Students' Perception of Instagram Caption as Media in English Language Teaching

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Abstract

Everybody has Instagram account in this digital era. The lecturer uses Instagram as the media in English Language Teaching. The lecturer asks the students to write their idea in English as Instagram caption. This study presents the students' perceptions of using social media, Instagram. All the participants in this study are students of Mathematic Study Program who enroll in English class at Nahdlatul Ulama University Purwokerto. The data were analyzed by using both quantitative and qualitative method. The data taken from survey through questionnaire were analyzed quantitatively. Then, the researcher used qualitative analysis to present the data from interview. The finding showed that the students' perceived the advantages and disadvantages of using Instagram caption. The advantages showed that the participants have a positive perception of Instagram caption as a media in English Language Teaching. First, it stimulated the students to develop positive attitude in creative writing. Second, it improved students' grammatical competences. The last, it enhanced the students' motivation in English writing. Three disadvantages of using instagram as a media in teaching English included internet connection problem, low engagement rate of students' in Instagram, and language barrier. Some of the students still used Google Translate (GT) to ensure that their sentences were correct.

Keywords: Students' Perceptions, Instagram, Caption, English Language Teaching

INTRODUCTION

Recently, people prefer to spend their time with their gadget. They are very close with social media. Social media is generally defined as kinds of electronic communication as websites for social networking and microblogging through with users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content such as videos or picture. A writer needs to have an idea or memory of certain event or phenomenon and be able to construct that idea or memory in a certain order so that the reader can catch the meaning concluded in text (Ruddell, 2005, p.23). According to Friedman & Friedman (2012, p. 17), "the best way to brings courses to life and make learners more exciting, energetic, and enjoyable is by using social networking site in their learning". Agustrianita (2017) wrote social media such as Facebook, BBM, Whatsapp, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, E-mail, LinkedIn. Edmodo, Blog,

and Skype have significant impact on aspect of life, including English education. Social media is the online communities in which people interact with each other. Social media users can create and organize a profile for themselves, edit, and comment on each other's posts and share information with others. Social networking activities have the possibility of enhancing lecturers' professional and adding media/ways in their teaching. The lecturer will be closer to their students and will be interactive to enrich English students competences. The students and the lecturer can organize activities such as writing skill, grammar understanding, and etc.

Regarding to the phenomenon of using social media, it is needed to optimize the use of social media in English Foreign Language (EFL) class especially for improving students' writing skill. Writing skills are an important part of communication for students throughout their academic life because it allows them to manage their feelings and ideas clearly as well as convey meaning through good structured text. Rahman (2009) argued that in the recent years there has been a growing concern in writing skills in the higher education. Learners go on into specific knowledge acquiring situation which is their writing has to be more specific oriented. Uddin (2014) wrote in his study, "writing is the most focused but the least developed English language skill among the university learners." Writing is one basic skill in learning English beside listening, speaking, and reading. Writing means producing or creating a piece of text. That is way it belongs to productive skills together with speaking (Harmer, 2001, p. 199-244).

Social Media users can create and organize a profile for them, edit and comment on each other's posts and share information each other. The Instagram as one of famous social media, it can be well integrated into their world and society in general. Inference, social media is digital and online communities to build interaction with others. The students are familiar with is an Instagram as online social communities. Instagram is one of social network platforms in which the students usually use it to share their personal information, suc as uploading their pictures or videos and writing Instagram caption. Alhabash and Ma (2017) Instagram is a photo- sharing mobile application that allows users to take pictures, apply filters to them, and share them on the platform itself. Instagram has over 400 million active monthly users who shared over 40 billion pictures.

According to Hornby in Sakrang (2013, p.17), perception refer to an idea, belief, or an image that you have as a result of how you see or understand something.

The notion of perceptions derives from the idea of viewpoints or perceptions about media social Instagram as the media in English Language Teaching. Rahmah (2018) states in the digital era, there are many various ways that can be used by teachers to engage students' creativity. Exploring mobile applications and integrating social media are the potentials for learning activities. Instagram is believed to be one ways for facilitating students' creative writing tasks. There are many some benefits can be considered based on the students perceptions.

This study focuses on the students' perceptions of instagram caption as a media in English Language Teaching. The research was conducted to discover the students' perceptions about advantages and disadvantages of instagram caption as media in English Language Teaching.

METHOD

Participants

All the participants in this study are second semester students of Mathemathic Study Program (11 students) who enroll in English class at Nahdlatul Ulama University Purwokerto. They are on the second semester in academic year 2018/2019. The researchers provided a questionnaire to know their perceptions of using Instagram as media in English Language Teaching (ELT). To get a

thorough response, the researcher conducted an interview.

Data Collection

Data were collected through instagram caption analysis. The data collection was conducted from February to April 2019. The researcher opened the hashtag of #learningenglishwithmrsade on Instagram. The data were analyzed by using quantitative and qualitative method. The data taken from survey. Survey is a procedure in quantitative research that involves the use a questionnaire to explore a population's characteristic, attitudes, behaviors, and opinions (Cresswell 2012). The researcher designed a questionnaire which included eleven close ended questions. The questionnaire was administered to eleven students. Each student completed and returned the questionnaire. While completing the questionnaire, students were informed that writing their name was not mandatory, it was optional. The questions in the questionnaire were aimed to obtain information about their perceptions of instagram caption. These questions were designed to gather information about the problems they are facing and their way of dealing with them. The result of the survey conducted among the participants was counted into percentage.

To explore the students' opinion, the researcher uses interview. Dornyei (2007)

says the most frequently used qualitative data collection instruments include observations and interviews to have thick and rich data, and to explore the situation. This research used open questions.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Five questions were formulated which related to students' perception of instagram caption. They were grouped into questions about writing skill, grammatical competence, motivation, challenges, and intensity. The findings from the questionnaire are presented below:

Table 1. Students' perception of instagram caption

Questions	Q 1	Q 2	Q3	Q4	Q5
The questions about	writing skill	Grammatical	motivation	Challenges	Intensity
Total number of students	11	8	11	3	6
Percentage	100%	72.7 %	100%	27.3 %	54.5%

Then, to gain more detail perceptions, the researcher designed an in-depth interview. There are the interview guideline:

1. Does Instagram caption improve your writing skill?
2. Does Instagram caption help you understanding grammatical of the sentences?

3. What is your strategy to improve your writing through caption writing?
4. What is the problems/challenges you have in this activity?
5. What is the advantages & disadvantages of this activity?

The results of the interview are presented below:

Table 2. Students' perceptions of instagram caption from interview

Participants (students)	Interview process *sample of dialogue	Analysis	Category	Results
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, 11	" I like this way and I like to write on Instagram Caption. Because before I post my photo, I will think my sentences on the caption. I prepare well my words. So, the viewer will understand what I wrote. I can express my English and share information from my photo and caption. So my friends can give comments on my caption"	All of the students can express their sentences. They feel free to create creative writing based on their idea and mind.	Advantages	Creative writing

	"I like to post on instagram, because I can visit the place first and then I think the sentences correctly to be written on instagram caption".			
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 ,9,10,11,	"I can express my English on my Instagram. Because I try to find English vocabularies. After that, I arrange it to be good paragraph with good grammatical. In my caption, I learn and use Simple Present Tenses. So, I prepare well my sentences before I upload into Instagram. I try to improve my writing skill and understand the structure of grammar" " I can arrange sentences using simple present tenses. And then I practice it in my caption."	8 students can understand the English grammatical.	Advantages	Grammatical competences
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 ,9,10,11	" I can practice my writing on my caption of Instagram. I try to explain and describe my photo happily. So, Many friends will give me like on my caption" " Mrs, I get motivation in writing. I try writing and using good sentences, because many people will see and read my writing"	100 % students got motivation to write caption, And provide the best caption.	Advantages	Motivation in writing
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 ,9,10,11	"I like to use Instagram, but I have problem with internet Mrs. I need to use good connection to upload the picture. If I don't have quota so I cannot send my assignment " " I use wifi if I get the hotspot place"	3 students said that sometime they got trouble with internet connection. They used wifi if they find it.	Disadvantages	Internet connection problem
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 ,9,10,11	" I must go working in the morning, and in the evening I go to campus to study. So I seldom to open my Instagram". But because of your assignment, I open it Mrs"	6 students said that they are busy to do activity on working. So, They are seldom open Instagram. They open if there is assignment.	Disadvantages	Students did not active in using Instagram
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 ,9,10,11	" I check my sentences using google translate. Because it is fast process" " I wrote about Wana Pramuka. I felt difficult to find vocabularies. So I used google translate to help me to arrange my caption".	5 students used google translate to make sure their sentences	Disadvantages	Using google translate

The findings showed advantages and disadvantages of instagram caption. The advantages of using instagram caption was grouped into three main issue they were creative writing, grammatical competences, and motivation in writing. While the disadvantages of using instagram caption were divided into internet connection problem, low engagement rate of student in instagram, and instant translation by using google translate.
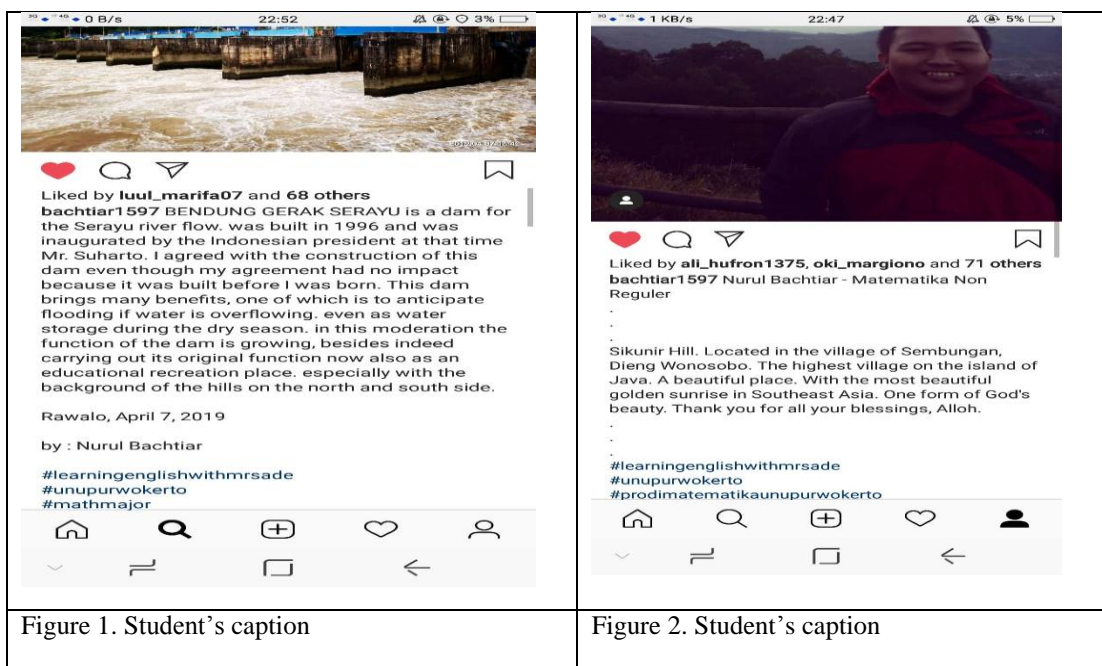
The Advantages of using Instagram Caption as Developing Media in English Language

The advantages show that participants get positive perceptions toward social media Instagram caption as a media in English Language Teaching they are creative writing, grammatical competences, and motivation in writing. The students feel free to write caption based on their pictures that the students

posted. The students can express their idea with correct grammar.

Creative Writing

Findings show that all participants feel some advantages from used Instagram in their English Language Learning. Through Instagram, the students can convey their idea in English and develop their creative writing skill. It stimulated the students' creative writing. Based on the interview data the students feel happy to explore their English skill in writing. It can also stimulate their competences to explore new vocabularies to compose good sentences for their caption. The students have to post and make hashtag of #learningenglishwithmrsade and #unupurwokerto_. The hashtag will make the caption visible to others by simply click or search for it. They can write comment for each other.

Figure 1. Student's caption	**Figure 2. Student's caption**

Participants can give explanation about place that they like. They visited the places, the then they had to write on caption based on their observation of the places. Some students have perceptions and say about Instagram caption as method of improving their English.

" I like this way and I like to write on Instagram Caption. Because before I post my photo, I will think my sentences on the caption. I prepare well my words. So, the viewer will understand what I wrote. I can express my English and share information from my photo and caption. So my friends can give comments on my caption"

One of participants on figure. 1 wrote about Bendung Gerak Serayu. He wrote long paragraph. He tried to tell about description and history the place. Based on the interview result. It showed that he had good perceptions and he felt enjoy to write on Instagram caption as developing media in English Language Teaching.

"I like to post on instagram, because I can visit the place first and then I think the sentences correctly to be written on instagram caption."

Grammatical Competences

According to Alufohai (2016) grammar at the sentences level is fundamental for the writing of compositions in English language. There are many rules in grammar, including articles, parts of speech, sentence pattern, and tense, etc. (Cook and Ricard, 1980) cited in Muhsin (2016, p. 81). 72.7 % of students like to use Instagram as a media in English Language Teaching. They can understand the structure of grammar. The students can practice their English writing

skill. They can explain the picture. It can be the way to increase their writing skill.

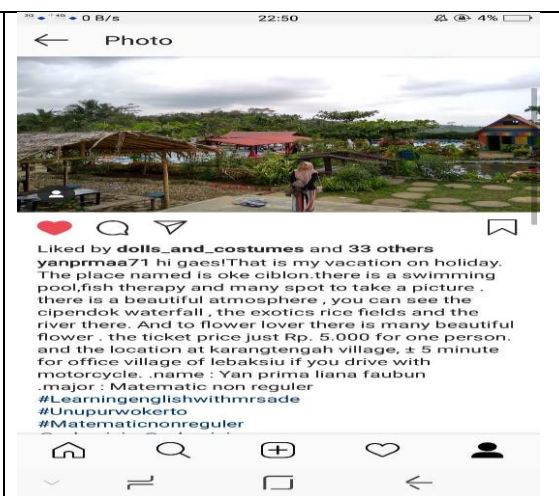|	
Figure 3. Student's caption	Figure 4. Student's caption

Writing skills are an important part of communication for students throughout their academic life because it allows them to manage their feelings and ideas clearly as well as convey meaning through good structured text. In the recent years, there has been a growing concern developing in writing skills in the higher education. Learners go on into specific knowledge acquiring situation which is their writing has to be more specific oriented.

> " I can express my English on my Instagram. Because I try to find English vocabularies. After that, I arrange it to be good paragraph with good grammatical. In my caption, I learn and use Simple Present Tenses. So, I prepare well my sentences before I upload into Instagram. I try to improve my writing skill and understand the structure of grammar"

> " I can arrange sentences using simple present tenses. And then I practice it in my caption."

Motivation in Writing

Based on the interview and questionnaire results show that all students had good perceptions and they got motivation to write on Instagram caption as amedia in English Language Teaching.

> "I can practice my writing on my caption of Instagram. I try to explain and describe my photo happily. So, many friends will give me like on my caption"

> "Mrs., I feel get motivation in writing. I try writing and using good sentences, because many people will see and read my writing"

The students of this class got motivation to practice making sentences by writing on their caption. They try to provide good paragraphs to describe the picture. So, most of people can read and give comment on their caption.

Disadvantages of developing media in English Language Teaching

There are some disadvantages of using Instagram based on the data analysis. Findings show that some participants feel some disadvantages from using Instagram in their English Language Learning. The disadvantages of using social media "Instagram" were the participants had problem with internet connection, the students did not active in using Instagram, and the students need to prepare well and make sure their vocabularies and sentences before they post the caption. Thus, some of them use "*Google Translate*" to make sure their sentences on Instagram caption were grammatically correct.

Internet Connection Problem

Some participants said that they had problem with internet connection because of limited network. The students has to spend their mobile data to upload their pictures in Instagram.

"I like to use instagram , but I have problem with internet Mrs. I need to use good connection to upload the picture. If I don't have quota so I cannot send my assignment "

Students Did Not Actively Use Instagram

Some students did not actively use instragram. The students only opened the instagram if they got assignment from the lecturer. The students of mathematics major at Nahdlatul Ulama University Purwokerto are mostly a worker. They work in the morning and study in the afternoon. So, this was possibly the reason why they did not actively use instagram

Using Google Translate

Another disadvantage of using social media "Instagram" was the participants had to prepare well and make sure their vocabularies and sentences were proper and grammatically correct before they post it on Instagram.

" I check my sentences using google translate. Because it is fast"

" I wrote about Wana Pramuka. It is difficult to arrange a sentence. So I used google translate to help me to arrange my caption".

So, some of them used Google Translate to help them arrage a sentence. They did not write independently. They were addicted to open google translate in order to make a perfect caption before they post it to Instagram.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the findings of the data showed that the students' perceptions of Instagram as a media in English Language Teaching included the advantages and

disadvantages of using Instagram caption for their language learning. The advantages were participants got positive perceptions of Instagram caption as a media in English Language Teaching. It stimulated creative writing practice, grammatical competences, and motivation in writing. The students expressed their English skill in writing. The participants or the students felt free to write caption based on their pictures. Getting likes from others can increase their motivation. The disadvantages of using "Instagram" was the participants had problem with limited internet connection. So, the students need to use good internet when uploading. The students did not actively use Instagram. Because they are busy with work. The students need to prepare well and make sure their vocabularies and sentences were correct before they post it to Instagram. Thus, some of the students used "Google Translate" to make sure their sentences on Instagram caption were properly composed.

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