



The EFL Students' Preference: English Books or Instagram Posts

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Abstracts

The purpose of this study is to find out whether or not English students of The University of Serambi Mekkah preferred learning English through social media or printed media. This study was conducted by comparing an object from media, such as Instagram posts and English books. This study used descriptive design. The sample consisted of 30 English students of the University of Serambi Mekkah. The instrument was questionnaire, and the percentage formula was used for data analysis. The result showed that the students preferred learning English through English books (68%) to instagram posts (55, 33%). Therefore, it is recommended that the university adds more English books in the library to assist the students in learning.

Keywords: Instagram; English books; Prefer learning.

A. Introduction

English textbooks which come in printed media of learning play very important roles in helping students learn English. Many lecturers use textbooks as primary resource books for teaching ideas and activities. Garinger (2002) says that a textbook can serve different purposes for teachers, including as a core resource, an additional source of material, an inspiration for classroom activities and even for the curriculum itself.

On the other hand, virtual social media is useful to make distant communication faster and easier. Instagram, for example, is a very popular platform. According to Ramadhanti (2016), Instagram gives users opportunities to express themselves by sharing stories, experiences, favorite things, and even photos. Instagram is more widely used by young people and students. Now, many students use gadget in their free time to access their Instagram account. According to Monanda (2017), young people are a group that utilize social media the most in Indonesia. Many teenagers spend their free time by accessing internet and social media, including Instagram. On Instagram, they can find various types of information, including those that can enhance their knowledge. Sari (2017) said that Instagram users initially post the content of information which is later used as learning materials by other people, especially students

Conventional English teaching and learning always utilized printed media, such as books, newspaper, and magazines, while in fact, students can also find out information about education throughout the world through electronic use such as smartphone, computers and others.

There are several studies regarding the use of social media in learning English. According to Mizrachi (2014) based on survey which was conducted, the student and other professions prefer printed sources (41, 96%) more than electronic (20%). Woody, Daniel, and Baker (2010) in their study said that most students who have used E-books tend to still prefer to use textbooks more than e-books.

There are not many studies focus on the impacts of social media use in teaching and learning English, which motivates the authors to study it, with Instagram as the focus. Additionally, only a few studies were conducted at universities, which encouraged the authors to choose the University of Serambi Mekkah Indonesia, as their research location. The focus in this study is thus: Do Students at the University of Serambi Mekkah prefer learning English through Instagram or English Books?

B. Method

The design in this study used descriptive design. According to Hidayat (2010), the descriptive design is the research method which is used to find knowledge as wide as possible through research object at a certain time. While according to Punaji (2010), the descriptive design is the research to describe a phenomenon, a situation, or something that can be explained in the words or numbers. In this study, the author offered questionnaires to students to find whether students preferred to learn through Instagram posts or English Book.

The population in this study was English Students at University of Serambi Mekkah. Meanwhile, the samples involved in this study were English Students from three different groups. each group consisted of 16, 17 and 18 students respectively. They were still active studying at college and also active in using Instagram. Most of them were from Aceh Besar and Banda Aceh while some others rent a boarding house on campus.

Meanwhile, the instrument used in this study for data collection was questionnaire. The instrument contained 10 questions about their habits with three options to answer; the choices are not often, often, very often. The author accessed this questionnaire from a research done by Li (2017). Then author adapted it by modifying the questions to fit the subjects that author examined.

C. Research Findings

After distributing questionnaires to students, the author received 30 complete data, then obtained the following research results:

The table below shows a list of answers chosen by students about Instagram usage in English learning based on the questionnaire that had been distributed. The questions are as the following:

1. How often do you how often do you Use Instagram to increase your knowledge?
2. How often do you use Instagram to learn English?
3. How often do you use Instagram for material taught in the classroom?
4. How often do you use Instagram for material not taught in the classroom?
5. How often do you use Instagram to obtain materials to complete your assignment?

Table 1. Usage of Instagram in learning English.

	No	Not Often	Often	Very Often
1		3,33%	70%	26,67%
2		26,67%	56,67%	16,67%
3		73,33%	26,67%	-
4		56,67%	40%	3,33%
5		63,33%	33,33%	3,33%

Based on table above it shows the percentage of result from the answer about Instagram usage chosen by students according to their respective items. The percentage is counted based on the number of options chosen by students and based on the available options that is not often, often, and very often.

The table below shows a list of answers chosen by students about English Books usage of learning English based on the questionnaire that had been distributed. The question are as the following:

1. How often do you go to the library to read books to increase your knowledge?
2. How often do you use English Books to learn English?
3. How often do you use English Books for material taught in the classroom?
4. How often do you use English Books for material not taught in the classroom?
5. How often do you use English Books to obtain materials to complete your assignment?

Table 2. Usage of English Books in learning English.

No	Not Often	Often	Very Often
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1	83,33%	16,67%	-
2	6,67%	56,67%	36,67%
3	10%	60%	30%
4	50%	40%	10%
5	10%	53,33%	36,67%

Based on table above it shows the percentage of result from the options about English Books chosen by students according to their respective items. The percentage was counted based on the number of options by students and based on the available options that were not often, often, and very often.

After the data was calculated based on the tables above then the author summarized the data in the form of a bar chart. The following bar chart describes the results of research on how often English students learn through Instagram posts.

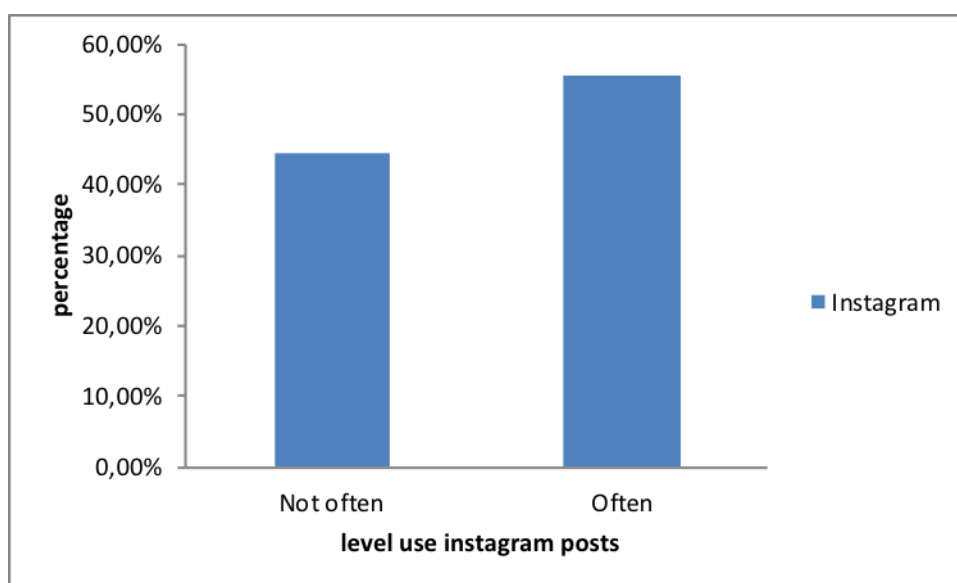


Figure 1. Usage of Instagram in learning English.

Based on the graph above, it can be concluded that English students at the University of Serambi Mekkah often learned through Instagram posts. Proven by the percentage of often learn through Instagram posts (55,33%) was higher than percentage of not learn through Instagram posts (44,67%).

The following bar chart describes the results of research on how often students learn through English Books.

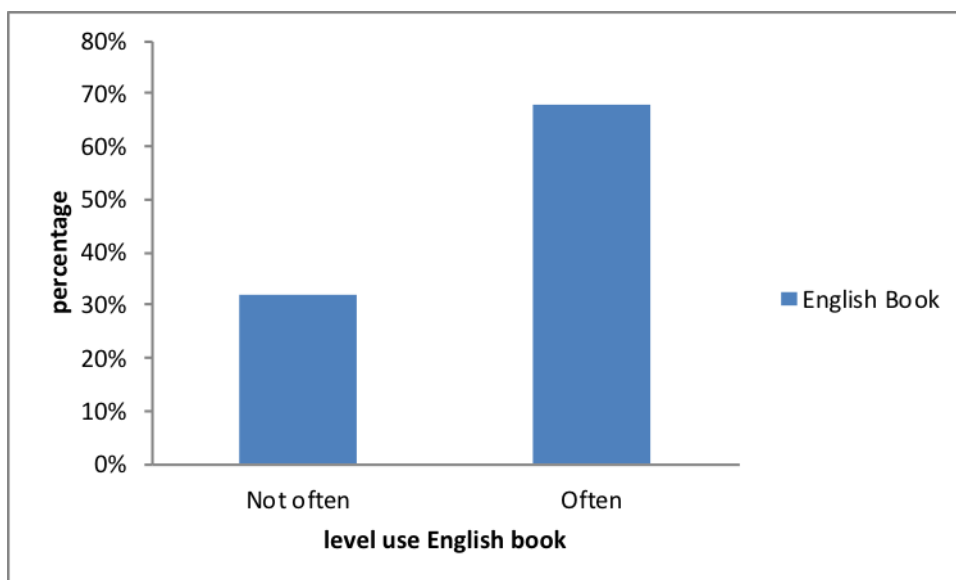


Figure 2. Usage of English Book in learning English.

Based on the graph above, it can be concluded that English students at the University of Serambi Mekkah often learned through English Book. Proven by the percentage of often learn through English Book (68%) was higher than percentage of not learning through English Book (32%).

The following bar charts describe the results of research on how often students learn through Instagram posts or through English Books.

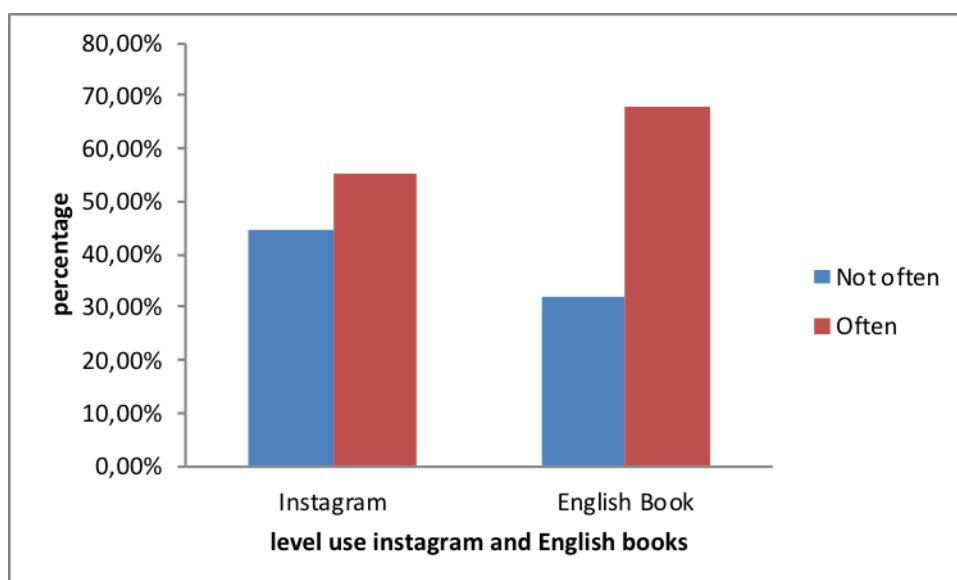


Figure 3. The Overall Use of Instagram and English books

The graph above is a comparison of the use of Instagram posts and English books in learning English. Based on the graph above it shows the comparison between the Instagram posts which currently contains a lot of knowledge and the books which students used for learning. students at the University of Serambi Mekkah preferred to learn English through English books (68%) compared to Instagram posts (55,33%).

D. Discussion

The result of this study was English students at University of Serambi Mekkah preferred to study through English books then Instagram post. This statement is same as the results revealed in previous research by Mizrachi (2014) which stated that students preferred to use print media more than electronic media. Evidenced by the percentage of students who choose print media (41.96%) is higher than the percentage of students who choose electronic media (20%). Just like the results found in the opinion of previous experts about students more often use posts on Instagram as a medium to increase their knowledge while spending their free time every day. But they also still use print media such as books and other printed media for learning resources, as said by Mokoagow (2016)

so students can find various information about education around the world only by using electronics such as smartphones, computers and others.

It is very supportive, teaching and learning process, especially in the process of learning English, does not ignore the print media such as books, newspapers, and magazines although most teenagers spend their free time by accessing the internet and social media compared to studying or gathering with family. In addition, On Instagram there are posts that have subject matter content that can be used by students to enrich to their knowledge, according to Sari (2017), saying that Instagram posts initially have user information content that eventually turns into information about learning material that is very useful for others, especially students.

Furthermore, lecturers also have vital role to encourage students to read textbooks. However, instructor's instruction in giving academic assignments that is sufficiently meaningful in motivating students to read textbooks. This applies to students in all academic assignments from lecturers who are able to encourage students to prefer textbooks instead of reading Instagram in learning.

E. Conclusion

Based on the results, the use of social media among the students in learning English is not frequent and common. They prefer learning English through English books. The lecturers are thus suggested to continue using English books in teaching. The university can also help the the students' learning by adding more collection of English books in the library.

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