



**MAPPING HIGHER EDUCATION  
STUDENTS' PREFERENCES IN  
READING ON WATTPAD TO  
PRACTICE EXTENSIVE READING**



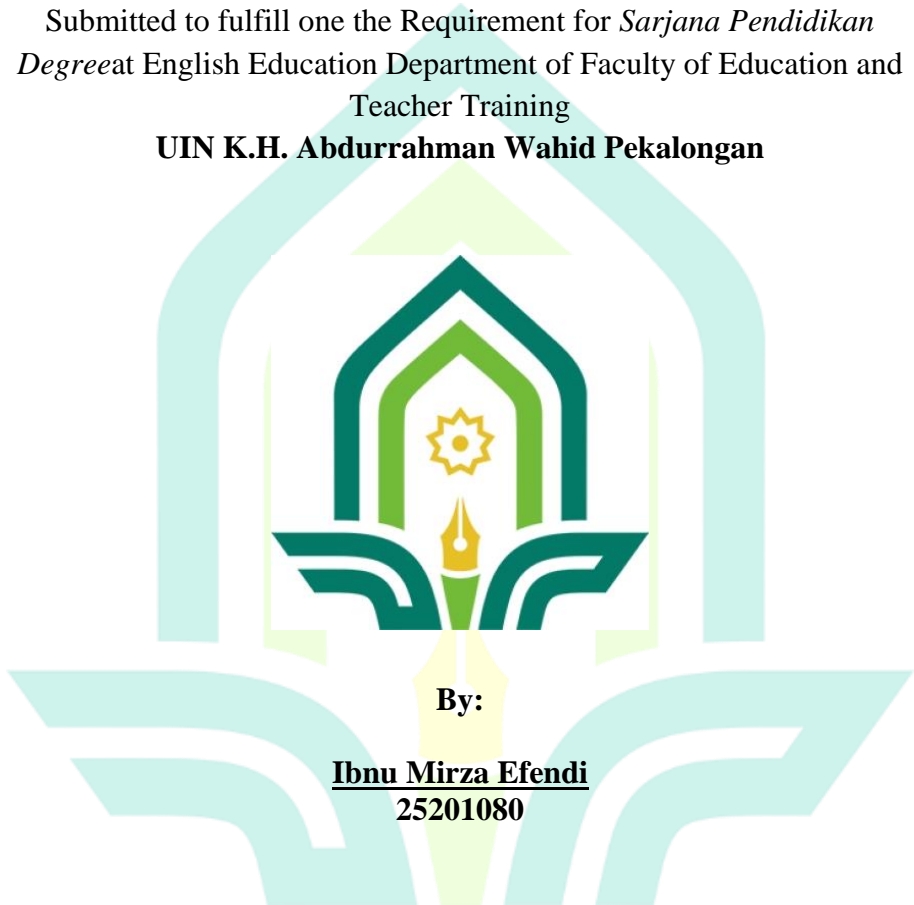
**Ibnu Mirza Efendi**  
**25201080**

**2025**

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**AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

Submitted to fulfill one the Requirement for *Sarjana Pendidikan*  
*Degreeat* English Education Department of Faculty of Education and  
Teacher Training  
**UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan**



**By:**

**Ibnu Mirza Efendi**  
**25201080**

**ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING  
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2025

## SURAT PERNYATAAN KEASLIAN SKRIPSI

Dengan ini saya

Nama : Ibnu Mirza Efendi

NIM : 2521080

Program Studi : Tadris Bahasa Inggris

Menyatakan bahwa yang tertulis dalam skripsi yang berjudul **“MAPPING HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS’ PREFERENCES IN READING ON WATTPAD TO PRACTICE EXTENSIVE READING”** ini benar-benar karya saya sendiri, bukan jiplakan dari karya orang lain atau pengutipan yang melanggar etika keilmuan yang berlaku, baik sebagian atau seluruhnya. Pendapat atau temuan orang lain yang terdapat dalam skripsi ini dikutip berdasarkan kode etik ilmiah. Apabila skripsi ini terbukti ditemukan pelanggaran terhadap etika keilmuan, maka saya secara pribadi bersedia menerima sanksi hukum yang dijatuhkan.

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Pekalongan, 6 Februari 2025

Yang membuat pernyataan,



**IBNU MIRZA EFENDI**

**NIM.2521080**

Eros Meilina Sofa, M. Pd.  
Karanganyar, Pekalongan

---

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Lamp : 3 (Tiga) Eksemplar  
Hal : Naskah Skripsi  
Sdr, Ibnu Mirza Efendi

Kepada  
Yth. Dekan FTIK IAIN Pekalongan  
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*Assalamu 'alaikum Wr.Wb.*

Setelah diadakan penelitian dan perbaikan, maka bersama ini saya kirimkan naskah Skripsi :

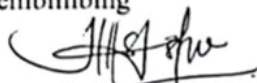
Nama : Ibnu Mirza Efendi  
NIM : 2521080  
Jurusan : FTIK/Tadris Bahasa Inggris  
Judul : **MAPPING HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' PREFERENCES IN READING ON WATTPAD TO PRACTICE EXTENSIVE READING**

Dengan ini mohon agar skripsi tersebut segera dimunaqosahkan.

Demikian nota pembimbing ini dibuat untuk digunakan sebagaimana mestinya. Atas perhatian bapak/Ibu, saya sampaikan terima kasih.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr.Wb.

Pekalongan, 6 Februari 2025  
Pembimbing



Eros Meilina Sofa, M. Pd.  
NIP. 19860509 202321 2 043



## APPROVAL SHEET

The Dean of Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan, confirms that the undergraduate thesis by:

Nama : IBNU MIRZA EFENDI  
NIM : 2521080  
Judul : MAPPING HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS PREFERENCES IN READING ON WATTPAD TO PRACTICE EXTENSIVE READING

Has been examined and approved by the panel of examiners on Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Pendidikan (S.Pd.) in English Education.

The Examiners,

Examiner I

Examiner II

Dr. Muhamad Jaeni, M.Pd., M.Ag.  
NIP. 197504112009121002

Dr. M. Ali Ghufron, M.Pd.  
NIP. 198707252020121004

Pekalongan, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Assigned by

The Dean of FTIK UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan



Prof. Dr. H. Moh. Sugeng Solhuddin, M.Ag.  
NIP. 197301122000031 001

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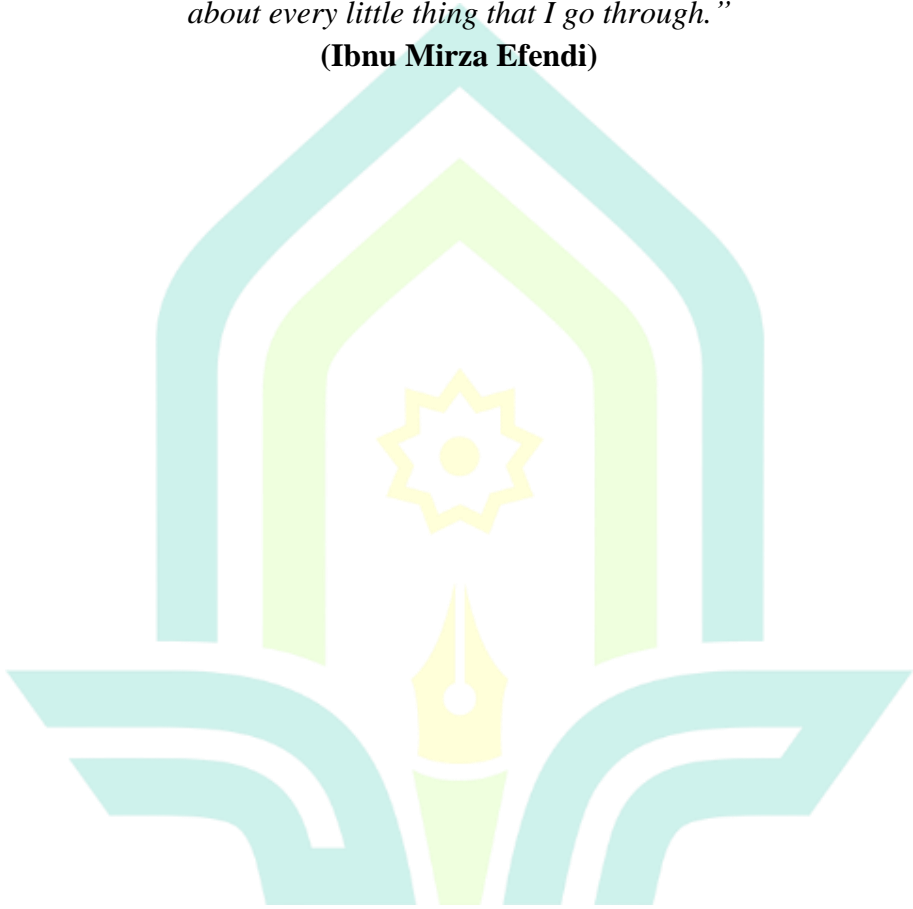
## MOTTO

*“Great things are not done on impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.”*

**(Vincent Van Gogh)**

*“I am a person from the future who came to the past (now) to care about every little thing that I go through.”*

**(Ibnu Mirza Efendi)**





## ABSTRAK

Membaca ekstensif (ER) merupakan kegiatan penting bagi mahasiswa, khususnya mahasiswa pendidikan tinggi, untuk meningkatkan kemampuan berbahasa dan menumbuhkan kecintaan membaca. Namun, dalam praktiknya, mereka mengalami kendala dalam memilih jenis bacaan yang tepat. Maka, tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis preferensi bacaan yang digunakan oleh mahasiswa pendidikan tinggi dalam melaksanakan membaca ekstensif melalui platform Wattpad. Untuk mencapai tujuan penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan metode pendekatan kualitatif dengan desain studi kasus. Peneliti juga mengumpulkan data melalui wawancara semi terstruktur terhadap 5 orang mahasiswa di salah satu perguruan tinggi di Pekalongan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa preferensi genre bacaan mahasiswa di Wattpad bervariasi mulai dari romance, science fiction, misteri, dan petualangan yang mencerminkan kebutuhan pribadi mereka akan hiburan, imajinasi, dan tantangan. Selain itu, berdasarkan hasil wawancara dan dokumentasi, partisipan juga merasakan bahwa preferensi genre tersebut disumbangkan oleh faktor-faktor yang kompleks seperti perkembangan usia, kebutuhan psikologis, dan rekomendasi teman sebaya.

**Kata kunci:** *Membaca extensive, preferensi membaca, wattpad*



## ABSTRACT

Extensive reading (ER) is an important activity for students, especially higher education students, to improve their language skills and foster a love of reading. However, in practice, they experience obstacles in choosing the right type of reading. Then, the purpose of this study is to identify and analyze the reading preferences used by higher education students in implementing extensive reading through the Wattpad platform. To achieve the objectives of this study, the researcher used a qualitative approach method with a case study design. The researcher also collected data through semi-structured interviews with 5 students at a university in Pekalongan. The results of the study showed that students' reading genre preferences on Wattpad varied from romance, science fiction, mystery and adventures which reflected their personal needs for entertainment, imagination, and challenges. In addition, based on the results of interviews and documentation, the participants also felt that the genre preferences were contributed by complex factors such as age development, psychological needs, and peer recommendations.

**Keywords:** *Extensive reading, reading preferences, wattpad*



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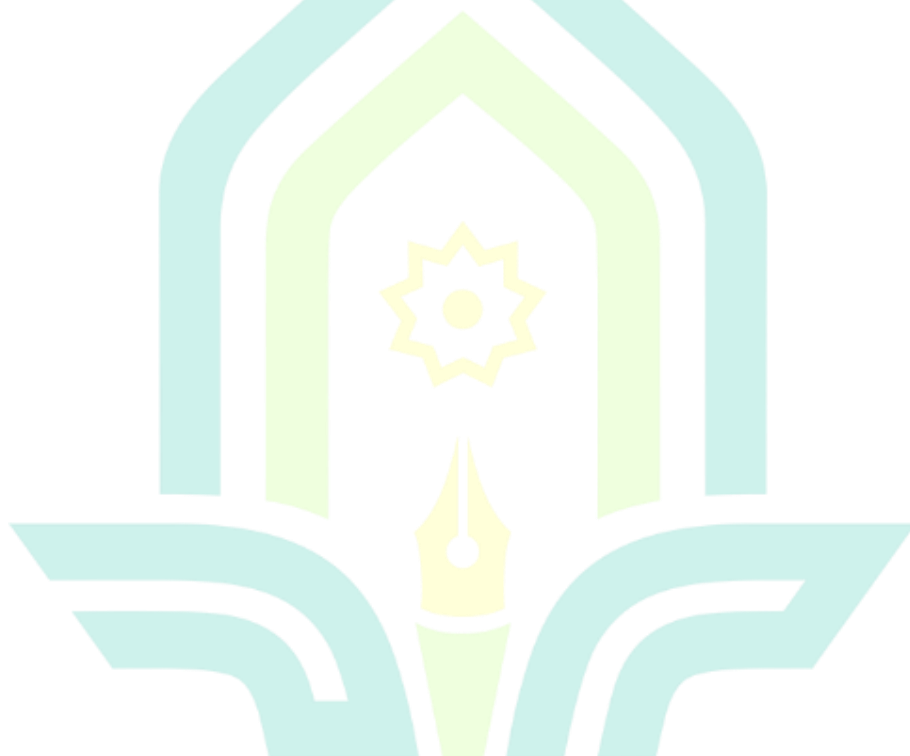


The Researcher

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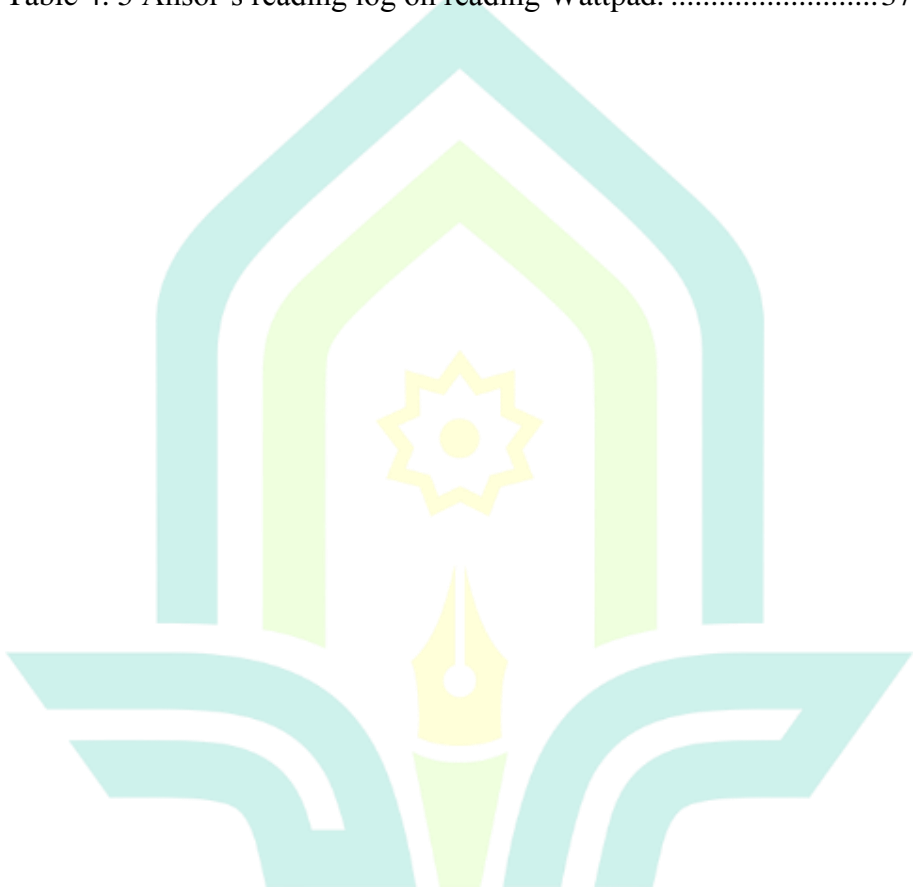
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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Extensive reading (ER) is an important activity for students to improve their language skills and foster a love of reading. According to Musahrain (2016), extensive reading is a type of reading that prioritizes or considers reading materials with a person's abilities. By adjusting reading materials with the abilities possessed, reading activities are expected to be a fun and non-stressful process.

Example activities of extensive reading are reading that someone like to spend the free time. According to Day (2015), reading material level that chosen tend to match to the ability of the students, for example story book, magazine, news, and novel. Thus, extensive reading have some benefits for the students. According to Levy (2016), extensive reading can make a broad content exposure, improved fluency with vocabulary, enhanced students' reading motivation, and autonomous learning (build reading habits).

The characteristic of extensive reading is the readers have the right to determine their reading materials. It is in line with Nation (2013), one of the important characteristics of a broad extensive reading program is that students have a choice in what they read. So, extensive reading has a close relationship with reading preferences. According to Nabila (2019), reading preferences are the reading materials that favored, which they will put a lot of effort and time as well as induce themselves to read for it.

However, students often encounter obstacles when they are going to do extensive reading activities. One of the obstacles that often occurs is difficulty or confusion in choosing the type of reading they want to read. It is in line with Renandya (2020), the essence of the ER program is the availability of a large amount of reading material and one of the problems of implementing extensive reading is finding relevant reading for students. It is also



a homework for teachers or instructors of extensive reading to provide a variety of reading texts that are suitable for students and also with easy access.

Most people think that to overcome this problem, it is enough to present many books to students and ask them to choose. However, in this case, the use of printed books for this kind of thing will be less efficient. Printed books are heavier and larger so they are less practical to carry or store in large quantities (Rizky, 2024). Nowadays, the term ebook or digital text is very popular for its practicality compared to printed books. Moreover, many people use online reading platforms such as Wattpad which provide a lot of free reading materials in it. Wattpad is mobile reading where anyone can upload it and read it on a smartphone (Lau, 2024).

Wattpad can be used for extensive reading practice. According to Permatasari (2020) in a study aimed at finding out students' perceptions in reading Wattpad for extensive reading activities, it was found that Wattpad contributed to improving writing skills, vocabulary mastery, speaking skills, and listening skills. Although we know that doing extensive reading on the Wattpad platform can have a positive impact on students, we still don't know whether Wattpad can also be a solution to solve the problem. The problem itself is where students have difficulty determining the type of reading that is appropriate for them during extensive reading activities.

This is important to be researched because choosing the right type of reading will affect the success or failure of implementing extensive reading both in the context of learning in the classroom or outside of learning. The purpose of extensive reading is to find a general overview and general understanding of a discourse (Komariah, 2021). So, to facilitate understanding of the discourse, there needs to be an appropriate type of reading for students.

From the explanation above, extensive reading activities are important to do because they foster a love of reading. However, students who are just starting extensive reading activities tend to

find it difficult to choose the type of reading that is right for them, especially from an easily accessible platform such as Wattpad. The purpose of this study was to find out what types of readings students like and to find out the that influence factors that contribute the students' preferences in reading Wattpad. So that this study can be useful for English teachers to help students determine the type of reading that is right for them.

## **1.2 Formulation of the problem**

The researcher takes the formulation of the problem as follows.

1. What are the preferred genres of text on Wattpad among higher education students in extensive reading activity?
2. What are the factors that contribute the higher education students' preferences in reading on Wattpad during extensive reading activity?

## **1.3 Operational definition**

1. Extensive Reading : Extensive reading is a type of reading that prioritizes, considers and adapts reading material to one's abilities (Musahrain, 2016).
2. Wattpad : Wattpad is mobile reading where anyone can upload it and read it on a smartphone (Lau, 2024).
3. Reading preferences : Reading preferences are the reading materials that favoured, which they will put a lot of effort and time as well indlude themselves to read for it (Nabila, 2019).

## **1.4 Aims of the study**

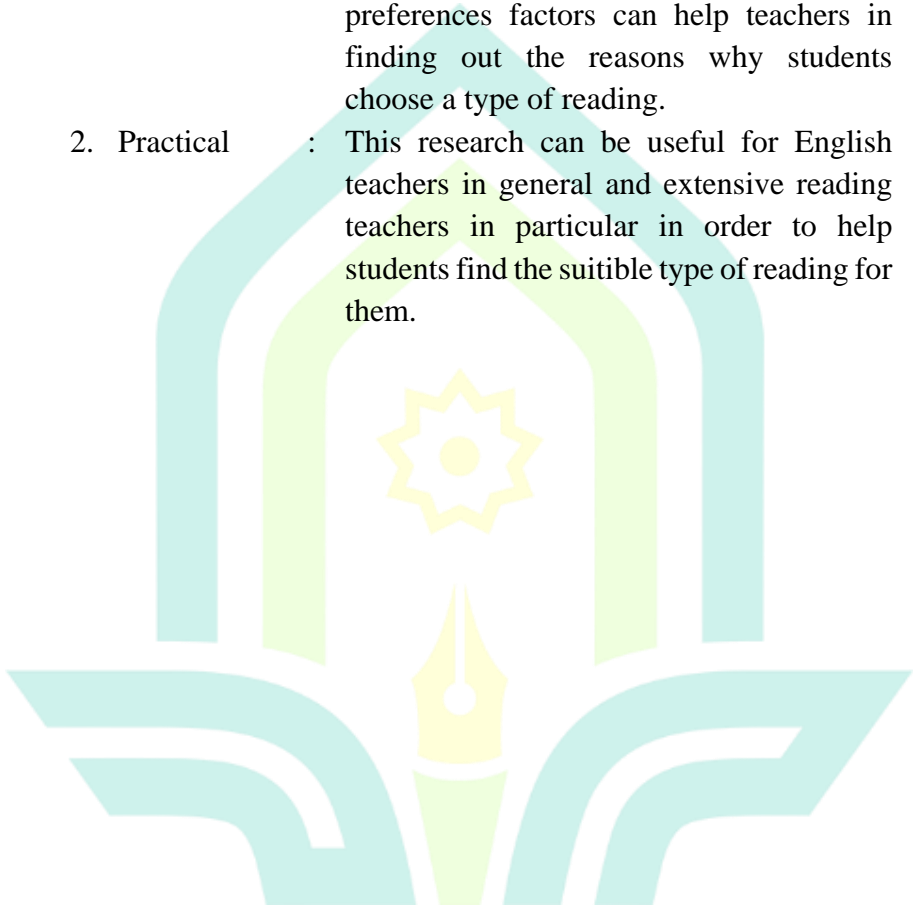
The aims of the study are as follows

1. To identify the preferred genres of text on Wattpad among higher education students in extensive reading activity.
2. To analyze the factors that contribute the higher education students' preferences in reading on Wattpad during extensive reading activity.

### 1.5 Significance of the study

The following are the significances of this study:

1. Theoretical : This research can help English teachers in general and extensive reading teachers in particular to provide an understanding of the theory of extensive reading and how Harris and Sipay's (1980) theory of reading preferences factors can help teachers in finding out the reasons why students choose a type of reading.
2. Practical : This research can be useful for English teachers in general and extensive reading teachers in particular in order to help students find the suitable type of reading for them.



## **CHAPTER V CONCLUSION**

### **5.1 Summary of the findings**

This chapter is based on the findings of this study regarding students' preferences on reading Wattpad and the factors contributed them. The researcher found that students' reading genre preferences on Wattpad are very diverse, including romance, science fiction, and mystery, and adventure, reflecting their need for entertainment, imagination, and challenge. These preferences indicate that Wattpad serves as a flexible platform that allows students to meet their personal reading needs through the variety of genres available. The researcher also found that students' reading genre preferences on Wattpad are influenced by complex factors such as age development, psychological needs, availability of free content, and most importantly, peer recommendations. Although gender and socioeconomic status play a role, the influence of context and social dynamics proves to be more dominant in shaping students' reading genre choices.

### **5.2 Recommendation**

In a research, a researcher must be able to provide something useful or beneficial for the development of science, agencies or institutions, communities and various parties related to this research. After the researcher completes this thesis, in this chapter the researcher puts forward suggestions according to the results of the research in the discussion of this thesis. The suggestions that the researcher provides after researching are as follows.

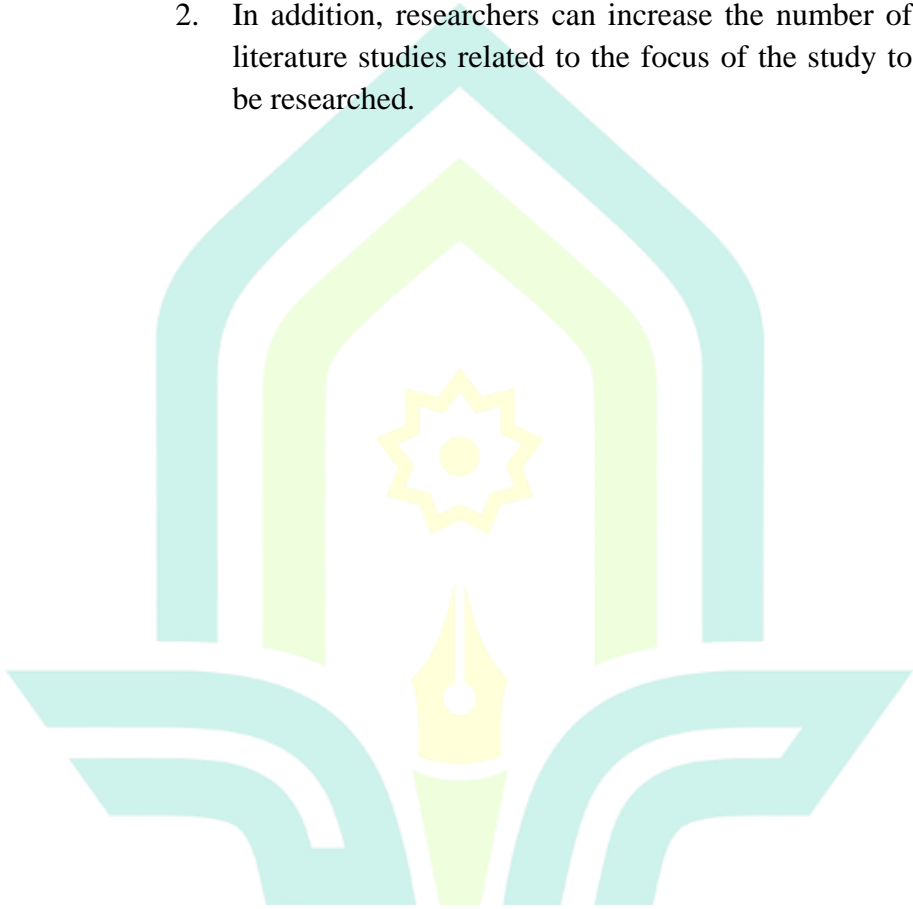
#### **5.2.1 Recommendation for teachers**

1. Recommendation from this study is that teachers should provide more extensive reading activities for students in order to foster a love of reading in students.
2. In carrying out extensive reading activities, teachers must pay attention to all indicators of extensive reading, including paying attention to students'

reading preferences and the factors that contribute to them.

### 5.2.2 Recommendation for further research

1. Recommendation for further research that will conduct the same study, it can raise different study objects such as student preferences on online comic platforms in extensive reading activities.
2. In addition, researchers can increase the number of literature studies related to the focus of the study to be researched.



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