

**A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS  
OF SMAN 15 PEKANBARU IN COMPREHENDING  
NARRATIVE TEXTS**

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**Abstract :** *This descriptive research was aimed to find out the ability of the second year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in comprehending narrative texts. The subject of this research was class XI IPS 1 which consisted of 32 students. The data were collected by administering a test to the students in the form of multiple choice test. The findings of the research are as following: finding the main idea (75.00), finding the factual information in complication (65.63), finding the factual information in resolution (70.63), finding the meaning of vocabulary (67.50), finding references (71.88), finding inference (51.25), finding social function (73.13). As a conclusion, the highest score was in finding the main ideas (75.00) which categorized into good level, and the lowest score was in finding inference (51.25) which categorized into mediocre level. The implication of the finding is that the second year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru should improve their reading skills in order to reach excellent level.*

**Keywords:** *Reading Ability, Comprehending Narrative Texts.*

## **SEBUAH PENELITIAN MENGENAI KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS XI SMAN 15 PEKANBARU DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS NARASI**

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**Abstrak:** Penelitian deskriptif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa kelas sebelas SMAN 15 Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks narasi yang dikumpulkan di bulan April tahun 2017. Subjek dalam penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas XI IPS 1 yang terdiri dari 32 siswa. Data dikumpulkan dengan memberikan test kepada siswa dalam bentuk pilihan ganda. Hasil penelitian yang diperoleh adalah sebagai berikut; nilai rata-rata siswa dalam memahami ide pokok 75.00, dalam memahami informasi faktual dalam komplikasi adalah 65.63, dalam memahami informasi faktual dalam resolusi adalah 70.63, memahami makna kata- kata sulit 67.50, dalam mengidentifikasi reference 71.88, memahami inference 51.25, memahami fungsi sosial 73.13. Nilai tertinggi diperoleh siswa dalam memahami ide pokok berada pada level bagus dengan nilai rata-rata 75.00 . Sedangkan nilai terendah diperoleh siswa dalam memahami inference dengan nilai 51.25, yang masuk dalam kategori sedang. Dampak dari penelitian ini adalah bahwa siswa harus meningkatkan kemampuan membaca mereka untuk mencapai tingkat yang sangat baik.

**Kata Kunci:** Kemampuan membaca, Pemahaman Teks Narasi.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Reading is one of the important skills which has to be learned by the students. To achieve the purpose of reading, in order to get general or detailed information from a text, the students have to comprehend a text well in order to gain the information effectively. Gillet and Temple (1998) say, "Comprehension is the understanding new information in light of what we have already known".

There are some phenomenas in learning english. Students with reading problems have difficulty in both studying and their personality. According to Richek; Caldwell; Jennings; & Lerner (1996), students with reading problems in school are passive learners, have low self-esteem, emotional problems, poor attention and concentration, have difficulty making and keeping friends, and lack motivation. Because of these deficiencies, a remedial or corrective instruction is necessary in order to help students succeed in their English reading. According to Alderson (2000), the students lack motivation to read or to spend time improving their ability to read. Narrative texts, or texts that tell stories, can be used to improve students reading abilities.

Dealing with what have been explained in the above paragraphs, the learners at SMAN 15 Pekanbaru also cannot comprehend narrative text well. Vocabulary must be cause of the problem in comprehending a text. Based on description above, the researcher is interested to find out the ability of the second year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in comprehending narrative texts.

There are some reasons why the writer chose narrative text. The first, narrative text is written with stories in every part. The stories were told clearly using sentences that are easy to understand. Therefore, the students can easily understand a narrative text. The second, narrative texts can be used to improve students motivation in reading. The students can imagine the story in their head when they read a narrative text, and they did not feel discourage because one purpose of a narrative text is to entertain. The third, narrative texts have moral lessons. Narrative texts are not only to entertain the readers, but also to teach moral lessons. Moreover, narrative text consists of much new vocabulary. It will make students notice vocabularies. It is expected that it will improve their knowledge about difficult words and attract the interest of students to read more. By learning narrative text, the student will learn to use simple past tense and they will master this kind of tense because one language feature of a narrative text is simple past tense.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This research was a descriptive study which had only one variable. Gay (1987) states that descriptive research involves collecting data to test hypothesis or to answer questions 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. The participants of this research were the second year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru. For this purpose, class XI IPS 1 became the subject of the research which consists of 32 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 narrative texts.

Furthermore, the level of the student's score was classified into four levels of mastery. The classification can be seen in this following table.

Table 1. The Classification of Students' Score

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

(Adapted Harris 1974)

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

The result of this research was presented by showing the percentage of the students scores and the classification scores of the students' ability in comprehending narrative texts. The data was analyzed based on students' score in terms of seven components. They are finding the main idea, finding factual information in complication, finding factual information in resolution, finding meaning of vocabulary, finding reference, finding inference and finding social function of narrative texts.

Table 2. Percentage of the Students' Ability in Reading Comprehension

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	2	6.25	Excellent	67.94
2	60 -79	30	93.75	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Mediocre	
4	0 – 49	0	0	Poor	
Total		32	100		

The table describes about mean score of students ability in reading comprehension. The mean score is 67.94. There are 2 students (6.25%) are in excellent level, 30 students

(93.75%) are in good level, and no student (0%) is in mediocre and poor level. It means the students ability in reading comprehension is in good level.

Table 3. The Students' Score Classification in Term Finding Main Ideas

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	22	68.75	Excellent	75.00
2	60 -79	6	18.75	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	4	12.5	Poor	
Total		32	100		

The table describes about students' score in finding main idea. The mean score is 75.00. There are 22 students (68.75%) in excellent level, 6 students (18.75%) in good level, and 4 students (12.5%) in poor level.

Table 4. The Students' Score Classification in Term Finding Factual Information in Complication

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	12	37.5	Excellent	65.63
2	60 -79	16	50	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	4	12.5	Poor	
Total		32	100		

The table describes about students' score in finding factual information in complication. The mean score is 65.63. There are 12 students (37.5%) in excellent level, 16 students (50%) in good level, and 4 students (12.5%) in poor level.

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

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	16	50	Excellent	70.63
2	60 -79	15	46.88	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	1	3.13	Poor	
Total		32	100		

The table describes about students' score in finding factual information in resolution. The mean score is 70.63. There are 16 students (50%) classified in excellent level, 15 students (46.88%) in good level, and 1 student (3.13%) in poor level.

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

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	17	53.13	Excellent	67.5
2	60 -79	9	28.13	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	6	18.75	Poor	
	Total	32	100		

The table describes about students' score in finding meaning of vocabulary. The mean score is 67.50. There are 17 students (53.13%) classified in excellent level, 9 students (28.13%) in good level, and 6 students (18.75%) in poor level.

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

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	19	59.38	Excellent	71.88
2	60 -79	8	25	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	5	15.63	Poor	
	Total	32	100		

The table describes about students' score in finding reference. The mean score is 71.88. There are 19 students (59.38%) classified in excellent level, 8 students (25%) in good level and 5 students (15.63%) in poor level.

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

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	6	18.75	Excellent	51.25
2	60 -79	9	28.13	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	17	53.13	Poor	
	Total	32	100		

The table describes about students' score in finding inference. The mean score is 51.25. There are 6 students (18.75%) classified in excellent level, 9 students (28.13%) in good level, and 17 students (53.13%) in poor level.

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

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	20	62.5	Excellent	73.13
2	60 -79	10	31.25	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	2	6.25	Poor	
	Total	32	100		

The table describes about students' score in finding social function. The mean score is 73.13. There are 20 students (62.5%) classified in excellent level, 10 students (31.25%) in good level and 2 students (6.25%) in poor level.

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

No.	The classification of the question	Mean score	Level of ability
1.	Finding main idea	75.00	Good
2.	Finding factual information in complication	65.63	Good
3.	Finding factual information in resolution	70.63	Good
4.	Finding meaning of vocabulary	67.50	Good
5.	Finding reference	71.88	Good
6.	Finding inference	51.25	Mediocre
7.	Finding social function	73.13	Good
	Mean Score of the whole test	67.86	Good

Table above shows that from 7 both components of reading comprehension and components of narrative texts, the researcher got the result that the mean score of finding main idea is 75.00 (good), the mean score of finding factual information in complication is 65.63 (good), the mean score of finding factual information in resolution is 70.63 (good), the mean score of finding meaning of vocabulary is 67.50 (good), the mean score of finding reference is 71.88 (good), the mean score of finding inference is 51.25 (mediocre) and the mean score of finding social function is 73.13 (good). As whole, the researcher got the final result for students' ability in comprehending narrative texts is (67.86). It means that the students' ability is fell into good.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATION

After conducting research entitled *A Study on the Ability of the Second Year Students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in Comprehending Narrative Texts*, the conclusion can be drawn. The writer gets the scores of students from the results of the test. The scores of students fell into good level. It can be concluded that out of 32 students, 2 students in excellent level, 30 students in good level, and no students in mediocre and poor level.

The mean score of the students' ability in comprehending narrative texts are 67.86. It means that the ability of the second year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru in comprehending narrative texts is in good level. On the other words, the result of this research found that the ability of the second year students of SMAN 15 Pekanbaru could not be achieved the minimum criteria (KKM) of this school.

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 narrative texts in order to make the students familiar with reading materials especially in identifying inference. 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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