

A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF SMK NEGERI 2 PEKANBARU IN COMPREHENDING RECOUNT TEXTS

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Abstract: *This descriptive research was aimed at finding out how the ability of the first year students of SMK Negeri 2 Pekanbaru in comprehending Recount texts. The design of the research was one class for try-out test and one class for real test. The population was the first year students of SMK Negeri 2 Pekanbaru in second semester of academic year 2016/2017. The sample was 27 students of class X.1 which were chosen by using cluster random sampling. The data were collected by giving 5 recount texts in form of multiple choices test. From the five texts, there were 30 items which focus on six components, they are finding main idea, factual information, references, meaning of difficult word, restatement, and social function. The results of the study revealed that the mean score of the students' ability in comprehending recount texts is 57.51. It means that the ability of the first year students of SMK Negeri 2 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount texts was categorized into average level. The highest score obtained by the students was in comprehending main idea with the mean score of 76.29 which was categorized into good level, and the lowest score that the students got was in comprehending restatement, with the mean score of 40.00 which is categorized into poor level. Based on the result of this research, it is suggested that the students to learn more about comprehending recount text, particularly about comprehending restatement.*

Keywords: *Students' Ability, Reading Comprehension, Recount text.*

SEBUAH PENELITIAN KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS 1 SMK NEGERI 2 PEKANBARU DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS RECOUNT

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Abstrak: Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif yang bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana kemampuan siswa kelas 1 SMK Negeri 2 Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks recount. Desain penelitiannya adalah satu kelas untuk tes try out dan satu kelas untuk real test. Populasi penelitiannya adalah siswa kelas 1 SMK Negeri 2 Pekanbaru pada semester kedua tahun ajaran 2016/2017. Sampel penelitiannya adalah 27 siswa dari kelas X.1 yang dipilih dengan menggunakan pengambilan sampel secara acak. Data dikumpulkan dengan memberikan 5 teks recount dalam bentuk pertanyaan ganda. Terdapat lima komponen yaitu mencari ide pokok, informasi faktual, kata rujukan, arti kosa kata sulit, pengungkapan kembali kalimat, dan fungsi sosial. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa nilai rata-rata skor kemampuan siswa dalam memahami teks recount adalah 57,51. Itu dapat disimpulkan bahwa kemampuan siswa kelas 1 SMK Negeri 2 Pekanbaru dalam pemahaman teks recount dikategorikan level rata-rata. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kemampuan siswa SMK Negeri 2 Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks recount adalah baik dengan rata-rata nilai 76,29. Rata-rata skor tertinggi (76,29) adalah dalam menemukan ide utama. Rata-rata skor terendah (40,00) adalah dalam mengungkapkan kembali kalimat. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian ini, disarankan agar siswa untuk lebih mengenal teks recount, terutama tentang pemahaman mengungkapkan kembali kalimat.

Kata kunci: Kemampuan siswa, Pemahaman Membaca, Teks Recount.

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language which has an important role in communication skills. There are four important language skills which should be acquired in learning English; speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The reading is one of the important skills in English. The reading becomes an aspect that should be considered among language skills. In finding out the information of reading text, the reader should have a good comprehension. A good reading comprehension will guide the reader to find out the meaning of the context, stated or not stated meaning. Many kinds of text genre is taught in the senior high school. One of them is recount text.

In the basic competency of Curriculum 2013 states that the students are expected to know the generic structure, language features and communicative purpose of recount text. The students can identify recount text and differentiate recount text with other types of text.

Recount text is a text that tells incidents or events which happened in the past by chronological order. Knapp and Watkins (2005) mention that recount text is written to retell events with the purpose of either informing or entertaining their audience or readers. Furthermore, Sudarwati and Grace (2007) point out that recount text tells the readers what happened in the past through a sequence of events. The students are expected to express their ideas about the experience and focused on informing the readers. The purpose of the text is to tell series of events either to inform or to entertain readers and there is no complication among the participants.

Based on an interview with the English teacher of SMKN 2 Pekanbaru, the students have different competence between one to another. The students are still confused in deciding main idea and they are lack of vocabularies as well. Therefore, it is very difficult for them to understand the information that is disguised in the text. However, the level of students' ability in comprehending recount text has not been identified scientifically. therefore, this study answers a question: how is the ability of the first year students of SMKN 2 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount text?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This research is a descriptive research. There was only one variable in this research and that was to find out the ability of the first year students of SMKN 2 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount texts. According to Noor (2012), descriptive research is a research that describes an event. It means that descriptive research is related with the condition occurs at that time, uses one variable or more and then investigates in fact. In this research, the descriptive research is used to describe the ability in comprehending recount text by the first year students of SMKN 2 Pekanbaru.

The technique of collecting the data plays an important role in conducting a research. To get the data, a test was constructed as an instrument. The students were asked to answer the questions of the research.

The Population and Sample of the Research

The population of this research was the first year students of SMKN 2 Pekanbaru in academic year 2016-2017. The number of the population was 157 students that were consisted of five classes. They were divided into several classes as in the following:

Table 1.1 The Distribution of the Population		
No	Classes	Number of Students (Population)
1	X. 1	27
2	X. 2	25
3	X. 3	30
4	X. 4	35
5	X. 5	40
Total		157 students

According to Gay (2000), sampling is the process of selecting a number of individual for study in such a way that represents the larger group from which they were selected. Since the population is quite large and time that the writer has limited, therefore the writer chose to take cluster random sampling. The writer took one class astray out class (Class X. 2) and one Class X.1 as sample class.

The classification of students' scores by Harris, 1974 and it can be seen in the following table 2:

Table 2. The Classification of Students' Score	
No. Scores	Category
80 – 100	Excellent
60 – 79	Good
50 – 59	Average
0 – 49	Poor

(Adopted from Harris, 1974)

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The result of this research is presented by showing the percentage of the students' scores and the classification scores of the students' ability in comprehending

recount texts. The data were analyzed based on students' score in terms of six components. Namely finding main idea, finding factual information, finding references, finding meaning of difficult words, finding restatements, and finding social function.

Percentage of the Students' Ability in Reading Comprehension					
No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	3	11.11 %	Excellent	57.51
2	60 -79	12	44.44%	Good	
3	50 – 59	2	7.40%	Average	
4	0 – 49	10	37.03%	Poor	
	Total	27	99.98		

Table 4.2 above depicts that most of the students (44.44%) are already in *Good Level* in comprehending recount texts, though as many as 37.03% of the students are still in *Poor Level*. The percentage declined in *Excellent* and *Average Level* as there are only 11.11% and 7.40% of the students in each level.

In short, the mean score of the students in comprehending recount text is 57.51. It can be stated that the ability of the first year students of SMKN 2 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount text in *Average Level* (57.51).

The students' ability in finding main idea can be seen from the scores by the students for question number 1,7,13, 19, 25. The result of the students' score examination can be seen below.

Table 4.3 Students' Scores and Their Level of Ability in Finding Main Idea					
No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	18	66.7	Excellent	76.29
2	60 -79	5	18.5	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	4	14.8	Poor	
	Total	27	100		

Table 4.3 above illustrates that in finding main ideas, 18 students (66.7% or as the highest percentage) are in excellent level, 5 students(18.5%) in good level, 0 students (0% or as the lowest percentage) are in average level, and 4 students (14.8%) are in poor level.

It was found out that the students' mean score in finding main ideas is 76.29. It can be concluded that the ability of the first year students of SMKN 2 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount texts, in term of finding main ideas is in *Excellent Level*. This level tells that the students have been quite master in finding main ideas of recount text.

Table 4.4 Students' Scores and Their Level of Ability in Finding Factual Information

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 -100	8	29.6	Excellent	62.22
2	60 -79	13	48.1	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 - 49	6	22.2	Poor	
Total		27	99.9		

Table 4.4 above shows that in finding factual information, as many as 8 students (29.6%) are in excellent level, while the percentage rises in good level as 13 students (48.1%) in there. However, 0 students (0%) are in average level, and 6 students (22.2%) are still in poor level.

It was found out that the students' mean in finding factual information overall is 62.22, and it is categorized as Good Level. Meaning that, the students in general have already been good in finding factual information of recount text.

Table 4.5 Students' Scores and Their Level of Ability in Finding References

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	7	25.9	Excellent	59.25
2	60 -79	12	44.4	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	8	29.6	Poor	
Total		27	99.9		

Table 4.5 above illustrates that in finding references, more than a fourth of the students (25.9%) are in Excellent Level, 12 students (44.4%) in good level, no one (0%) are in average level, and 8 students (29.6%) are still in poor level.

From the data above, It was found out that the students' mean score in finding references is 59.25. It can be concluded that the students' ability in reference aspect is in *Average Level*. It means that the students' level in finding references is still in need of improvement to get better result.

Table 4.6 Students' Scores and Their Level of Ability in Finding Meaning of Difficult Word

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	5	18.5	Excellent	48.88
2	60 -79	11	40.7	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	11	40.7	Poor	
Total		27	99.9		

The table above describes that in finding meaning of difficult word, 5 students (18.5%) have been in *Excellent Level*, as many as 11 students (40.7%) are in *Good* and also *Poor Level*, whilst none of the students (0%) is in average level.

It was found out that the students' mean score in finding meaning of difficult word is 48.88. It can be concluded that the students' ability in finding meaning of difficult word aspect is still in *Poor Level*. It means that for the students have to learn more and enrich their vocabulary in English.

Table 4.7 Students' Scores and Their Level of Ability in Finding Restatement

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 -100	3	11.1	Excellent	40.00
2	60 -79	5	18,5	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	19	70.3	Poor	
Total		27	99.9		

Table 4.7 above shows that in finding restatement, only 3 students (11.1%) are in *Excellent Level*, then the percentage inclines in *Good Level* as 18.5% or 5 students are in this level. Nevertheless, the percentage sharply declines in *Average Level* as 0 students (0%) are in this level. The highest percentage, nonetheless, is in *Poor Level* as 70.3% or as many as 19 students are in this level.

It is found that afterwards found out that the students' mean score in finding restatement is 40.00. It can be concluded that the students' ability in finding meaning of restatement aspect is in *Poor Level*. It means that they have to practice more to get better ability in finding restatement.

Table 4.8 Students' Scores and Their Level of Ability in Finding Social Function

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80-100	8	29.6	Excellent	58,51
2	60 -79	11	40.7	Good	
3	50 –59	0	0	Average	
4	0 – 49	8	29.6	Poor	
Total		27	99.9		

Table 4.8 presents that in finding social function, 8 students (29.6%) are in *Excellent Level*, 11 students (40.7%) are in *Good Level*, 0 students (0%) are in *Average Level*, and 8 students (29.6%) are in *Poor Level*.

It can be figured out that the students' mean score in finding social function is 58.51, and it is in *Average Level*. It means that they still have to learn harder to get higher ability in finding social function.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The objective of this research was to find out the ability of the first year students of SMKN 2 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount text. After conducting the research, the writer acquired the score of students from the results of the test. The score calculation shows that 3 out of 27 students are in excellent level, 12 students are in good level, 2 students are in average level and 10 students are in poor level. The mean score of the students' ability in comprehending recount texts is 57.51. In conclusion, the ability of the first year students of SMKN 2 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount texts is in *average level*.

Recommendations

Based on from the research finding, the writer would like to give some recommendations as follows: First, the teacher should devote extra time to the students in giving explanation and exercises about comprehending reading texts, especially recount text. Second, students should learn the components in comprehending recount text that will help them in comprehending others reading text.

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