

The Roles of Lithub Website in Learning English Literature for Beginner Literature Students

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Abstract

This study aims to find the possible roles of Lithub website based on students' perspectives. It is a typical website that provides all materials and sources of literature including literary works such as short stories and poetries, and literary criticisms. This study implemented a method that required a questionnaire and interviews to gain the data. There were 35 beginner literature students who were in their 3rd semester (when this study was conducted) at the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Sam Ratulangi participated in this study and 5 of them served as interviewees that had been required by random samplings due to their availability and willingness. This study found that 7 roles can be offered by Lithub website in order to help beginner literature students' learning process. They are: 1) providing complete learning materials, 2) making learning more interesting by providing lively visualization, 3) providing audio recordings, 4) providing appropriate writing examples by reliable authors and reviewers, 5) improving grammatical competence, 6) train them to conduct literary analysis using literary criticism, and 7) motivates them to read more by providing e-books.

Keywords: Lithub website, literature, literary analysis, technology.

Introduction

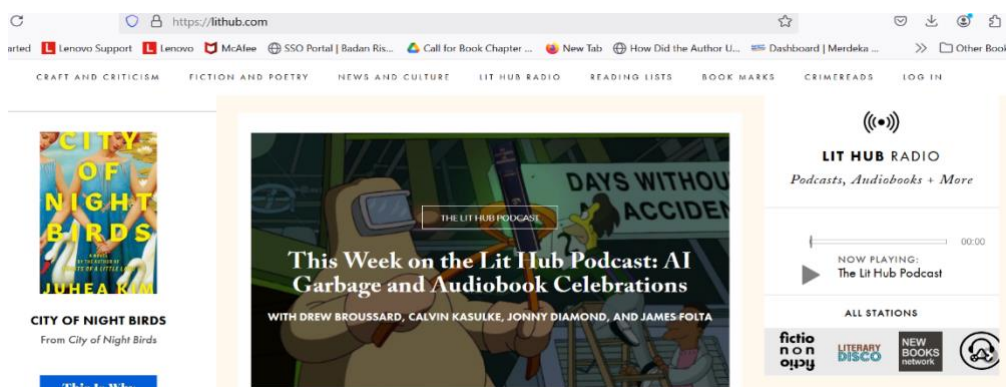
The process of learning literature used to be associated with hard copies, thick, and heavy printed books. However, since the era of modernization and technology, most learning methods, media, and approaches have become easier and lighter due to turning physical documents into digital exposures. This also applies to learning literature (Anggini & Harmoko, 2019). Since the era has changed, and most

physical books have turned to digital ones which are lighter and easier to access, it is essential for teachers and educators to somehow adapt their teaching style to digitalization and use technology where necessary and appropriate. This aims to engage students in a more interesting, enjoyable, motivational, and beneficial learning process (Kristiani & Pradnyadewi, 2021; Ridha et al., 2022; Shamshul et al., 2024). Therefore, finding the most effective and efficient digital learning medium for studying literature is crucial.

These days, many applications and websites have been created and launched for the public that are purposely designed for learning materials. In the case of studying literature, there is an open-access website called Literary Hub, which can be accessed at <https://lithub.com/>. Literary Hub, abbreviated as Lit Hub, is a website launched in 2015 by Grove Atlantic company based in New York, USA. It is a website generator that specifically publishes literature materials from various publishers. People can access all materials published on lithub.com for free which causes them no money. [Lithub.com](https://lithub.com/) has seven main menus on its site. They are 1) Craft and Criticism, 2) Fiction and Poetry, 3) News and Culture, 4) Lithub Radio, 5) Reading Lists, 6) Bookmarks, and 7) Crime Reads.

On the “Craft and Criticism” menu, readers are facilitated to learn literary criticisms by providing materials regarding literary criticism and the ways to implement them in analyzing literary works. Fiction and Poetry menu provides readers with numerous short stories, novel reviews, and poems. News and Culture menu provides readers with materials such as histories, sciences, politics, film, TV programs, music, biography, technology, bookstores, and libraries, along with arts and photography collections. Lithub Radio facilitates readers with podcasts and audio regarding ancient and contemporary literature. Reading Lists menu shows the most famous literary works of the decade. The Bookmarks menu provides book reviews and giveaways for loyal readers. Lastly, the Crime Reads menu serves readers with criminal theme books. By looking at the complete menus and materials provided on lithub.com, the authors of this study believed that this particular website would be practically effective and efficient in introducing literature to beginner literature students. Thus, its roles in learning English literature for beginner literature students must be analyzed.

Figure 1. The Interface of Lithub Website



By tracking the literature review, many previous studies have analyzed the roles and effectiveness of technology in improving students' understanding and learning experiences regarding literature. For instance, recent research conducted in 2024 regarding online and in-person implementation strategies in literary discussion was analyzed, and the authors found that multimedia, such as audio recordings and video clips that provide visual aids, helped students to understand literary works such as prose and poetry in better ways (Carter et al., 2024). Another recent study in the same year by Marsela Turku also analyzed the process of teaching and learning English literature through multimedia. She focused on implementing educational games, videos, movies, and stories, especially YouTube in teaching and learning literature. Her participants were 31 English literature students who studied at Aleksander Moisiu University Durrës. She found that the role of technology, in this case, multimedia had helped students to be more engaged and active since they discovered that it was exciting to study literature through multimedia that provided more lively visualization rather than plain text-books (Turku, 2024). Another study conducted in one of the Saudi universities around 2023 also emphasized that the use of technology in learning literature also affected the learning outcomes of the literature students (Alfaruque et al., 2023).

Some additional previous studies regarding the use of technology or specific websites to teach and learn English literature also showed that the utilization of websites and applications such as Wordwall, Bamboozle, Padlet, and Kahoot in teaching literature for 71 Vietnamese students who learned English and American literature was effective and successfully boosted their motivation as well as knowledge in literature (Le, 2022). In addition, a previous study conducted in Montreal which had been participated by 209 high school students as respondents,

and applied mixed methods (questionnaire and interview) to gain the data reported that most of the participants (68%) used a particular website called “SparkNotes” to understand a literary text (Dunbar, 2021). Dunbar’s finding supported a previous study conducted by Alison Bach where she wrote that as a learning website, SparkNotes was widely used to gain more understanding in studying literary text (Bach, 2014).

By reviewing all previous publications mentioned in two previous paragraphs, it is clear that until this study has been conducted, no publication has researched the utilization of a specific website that can provide a learning platform for studying English literature such as Lithub yet. The implementation of technological devices to help students to understand literature has become massive these days. However, it is still necessary to explore a specific website that can effectively and efficiently help beginner literature students to know literature. That is why, the analysis regarding the roles of the Lithub website in learning literature for beginner literature students is essential to be analyzed. This particularly aims to know whether Lithub as a particular website that provides literature materials truly useful to facilitate the students in learning literature properly or not. Therefore, the research question of this study is: what are the roles of the Lithub website in learning English literature for beginner literature students?

Methodology

This study used mixed methods to collect the data. Mixed methods are usually used to gain more reliable data (Creswell, 2009, 2014; Summerfield, 2013). A questionnaire adapted from Marsela Turku's research published in 2024 was used to collect the data quantitatively (Turku, 2024). The authors modified the original questionnaire to suit the current study’s needs. While Turku’s questionnaire mostly focused on YouTube and other technological devices, the questionnaire used for this study focused on the Lithub website. The statement in the question is mostly the same, but the name of the technological device or website was changed to the Lithub website. Furthermore, an interview was also used to collect the data qualitatively. The thing which is measured in this study is students’ perceptions regarding the roles of Lithub website for learning literature.

This study's participants were 35 literature students who studied at Universitas Sam Ratulangi. All of them were third-semester students when this study was conducted from August to October 2024 (the beginning of the semester until the

mid-semester period). Students were exposed to the Lithub website from August 19th to October 11th, 2024. They were instructed to use Lithub website for eight weeks to find literary works (novel reviews, short stories, and poems), to learn types of literary criticism, and to analyze literary works by utilizing the literary criticisms that have been discovered. After the mid-semester project had been submitted, all of them were given a questionnaire regarding the roles of Lithub website in learning English literature. Moreover, five students were chosen randomly to be interviewed. Random sampling is appropriate to be applied when those participants are ready and available to participate and 5 people are appropriate numbers to be interviewed when the respondents who filled in the questionnaire were around 25 to 50 participants (Creswell, 2007; Summerfield, 2013). The interviewees were labeled P1, P2, P3, P4, and P5 where “P” stands for Participant.

The data analysis technique in analyzing the findings from the questionnaire is descriptive analysis. It is a technique where particular researchers exposed their participants with closed-questions with descriptive statistics such as Likert scale (agree to disagree) to summarize the data (Creswell, 2020). On the other hand, the interview applied inductive methods by implementing narrative analysis. By doing this, the interviewer (1st author of this study) used this method to highlight crucial aspects of interviewee’s stories that resonated their experiences as well as highlighted critical points that suit the research area. The processes of analyzing the interview data accumulated several steps such as transcript readings, transcript annotating, data conceptualization, data segmenting (categorizing / grouping), and segment analysis (Creswell, 2007; Summerfield, 2013).

Findings

The Roles of Lithub Website in Learning English Literature

The questionnaire used for this study proposed seven statements. The statements and the percentage of participants’ responses can be seen in Table 1 below.

Tabel 1. The Roles of Lithub Website

No	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Lithub provides complete materials for learning English literature.	4 (12%)	30 (86%)	1 (2%)	0	0
2	Lithub makes learning more interesting by providing videos and lively visualizations.	2 (6%)	32 (92%)	1 (2%)	0	0

3	Lithub makes learning more interesting by providing audio recordings.	2 (6%)	32 (92%)	1 (2%)	0	0
4	Lithub improves my writing skills by providing examples from reliable authors and researchers.	0	34 (98%)	1 (2%)	0	0
5	Lithub improves my grammatical competence by providing examples from reliable authors and researchers.	0	34 (98%)	1 (2%)	0	0
6	Lithub has helped me learn how to analyze literary texts using literary criticism.	1 (2%)	34 (98%)	0	0	0
7	Lithub motivates me to read more books since they are provided in soft files.	14 (40%)	19 (54%)	2 (6%)	0	0

Table 1 clearly shows that most participants positively responded to the Lithub website. 86% agreed that Lithub provides complete materials for learning English literature. 92% agreed that Lithub makes learning more interesting by offering videos and lively visualizations. 92% agreed that Lithub makes learning more interesting by providing audio recordings. 98% agreed that Lithub improves their writing skills by giving examples from reliable authors and researchers. 98% agreed that Lithub improves their grammatical competence. 98% agreed that Lithub helped them learn how to analyze literary text through literary criticism analysis. Interestingly, 40% of respondents strongly agreed that Lithub successfully motivated them to read more books since it provides books in soft files while 54% agreed on this matter as well. Table 1 also shows that no participants disagreed with all statements proposed in the questionnaire. Meanwhile, there was only 1 participant who voted for neutral in statement number 1 to 5, 2 participants gave neutral responses to statement number 7, and no participants voted for neutral in statement number 6.

Seven statements proposed in the questionnaire were also asked to the 5 participants who were willingly participating in the interview section on October 14th, 2024. To gain more data, all participants were asked about how or in what ways they agreed about each statement. Every participant spent around 15 to 20 minutes clarifying their opinions regarding each statement in the questionnaire. The interview was conducted in Manadonese to gain more detailed answers from each participant since it is their mother tongue. The interview was recorded on a cellphone, transcribed, and then translated into English. All similar answers were grouped after being segmented (labeled as the same opinion), and crucial statements which are unique or provided important clues related to the issue are reported in this section. Therefore, not all five participants' statements are reported. The statements that

have not shown on the findings are labelled as “the same” group and only the representatives of the group shown in the report (Dornyei, 2011).

1. Lithub website provides complete materials for learning English literature

All participants stated that the Lithub website provides complete materials for learning English literature because many famous writings (novel reviews, short stories, and poems) from well-known authors can be found there and accessed (read or downloaded) for free. Some statements provided as examples can be read below:

Uhm... so ma'am... uhm... so, the website like... has what we need... like short stories, poetries, uhm... novel... uhm... although not the full-page novel, but... it's like... uhm... it gives some pages of the novel... and also the review... it is like... like... a... a library for me. It has many books, like... many references (P3).

Lithub... for me ma'am... it's like an 'Indomaret'... a shop where you can find like... like anything you're looking for (P5).

The participants claimed that Lithub website provides everything that they need. It serves as a library and is considered a complete grocery store where we can buy anything.

2. Lithub website makes learning more interesting by providing videos and lively visualizations

All participants stated that the Lithub website makes learning literature more interesting due to the existence of video and lively visualization. Some statements provided as examples can be read below:

I... I... I do like this website... like... you see... its visualization is like... uhm... what does it call... something very interesting... colorful... ooh yeah... eye-catching I meant! I like everything that I see on that website, ma'am! (P1).

I like lithub's design, I... I also think that... uhm... I can do both reading and watching the learning materials that I need since it has videos. Whenever I get tired reading... or... uhm... or I feel like I got sleepy or dizzy ma'am, I will just play the video so I can still learn as well without reading collections of words (P3).

Somehow, I feel like playing games instead of having serious study. It is so interesting. So I can play and study at the same time ma'am (P4).

It's such a good website. It's colorful but does not harm my eyes. The website is very user-friendly as well ma'am (P5).

The participants stated that the Lithub website looks eye-catching, the videos provided there are very useful for learning, learning from it feels like playing a game, and it is such a user-friendly website.

3. Lithub website makes learning more interesting by providing audio recordings

All participants stated that the Lithub website makes learning more interesting by providing audio recordings. Some statements provided as examples can be read below:

Sometimes reading is difficult for me. I cannot open my eyes widely in front of a computer for hours... so ma'am, for doing your assignment, I usually just played the audio on the Lithub website like the podcast of... uhm of... book reviews or... or the short stories... I just listened to it... and then tried to understand the materials, and then... I did my assignment based on the knowledge I obtained from the audio (P2).

This website for me is so useful ma'am. It's because... uhm... for me like... uhm... it's not like other websites... uhm... you know... website that just... that just provided writings or PDF files... but... it also provides audio recordings for the literary works... such as collections of short stories. So... I really like it ma'am! You know... like I can do many things such as eating, ironing... tidying my room... or... or cooking... while I... while I am listening to the audio files (P4).

The participants claimed that Lithub website provides them with audio recordings to help them in the learning process. They did not need to read, just listened to understand the materials and they could do other activities while listening to the audio files.

4. Lithub website improves writing skills by providing examples from reliable authors and researchers

All participants stated that the Lithub website improves their writing skills by providing examples from reliable authors and researchers. Some statements provided as examples can be read below:

Some websites just put book reviews... their reviews about novels, short stories, or movies... but they never posted the authors' or reviewers' names. It's totally different from what I got on Lithub website. Every writing always clarifies its author's real name. After I did some internet surfing ma'am... I found that most of the reviewers and authors on Lithub are famous people. So, by judging from this perspective... I think... I believe that the sources and references from Lithub are reliable and I can learn a lot from that website (P2). Ma'am... I feel like... uhm... I can learn to conduct academic writing by learning from... from the paragraph... uhm I meant the writings posted on Lithub. There are many famous authors, journalists, and uhm... what is it? Reviewers... yeah reviewers like... uhm... Emily Temple. Her review and literary analysis are great. I learned a lot from her posts (P3).

The participants claimed that Lithub website provides good writing examples. It provides writings from well-known authors and their writings are full of good vocabulary choices and inspired them to write.

5. *Lithub website improves grammatical competence by providing examples from reliable authors and researchers*

All participants stated that the Lithub website improves their grammatical competence by providing examples from reliable authors and researchers. Some statements provided as examples can be read below:

It provides a very formal and academic writing style in my opinion. I never saw like colloquial or... abbreviation on every post so far... so, I can learn to write such a grammatically correct sentence from Lithub (P2).

In my humble opinion, most of the authors' and reviewers' writings on the website are beautiful... (the interviewer asked the interviewee about what does he mean by beautiful) Beautiful here... I mean like... even it is a review or literary analysis... their like... uhm... choice of words, grammatical structure... and... yeah... something like that looks very beautiful, nice to read, and understandable easily. So... I really like to learn how to write from the examples they provided on Lithub (P5).

The participants claimed that Lithub website provides a writing with good grammatical structure. They can learn to write good sentences with formal writing styles that stick to grammatical rules.

6. *Lithub website helps students to analyze literary texts using literary criticism*

All participants stated that the Lithub website improves their skills in analyzing literary texts using literary criticism. Some statements provided as examples can be read below:

You asked us to see the examples from the website, right ma'am?? Regarding the literary analysis right? I used some available examples on that website to do my assignments. It has so many types of literary analysis that use many literary criticism... like you know... what you taught us... such as feminism, Marxism, eco-criticism... and so on... and for my project, I read many literary analyses that use psychoanalysis from Sigmund Freud as reference (P1).

This website particularly helps me a lot in understanding how to use literary criticism in analyzing literary projects. Since I analyzed Daisy's character from "The Great Gatsby" through Marxism due to her materialism, Lithub helps me a lot in providing examples along my way finishing my final project (P3).

The participants claimed that Lithub website provides them with numerous examples of literary analyses that used literary criticism and those examples helped them complete their own assignments.

7. *Lithub website motivates students to read more books since they are provided in soft files*

All participants stated that the Lithub website motivates them to read more books since the website provides digital books. Some statements provided as examples can be read below:

I cannot find any website that has so many sources of literary books like Lithub does (P1).

Lithub provides us with many types of books. It's just attached on the website, or I can download the PDF files. In addition, audio recordings and videos are available. So, it is like... you know... you know like... make our life easier... rather than... rather than reading heavy and old physical books. I can read anywhere and anytime from my laptop on Lithub. So I guess... I read more after I know Lithub (P2).

I can find so many books here. Many short stories even from the oldest to the latest one. They all are free to be accessed ma'am as you told us! And... some short stories are available with images... like comic you know... so cool! (P3). Rather than going to the library downstairs ma'am, it is much faster and easier to search literature books on Lithub (P4). It's heavy bringing hard copies. It's much easier to find sources and references from Lithub (P5).

The participants claimed that Lithub website motivates them to learn more since it provides various types of reading materials such as PDF files, audio recordings, or even videos. Lithub provides them with many references which are easier and faster to access. That is why they are motivated to read more.

Discussion

The data gained from the questionnaire which was filled in by 35 students, and the interviews which were obtained from 5 students clarified that Lithub website has 7 (seven) roles in learning literature. Judging from the questionnaire data, 30 students (80%) agreed with the first role which states that Lithub provides complete materials for learning English literature. 4 students (12%) very agreed with this statement and there was only 1 student who was neutral about this statement while no one was against this statement. The interviewees even claimed that Lithub website serves as a library and acts like a grocery store that provides what they need regarding literature. A website that can serve as a library is essential for students, especially for beginner students who just started to learn a particular subject (Astiti et al., 2023). This finding supports Astiti et al's research that claims that a website that serves as a library is highly necessary for students. Therefore, based on the students' perceptions, Lithub suits the first role as a complete library that provides complete materials for learning literature.

The second role of Lithub website is to make the learning process more interesting by providing videos and lively visualizations. 32 students (92%) agreed with this statement, 2 students (6%) very agreed with this statement, 1 was neutral, and no one disagreed with this statement. It means they showed a positive attitude towards this second role of Lithub. The interviewees even claimed that the website has a beautiful design, is eye-catching, and user-friendly. A well-designed website is very important in boosting students' interest in learning (Aboalghanam et al., 2023). The existence of videos also helps students to learn better due to their lively

visualization that attracts students' interest (Noetel et al., 2021). Thus, Lithub truly possesses its second role as a website that makes the learning process interesting by providing a well-designed web and videos to improve student's learning experiences, and this role supports Aboalghanam's and Noetel's previous studies.

The third role of Lithub website is to make the learning process more interesting by providing audio recordings. 32 students (92%) agreed with this statement. The interviewees also clarified that the availability of audio recordings makes it easier to learn literature materials because while listening to the recordings, they can do other activities. It allows them to be multitasking. A previous study also claimed that listening to audio recordings such as podcasts in the learning process truly helps auditory-style learners to learn and memorize better (Albar & Sari, 2021). That is why the third role of Lithub website serves its role properly in assisting students' learning process.

The fourth role of Lithub website is to improve students' writing skills by providing examples from reliable authors and researchers. 34 students (98%) agreed with this statement. The interviewees even stated that the writings and the reviews provided on the website came from famous and reliable authors or researchers. Their writings become good examples for them to learn from. It is true that to learn to write, it is necessary to follow good writing examples from the experts (Xia, 2021). By judging the fourth role of Lithub website, it is clear that it supports the previous study by Xia that declared that learning from good writing examples will help the students to write better.

The fifth role of Lithub website is to improve students' grammatical competence. 34 students (98%) agreed with this statement. The interviewees claimed that all writings provided on the website look so formal and well-written. The vocabulary choice is also very pleasant to read. A previous study highlighted that it is necessary to learn to write from reliable sources that use proper grammar structure to improve writing skills as well as students' grammar competence (Belmekki, 2023). Thus, it is appropriate to proclaim that the fifth role of Lithub website supports Belmekki's study.

The sixth role of Lithub website is to help students learn to analyze literary texts using literary criticism. 34 students (98) agreed with this statement and 1 student (2%) very agreed with this. The interviewees revealed that Lithub website provides them with various examples of literary analyses and those examples help them do their assignments. Learning to write a literary analysis will trigger students'

critical thinking and finding proper examples to learn to do literary necessary is important (Rizka Norsy Ramadhana et al., 2022). Therefore, the sixth role of Lithub website supports previous study and can be considered as useful role in igniting students' critical thinking and analysis skills in the field of literature.

The seventh role of Lithub website is to motivate the students to read more books because it provides books in digital forms. 19 students (54%) agreed with this statement while 14 students (40%) very agreed with this. Among the seven roles of Lithub website, this is the statement that has the most "very agree" responses compared to the other roles. It means students truly realize that Lithub website motivates them to read more since the books are provided in soft files. It is stated in a particular previous study that technology helps students to read more including the existence of websites or applications that provide them with good materials (Helingo, 2021). The existence of e-books truly ignites students' interest to read more since digital books are lighter, easily accessible, and can be read whenever and wherever (Picton, 2014; Siegle, 2012; Wirdiyana et al., 2024).

Conclusion

This study concludes that Lithub website has 7 roles in helping beginner literature students during the learning process through accessing its website. First, it provides complete materials for learning English literature such as novel reviews, short stories, poetries, and literary analysis. Second, it makes learning more interesting due to its lively visualizations and videos. Third, it makes learning more interesting by providing audio recordings and podcasts. Fourth, it improves students' writing skills by providing appropriate and top-notch examples from well-known authors and reviewers. Fifth, it improves students' grammatical competence by providing well-written and formal writing examples. Sixth, it helps students learn to analyze literary works using literary criticism. Last, it motivates students to read more by providing accessible e-books and necessary texts regarding literature. That is why it is beneficial to introduce Lithub website to the students to help them study literature, especially when they are still considered as beginners in the area of literature.

This study mostly focused on the roles of Lithub website based on students' perceptions (questionnaire and interviews). However, as suggested, it is possible to explore more the effectiveness and efficiency of Lithub websites by using pre and post-tests or it is even better to analyze each menu provided in Lithub websites such

as Craft and Criticism, Fiction and Poetry, News and Culture, Lithub Radio, Reading Lists, Bookmarks, and Crime Reads. They can be studied to check students' favorite menus among them, and the effectiveness that each menu may offer.

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