

## Things That Students Majoring in English and Literature Read in This Day and Age

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### Abstract

This research aims to investigate the reading interests and worldviews of current students studying English Language and Literature at Ataturk University. Our secondary goal is to investigate the impact of different multimedia resources, such as the internet, on readers' development. Seventy-six individuals were chosen at random to partake in the survey, aiming to gather extensive information about the reading behaviors of current university students. The poll consisted of six sections: online activities, reading material, reading habits, online reading habits, and strategies for cultivating reading habits. SPSS Statistics 20 was used for data analysis. It is crucial to promote reading among college students in the present era of technological advancements. Following a comprehensive investigation into students' reading habits, the researcher provided recommendations.

**Keywords:** e-books, technology-assisted reading, reading routines, the value of reading, and making reading a habit

### Introduction

During the course of the most recent few decades, there has been a discernible rise in the incorporation of various forms of technology into our day-to-day activities. There is little doubt that technological advancement has had the single most significant impact on the dissemination of information. The transmission of information is increasingly moving away from the use of printed documents and toward the exploitation of data that is stored on the web. Reading patterns have unquestionably been altered as a result of the aforementioned evolution. According to the findings of Shen's (2006) study, there has been a discernible change in the reading preferences of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students, with a shift being detected from traditional paper-based reading to the adoption of online reading practices. This transition was observed in the reading preferences of EFL students. Reading is essential to the development of fundamental language skills such as speaking, writing, and listening, and its learning is dependent on reading. As a consequence of this,

teachers must not ignore the shift that is occurring in reading approaches. In addition, Karim, Hasan, and Shahriza (2006) found that younger generations are coming to rely more and more on the ever-increasing availability of digital information and entertainment. This trend is particularly noticeable among younger women. Liu (2005) provides additional empirical support demonstrating that the ever-increasing availability of digital information as well as the ever-increasing prevalence of individuals' engagement with electronic media for the purposes of reading are both exerting an influence on the change of reading behaviors. According to the findings, the advent of the digital age has successfully integrated itself into the reading habits of individuals.

### **Look at the literature**

When compared to their print equivalents, the prices of books, magazines, and newspapers can be found on online platforms to be slightly more affordable. Users are able to read online papers at their convenience and with the flexibility to do so from any location and at any time because they are easily accessible via the internet. In spite of the benefits it provides, some teachers could be concerned about the potential imbalance between the instructional value of technology and its ability to deliver delight. In the current study, an investigation on the impact of technology on reading habits was carried out.

### **Why Reading Is Important**

According to what is mentioned by Noor (2011), the development of reading skills is of the utmost importance for students learning a second language or a foreign language in higher education. Students who are actively involved with reading and other forms of literary expression are more likely to acquire new information, as well as improve their subject-specific skill. Nevertheless, Loan (2009) places an emphasis on the value of reading by stating that those who cultivate a robust reading practice are able to broaden their horizons and capitalize on a higher number of opportunities. This assertion is intended to highlight the significance of reading. Reading has a critical role in preparing individuals to navigate novel information within the framework of a rapidly expanding and technologically advanced society, according to Noor (2011), who agrees with Loan's assessment and believes that this is one of the primary reasons why reading is so important. According to Holte (1998), literature plays a significant part in improving the quality of life generally, supporting the growth of culture, and

making it easier to access cultural resources. In addition to this, it improves and develops individuals' cohesion with one another (Akanda, Hoq, & Hasan, 2013). When one considers the unquestionable significance of reading, the question of how to make reading material more readily available naturally arises as a natural next step. There is clear evidence that the transition away from traditional printed media toward electronic media has an effect on the reading habits of individuals. Because of this, it is absolutely necessary to investigate different approaches that are targeted at encouraging people to read more novels.

### **Reading with the Help of Technology**

The impact that technology has on people's lives has grown significantly as a result of the spread of electronic devices such as computers, cellphones, radios, televisions, and other similar devices. The introduction of new technological advancements has resulted in the development of an innovative method of reading that is referred to as "digital reading." Electronic books, audio books, and magazines that can be accessed online are the most frequent types of reading material that make use of technology's expanded capabilities. People are now able to gain access to periodicals, such as newspapers and magazines, that have been published on the internet and made available to the public. The process of adding to, altering, and generally keeping their information up to date is made easier by the fact that their data is stored digitally and can be accessed online. The fast development of technology for portable devices has made the downloading and use of software on tablet computers and mobile phones much simpler and more streamlined. Users are able to access applications and view content from news sources without the requirement for a connection to the internet, which enables them to do so from any location and at any given time. These programs give users the chance to access and consume movies as well as news audio, in addition to giving them the opportunity to interact with online news information. Reading electronic books is the most common application for e-readers like the Kindle and the Nook, both of which are examples of electronic book reading devices. There is a wide variety of e-books, all of which can be read on a single device, are extremely portable, and can store a very large library of books on that one device. The process of translating webpages and confirming terminology is simplified with the assistance of these tools. Users receive a number of distinct benefits as a result of the incorporation of features such as the ability to modify the size of the font, text underlining, and text highlighting.

Quite a few of these systems contain a text-to-speech functionality, which enables the translation of written text into audible audio. As a result, users are able to interact with the information by listening to it as well as reading it, which expands their options for how they can interact with it. The consumption of audio books has seen a substantial increase in popularity in recent years, indicating that this medium is becoming an increasingly viable alternative to traditional forms of book publishing. According to Thurrott (2011), individuals who own audiobooks have the ability to engage in reading activities even when in unusual settings, such as when traveling, conducting duties around the house, or attending to responsibilities outside the home. These tools are very helpful for those who are trying to improve their pronunciation abilities in order to learn a new language, as well as for people who have visual impairments that make it difficult for them to read. In conclusion, the increased use of technology in people's day-to-day activities has resulted in a shift in the reading materials that they choose to consume. Alongside the continued use of more traditional means of publication, there has been a considerable increase in the consumption of traditional online magazines, audio books, and electronic books. Reading a text in digital format has a variety of advantages over reading the printed version of the same book. These advantages span a wide variety of functions that improve the reading experience and add to the overall pleasure of reading. Recent developments in reading media have the potential to dispel the idea that reading is a difficult activity. This is especially true for those who read only sometimes but spend a large amount of time participating in activities that take place online.

### **Results**

The questionnaire was analyzed with regard to the following six primary categories: demographic information; the frequency of reading items; online reading material; online activities; originally selected online content; and strategies for establishing reading habits. The purpose of including each of these categories in the questionnaire was to ascertain coherent responses to the research queries and to evaluate the prevalent reading patterns among the participants. The compilation of response % data was carried out with the assistance of the SPSS Statistics 20 software.

### **Discussion**

This aspect of the study addressed all three of the problems raised by the research. When responding to these inquiries, we took into consideration the responses that

were provided to the questionnaire. What are the most common patterns that emerge in terms of reading preferences and habits of media consumption among students majoring in English language and literature? Ataturk University students who were majoring in English Language and Literature had their reading preferences investigated as part of this study. This was one of the primary goals of the research project. It was discovered through the analysis of the responses to the questionnaire that a common source of pleasure for respondents was the act of interacting with a variety of kinds of written material. These forms of written material included novels, textbooks, and information accessed on the internet. The vast majority of respondents reported that they only sometimes engage with monthly literature. It has been discovered that a sizeable percentage of people regularly read a variety of types of communication, including newspapers, on a regular basis. The examination looked into the content of the information that was found online as well. According to the findings, "online news" is the subject that attracts the most readers of the possibilities that were provided. According to the responses given by participants, the convenience and speed with which one can get online news can be credited with contributing to its widespread use. The most recent online news may be accessed quickly and easily by people thanks to the proliferation of mobile phones and the internet. The reference that has been offered is from the Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies, volume 10, number 2, pages 85-99. O. Akarsu and T. Daryemez are the authors of the aforementioned article. The vast majority of well-known newspapers have created websites and mobile applications that are compatible with Apple's iOS as well as Google's Android operating system in order to give its readers with the most recent news. The people who took part in the research said that they read a wide variety of textual materials, such as e-books, movie reviews, horoscopes, information about health, jokes, employment information, and food and nutrition content. However, the majority of the reading that they did on a daily basis consisted of things like emails, news articles, and comic strips. In terms of respondents' interest in reading stories and novels online, sales information, fashion, and sports fared the worst in terms of popularity. Other topics that fared poorly included fashion. The overall findings of the research suggested that students who were majoring in English language and literature had developed particular reading habits during the course of their studies. There has been a discernible shift toward the acquisition of knowledge through the use of applications and websites that are based

on the Internet. Having said that, it is important to point out that not all of the online literature that students have access to demonstrates this particular quality. Despite the fact that they read a significant number of paper books, a sizeable percentage of students do not read or participate in online novel reading. How much does the availability of the Internet affect the pupils' propensity to read? The findings of the study indicate that the most common activities people engage in when using the internet are listening to music (93.4%), speaking with friends (84.2%), and seeing visual information (82%). These findings are based on the data obtained from the people who took part in the poll. Recent developments in technology have paved the way for an increase in the number of digital formats available for storing information. People have access to a variety of channels, including the radio, television, and the internet, via which they can acquire knowledge. A sizeable percentage of respondents, particularly 65.8%, disclosed that they engage in daily Internet usage lasting between one and three hours. In spite of the seemingly little average amount of time spent online by participants, it is impossible for educators to understate how important it is for them to understand the participants' internet usage patterns. In order for teachers to make the most of the Internet as a reading resource for their students, they need to put in the effort to identify the topics, categories, and websites that particularly pique their students' interests. The scope of the field known as online information encompasses all forms of written material that can be accessed over the internet. The increasing availability of digitized texts acts as a driving force behind the transition to digital reading practices. A sizeable percentage of the participants admitted to having a routine practice of interacting with digital content found on the internet. In addition, among the many activities that the students participated in, the act of reading news articles on the internet emerged as the one that was done by the greatest number of students. The internet serves as the basis for digital reading, which encompasses a wide range of activities including social connection with one's contemporaries as well as online shopping. It is clear that the participants did not display apathy toward the many browsing opportunities given by the digital era because a major number of the participants sought information utilizing online platforms. Given this fact, it is evident that the participants did not demonstrate apathy. The individuals analyze written materials that cover a wide range of topics, including but not limited to sales statistics, online news, literary works, funny content, gastronomic and nutritional information,



as well as health-related knowledge. The scope of the analysis encompasses all of these and more.

### **Conclusion**

People's reading habits have followed the development of technology and shifted toward digital mediums. The rapid and continuous change that characterizes today's world is largely responsible for this shift. People are increasingly turning to electronic devices like e-book readers, tablet PCs, laptops, and mobile phones to fulfill their reading responsibilities, in addition to traditional print books. This pattern has been spotted. According to the data, a sizable proportion of the sample regularly takes the time to read and think critically about content they get via internet channels. The results of the survey provide insight into how different forms of media and technology have affected the respondents' proclivities for reading. Studies of human behavior reveal that a large proportion of the population spends inordinate amounts of time glued to their screens. The cited article can be found in 2014's volume 10 issue 2 of the *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*. The aforementioned article was written by O. Akarsu and T. Daryemez. The user entered a number value (99) for their response. The survey's respondents said that accessing their Facebook profiles was the first thing they did upon getting online. The person takes pleasure in a wide range of pursuits, including but not limited to playing and listening to games and music. In addition, the person enjoys doing many different things. A considerable proportion of the sample reported doing things like reading online news and comic strips, checking emails, and watching online weather updates on a regular basis. The survey's discussion section included several actionable ideas. Teachers should prioritize helping students enhance their spoken, written, and oral communication skills, as well as their listening and reading comprehension skills.

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