

Academic Reading Preferences and Behaviors of Indonesian Undergraduate Students during Covid-19 Pandemic

Firman Parlindungan

Universitas Teuku Umar, Indonesia

firman@utu.ac.id

Refanja Rahmatillah

Universitas Teuku Umar, Indonesia

refanjarahmatillah@utu.ac.id

Lia Lisyati

Universitas Teuku Umar, Indonesia

lialisyati@gmail.com

Bio-Profile:

Firman Parlindungan is a senior lecturer and is currently the head of Curriculum and Language Development Center at Universitas Teuku Umar, Aceh, Indonesia. He earned his doctoral degree from The Ohio State University, U.S.A. focusing on reading and literacy for early and middle childhood education. His research interests include literacy teaching and learning, identity and culture, and language socialization.

Refanja Rahmatillah is a lecturer at Universitas Teuku Umar, Aceh, Indonesia, teaching English for academic purposes. He earned his master's degree in applied linguistics from University of Queensland, Australia. His research interests include English teaching, academic reading and writing, and digital media for language learning. He currently serves as the secretary of Curriculum and Language Development Center of Universitas Teuku Umar.

Lia Lisyati is a researcher at Curriculum and Language Development Center, Universitas Teuku Umar, Aceh, Indonesia. She earned her master's degree in applied linguistics from University of Queensland, Australia. Her research interests revolve around English reading and writing, psychological factors affecting second language acquisition, and multilingualism.

Abstract

Over the past decade, numerous studies on reading preferences between print and electronic material had been carried out with generally consistent results of favoring print material. However, current condition of COVID-19 outbreak has forced students to adjust their learning environment to be fully digitalized. This study investigates the preferences and behaviors of Indonesian undergraduate students in reading their academic materials during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 318 students from eight universities across Indonesia participated in this study. They were voluntarily asked to respond to an online questionnaire adopted from Mizrachi (2015). The questionnaire focuses on the reading formats that the students prefer (print vs. electronic) and factors that motivate their choices. The data was then analyzed descriptively. Despite of the current demands of digital reading, the results revealed that most of the students still favored print format for their academic materials. Nevertheless,

various factors that contributed to the students' preferences were mentioned, including types of courses, accessibility, and print reading habits, which resulted to the students' lack of confidence upon electronic material. Further research should be conducted to better understand on how such factors affect students' favorableness of print material over electronic one.

Keywords: *Reading Preferences, Reading Behaviors, Covid-19 Pandemic, Undergraduate Students*