

ABSTRACT

Wati, R. D. K., 2025. EFL Students' Experiences on the Use of Digital Comics as A Reading Comprehension Aid. A Thesis. English Education Study Program. Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Universitas Jambi in Academic Year 2024/2025. The first supervisor is Dr. Nunung Fajaryani, S.Pd., M.Pd. The second supervisor is Dr. Duti Volya, S.Pd., M.Pd.

Keywords: Digital Comics, Reading Comprehension, Reading Strategies, Student Engagement

Reading comprehension is a critical skill for EFL students, yet many still struggle due to low motivation and limited engagement with reading materials. Digital comics, with their combination of visuals and storytelling, offer a more engaging alternative that may encourage students to read and apply various strategies while reading. This study explores how EFL students engage with digital comics and what reading strategies they use to support their comprehension. Employing a qualitative case study design, data were gathered through semi-structured interviews with five students from the English Education Department at a public university in Jambi, Indonesia. Thematic analysis was applied to identify emerging patterns within the data. The results indicate that students demonstrated behavioral, emotional, and cognitive engagement while interacting with digital comics. Furthermore, participants employed various strategies to facilitate understanding, including visualizing, making inferences, predicting, monitoring comprehension, re-reading, using translation tools, note-taking, and seeking external information. These findings suggest the potential of digital comics by promoting both engagement and the use of effective strategies in EFL contexts.