

## **A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE THIRD YEAR STUDENTS OF SMAN 2 KUOK IN COMPREHENDING NEWS ITEM TEXTS**

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**Abstract:** *This descriptive research was aimed to find out the ability of the third year students of SMAN 2 Kuok in comprehending News Item texts. The research data were collected in November 2016. The subject of this research was class XII IPA which consisted of 20 students. The data were collected by giving a test to the students in the form of multiple choice tests. The test contained 40 items. Based on the research, it was found out that first: the ability of the third year students in comprehending news item texts is in good level with the mean score of 76.00. Second, the students' mean score in finding the main idea is in excellent level with the mean score of 86.00, finding the factual information in background events is in good level with the mean score of 78.00, finding the factual information in sources is in excellent level with the mean score of 80.00, in finding the meaning of vocabulary is in good level with the mean score of 69.00, in finding references is in good level with the mean score of 64.00, in finding inference is in good level with the mean score of 74.00, in finding social function is in excellent level with the mean score of 90.00. As a conclusion, the highest score obtained by the students is in finding social function with the mean score of 90.00 which is categorized into excellent level, and the lowest score that the students got is in finding reference, with the mean score of 64.00 which is categorized into good level. English teacher may develop the students' motivation and encourage them to read news from English newspaper as a practice of comprehending news item texts in order to make the students familiar with reading materials. For next researcher, the writer suggests that to conduct other research in this school.*

**Keywords:** *Study, Ability, Comprehending, News Item Texts*

## SEBUAH PENELITIAN MENGENAI KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS 3 SMAN 2 KUOK DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS NEWS ITEM

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**Abstract:** Penelitian deskriptif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa kelas 3 SMAN 2 Kuok dalam memahami news item texts. Data diambil pada bulan November 2016. Subjek penelitian ini adalah kelas 3 IPA yang terdiri dari 20 siswa. Data diambil dengan memberikan tes kepada siswa dalam bentuk soal pilihan ganda. Tes terdiri dari 40 soal. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, ditemukan bahwa, pertama: kemampuan siswa kelas 3 dalam memahami teks news item adalah bagus dengan nilai rata-rata 76.00. Kedua, nilai rata – rata siswa dalam mengidentifikasi main idea adalah sangat bagus dengan nilai 86.00, dalam mengidentifikasi factual information di background events adalah bagus dengan nilai 78.00, dalam mengidentifikasi factual information di source adalah sangat bagus dengan nilai 80.00, dalam mengidentifikasi meaning of vocabulary adalah bagus dengan nilai 69.00, dalam mengidentifikasi reference adalah bagus dengan nilai 64.00, dalam mengidentifikasi inference adalah bagus dengan nilai 74.00 dan dalam mengidentifikasi social function adalah sangat bagus dengan nilai 90.00. kesimpulannya, nilai tertinggi yang di peroleh siswa adalah dalam mengidentifikasi social function dan nilai yang terendah adalah dalam mengidentifikasi reference. Guru diharapkan mengembangkan motivasi dan mendorong siswa untul membaca berita dari Koran Bahasa Inggris sebagai praktek dalam memahami teks, tujuannya agar siswa terbiasa dengan materi bacaan. Untuk peneliti selanjutnya, penulis menyarankan untuk melakukan penelitian lain di sekolah ini.

**Kata kunci:** Studi, Kemampuan, memahami, Teks News Item

## INTRODUCTION

English has been taught as a compulsory subject in Indonesia for decades. Students are expected to be able to understand any forms of English reading materials, both oral and written. Studying English, as an integrated foreign language, embodies the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, in which each of skill has its own function, but the skills are supporting one another. The receptive skills use in language acquisition: listening and reading enable the productive skills: speaking and writing (Saricoban: 1999).

These skills have great contribution in learning language. One of the skills is reading. Without reading texts, the reader will not find information that occurs in the text. Reading activity includes in four basic skills which to master English, because by reading improve knowledge the reader. So much information can be acquired by reading. It will be essential if the students can comprehend text well, so that the students are able to get information easily without any difficulties.

News item is a kind of text which is taught to students in the level of senior high school to meet the objectives of teaching reading. Based on the School Based Curriculum (2006), the standard competence of reading comprehension demands the students to understand the meaning of functional written text and very simple short essay in narrative, descriptive, and news item in the context of daily life to access knowledge. In studying news item text as one of the types of the text that is learned in high school will also increases their English skills besides improving their own knowledge. According to curriculum 2006, in learning news item text, the students are expected be able to identify the topic of the text, identify such information from the text, identify social function and identify the generic structures of news item text.

News item text is included in national examination question and in order the student can answer the questions correctly. In national examination, there are about 4 or 5 items about news item text. Unfortunately, news item texts only teach once to students in the first grade. The writer assumed that it will not enough for students and also teachers don't know about the ability of their students in comprehending news item text. Therefore, by conducting this research to find out the ability of the third year students in comprehending news item text, the teachers can have the scientific data. So, the teachers can have much time to preparing and doing appropriate teaching to improve their students' ability in comprehending news item text in order that students are ready to answer the questions in national examination.

Besides that, the writer focus on news item, since, this text is hardly has been conducted by other researcher. Generally, the researcher more focus on Narrative, Recount and Procedure text, and this research aims to find out the ability of the student of SMAN 2 Kuok in comprehending news item text.

Based on the writer's observation also, the other reason why the writer choose this kind of text is because some of the third grade students states that the news item text is quite easy, but the rest also states that the text is hard to comprehend than other types of text because the news item text only taught once in senior high school and it is a quite new for them.

Therefore, this study will answer the research question about how the ability of the students in comprehending news item texts and what is the highest and the lowest score 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 third year students of SMAN 2 Kuok. For this purpose, class XII Science became the subject of the research which consists of 20 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 was multiple choice tests. 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

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

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.1 the classification students' score**

No.	Scores	Category
1.	80 – 100	Excellent
2.	60 – 79	Good
3.	50 – 59	Mediocre
4.	0 – 49	Poor

## RESEARCH FINDING

The data of the research was analyzed to find out the ability of the third year students of SMAN 2 Kuok 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 in background events, finding factual information in source, finding meaning of vocabulary, finding references, finding inferences, finding social function. 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 students' score**

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	7	35	Excellent	76.00
2	60 -79	13	65	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 - 49	0	0	Poor	
	Total	20	100		

The table describes about mean score of students ability in comprehending news item text texts. The mean score is 76.00. The table shows that 7 student (35 %) is in Excellent level, 13 students (65%) are in good level. In short, it was obtained that the mean score of the students in reading comprehension 76.00. It can be restated that the ability of the third year students of SMAN 2 Kuok in reading comprehension is good.

## 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	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	19	95	Excellent	86.00
2	60 -79	1	5	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 - 49	0	0	Poor	
	Total	20	100		

For the students' ability in finding main ideas, there are 19 students (95%) classified in excellent level, 1 students (5%) in good level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding main ideas is 86.00. It can be concluded that the ability of the third year students' of SMAN 2 Kuok in comprehending news item texts in terms of finding main idea is in excellent level. It means that the students' level in finding main idea is very satisfied results. It is also become the indicator about their understanding to the texts.

### b. The students' Ability in Finding Factual Information in Background events

**Table. 4 The Students' Score Classification in Term Finding Factual Information in Background Events**

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	17	85	Excellent	78.00
2	60 -79	3	15	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 - 49	0	0	Poor	
	Total	20	100		

For the students' ability in finding factual information in background events, there are 17 students (85%) classified in excellent level, 3 students (15%) in good level. From the

data above, the researcher find out that the students' mean score in finding factual information in background events is 78.00. It can be concluded that the ability of the third year students' of SMAN 2 Kuok in comprehending news item texts in terms of finding factual information in background events is in good level.

**c. The students' Ability in Finding Factual Information in Sources**

**Table.5 The Students' Score Classification in Term Finding Factual Information in Sources**

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	17	85	Excellent	80.00
2	60 -79	3	15	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	0	0	Poor	
	Total	20	100		

For the students' ability in finding factual information in sources, there are 17 students (85%) classified in excellent level, 3 students (15%) in good level. From the data above, the researcher can find out that the students' mean score in finding factual information in sources is 80.00. It can be concluded that the ability of the third year students' of SMAN 2 Kuok in comprehending news item texts in terms of finding factual information in sources is in excellent level.

**d. The students' Ability in Finding Meaning of Vocabulary**

**Table.6 The Students' Score Classification in Term Finding Meaning of Vocabulary**

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	11	55	Excellent	69.00
2	60 -79	9	45	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	0	0	Poor	
	Total	20	100		

For the students' ability in finding meaning of vocabulary, there are 11 students (55%) classified in excellent level, 9 students (45%) in good level. From the data above, the researcher can find out that the students' mean score in finding factual information in sources is 69.00. It can be concluded that the ability of the third year students' of SMAN 2 Kuok in comprehending news item texts in terms of finding meaning of vocabulary is in good level.



**e. The students' Ability in Finding Reference**

**Table.7 The Students' Score Classification in Term Finding Reference**

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	11	55	Excellent	64.00
2	60 -79	5	25	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	4	20	Poor	
	Total	20	100		

For the students' ability in finding reference, there are 11 students (55%) classified in excellent level, 5 students (25%) in good level and 4 students (20%) in poor level. From the data above, the researcher can find out that the students' mean score in finding factual information in sources is 64.00. It can be concluded that the ability of the third year students' of SMAN 2 Kuok in comprehending news item texts in terms of finding reference is in good level.

**f. The students' Ability in Finding Inference**

**Table.8 The Students' Score Classification in Term Finding Inference**

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	12	60	Excellent	74.00
2	60 -79	8	40	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	4	0	Poor	
	Total	20	100		

For the students' ability in finding inference, there are 12 students (60%) classified in excellent level, 5 students (40%) in good level. From the data above, the researcher can find out that the students' mean score in finding factual information in sources is 74.00. It can be concluded that the ability of the third year students' of SMAN 2 Kuok in comprehending news item texts in terms of finding inference is in excellent level.

**g. The students' Ability in Finding Social Function**

**Table.9 The Students' Score Classification in Term Finding Social Function**

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	16	80	Excellent	90.00
2	60 -79	3	15	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	1	5	Poor	
	Total	20	100		

For the students' ability in finding social function, there are 16 students (80%) classified in excellent level, 3 students (15%) in good level and 1 students (5%) in poor level. From the data above, the researcher can find out that the students' mean score in finding social function in sources is 90.00. It can be concluded that the ability of the third year students' of SMAN 2 Kuok in comprehending news item texts in terms of finding social function is in excellent level.

**h. The Mean Scores of the Students' Ability in Comprehending News Item Texts.**

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

No.	The classification of the question	Mean score	Level of ability
1.	Finding main idea	86.00	Excellent
2.	Finding factual information in background events	78.00	Good
3.	Finding factual information in sources	80.00	Excellent
4.	Finding meaning of vocabulary	69.00	Good
5.	Finding reference	64.00	Good
6.	Finding inference	74.00	Good
7.	Finding social function	90.00	Excellent
	Mean Score of the whole test	76.00	Good

According to research finding in comprehending news item text, there are 7 students who get excellent level, 13 students who get good level and there are no students get average and poor level, it means that they have good ability in comprehending news item texts. In this research, most students have difficulty to answer reference items. The research finding of the study is not in line with the related studies due to different aspects that become the most difficult aspects. As the writer show in related studies, in research that is conducted by Asmad Badu with the title “ A descriptive study on students' reading

comprehension through English newspaper text in second grade of SMAN 2 Kwandang shows that the most difficult aspect that researcher analyzes is in finding meaning of vocabulary. On the other hand, in this study the lowest score aspect is finding reference, and finding social function become the highest score aspect.

From the data, it was found that the mean score of finding references is lower than finding inferences. Logically, finding references is easier than finding inference. It is because the answer of finding references is explicitly existed in the text. It is difference with inferences which is occurs in the text implicitly.

On the other hand, the result of this research is differences with Jun (2016). In Jun (2016) which is focus on comprehending report text of second grade students of SMAN 1 Kuantan Hilir states that the score of aspect in finding references is lower than finding inference.

This phenomena probably happen because the instrument in this research is authentic reading material or directly from English Newspaper. Probably, in reading newspaper, finding inference is easier than finding references. It is because the language use in newspaper is quite different with reading material in school generally. The explanation above is the reason why mean score finding references is lower than finding inferences score aspect (64.00). Finding social function is the highest score aspects (90.00).

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the research finding in comprehending news item texts, there are 7 students who get excellent level. It means that they could comprehend the text very well. There are 13 students who are categorized into good level. We can infer that they have good ability in reading comprehension. From finding this research, there are no students get average and poor category. In conclusion, the students have good ability in comprehending reading text, especially in news item text.

From 7 aspects that becoming as indicators, the highest mean score is in finding social function (90.00) and the lowest mean score is in identifying the reference (64.00). As a whole, the students' ability in comprehending news item text can be categorized at good level because the total mean score is 76.00.

Concerning the conclusion, there are several recommendations that are useful for teaching and learning English. Firstly, the teacher may develop the students' motivation and encourage them to read news from English newspaper as a practice of comprehending news item texts in order to make the students familiar with reading materials in terms of five indicators of reading comprehension and components of the texts. The last, the researcher recommended other researcher to conduct another research design about news item text refer to finding and the writer suggest the next writer to measure the difficulty between the titles of the text that becoming as instrument of research.

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