

## **The Advantages of Using Quipper School as a Media for English Teaching in Junior High School Student**

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**Abstract.** This study aimed to answer how much Quipper give advantages as the media for teaching English in Junior High School and how Quipper Application work as the media for teaching English in Junior High School. This research was conducted at SMPN 1 Kaliwungu which was located on Jalan Pangeran Djuminah 51372 Kaliwungu Selatan Kendal. The research was conducted on September 2017. This research used descriptive study. The researcher used descriptive method because it described result of using Quipper as media for English Teaching in Junior High School. The research data in this study consists of some sources information from using Quipper School in SMPN 1 Kaliwungu. The sample of this research was 5 students from SMPN 1 Kaliwungu, they were in second level of Junior High School and also we interviewed 1 English Teacher from SMPN 1 Kaliwungu. The result of this paper was the advantage of using Quipper School in English classroom. They used a blended online course that gathered both teachers and students in a classroom with additional virtual learning via Quipper School. The conventional face-to-face teaching learning was also equipped by the use of the internet to make it more attractive and interesting.

**Keywords:** Quipper School, teaching English, media for teaching

### **1. Introduction**

Today, all people mostly learning English for their daily life. It happens because English has important role since the open market that will be apply around the world. As an International language, English plays important role in the world including in Indonesia. Based on that reason, Indonesian government decides that English becomes compulsory subject. However, English always becomes the difficult subjects for the students especially in the junior high school. They believe that English is hard in learning because of the grammar and reading comprehension ability domination.

In Indonesia, most of the English teachers still use conventional or traditional method to teach reading. Conventional method

usually makes students bored because the method is monotonous and the students are not active so it makes the learners get bored. One of the ways to make the teaching effective is making the students actively so they will enjoy learning and they can improve their English skill. Learning English can be fun activity when the teacher knows the strategy or the technique in English teaching especially in teaching grammar and reading. Students need technique in learning grammar and reading to achieve the goals. Technique can be an activity especially in learning grammar and reading. However,

grammar and reading unite since in the text also implements the use of grammar based on the linguistic features of the genre. Learning to read is not same as learning to write. Good reading texts also provide good models for writing. It means students should get something which makes them interested in studying reading. To achieve the expected situation, teacher should give the students more activities that can attract their attention to participate in the lesson actively.

Basically, one of the targets of teaching and learning English at school is to make students able to communicate using English both written and spoken. To achieve this target, there are four language skills students must learn, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Harmer (2011: 2) "Listening and reading are passive or receptive skills, while speaking and writing are active or productive skills". However, the most basic skills the students must master are speaking and writing. Because they will use them in their daily life, or if the students have an opportunity to visit other countries or they want to send an e-mail to their foreign friend who live abroad. For the purpose of reaching the target in English teaching and learning processes, the ministry of education of Indonesia has set up a curriculum. Curriculum is a set of planning, strategy, and rules about the goals, contents, materials, and strategy in the teaching and learning process in order to gain a specific educational purpose.

#### *Curriculum 2013 in Junior High School*

Based on the 2013 Curriculum of junior high school, teaching English has three objectives. First, in junior high school, teaching English is intended to develop communication in both spoken and written form to achieve a functional literacy level. Functional literacy is the ability to use English in daily life. Second, students are expected to

have an awareness of the importance of English to help them face the globalization the last objective of teaching English is to develop students' comprehension about relevancy between language and culture. According to Moats (2004:7), the most fundamental responsibility of school is teaching students to read. Reading is the fundamental skill upon which all formal education depends.

Research now shows that a child who does not learn the reading basics early is unlikely to learn them at all. Low reading achievement is the problems which cause the performing of school is low, it is harm the students and make the loss of public confidence in the school system. The ability to comprehend something from reading materials for students who learn a foreign language needs to be improved in order to make them easier in reading process and to give them enough time in developing ability (Westwood, 2008: 2). Although reading is very important but students still have any difficulties in mastering reading in junior high school.era.

The media will make the students enjoy and focus. One of the media is online media for teaching English. The writer will analyze the website, [www.quipper.com](http://www.quipper.com). Comparing to the conventional method that is usually monotone, the students' activities are only read and review the entire text, but the activities have been improved in Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) strategy because CALL strategy can used android, IOS or even computer.

It makes the students clearer about the information and elaborate with their own knowledge. Conventional method makes the students have a less motivation to become active, read for specific purpose and reflect following reading about. But CALL strategy can help the students to

increase their motivation, assess what they know, decide what they want to learn and whether it is likely to be in the passage, and decide what yet needs to be done after reading.

Computers have gained significance as they have improved the efficiency and productivity of work done. Large amounts of information in industrial and business sectors as well as in the personal lives are stored on computers. And the biggest power that be brought by computer and other mobile technology based of computer system, such as smartphone, tablet, laptop, is internet. Rouse (2014) stated that “the Internet, sometimes called simply “the Net” is a worldwide system of computer networks - a network of networks in which users at any one computer can, if they have permission, get information from any other computer (and sometimes talk directly to users at other computers)”. Today, the Internet is a public, cooperative and self-sustaining facility accessible to hundreds of millions of people worldwide. In Indonesia internet grows very fast and even change people’s lifestyle. Nowadays, people spend almost most of their daily hours in a cyberspace, especially in social networking sites. There are several popular applications for learning many subjects including English Language. In this time, the writer wants to evaluate a website called Quipper School ([www.quipper.com](http://www.quipper.com)).

#### *Quipper as the Media for Teaching English in this Era*

Quipper School is an online learning platform that engages students in learning and supports teachers in class management at elementary, junior high, and high schools ([www.quipper.com](http://www.quipper.com)). Teachers, at any public or private school, in any part of the world, are working hard every day to deliver the best education to students. More than 20% of their working time is said to be spent on creating, distributing, and grading assignments. With the use of technology, Quipper School reduces teachers’ workload by making assignment management easier. It enables teachers to give out and analyze homework efficiently, and to give more

attention to individual students. Quipper Schoolempowers teachers to focus on providing quality education to our future generations. Quipper School is a free online platform for teachers and students. Based on the website, Quipper School divides into two parts: link for teachers and learn for students. Quipper School Link is where teachers manage their classes online and check students' progress. Here are a few of the advantages things that teachers can do using Quipper School Link based on the website ([www.quipper.com](http://www.quipper.com)):

1. Send assignments and practice examinations - Draw upon thousands of lessons and quizzes covering the curriculum to send work to whole classes or groups of students.
2. Create educational content - If something is missing, teachers can edit the existing content or create whole new lessons and quiz questions from scratch.
3. View and download analytics - Student progress is instantly synced between learn and link, giving teachers access to a goldmine of information on their students' work rate, attainment, strengths and weaknesses.

Work alone or together - Link is designed to allow a single teacher to work with their classes, or for collaboration between two or more teachers, in the same classes or school. Quipper School Learn is where students study. It is packed with features that make learning safe and fun:

- a) Assignments and general study - Students can work on specific topics proscribed by their teachers or study any part of their curriculum independently.
- b) In-built messaging - Students and teachers can stay in contact with our in-built messaging service, which allows students to highlight specific questions or topics that they need assistance with.

- c) Gamified features - Learn rewards students with redeemable coins, allows them to customize their learning environment, and check how their classmates are getting on the Timeline.

Quipper School is a simple and effective supplementary learning tool. Teachers recreate their real-life classes online, set study tasks in the form of bite-sized topics that help their students to progressively build knowledge, and receive simple, digestible analytics pointing out their students' progress as they work through the curriculum. To summarize, the Quipper School method works in three simple steps:

Step 1. Teacher set tasks online.

Step 2. Students complete their tasks, or work on any other part of the curriculum independently.

Step 3. As students work, teachers instant feedback on student performance.

According to this explanation, here are the following research problems were formulated.

1. How much Quipper give advantages as the media for teaching English in Junior High School?
2. How Quipper Application work as the media for teaching English in Junior High School?

## 2. Method

### *Setting and Participants*

A total of the students of Junior High School used Quipper School in learning English for this research is 5 students from SMPN 1 Kaliwungu, they were in second level of Junior High School and also we interviewed 1 English Teacher from SMPN 1 Kaliwungu. This research used descriptive study.

### *Data Collection and Analysis*

In this research, the researcher use descriptive qualitative research. The purpose of descriptive method is to describe systematically situation or area of interest factually and accurately (Isaac and Michael, 1987:42). The researcher use descriptive method because it describe result of using Quipper as media for English Teaching in Junior High School

## 3. Finding and Discussion

This discussion analyzes why Quipper school can give many advantages as a media for teaching and learning English reading especially for Junior High School students. The writer tried to find out from 5 students of junior high school who using Quipper School in learning English. The analysis can be seen as follows:

### *Sample Materials*

Teachers can make use of existing teaching materials that have been provided in the database or develop their own. One of the advantages of Quipper School among other web-based Learning Method System (LMS) is that it has provided teaching materials in the web that can be used by teachers instantly. It can be seen from the picture below;

Figure 1. The Generic Structure



Figure 2. Linguistic Features in Quipper School in Quipper School for Student



Figure 3. Material Sample of Narrative Text in Quipper School for Student



Figure 1-3 are a sample of teaching material that has been provided by the database. It is intended for students of the ninth graders of junior high school. It is about understanding narrative text: Legends and Fables.

### Teaching Procedure

These teaching procedures employ a blended learning mode that it is carried out through face-to-face meeting with additional learning via virtual classroom.

#### Pre-teaching

1. The teacher gives a brief explanation about the topic.
2. The teacher prepares the equipment and makes sure that everything is ready to conduct.
3. The teacher asks students to open

<http://www.school.quipper.com/> and log-in as a student.

#### While-teaching

1. The teacher asks students to open a new assignment.
2. The teacher asks students to read the teaching materials well and gives them chance to ask questions.
3. The teacher explains the materials based on students' questions. The material includes teaching objective, reading passage, and explanation about generic structure and language features of descriptive text.
4. Students answer the questions related to the topic in forty-five minutes' time. Interestingly, the students will get the coin if they can answer the question correctly as the reward. They will also get some motivational words when they answer incorrectly. The questions are varied and cover all teaching indicators developed from basic competence.
5. The teacher appreciates the students who get 'good' and 'excellent' grades and motivates those who get 'very poor' and 'poor'.

#### Post-teaching

The teacher gives a new assignment as the homework. To make the students disciplined in doing their homework they should be given a deadline. The teacher can control the assignment submission and its analysis in the 'overview' menu. He or she can also give some comments on students' progress on announcement.

#### Reflection

When the writer asked the students about how they felt after conducting this learning, most of them felt excited and amazed as they experienced a new mode of computer-assisted learning. They said that it was much fun and attractive. The web display was colorful and attractive.

Moreover, when they answered the questions correctly, they got the coin. On the contrary, when they did it incorrectly, they got motivational words. It is not like learning but it is adventure or game. It can be seen below:

Figure 4. The Questions and Explanation if the Student Answers Correctly



Figure 5. The Question and the Explanation if the Student Answers Wrongly



Figure 6. The Result of the Student' Work



Quipper School facilitates interactive communication between teachers and students. We can give some comments and feedbacks in the 'message' menu. Besides, the students also can invite their parents into Quipper School; so, the parents able to see the students' progress and they can compare their score towards their brother or sister in the family.

We also can know the students' progress as their works have been analyzed by the platform. This eases our jobs in evaluating the learning. Unfortunately, the analysis is only compatible with multiple-choice questions and cannot be applied to essay questions. By using this web, the students even can use through their phone. So, even the students have activity outside of the school; they still can do the assignment.

#### 4. Conclusion

This paper explores the advantage of using Quipper School in English classroom. They used a blended online course that gathered both teachers and students in a classroom with additional virtual learning via Quipper School. The conventional face-to-face teaching learning was also equipped by the use of the internet to make it more attractive and interesting.

It is reported that most students felt excited and attracted as they experienced a new mode of teaching learning. In addition, it is easy to use. It's able to open by using smart phone, laptop or even school's computers. For the teachers, Quipper School made them easy to evaluate the students as the system provided them with the teaching materials that were based current curriculum. It also allowed them to evaluate in more accurate and easier way as the students' works had been analyzed and graded by the system. In addition, the grades were stored in the database and could be used further to make students' progress report by the end

of the semester. Besides, the parents can control the children's progress in learning English by inviting the parents' into Quipper School.

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