A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMA NEGERI 2 BANGKINANG IN COMPREHENDING ENGLISH TEXTS

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Abstract: *The main objective of this descriptive research was to find out about students' ability in comprehending English texts. The sample of this research was the second year students of SMAN 2 Bangkinang. There were 52 students participating as the sample of this research.Tthe instrument of the research was a set of multiple choice test which consist of 48 questions regarding the reading components and The data were quantitative. The data were analyzed by calculating the score of the students in answering the test and classifying them to a certain level of ability using Harris formula. The results were that out of 52 students, no one student (0%) in excellent level of ability, 16 students (30.77%) were in good level of ability, 17 students (32.69%) were in average level of ability, and for the most part, 19 students (36.54%) were in poor level of ability. In addition, the average score of the students in comprehending English texts was 51.80. It meant that the students' ability in comprehending English texts was in the average level of ability. The most difficult aspect is the students' ability in finding inference with mean score 42.9 was in poor level of ability. This research recommended the students to to do more practice in reading three kinds of text (Narrative, Report and analytical exposition texts) in order to comprehend texts. Further research can focus on studying each subtopic in details. Other researchers can also focus on how to overcome the high level of difficulties in comprehending English texts, particular in finding inferences.*

Keywords: Ability, Comprehending, English texts

STUDI TENTANG KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS DUA SMAN 2 BANGKINANG DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS BAHASA INGGRIS

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Abstrak: Tujuan dari penilitian deskriptif ini adalah untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa dalam memahami teks bahasa inggris. Sampel penelitian ini adalah siswa dan siswi kelas dua SMAN 2 Bangkinang. Partisipan berjumlah 52 orang siswa. Data yang digunakan berupa kuantitif data dan instrument penelitiannya sebuah tes pilihan berganda yang terdiri atas 48 pertanyaan mengenai komponen . Data dianalisis dengan menghitung skor masing-masing siswa dalam menjawab tes dan diklasifikasi menjadi level-level tertentu sesuai dengan formula oleh Harris. Hasil dari penelitian adalah bahwa dari 52 mahasiswa, tidak ada siswa (0%) berada pada level ekselen, 16 siswa (*(30,77%*) berada pada level bagus, 17 siswa (32,69%) berada pada level rata-rata, dan kebanyakan dari siSwa, yakni 19 siswa (36,44%) berada pada level kurang mampu/kurang paham. Selain itu, skor rata-rata pemahaman siswa dalam memahami teks bahasa Inggris adalah 51,80. Hal ini berarti bahwa kemampuan mahasiswa dalam memahami teks bahasa Inggris berada pada level kemampuan rata-rata. Aspek yang paling sulit adalah kemampuan siswa menemukan kesimpulan dari teks degan rata-rata nilai 42,9 berada pada tingkat kemampuan yang rendah. Penelitian ini merekomendasikan siswa untuk melakukan lebih banyak latihan dalam membaca teks-teks bahasa inggris khususnya teks narrative, teks report dan teks analytical exposition. Penelitian lebih lanjut dapat berfokous pada setiap subtopick seacara rinci. Peniliti yang lain juga dapat berfokus pada bagaimana mengatasi tingkat kesulitan yang cukup tinggi dalam memahami teks bahasa inggris, khususnya dalam menemukan kesimpulan pada teks.

Kata kunci: kemampuan, , memahami teks bahasa inggris

INTRODUCTION

English as a foreign language in Indonesia plays an important role in many aspects of life like education, economy, international relationship, technology etc. English becomes one of the subjects taught from the elementary school up to the university level. In learning English at senior high school, there are four skills that should be mastered by students, namely reading, writing, listening, and speaking. In term of reading, it is thinking process that is an activity to get information or an idea. Hornby (2000) state that comprehending is the understanding and intepretation of what is read in order to accurately understand written material and abilities of the reader, and on the activities in which the reader is engaged.

Klinger, *et al* (2007) point out that reading comprehension is multi-components, highly complex process involve many interactions between readers and what they bring to the text as well as variables related to the text itself. Reading comprehension is the process where the readers understand the contents of the text or the meaning of the context of the text and students can get the message by reading a text if they comprehend the text.

According to the 2013 Curriculum, and English syllabus for the second year students of senior high school the students must learn about text types. For this level, there are five genres text types that offer, the types are report text, narrative text, analytical exposition text. According to the curriculum on English syllabus, the Standard of Competence in Reading is that the students should able to comprehend text types. It means the students' should comprehend the text types learnt at this level. 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. Comprehending reading materials is their ideas, however, it cannot be identified whether all students comprehend the texts or not. Based on the information and observation there were some difficulties which were faced by students incomprehending texts, such as lack of vocabulary words and their grammar knowledge, mostly student interest to read based on their language preferences such as Indonesian book that English book. From these previous problems, the writer want to find out the ability of the second year students of SMAN 2 Bangkinang in comprehending English text.

METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive research. It serves to describe, fond of describing (Hornby, 1974).This type of research is used to describe and interpret the data being studied. The aim of this research is to find out about the ability of the second year students of SMAN 2 Bangkinang in comprehending English texts. The place of this study is at of SMAN 2 Bangkinang. The study was conducted from February to April 2017.

The population of this research is the second year students, they consist of 3 classes: 6 classes for science and 6 classes for social. Therefore, whether class A, class B or class C would be the sample of this research. In order to decide the sample, the writer used cluster sampling technique. Cluster sampling selects groups, not individuals

(Gay and Airasian, 2000). All the members of selected groups have similar characteristics.

This research used quantitative data which was used to know the ability of the students of SMAN 2 Bangkinang in comprehending English texts. Multiple choice test was given to the students of second year in the purpose of finding out their ability in comprehending three kind of English texts such as narrative, report and analytical exposition.

This research was conducted using multiple choices test. Students were given multiple choices test consist of 48 questions about components of reading comprehension in English texts. The questions in this test adapted from several books of grammar and test instrument from academic journal about components of reading comprehension.

To obtain the data on the ability in comprehending English texts by the student's at SMAN 2 Bankinang, the writer collected the data by giving a multiple choice test. There were 48 items in total. The time for doing the test was 60 minutes. The questions were about English texts. Before administering the test, the writer conducted a try-out. The try-out was used to know the quality of the test items, particularly to determine the facility value (difficulty level) of the test items. The test items would be accepted if the difficulty level (FV) is between 0,30-0,70 and it would be rejected if the difficulty level (FV) is below 0,30 (difficult) and over 0,70 (easy) (Heaton, 1975). After collecting all the data, the writer analyzed the data. The students' individual scores from the test were calculated by using the formula which was adapted from Harris (1974).

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The Description of the Data in Try Out

Before administering the test to the students, the writer conducted try out to the students from the other class. By using the formula from Heaton (1971), the result was found that 6 items were rejected because the difficulty level was below 0.30 and above 0.70. Those items were number 3 and 41 which were above 0.70, while 4 items under 0.30 were numbers 5, 34, 36, and 37.

The Description of the Data from the Test

After revising items on the instruments, the writer continued her activity by giving a test to the students. It was done in order to know the students' ability in understanding phrasal verbs.

It was found that out of 52 students, no one students in excellent level of ability, 16 (30.77%) students were in good level of ability, 17 (32.69%) were in average level of ability, and for the most part, 19 (36.54%) students were in poor level of ability. In addition, the average score of the students in understanding meaning of phrasal verbs was 51.80. It meant that the students' ability in comprehending English text was in the average level of ability.

The Level of Students' Ability

Test Score	F	Percentage	Level of Ability
80-100	0	0%	Excellent
60-79	16	30.77%	Good
50-59	17	32.69%	Average
0-49	19	36.54%	Poor

The percentage of the students' ability in comprehending English texts that are presented in the following figure:

Figure 4.1 The Level of Students' ability
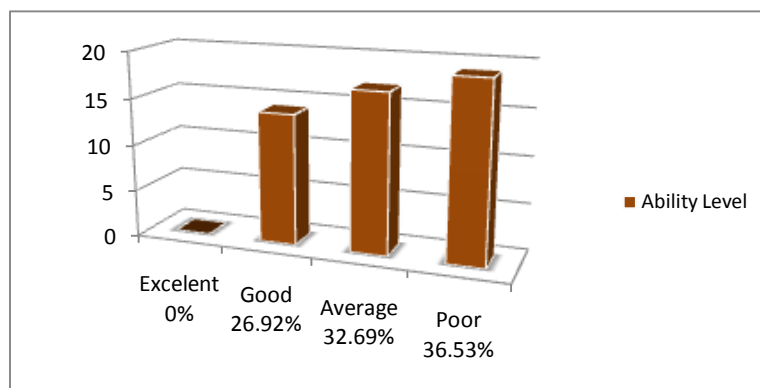
The Classification of the Students' Ability in Reading comprehension English texts

the writer analyzed the students' ability in comprehending English text in each subtopic as in the following table:

No	The Classification of the Question	Mean Score	Level of Ability
1	Finding main idea	55.4	Average
2	Finding factual information	51.6	Average
3	Finding meaning of vocabulary	53.8	Average
4	Identifying references	54.8	Average
5	Making inferences	42.9	Poor
6	Identifying generic Structure	56	Average
7	Identifying language Feature	54.1	Average
8	Finding social function	45.5	Poor

The table 2 demonstrates that the average score of the students in finding main idea 55.4, finding factual information 51.6, finding meaning of vocabulary 53.8, identifying references 54.8, and identifying generic structure 56, identifying language feature 54.1. It means that the students' ability in finding main idea identifying, finding factual information, finding meaning of vocabulary, identifying references, identifying generic structure and identifying language feature was in average level. Furthermore, the average score of the students in finding inference 42.9 And social function45.5. It showed that the students' ability in finding inferences, identifying social function was in poor level.

Interpretation of the Result

Base on the result of the test that had been carried out by the writer to the second year students of SMAN 2 Bangkinang, it was found that their ability in comprehending English texts was slightly on the average level, with the average score at 51.80.

The most difficult aspect is the student ability in finding inference with the mean score 42.9. On the other hand the highest score aspect of reading comprehension is Finding main idea with the mean score is 55.4. Based on the explanation above the writer analyzes that the second year students of SMAN 2 Bangkinang the most difficult problem in comprehending English text was finding inference. This happen because students not really comprehend the texts and they have limited vocabulary to answer. Students lack motivations in reading also one of the caused students have limited vocabulary.

This finding in is in line with the finding of previous research that from Muharromadhan (2010) with the tittle A study on students' Reading Comprehension achievement of the second year students' at MA Haasanah Pekanbaru in academic year 2009/2010. In this related study also showed the highest score of each aspect in comprehending texts

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

After conducting the research and analyzing the data of this study, some conclusions can be drawn. The aim of this research is to find out the second year students' ability in reading comprehension of English texts (narrative, report and analytical exposition texts) at SMAN 2 Bangkinang. From the research conducted at XI IPA 4 and XI IPS 5 class of SMAN 2 Bangkinang For detail, among 52 students, none student (10%) is in **Excellent** level, 14 students (27%) are in the **Good** level. Next, 24 students (46%) are in the **Average** level. The number of the students in the **Average** level is the highest number And 14 students (27%) are in the **Poor** level. The writer also found out that mean score of students' ability reading comprehension is 51.80.

It meant that the students' ability in reading comprehension of English texts the students were in **Average** level and the students cannot reach the minimum standard of this school (KKM). Based on the score of each subtopic, it was known that the students'

ability in finding inference was at the lowest score. This could be due to the lack of vocabulary words and their grammatically knowledge. In addition, the students' highest score was at the identifying generic structure. This could be caused by the familiarity of the students in comprehending generic structure of English texts.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions above, the writer would like to give some recommendations as in the following:

For the Students

By considering the students ability level which is Average level, the students are supposed to do more practice in reading three kind of text (Narrative, Report and analytical exposition texts) in order to comprehend texts. The students ought to concern more about Identifying inferences and Finding Social function items since they get the lowest scores for the questions of those items, they need to recognize that they are in the bottom area of the poor to good level itself. Hence, they need to improve their skill in reading comprehension of texts.

For English teacher

English teacher should have some effort to develop the students' motivation and encourage them to practice in reading comprehension in order to make the students familiar with reading materials in terms of eight indicators of reading comprehension especially in finding inference. And every student has different method in learning, teacher should teach students with various methods to increase their comprehending in reading text.

For Further Research

The writer recommended to other researcher to continue the research findings in the other kinds of research.

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