strongly supports the creation of facilities for digital learning.

The presence of the industrial revolution 4.0 is also a big challenge for the world of education. To survive and compete positively, teachers as teachers inevitably have to be sensitive to technology. Teachers must be ready to upgrade their teaching skills by learning the sophistication that is already available through information technology so that they do not stutter on technological developments. This is necessary to prepare for learning by the characteristics of students in the millennial generation. In this way, teachers can provide relevant learning by the way of thinking of the current millennial generation. In other words, teachers must be able to present technology-based learning. One of the efforts that can be made is to utilize digital learning media as facilities and infrastructure for carrying out learning.

MTs Nurul QomarTawangrejo is an educational institution that has implemented digital learning media as facilities and infrastructure for carrying out learning. The existence of facilities such as multimedia rooms, Infocus available in each class, and good internet access is a form of school support to utilize digital learning media. This is a challenge for teachers as teachers and also students to be able to utilize digital learning media properly, teachers must be more creative and innovative in utilizing digital learning media and students can complete their assignments by utilizing digital learning media.

In addition, the use of digital learning media as facilities and infrastructure in learning certainly cannot be separated from various weaknesses, including if students cannot use digital learning media wisely. Therefore, teachers and students must be able to work together in anticipating by reminding each other to always be wise in utilizing digital media. Teachers must also be able to provide examples, and views so that students do not fall into things that are not useful through digital learning media. In this way, the role of the teacher will not be replaced by technological sophistication. It is said so because if not supervised and prepared properly, digital learning media if used unwisely can have a negative influence on its utilization. Therefore, teachers must also be able to emphasize to students to always be smart in utilizing digital learning media. Thus, it is hoped that students will not be easily carried away by negative technological developments.

The utilization of digital learning media is expected not to reduce the learning experience that will be obtained by students, but instead provide a new experience for them in the implementation of learning. The purpose of using digital learning media as learning facilities and infrastructure is hoped that it can facilitate the learning process so that it becomes more effective and efficient. Because the optimal use of interactive digital learning media can accelerate students' absorption and understanding of learning materials. Thus, the creativity of teachers is the key to success in utilizing digital learning media, because teachers are learning planners so the creativity and innovation of teachers in regulating the pattern of utilization of digital learning media will affect the achievement of learning objectives.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The utilization of digital learning media was only maximized during the Covid-19 pandemic. After adapting to distance learning using digital media, it has now become commonplace and even makes it easier for teachers to carry out the learning process so that MTs Nurul Qomar Tawangrejo is maximizing the use of digital learning media as English language learning facilities and infrastructure. Digital media can provide various conveniences for teachers and also students to carry out learning. Despite the convenience obtained through digital learning media, teachers experience obstacles that become challenges for teachers at MTs Nurul Qomar Tawangrejo, including teachers who are still nervous about technological advances, as well as the lack of interest and awareness of teachers in preparing to learn properly. To overcome these obstacles, the school has conducted training in using digital learning media, especially in English language learning. It is hoped that the training can overcome the obstacles that have occurred. Teachers must certainly be able to adapt to various advances in technology. By utilizing digital learning media, teachers must also be ready to learn to continue to improve their creativity and innovation in planning interesting lessons. The utilization of digital learning media in English language learning is expected not to reduce the learning experience that will be obtained by students, but instead provide a new experience for them in the implementation of learning. The purpose of using digital media as English language learning facilities and infrastructure is hoped that it can facilitate the English language learning process so that it becomes more effective and efficient.

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BIO-PROFILE

Ummu Mulkiyah earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English Education. She currently teaches English at An-Nur Islamic University Lampung. She is also a regional facilitator of English at the MTs level and the author of the reading literacy module of the Indonesian Madrasah Competency Assessment of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. Corresponding email: ummu.mulkiyah97@gmail.com

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