A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF MAN 1 PEKANBARU IN READING NEWS ITEM TEXTS

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Abstract : *This descriptive research was aimed to find out the ability of the first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru in reading news item texts. The research data were collected from July to August 2016. The subject of this research was class X MIA 2. which consisted of 28 students. The data were collected by giving a test to the students in the form of multiple choice test. The results of the research showed that the first year students of Man 1 Pekanbaru got good level in terms of finding language features with mean score of 78.5, mediocre level in terms of finding generic structures with mean score of 58.5. Therefore, it can be concluded that the ability of the first year students in reading news item texts was in term of finding language features.*

Keywords: *Students' ability, News Item texts*

SEBUAH PENELITIAN MENGENAI KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS X MAN 1 PEKANBARU DALAM MEMBACA TEKS NEWS ITEM

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Abstrak: Penelitian deskriptif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa kelas satu MAN 1 Pekanbaru dalam membaca teks news item. Data penelitian dikumpulkan dari bulan Juli hingga Agustus tahun 2016. Subjek dalam penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas X.MIA 2 yang terdiri dari 28 siswa. Data dikumpulkan dengan memberikan test kepada siswa dalam bentuk pilihan ganda. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan siswa kelas satu MAN 1 Pekanbaru memperoleh kategori baik dalam aspek finding language features dengan nilai rata rata 78.5, dan kategori rata rata dalam aspek finding generic structures dengan nilai rata rata 58.5. Oleh karena itu dapat disimpulkan bahwa kemampuan siswa kelas satu dalam membaca teks news item di dalam aspek finding language features.

Kata Kunci: Kemampuan Siswa, Teks News Item

INTRODUCTION

There are four language skills that must be learned by foreign language learners as a basic competence in English: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. However, one of the main skills that students need to acquire at junior and senior high school is reading. According to Burnes and page (1991), reading is an interactive process; a process in which the readers engage in exchange of ideas with an author through the texts. In this case, students are expected not only to understand the explicit information, but also the implied meaning existed in the text. Through reading, students can enrich their knowledge and enlarge their information about the world.

In Kurikulum Tingkat SatuanPendidikan *(School BasedCurriculum)*(2006) which is implemented in MAN 1 Pekanbaru, the students are expected to be able to understand reading texts. The students must also be able to apply reading strategies when they want tocomprehend those kinds of text types. The purposes of reading comprehension are: (1) to be able to identify the meaning and the use of unfamiliar lexical items, to find the topic,to identify main idea, and supporting details of various types of texts, (2) to be able to develop the competence in interpretive and affective reading non-fictional text in pre-advanced level, (3) to be able to develop the competency in reading various types of texts.

Brown (1982) states that the aim of teaching reading is to enable students to comprehend the text and react to what is written. It means that students should be active in responding to what they read. Generally, reading activities in English consist of reading the text, finding out the meaning of difficult words, and answering the questions based on the text.

Naturally, the goal of reading class is to enable students to have a good reading skill when they are dealing with texts. The skill will be helpful because it teaches the students how to catch the information. In other words, the skill teaches the students how to understand through reading texts. Automatically, the focus of this texts is news item texts.

So the writer wants to know the ability of the first year students of man 1 pekanbaru in comprehending news item texts, because the following reasons: 1. it is the curriculum demand 2. to help the students to comprehend the news that they read on newspaper which uses English language 3. to enrich the students vocabularies by reading the news.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This is a descriptive research. According to Gay (2000), a descriptive research involves collecting data, testing hypothesis or to answer question concerning with the status of the study. It means that descriptive research is used to summarize the distribution of a variable or more, but limited to sample data only, not to be generalized to population. The participants of this research were the first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru. For this purpose, class X MIA 2 became the subject of the research which consists of 28 students.

Instruments Technique and Analysis

This research used quantitative data to find the result of this research. Quantitative data is basically data measured on a numerical scale. In collecting the data, researcher used test. The data was analyzed from students score. The instrument that used in this research were arranging the words and complete the blank words in the passage. Before the test was given to the sample class, the test will be given to the try out class to know the validity of the test. The material of the test was about present perfect tense.

To analyze the data, the researcher used the followings formula:

a) To know the difficulty level

$$F.V = \frac{R}{N}$$

Where:

F.V $\quad$ = Difficulty level
R $\quad$ = the number of correct answer
N $\quad$ = the number of the students
(Adopted from Heaton, 1975)

b) To know mean score

$$M = \frac{\sum fx}{N}$$

Where:

M $\quad$ = the mean score in each topic
$\sum fx$ = The sum of the respondents' score
N $\quad$ = the number of the respondents
(Adopted from Hatch and Farhady, 1982)

c) To know standard deviation

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{\Sigma d^2}{N-1}}$$

Where:

SD = Standard deviation

Σd^2 = The total mean of the test

N = The number of the students

(Adopted Heaton, 1991)

d) To know the reliability

$$Rii = \frac{N}{n-1}\left[1 - \frac{m(N-M)}{NX^2}\right]$$

Where:

Rii = the reliability of the test

N = the number of items in the test

M = the means score on the test for all the tests

X^2 = the standard deviation of all test score

(Adopted from Heaton, 1975)

e) To know the percentage of the classification of the students' ability in answering question, the following formula could be used:

$$P = \frac{X}{N} \times 100\%$$

Where:

P = Percentage of the students per group/level

X = the number of frequency in one level

N = the number of students

(Adopted from Hatch and Farhady, 1982)

Furthermore, the level of the student's score would be classified into five levels of mastery. The classification could be seen in this following table:

Table 14: The Classification of Students' Score

No	Scores	Category
1	81-100	Excellent
2	61-80	Good
3	41-60	Mediocre
4	21-40	Poor
5	0-20	Very Poor

(Adopted from Harris, 1974)

RESEARCH FINDING

The result of this research was presented by showing the percentage of the students scores and the classification scores of the students' ability in reading news item texts. The data was analyzed based on students' score in terms of five components. They are finding factual information, finding meaning of vocabulary, finding social function of news item texts, finding generic structure of news item text and finding language features of news item texts.

Percentage of the students' scores

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	2	7.1%	Excellent	
2	61-80	20	71.4%	Good	70.14
3	41-60	6	21.4%	Mediocre	
4	21-40	0	0	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor	
	Total	28	100%		

The table describes about mean score of students ability in reading news item texts. The mean score is 70.14.There are 2 students (7.1%) are in excellent level, 20 students (71.4%) are in good level, 6 students (21.4%) are in mediocre level, and no student (0%) is in poor and very poor level.It means the students ability in reading news item texts is in good level.

The students score classifications in terms of finding factual information

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	3	10.7%	Excellent	
2	61-80	9	32.1%	Good	
3	41-60	11	39.2%	Mediocre	67.1
4	21-40	5	17.8%	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor	
	Total	28	100%		

The table describes that 3 students (10.7%) are in excellent level, 9 students (32.1%) are in good level, 11 students (39.2%) are in mediocre level, 5 students (17.8%) are in poor level and 0 students (0%) is in very poor level.The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in term of finding factual information is 67.1. It can be stated that the ability of the first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru in reading news item texts, in term of finding factual information is in good level.

The students score classification in terms of finding meaning of vocabulary

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	2	7.1%	Excellent	
2	61-80	13	46.4%	Good	
3	41-60	11	39.2%	Mediocre	76.4
4	21-40	2	7.1%	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor	
	Total	28	100%		

The table describes that 2 student (7.1%) is in excellent level, 13 students (46.4%) are in good level, 11 students (39.2%) are in mediocre level, 2 students (7.1%) are in poor level and no student (0%) is in very poor level.The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in term of finding meaning of vocabulary is 76.4. It can be stated that the ability of the first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru in reading news item texts, in term of finding meaning of vocabulary is in good level.

The students score classification in terms of finding social function of news item texts

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	6	21.4%	Excellent	
2	61-80	12	42.8%	Good	
3	41-60	6	21.4%	Mediocre	76.4
4	21-40	4	14.2%	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor	
	Total	28	100%		

The table describes that 6 student (21.4%) is in excellent level, 12 students (42.8%) are in good level, 6 students (21.4%) are in mediocre level, 4 students (14.2%) are in poor level and no student (0%) is in very poor level.The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in term of finding social function is 76.4. It can be stated that the ability of the first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru in reading news item texts, in term of finding social function is in good level.

The students score classification in terms of finding generic structures of news item texts

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	3	10.7%	Excellent	
2	61-80	3	10.7%	Good	
3	41-60	12	42.8%	Mediocre	58.5
4	21-40	9	32.1%	Poor	
5	0-20	1	3.5%	Very poor	
	Total	28	100%		

The table describes that 3 student (10.7%) is in excellent level, 3 students (10.7%) are in good level, 12 students (42.8%) are in mediocre level, 9 students (32.1%) are in poor level and 1 student (3.5%) is in very poor level.The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in term of finding generic structures is 58.5. It can be stated that the ability of the first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru in reading news item texts, in term of finding generic structures is in mediocre level.

The students score classification in terms of finding language features of news item texts

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	9	32.1%	Excellent	
2	61-80	12	42.8%	Good	
3	41-60	6	21.4%	Mediocre	78.5
4	21-40	1	3.5%	Poor	
5	0-20	1	0%	Very poor	
	Total	28	100%		

The table describes that 9 student (32.1%) is in excellent level, 12 students (42.8%) are in good level, 6 students (21.4%) are in mediocre level, 1 students (3.5%) are in poor level and no student (0%) is in very poor level.The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in term of finding language features is 78.5. It can be stated that the ability of the first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru in reading news item texts, in term of finding language features is in good level.

The classification of students' mean score in reading news item texts

No	The classification of the question	Mean Score	Level of Ability
1	In term of finding factual information	67.1	Good
2	In term of finding meaning of vocabulary	76.4	Good
3	In term of finding social function	76.4	Good
2	In term of finding generic structures	58.5	Mediocre
3	In term of finding language features	78.5	Good

The table describes that from 5 components of reading news item texts, the students' mean score in term of finding factual information is 67,1(good), the students' mean score in terms of finding meaning of vocabulary is 76,4(good), the students' mean score in terms of finding social function is 76,4(good), the students' mean score in terms of finding generic structures is 58.5 (mediocre), and the students' mean score in terms of finding language features is 78,5(good). From the table also shows that the most difficult aspect in reading news item texts is in term of finding generic structures, with the mean score 58.5. Besides that the easiest is in term of finding language features, with the mean score is 78.5.

DISCUSSION

In reading news item texts, the mean score of the first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru in reading news item texts was 70,14. It was analized based on Hatch and Farhady formula. Besides that, 2 students got excellent level. Then, there were 20 students categorized into good level, It means that they had good ability in reading comprehension. there 6 students are categorized into mediocre level, and no one is categorized into poor level.

Based on the Curriculum and five components of reading comprehension by King and Stanley (1989), the most difficult aspect was the student ability to finding generic structure of news item text with the mean score 58,5. On the other hand, the easiest aspect of reading comprehension is finding language features with the mean score is 78,5. Meanwhile, the other aspects such as finding factual information 67,1, finding meaning of vocabulary with mean score 76,4, finding social function 76,4

Based on the explanation above, the researcher concluded that the first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru could not finding generic structure from the text well. In finding generic structure the students should have good ability in comprehending the text. From all of data, the writer interpreted that the ability of the first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru in reading news item text in term of finding generic structures falls into mediocre with mean score 58,5. It happened because the students still confused to differentiate the background event and newsworthy event in news item text. That is why

they got low score in generic structure. Finally, the research questions were answered. How the ability of the students in comprehending news item text is and what most difficult aspect in comprehending the text is.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATION

Overall, the result of this research showed the ability of first year students of MAN 1 Pekanbaru in reading news item texts is the term of finding language features, with the mean score 78.5 and the difficult aspect in reading news item texts is the term of finding generic structures, with the mean score 58.5. there were 2 students getting excellent level, and 20 students were in good level. Moreover, 6 students were in mediocre level, and no one was in poor level. The researcher also found out that the mean score of the students' ability in reading news item text was 70.14 is in good level.

Concerning the conclusion, there are several recommendations that are useful for teaching and learning English. Firstly, English teachers should put some efforts to develop the students' motivation and encourage them to practice in comprehending news item texts in order to make the students familiar with reading materials in terms of five indicators of reading comprehension, especially in finding generic structure. Secondly Students should vary their reading materials to improve their reading skills. They can use English news item text because it is a good material for them to improve their language skill. It is a good habit for the students to read newspaper as their daily activities. The last one, It is highly recommended that this research can be applied as a reference for the next researcher

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