

# **A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF MTS MUHAMMADIYAH 02 PEKANBARU IN COMPREHENDING DESCRIPTIVE TEXTS**

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**Abstract :** *This descriptive research was aimed to find out the ability of the second year students of MTs Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts. The research data were collected in August 2016. The subject of this research was class VIII-2 which consisted of 31 students. The data were collected by giving a test to the students in the form of multiple choice test. The test contained 25 items. Based on the research, it was found out that first: the ability of the second year students in reading comprehension is in the mediocre level with the mean score of 57.38. Second, the students' mean score in finding the main idea is in good level with the mean score of 78.70, finding the factual information is in good level with the mean score of 65.80, in finding the meaning of vocabulary is in poor level with the mean score of 39.35, in finding references is in mediocre level with the mean score of 44.51, in finding inference is in mediocre level with the mean score of 56.12, in finding generic structure is in mediocre level with the mean score of 60, in finding language features is in mediocre level with the mean score of 60.64. As a conclusion, the highest score obtained by the students is in finding main ideas with the mean score of 78.70 which is categorized into good level, and the lowest score that the students got is in finding the meaning of vocabulary ,with the mean score of 39.35 which is categorized into poor level.*

**Key Words:** *Study, Ability, Comprehending, Descriptive Texts,*

# **SEBUAH PENELITIAN MENGENAI KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS 8 MTS MUHAMMADIYAH 02 PEKANBARU DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS DESKRIPTIF**

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**Abstrak:** Penelitian deskriptif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa kelas delapan MTs Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks deskriptif. Data penelitian dikumpulkan di bulan Agustus tahun 2016. Subjek dalam penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas VIII-2 yang terdiri dari 31 siswa. Data dikumpulkan dengan memberikan test kepada siswa dalam bentuk pilihan ganda. Hasil penelitian yang diperoleh adalah sebagai berikut; pertama, kemampuan siswa dalam pemahaman membaca teks deskriptif secara keseluruhan berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 57.38; kedua, nilai rata-rata siswa dalam memahami ide pokok berada pada level baik dengan nilai rata-rata 78.70, dalam memahami informasi faktual adalah berada pada level baik dengan nilai rata-rata 65.80, memahami makna kata- kata sulit berada pada level kurang baik dengan nilai rata-rata 39.35, dalam mengidentifikasi reference berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 44.51, memahami inference berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 56.12, memahami struktur umum teks berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 60 dan dalam memahami unsur kebahasaan berada pada level sedang dengan nilai 60.64. Nilai tertinggi diperoleh siswa dalam memahami ide pokok berada pada level bagus dengan nilai rata-rata 78.70 . Sedangkan nilai terendah diperoleh siswa dalam memahami makna kata-kata sulit dengan nilai 39.35, yang masuk dalam kategori kurang baik.

**Kata Kunci:** Penelitian, Kemampuan, Pemahaman, Teks Deskriptif

## 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. Nunan (2003), states that reading is a fluent process of readers combining information from a text and their own background knowledge to build meaning.

In Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (*School Based Curriculum*)(2006) which is implemented in MTs Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru the basic competence of reading is students are able to response the meaning and rhetorical steps in short simple essay accurately, fluently and acceptable in descriptive text. 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 get the information. In other words, the skill enables the students how to understand through reading texts.

Burnes and Page (1985) state that comprehension is the process where background knowledge or the world knowledge of the reader interacts with the message encoded in the text to generate an understanding of an author's message. Then, Neufeld (2005) states that comprehension is the process of constructing a supportable understanding of a text. He then added comprehension involves two important features: being actively involved with the text and using appropriate background knowledge to interpret the text. To support, Ahuja and Ahuja (2001) state that comprehension is the product of reconstructing the facts within the nervous system of the reader. It means that the reader will reconstruct her or his background knowledge in understanding the text. It involves the use of eyes and mind. The eyes receive messages and the brain has to work out the significance of this messages. It requires the students to read for meaning. It means that they not only read the text but also understand the meaning of written text being read.

Based on the writer experience in teaching practice (PPL) and the data which found from the test and exam, a half of students score below to KKM which is less than 70. From 30 students, 15 students' score below KKM in comprehending descriptive texts. Therefore, this study will answer the research question about how the ability of the students in reading comprehension and what is most difficult aspect and the easiest aspect in reading comprehension.

## 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 second year students of MTs Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru. For this purpose, class VIII-2 became the subject of the research which consists of 31 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 multiple choice test. 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 comprehending descriptive texts.

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

- a) To know the difficulty level

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

Where:

F.V = Difficulty level

R = the number of correct answer

N = the number of the students

(Adopted from Heaton, 1975)

- b) To know mean score

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

Where:

M = the mean score in each topic

$\sum fx$  = The sum of the respondents' score

N = the number of the respondents

(Adopted from Hatch and Farhady, 1982)

c) To know standard deviation

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

Where:

SD = Standard deviation

$\sum d^2$  = The total mean of the test

N = The number of the students

(Adopted Heaton, 1991)

d) To know the reliability

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

Where:

R<sub>ii</sub> = 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<sup>2</sup> = 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 1: 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 data of the research was analyzed to find out the ability of the second year students of MTs Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts. There were 7 components of reading and descriptive texts that analyzed from the data, namely finding main ideas, finding factual information, finding meaning of vocabulary, identifying references, making inferences, finding generic structure, finding language features. The presentation of individual score of the students in reading comprehension can be seen in the following table.

### 1. Individual Score

**Table 2. Percentage of the students' scores**

No	Score Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	1	3.22	Excellent	57,38
2	61-80	12	38.70	Good	
3	41-60	15	48.38	Mediocre	
4	21-40	3	9.67	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very Poor	
Total		31	100 %		

The table describes about mean score of students ability in comprehending descriptive texts. The mean score is 70.14. the table shows that 1 student (3,22 %) is in Excellent level, 12 students (38,70%) are in good level, 15 students (48,38%) are in mediocre level, 3 students (9,67%) are in poor level ability and there is no student (0%) are in very poor level. In short, it was obtained that the mean score of the students in reading comprehension 57.38. It can be restated that the ability of the second year students of MTs Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension is Mediocre.

## 2. The Classification of the Students' Ability in Each Components of Reading Comprehension

### a. The Students' Ability in Finding Main Idea

**Table 3. Students Score Classification in term finding main ideas**

No	Score Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	13	41.93	Excellent	78.70
2	61-80	11	35.48	Good	
3	41-60	3	9.67	Mediocre	
4	21-40	2	6.45	Poor	
5	0-20	2	6.45	Very Poor	
Total		31	100 %		

For finding main ideas, 13 students (41.93%) are in excellent level, there are 11 students (35.48%) in good level, 3 students (9.67%) are in mediocre level, 2 students (6.45%) are in poor level and 2 students (6.45%) are in very poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding main ideas is 78.70. It can be concluded that the ability of the second year students of MTs Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts, in term of finding main ideas is in good level.

### b. The Student's Ability in of Finding Factual Information

**Table 4. The Students Score Classification in term finding factual information**

No	Score Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	3	9.67	Excellent	65.80
2	61-80	11	35.48	Good	
3	41-60	10	32.25	Mediocre	
4	21-40	6	19.35	Poor	
5	0-20	1	3.22	Very Poor	
Total		31	100 %		

For finding factual information, 3 students (9.67%) are in excellent level, 11 students (35.48%) are in good level, 10 students (32.25%) are in mediocre level. Besides that 6 students (19.35%) are in poor level and 1 students (3.22%) are classified in very poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score finding factual information is 65.80. It can be declared that the ability of the second year students of MTs Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts especially in finding factual information aspect is in good level.

### c. The Students Ability in Finding Vocabulary in Context

**Table 5. The Students Score Classification in Term Vocabulary in Context**

No	Score Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	0	0	Excellent	39.35
2	61-80	3	9.67	Good	
3	41-60	10	32.25	Mediocre	
4	21-40	5	16.12	Poor	
5	0-20	13	41.93	Very Poor	
Total		31	100 %		

For meaning of vocabulary, From 31 students, 0 student (0%) are in excellent level, 3 students (9.67%) are in good level, 10 students (32.25%) are in mediocre level. Besides that, there are 5 students (16.12%) are in poor level and 13 students (41.93%) are in very poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in meaning of vocabulary is 39.35. From the data, it can be inferred that the ability of the second year students of MTs Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts especially in terms of vocabulary in context aspect is poor level .

### d. The Students' Ability in Finding Reference

**Table 6. The Students Score Classification in term finding reference**

No	Score Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	0	0	Excellent	44.51
2	61-80	3	9.67	Good	
3	41-60	10	32.25	Mediocre	
4	21-40	12	38.70	Poor	
5	0-20	6	19.35	Very Poor	
Total		31	100 %		

The students' ability in finding reference varies, 0 student (0%) are in excellent level, 3 students (9.67%) are in good level, 10 students (32.25%) are in mediocre level. Besides that, 12 students (38.70%) are in poor level and 6 students (19.35%) are in very poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding reference is 44.51. The data also indicated that the ability of the second year students of MTS Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts especially in reference aspect is categorized as mediocre.

#### e. The Students' Ability in Finding Inference

**Table 7. The Students Score Classification in term Finding Inference**

No	Score Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	1	3.22	Excellent	56.12
2	61-80	9	29.03	Good	
3	41-60	8	25.80	Mediocre	
4	21-40	9	29.03	Poor	
5	0-20	4	12.90	Very Poor	
Total		31	100 %		

The students' ability in finding inference varies. From 31 students, 1 student (3.22%) is in excellent level, 9 students (29.03%) are in good level, 8 students (25.80%) are in mediocre level, 9 students (29.03%) are in poor level and 4 students (12.90%) are in very poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding inference is 56.12. It can be concluded that the ability of the second year students of MTS Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts, in terms of finding inference is mediocre level.

#### f. The Students' Ability in Finding Generic Structure

**Table 8. The Students Score Classification in term Finding Inference**

No	Score Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	8	25.80	Excellent	60
2	61-80	7	22.58	Good	
3	41-60	2	6.45	Mediocre	
4	21-40	6	19.35	Poor	
5	0-20	8	25.80	Very Poor	
Total		31	100 %		

The students' ability in finding generic structure varies. From 31 students, 8 student (25.80%) is in excellent level, 7 students (22.58%) are in good level, 2 students (6.45%) are in mediocre level, 6 students (19.35%) are in poor level and 8 students (25.80%) are in very poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in generic structure is 56.12. It can be assumed that the ability of the second year students of MTS Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts, in terms of generic structure is mediocre level.

### g. The Students' Ability in Finding Language Features

**Table 9. The Students Score Classification in term Finding Language Features**

No	Score Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	3	9.67	Excellent	60.64
2	61-80	12	38.70	Good	
3	41-60	5	16.12	Mediocre	
4	21-40	6	19.35	Poor	
5	0-20	5	16.12	Very Poor	
Total		31	100 %		

The students' ability in finding language features varies. From 31 students, 3 student (9.67%) is in excellent level, 12 students (38.70%) are in good level, 5 students (16.12%) are in mediocre level, 6 students (19.35%) are in poor level and 5 students (16.12%) are in very poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in language features is 60.64. It can be found out that the ability of the second year students of MTS Muhammadiyah 02 Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts, in terms of language features is mediocre level.

### h. The Mean Scores of the Students' Ability in Reading Comprehension

**Table 10. The Classification of Students' Mean Score in Comprehending Descriptive Texts**

No	The Classification of the Question	Mean Score	Level of Ability
1	Finding Main Ideas	78.70	Good
2	Finding Factual Information	65.80	Good
3	Finding meaning of Vocabulary	39.35	Poor
4	Finding Reference	44.51	Mediocre
5	Finding Inference	56.12	Mediocre
6	Finding Generic Structure	60	Mediocre
7	Finding Language Features	60.64	Mediocre
Total		57.38	Mediocre

The table shows that from 7 components of comprehending descriptive texts, the mean score of finding main idea (78.70) is classified as good, the mean score of finding factual information (65.80) is classified as good, the mean score of finding meaning of vocabulary (39.35) is classified as poor, the mean score of finding reference (44.51) is classified as mediocre, the mean score of finding inference (56.12) is classified as mediocre, the mean score of finding generic structure (60) is classified as mediocre, and the mean score of finding language features (60.64) is classified as mediocre. Besides that the mean score ability of the students based on the table is mediocre. the table also

shows that the most difficult aspect in reading comprehension is finding vocabulary in context, with the mean score 39.35. Besides that the easiest is finding main ideas with the mean score is 78.70. It is also the indicator about their understanding to the texts.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATION

Based on the research finding, in comprehending descriptive texts ability, there were 1 student get excellent level, there were 12 students in good level. After that, 15 students were in mediocre level, and 3 students were in poor level. The researcher also found out that the mean score of the students' ability in comprehending descriptive texts is 57.38. It means that the students' ability in reading comprehension the students were in mediocre level and the students cannot reach the minimum standard of this school (KKM).

Beside that the highest means score is in finding mean idea with 78.70 and the lowest is finding vocabulary in context 39.35. The other aspects such as finding factual information is 65.80, finding reference with mean score 44.51, finding inference with mean score 56.12, finding generic structure with mean score 60 and finding language features is 60.64.

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 descriptive texts in order to make the students familiar with reading materials especially in identifying vocabulary. Secondly Students should vary their reading materials to improve their reading skills. The last one, It is highly recommended that this research can be applied as a reference for the next researcher.

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