

## **The Impact of *NovelPlus* application on Readers in Malaysia during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Nurbalqis Aimi Anisa binti Mohd Jaafar  
Mohd Syuhaidi bin Abu Bakar\*  
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Malaysia

Corresponding email: syuhaidi@uitm.edu.my\*

### **Abstract**

*When the COVID-19 pandemic struck Malaysia, the Ministry of Health (MOH) advised Malaysians to stay home, resulting in the reading of online novels gaining attention among Malaysian citizens. NovelPlus is one of the applications that offer novel reading services online. This study interviewed 10 informants who are also NovelPlus readers. The results of the study found that there are several effects in terms of language, namely opening opportunities to learn foreign languages, strengthen vocabulary and the app attracts attention as it has used a common and understandable language. However, some informants are saying that there is the use of abusive words in the application. In terms of thinking, it was found that the NovelPlus application influences thinking because there are indecent scenes in the novel, which can influence daily communication and able to inspire new writers negatively. However, the NovelPlus app can expose them to the world of writing. In terms of knowledge, the NovelPlus application adds knowledge about crimes, countries, and diseases. Other harmful effects that occur after reading through the platform include health problems, and the creation of a communication gap, yet it can save money. Therefore, it is hoped that this study will serve as a reference for future studies related to online novel reading consumption.*

*Keywords: NovelPlus, Effect, Language, Thinking, Knowledge*