A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF SMAN 15 PEKANBARU IN READING COMPREHENSION

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Abstract : The purpose of this study is to find out the ability of the first year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension. This research focuses on students' reading comprehension in terms of finding main ideas, factual information, the meaning of vocabulary, identifying references and finding generic structure, finding social function and finding conclusion,.The data were collected by using reading comprehension test in the format multiple choice. The test contained 25 items. The try out was conducted to check the validity and reliability of the test. Based on the research, it was found out that first: the ability of the second year students in reading comprehension isin the mediocre level with the mean score of 55.6. Second, the students' mean score in finding the main idea is in mediocre level with the mean score of 55.56, finding the fatual information is in mediocre level with mean score of 48.95, in finding meaning vocabulary is in good level with mean score of 39.95, in finding references is in mediocre level with the mean score of 66.66, in finding social function level with the mean score of 50.87, generic structure in the good level with mean score 63.17, as a conclusion, the highest score obtained by students is in finding generic structure with the mean score of 68.5. It is categorized into good level, and the lowest score that the students got is in finding vocabulary, with the mean score of 3399.9 which categorized into poor level. The results of this study suggest that the students learn more about reading comprehension.

Keywords : Study, Ability, Reading Comprehension.

PENELITIAN TENTANG KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS DUA SMAN 1 KUBU DALAM PEMAHAMAN MEMBACA

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Abstrak: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk meneliti kemampuan siswa SMAN 15 Pekanbaru dalam pemahaman membaca. Penelitian ini berfokus pada kemampuan dalam pemahama nmembaca di bidang memahami informasi faktual, memahami ide pokok, memahami makna dari kata-kata sulit, mengidentifikasi *reference*, mengidentifikasi *generic structure*, mengidentifikasi makna sosial, dan mencari kesimpulan. Data diperoleh dari tes pemahaman membaca dalam bentuk pilihan ganda yang terdiri dari 25 soal. Uji coba dilakukan untuk memperoleh validitas dan reliabilitastes yang baik. Hasil penelitian yang diperoleh adalah sebagai berikut; pertama, kemampuan siswa dalam pemahaman membaca secara keseluruhan berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 55.6, kedua, nilai rata-rata siswa memahami ide pokok berada pada level baik dengan nilai rata-rata 55.56, dalam memahami informasi faktual adalah berada pada level sedangkan dengan nilai rata-rata 48.95, memahami makna kata-kata sulit berada pada level baik dengan nilai rata-rata 39.95, dalam mengidentifikasi *reference* berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 66.66, mengidentifikasi *generic structure* berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 68,5, dalam mengidentifikasi makna sosial berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata rata 50.87, dalam mencari kesimpulan berada pada level 63.17. Nilai tertinggi diperoleh siswa adalah mengidentifikasi *generic structure* berada pada level bagus dengan nilai rata-rata 68.5. Sedangkan nilai terendah diperoleh oleh siswa dalam memahami makna kata kata sulit dengan nilai 39.9, yang masuk dalam kategori rendah. Hasil dari penelitiaan ini diharapkan siswa untuk lebih meningkatkan pembelajaran tentang pemahaman membaca.

Katakunci: Penelitian, Kemampuan, Pemahaman Membaca

INTRODUCTION

Reading is one of language skills that should be learned by the students. The purpose of learning reading is to comprehend the writer's ideas or the way the writer communicates with the readers by the written or printed words. Besides that reading is important for the students in order to find out available information. In addition, comprehending is a goal of reading. According to Hornby (1974), comprehending is improving or testing one's understanding of a language; written or spoken. The students have to be able to comprehend reading texts.

According to Nunan (2003) that reading is a fluent process of readers combining information from a text and their own background knowledge to build meaning. Meanwhile, Ahuja and Ahuja (2001) state that reading is both a sensory and mental process. It involves use of the eye and the 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.

Curriculum School Based Competence (KTSP) and English syllabus for the first year students of senior high school the students' must learn about text types. For this level, there are three genres text types offered, the types are narrative text, recount text, and procedure text. According to the target of curriculum on English syllabus, the Standard of Competence in Reading is the students should able to comprehend text types. It means the students' must able to comprehend the text types learnt at this level. Besides that the target of indicators in English Curriculum for senior high school, the first year of students' they must able to identify or understand about what the texts mean and the language component. It is means the students must do reading in the process to comprehend text types in English and find out what the texts tell about and comprehending is one of the ways to support the students' knowledge about English as a language learnt. In short ,it is also useful for them in expressing their idea in English by considering language components of the text types in the future. Because of that it is make the writer interested to makea research focused to find out the ability of the second year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension of narrative text, recount text, and procedure text.

SMAN 15 Pekanbaru is the youngest state senior high school in Pekanbaru. The conditions of this school have 4 classes for the first year students. Meanwhile the curriculum this school is still adopted School Based Competence (KTSP).Besides, these 4 classes are taught by one English teacher. Because of that it is make the writer interested to know how the ability of the youngest state senior high school in Pekanbaru in reading comprehension

METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive research to describe the students' ability in reading comprehension.Gay (2000) says that a descriptive research involves collecting data to test hypothesis or to answer question concerning the status of the study. It means that the 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. To the context this

study the writer focuses a study on the ability of the second year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension.

The technique of collecting the data plays an important role in conducting a research. To get the data, the writer constructs a test as an instrument.The students are asked to answer the question of the research. The test consists of 25 items from the text types. The students should complete selecting one corret answers of the multiple choice type in 60 minutes.The text was taken from English textbooks . And then, the test was checked to get the score of students individually. The population of the research is second year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru.

THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

The result of the research was analyzed to find out the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kubuin reading comprehension. There were 5 components of reading that analyzed from the data, namely finding main ideas, finding factual information, finding main ideas, findingthe meaning of vocabulary, identifying references and making inferences.The presentation of individual score of the students in reading comprehension can be seen in the following table.

1. Individual Score

Table1. Percentage of the Students' Ability in Reading Comprehension

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	11	15.3	Excellent	
2	61-80	12	16.7	Good	
3	41-60	31	43	Mediocre	55.66
4	21-40	18	25	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very Poor	
	Total	72	100%		

Table 1 shows that 11 students (15.3%) Excellent level, 12 students (16.7%) are in good level, 31 students (43%) are in mediocre level, 18 students (25%) are in poor level ability and there is no student (0%) are in very poor level. In short, the mean score of the students in reading comprehension is 55.66. It can be stated that the ability of the second year students of SMA Negeri 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension is Mediocre (55.66).It means that most of the students are classified in mediocre level, they have not reached minimum standard of this school. It is also the indicator about their understanding the texts.

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

a. The Students' Ability in Finding Main Idea

The students' ability in finding main ideas can be seen from the scores by the students for question number 1, 9, 14, and 19. It shown in table 4.2 as follows:

Table 4.3The Students Score Classification in term finding main ideas

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	9	12.5	Excellent	
2	61-80	19	26.4	Good	
3	41-60	27	37.5	Mediocre	55.56
4	21-40	13	18.5	Poor	
5	0-20	4	5.5	Very Poor	
	Total	72	100%		

For finding main ideas, 9 students (12.5%) are in excellent level, there are 19 students (26.4%) in good level, 27 students (37.5%) are in mediocre level, 13 students (13%) are in poor level and 4 students (5.5%) are in very poor level.

The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding main ideas is 55.56. It can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension especially in finding main idea aspect is in mediocre level. It means that for the students are in mediocre level; they have to learn more to get good ability in finding main idea.

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

The students' ability in finding factual information can be seen from the scores by the students for question number 2, 7, 10, and 23. It shown in table 4.3 as follows:

Table 4.4 The Students Score Classification in term finding main ideas

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	16	22.1	Excellent	
2	61-80	11	15.2	Good	
3	41-60	13	18.5	Mediocre	48.95
4	21-40	18	25	Poor	
5	0-20	14	19.2	Very Poor	
	Total	72	100%		

For finding factual information, 16 students (22.1%) are in excellent level, 11 students (15.2%) are in good level, 13 students (18.5%) are in mediocre level. Besides that 18 students (25%) are in poor level and 14 students (19.2%) are classified in very poor level.

The researcher finds out that the students' mean score finding factual information is 48.95. It can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension especially in finding factual information aspect is in mediocre level. It means that for the students are in mediocre level; they have to learn more to get good ability in finding factual information.

c. The Students Ability in Finding Meaning of Vocabulary

The students' ability in finding meaning of vocabulary can be seen from the scores obtained by the students for question number 3, 13, 17 and 20. It shown in table 4.5 as follows:

Table 4.5The Students Score Classification In Term Meaning of Vocabulary

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	7	9.7	Excellent	
2	61-80	8	11.1	Good	
3	41-60	23	31.9	Mediocre	39.93
4	21-40	18	25	Poor	
5	0-20	16	22.2	Very Poor	
	Total	72	100%		

For meaning of vocabulary, From 72 students, 7 students (9.7%) are in excellent level, 8 students (11.1%) are in good level, 23 students (31.9%) are in mediocre level. Besides that, there are 18 students (25%) are in poor level and 16 students (22.2%) are in very poor level.

The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in meaning of vocabulary is 39.93. It can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension especially in terms of meaning of vocabulary aspect is poor level. It means that the student level in finding meaning of vocabulary is poor ability they have to learn more to get good ability in finding meaning of vocabulary.

d. The Students' Ability in Finding Reference

The students' ability in reference can be seen from the scores obtained by the students for question number 4, 11, 18, and 24.It shown in table 4.5 as follows:

Table 4.6 The Students Score Classification in term finding reference

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	21	29.1	Excellent	
2	61-80	21	29.1	Good	66.66
3	41-60	19	26.3	Mediocre	
4	21-40	7	9.7	Poor	.
5	0-20	4	5.5	Very Poor	
	Total	72	100%		

The students' ability in finding reference varies, 21 students (29.1%) are in excellent level, 21 students (29.1%) are in good level, and 19 students (26.3%) are in mediocre level. Besides that, 7 students (9.7%) are in poor level and 4 students (5.5%) are in very poor level.

The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding reference is 66.66. It can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension especially in reference aspect is categorized as Good.It means that for the students are in good level, they have to learn more to get excellent ability in finding reference.

e. The Students' Ability in Finding Conclusion

Table 4.7 The Students Score Classification in term Finding Conclusion

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	29	40.2	Excellent	
2	61-80	23	31.9	Good	63.81
3	41-60	0	0	Mediocre	
4	21-40	15	20.8	Poor	
5	0-20	5	6.9	Very Poor	
	Total	72	100%		

The students' ability in finding conclusion varies. From 72 students, 29 students (40.2%) are in excellent level, 23 students (31.9%) are in good level, there is no student in mediocre level, 15 students (20.8%) are in poor level and 5 students (6.9%) are in very poor level.

The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding conclusion is 63.81. It can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension, in terms of finding conclusion is good level. It

means that for the students are in good level; they have to learn more to get better ability in finding conclusion. It is also the indicator about their understanding the texts.

f. The Students' Ability in Finding Generic Structure

Table 4.8 The Students Score Classification in term Finding Generic Structure

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	25	34.7	Excellent	
2	61-80	28	38.8	Good	68.5
3	41-60	0	0	Mediocre	
4	21-40	19	26.3	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very Poor	
	Total	72	100%		

The students' ability in finding generic structure varies. From 72 students, 25 students (34.7%) are in excellent level, 28 students (38.8%) are in good level, and 19 students (26.3%) are in poor level.

The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding generic structure is 68.5. It can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension, in terms of finding generic structure is good level.

g. The Students' Ability in Finding Social Function

Table 4.9 The Students Score Classification in term Finding Social Function

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	12	16.6	Excellent	
2	61-80	22	30.5	Good	
3	41-60	0	0	Mediocre	50.87
4	21-40	38	52.7	Poor	
5	0-20	5	6.9	Very Poor	
	Total	72	100%		

The students' ability in finding social function varies. From 72 students, 12 students (16.6%) are in excellent level, 22 students (30.5%) are in good level, , 38 students (52.7%) are in poor level and 5 students (6.9%) are in very poor level.

The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding social fuction is 50.87. It can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in reading comprehension, in terms of finding social function is mediocre level. It means that for the students are in mediocre level; they have to learn more to get good ability in finding factual information. It is also the indicator about their understanding the texts.

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

Table 4.10 The classification of Students' Mean Score in Reading Comprehension.

No	The Classification of the Question	Mean Score	Level of Ability
1	Finding Main Ideas	55.56	Mediocre
2	Finding Factual Information	48.95	Mediocre
3	Finding meaning of Vocabulary	39.9	Poor
4	Finding Reference	66.66	Good
5	Finding Conclusion	63.81	Good
6	Finding Generic Structure	68.5	Good
7	Finding Social Function	50.87	Mediocre
	Total	56.32	Mediocre

The table shows that from 7 components of reading comprehension, the mean score of finding main idea (55.56) is classified as mediocre, the mean score of finding factual information (48.95) is classified as mediocre, the mean score of finding meaning of vocabulary (39.9) is classified as poor, the mean score of finding reference (66.66) is classified as good,the mean score of finding generic structure (68.5) is classified as good and the mean score of finding social function (50.87) is classified as mediocre. Besides that the mean score ability of the students based on the table is mediocre.It means that for the students are classified in mediocre level, they have to learn more to get good ability. From the table also shows that the most difficult aspect in reading comprehension is finding vocabulary, with the mean score 39.9 .Besides that the easiest is finding generic structure with the mean score is 68.5. It is also the indicator about their understanding to the texts.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the research finding, in reading comprehension ability,11 students (15.3%) are excellent level, 12 students (16.7%) are in good level, 31 students (43%) are in mediocre level, 18 students (25%) are in poor level ability and there is no student (0%) are in very poor level. The researcher also found out that the mean score of the students' ability in reading comprehension is 55.66. 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).

Besides that the highest means score is in finding generic structure with 68.5 and the lowest is finding vocabulary 39.9. Besides that the other aspects such as finding main idea is 55.56, finding factual information with mean score 48.95 and finding reference is 66.66, and finding social function 50.87.

RECOMMENDATION

Since the ability of the second year students of SMAN 15 Kubu in reading comprehensionis in mediocrelevel, improvement is still needed. The students are suggested to practice more in reading so that their comprehension can be improved, especially in finding inference and they need to show their ability in understanding the content of the text for detail information.The English teacheris suggested to be more crative to use any strategies in teaching reading in order to make students be familiar to comprehend reading materials in terms of five indicators of reading comprehension. The teacher is suggested to give more exercise to the students to answer question about reading comprehension.

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