

## ABSTRACT

Fiqih Wahyudi, Firdaus. 2020. *The Difficulties of Reading Online Text for ESL Students' at College Level in University of Muhammadiyah Jember*. Thesis, English Language Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muhammadiyah Jember. Advisors: 1) Fitrotul Mufaridah, M.Pd. 2) Nurkamilah, M.Pd.

**Key Words: Difficulties, Strategies, Online Reading**

Online reading is the process of extracting meaning from a text that is in a digital format. Also called digital reading. There should be such kind of proper strategies that can support the reading online process. Those strategies will help students, especially, enhancing their understanding knowledge well. Therefore, it is important to have a research entitled "The Difficulties of Reading Online Text." The problems of this research were "what are the difficulties of Reading online text for ESL students' at college level?" and "what are the online reading strategies implemented by ESL students' at college level?".

Those research problems were formulated to find out the strategies used by students on reading online. This research used a descriptive qualitative method with the respondents were 6 students in 8<sup>th</sup> semester of English Department in University of Muhammadiyah Jember. The data was collected by using interview about the difficulties and strategies of reading online.

It was conducted via online on August 14th, 2020. There were 6 statements on interview that responded by students via online due to the pandemic. Moreover, the interview had been done by using whatsapp private call to all students. There were found 3 things in the difficulties of reading online, namely; sore eyes, tired eyes, and difficulty focusing. These three things focus on the physical problems that make it difficult to read online. There were 3 points in the strategies of reading online, namely; focus on the purpose, consolidate information, and setting the devices. All students have experienced difficulties in reading online and each has a strategy to overcome it.

Based on the research findings, it is suggested that teachers can focus on addressing the students' online reading difficulties as well constructing online reading strategies of the students. The findings may also add to the body of the literature related to online reading strategies within the L2 learning context. It is expected of the future researchers to explore more on L2 learners' online reading strategies with a broader population.