A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMAN 1 KAMPAR UTARA IN COMPREHENDING NEWS ITEM TEXTS

Arfina Adha, Effendy Gultom , Mahdum.
arfinaadha@gmail.com, effendygultom@gmail.com, mahdum1211@gmail.com.
Contact: +6282386874028

*Student of English Study Program
Language and Arts Department
Faculty of Teachers Training and Education
Universitas Riau*

Abstract : This descriptive research aims to find out the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara in comprehending news item texts. The population of this research was all of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara in academic year 2017/2018. The number of sample was 22 students which were chosen by using cluster random sampling technique. The data were collected using reading comprehension test in multiple choice type by giving 5 news item texts with 40 multiple choice items. The results of the data analysis showed that the mean of the students' score in compreheneding news item texts is 74.00. It can be concluded that the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara in comprehending news item texts is good. Based on the result of the students' scores in each of reading comprehension component, the lowest component of reading comprehension for the students was in finding inferences (62.73) and the highest one was in finding factual information in sources (81.82).

Keywords: Study, Ability, News Item Text.

SEBUAH KAJIAN TENTANG KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS 2 SMAN 1 KAMPAR UTARA DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS NEWS ITEM

Arfina Adha, Effendy Gultom, Mahdum.

arfinaadha@gmail.com, effendygultom@gmail.com, mahdum1211@gmail.com.

Contact: +6282386874028

Mahasiswa Program Studi Bahasa Inggris
Jurusan Bahasa dan Seni
Fakultas Pelatihan Guru dan Pendidikan
Universitas Riau

Abstrak : Penelitian deskriptif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa kelas 2 SMAN 1 Kampar Utara dalam memahami teks news item. Populasi penelitian ini adalah semua siswa tahun kedua SMAN 1 Kampar Utara pada tahun ajaran 2017/2018. Jumlah sampel penelitiannya adalah 22 siswa yang terpilih dengan menggunakan teknik sampel acak kelompok. Data diperoleh dari tes memahami teks news item dalam bentuk pilihan ganda dengan memberikan 5 teks news item dengan 40 soal pilihan ganda. Hasil analisis data menunjukkan bahwa nilai rata-rata kemampuan siswa dalam memahami teks news item adalah 74.00. Ini dapat disimpulkan bahwa kemampuan siswa tahun kedua SMAN 1 Kampar Utara dikategorikan bagus. Berdasarkan hasil dari kemampuan siswa dalam setiap komponen pemahaman bacaan, komponen yang paling rendah bagi siswa yaitu menemukan kesimpulan (62.73), dan yang paling tinggi yaitu menemukan informasi fakta pada sumber (81.82).

Kata kunci : Penelitian, Kemampuan, Teks News Item.

INTRODUCTION

There are four language skills that must be learned by foreign language learners as a basic competence in English: listening, speaking, reading and writing. However, one of the main skills that students need to acquire at junior and senior high school is reading. Reading is needed in our life because by reading we will get information. Elizabeth, (2003) states that reading involves both perception and thought.

According to Cline et.al, (2006), reading is the process of deriving meaning from the text. In the other words, reading is defined as the process of decoding and understanding of a writing system into the spoken words they represent and at the same time analyze the meaning or the messages of the text. Another opinion about reading is given by Nunan (2003), reading is fluent process of readers combining information from a text and their own knowledge to build meaning. The goal of reading is comprehension.

Reading cannot be separated from our life. It is the most critical skill for future success in school as well as throughout life (Healy, 2002). According to the research by National Reading Panel, reading is a complex process that requires a careful and systematic instructional approach. It means that reading is essential skill which has function to gather information through some process.

Reading in English is a good way to improve English. Reading is an activity to get some information from the text. Bear (2009), says that reading in English is like reading in our native language. This means that it is not always necessary to read and understand each and every word in English.

Reading comprehension is a complex interaction among automatic and strategic cognitive processes that enables the reader to create a mental representation of the text (Van den Broek & Espin, 2012). Klinger, *et al*, (2007) point out that reading comprehension is multi-components, highly complex process that involves many interactions between readers and what they bring to the text as well as variables related to the text itself. In other words, the reader and the writer become one mind and the concepts are translated from one person to another.

Since news item text is one of the genres that should be learned by the second year students of senior high school, the students have to be able to comprehend this kind of texts. The the purpose of teaching students in comprehending news item texts is to enable the students to learn the generic structure and language features of news item texts. Besides, it also helps students to comprehend the content of news item texts. In other words, by learning news item texts, the students will learn how to find out the ideas of the texts and how the texts are structured.

METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive research. According to Noor (2012), descriptive research is a research that describes an event, a phenomenon happening now. It means that descriptive research is related to the condition that occurs at that time, uses one variable or more and then investigates in fact. This Research describes the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara in comprehending news item texts.

In collecting the data, the writer gave a written test to the students. In this test, multiple choice type is used. The test consisted of 40 items and the students were asked to select the correct answer for each question from the alternatives provided. The population of this research is Science classes and Social classes of second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara in academic year 2017-2018. The total number of the second year students is 107 students that are divided into 5 classes.

Table 1 The Distributions of the Population

No.	Classes	Number of Students (Population)
1.	XI IPA 1	23
2.	XI IPA 2	22
3.	XI IPS 1	20
4.	XI IPS 2	20
5.	XI IPS 3	22
	Total class = 5	**Total students = 107 Students**

In conducting this research, the writer used cluster random sampling technique by using lottery system. Cluster random sampling randomly selects group, not individuals. The writer wrote the words "sample" and "try-out" and blank paper (not written) on 3 pieces of paper to determine which class becomes the sample of this research. Then, the writer fold the paper and let the chairman or representative of each class to take the lottery and which class get "try-out" on the paper/lottery becomes the sample of the validity of the instrument that conducted in sample of this study and which class get "sample" paper becomes the sample in this study. After the chairman chose a piece of paper from lottery, the writer found that XI IPS 2 as try-out class and XI IPA 2 as sample of the research.

The classification of students' scores by Harris (1974) were used to classify the students' scores in comprehending the texts.

Table 2 The Classification of Students' Scores

No	Test Score	Reading Comprehension Level
1.	81-100	Excellent
2.	61-80	Good
3.	41-60	Average
4.	21-40	Poor

(Adopted from Harris, 1974)

RESULTS AND THE INTERPRETATION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

The result of the research is analyzed to find out the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara in comprehending news item texts. The description of the students' scores and their levels of ability can be seen on table 3:

Table 3 Students' Individual Scores in Comprehending News Item Texts

No	Student	Correct Answer	Score	Level	Percentage
1	MRF	37	93	Excellent	
2	SMH	35	88	Excellent	
3	EHP	34	85	Excellent	27%
4	RMS	34	85	Excellent	
5	AS	33	83	Excellent	
6	NSA	33	83	Excellent	
7	WB	32	80	Good	
8	PU	31	78	Good	
9	RM	30	75	Good	
10	MS	30	75	Good	
11	RH	29	73	Good	
12	NS	29	73	Good	
13	NW	29	73	Good	73%
14	MAR	28	70	Good	
15	JW	27	68	Good	
16	H	27	68	Good	
17	IPS	27	68	Good	
18	Z	26	65	Good	
19	ZF	26	65	Good	
20	AA	25	63	Good	
21	NA	25	63	Good	
22	MZI	25	63	Good	
	TOTAL	652	1630	Good	100%
	MEAN	29.6	74		

The formula that is used to calculate the students' individual scores is by dividing the correct answers with the total number of the items and then it is multiplied by 100. The result shows 6 students (27%) are in excellent level, 16 students (73%) are in good level and no student in average or poor level.

The mean score of the students in comprehending news item texts is 74.00 based on the formula adopted from Hatch and Farhady (1982). From the result, it can be concluded that the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara in comprehending news item texts is in good level. It means that most of the students are classified in good level, and have reached the minimum standard of this school. The result itself also becomes the indicator on the students' ability in comprehending news item text.

Table 4 The Classification of the Students' Mean Score in Comprehending News Item Texts

No.	The classification of the question	Mean score	Level of ability
1.	Finding main idea	75.45	Good
2.	Finding factual information in background events	76.36	Good
3.	Finding factual information in sources	81.82	Excellent
4.	Finding meaning of vocabulary	76.36	Good
5.	Finding references	76.36	Good
6.	Finding inferences	62.73	Good
7.	Finding social function	66.36	Good
	Mean Score of the whole test	74.00	Good

Table 4 shows all the components of comprehending news item texts. The students' mean score in terms of finding main ideas is 75.45 which is classified into good level. The students' mean score in terms of finding factual information in background events is 76.36 which is classified into good level. The students' mean score in terms of finding factual information in sources is 81.82 which is classified into excellent level. The students' mean score in terms of finding meaning of vocabulary is 76.36 which is classified into good level. The students' mean score in terms of finding references is 76.36 which is classified into good level. The students' mean score in terms of finding inferences is 62.73 which is classified into good level and the students' mean score in terms of finding social function is 66.36 which is classified into good level. As whole, the researcher got the final result for students' ability in comprehending news item texts is 74.00. It means that the students' ability is classified into good level.

The Interpretation of the Research Findings

In the reading comprehension test, the mean score of the second year students' ability of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara is 74.00 and is analyzed using Hatch and Farhady (1982) formula. Furthermore, based on the research finding in reading comprehension, there are 6 students who are in excellent level. It means that they are able to comprehend the text very well. Then there are 16 students who are categorized into good level, it means that they have good ability in reading comprehension. There are no students categorized into average level and poor level.

The writer also found out that from the components of reading comprehension by King and Stanley (1989), finding factual information in sources aspect is the easiest aspect for the students to comprehend as it achieved the highest score on the test with the mean score 81.82. On the other hand, finding inferences aspect is the most difficult aspect to comprehend by the students, due to the data that shows that aspect is the lowest score aspect with the mean score 62.73. It happened because in finding factual information, the answer was already in the texts. While, in finding inferences the students only read the text to answer the question, not to understand the text that they read. Finding inferences is the importance of reading to understand what the writer

wrote; it expected that reader can infer the writer wrote. In order words, a good reader is able to draw inference logically and make accurate prediction.   According to the explanation above, the writer analyzes that the second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara in can be classified at good level in comprehending news item texts. Eventhough the mean score is classified as good level, but there are some students that don't pass the score minimum criteria.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

After conducting this research entitled *A study on the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara in comprehending news item texts*, the writer draws some conclusions. The result shows 6 students are in excellent level, 16 students are in good level and no student in average or poor level, with mean score 74.00 (good level). The general objective of this research is to find out the ability of second year students in comprehending news item texts is. It can be concluded that most of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara can comprehend the texts very well. In other word, the students' ability in comprehending news item texts at the second year students of SMAN 1 Kampar Utara is in good level.

In detail, the students' ability in comprehending news item texts for the seven components can be stated as follows; first, the students' ability in finding main idea and factual information in background events was in good level. Second, in finding factual information in sources was in excellent level. The last, in finding meaning of vocabulary, finding references, finding inferences, and finding social function was in good level. The most difficult aspect in comprehending news item texts is in finding inferences, with the mean score 62.73. Then, the easiest aspect is in finding factual information in sources, with the mean score 81.82. The mean score in terms of finding main idea is 75.45. The mean score in terms of finding factual information in background events is 76.36. The mean score in terms of finding factual information in sources is 81.82. The mean score in terms of finding meaning of vocabulary is 76.36. The mean score in terms of finding references is 76.36. The mean score in terms of finding inferences is 62.73. The mean score in terms of finding social function is 66.36. The researcher interprets that the students are relatively good in comprehending news item texts but they have to be more focus in finding inferences and finding social function of news item texts since these items are the lowest mean scores of the students with 62.73 and 66.36.

Recommendations

From the conclusions above, the writer would like to give recommendations. First of all, the teachers are recommended to devote extra time to the students in giving explanation and exercises about comprehending reading texts, especially news item text. The teacher should make some efforts to develop the students' motivation by encouraging them to practice in reading comprehension. The teacher also needs to apply

some reading strategies that which are suitable for the students in comprehending news item text. Second, Students are recommended to improve their comprehension in news item, text, especially in all aspects and features of news item text namely: finding main ideas, finding factual information in events, finding factual information in sources, finding the meaning of vocabulary, finding references, finding inferences, finding social function. Last, students need to enjoy reading activity because there will be many advantages that they can get. They can start reading activity through reading a news item text which can improve their knowledge and can entertain them.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beare, Kenneth. 2009. *Reading-Identifying Skill Requirement.* Retrieved from http://esl.about.com/od/readinglessonplans/a/1_readytypes.htm . Accessed on March 20nd, 2016.

Cline, F.J.C, King, T. 2006. *Focus Group Reaction to Three Definition of Reading (as Originally Developed in Support NARAP Goal 1).* Minneapolis, M.N: National Accessible Reading Assessment Project.

Elizabeth S,P et al. 2013. *Teaching Reading, International Academy of Education.*

Harris, David. 1974. *Testing English as a Second Language.* New York: Mc. Graw. Hill Book Company.

Hatch, Evelyn and Farhady, Horsein. 1982 *Research Design and Statistic for Applied Linguistic.* Los Angeles: New Burry House Publisher.

King, Carol and Stanley, Nancy. 1989. *Building Skills for the TOEFL.* Thomas Nelson and Son Ltd.

Klingener, Janette K. et. Al. 2007. *Teaching Reading Comprehension to Students With Learning Difficulties.* New York: The Guilford Press.

Noor, J. 2012. *Metodologi Penelitian: Skripsi, Tesis, Disertasi dan Karya Ilmiah.* Kencana. Jakarta.

Nunan, David. 2003. Practical English Language Teaching. New York: The McGraw Hil Companiesl. Inc

Van den Broek, P., & Espin, C. A. 2012. *Connecting cognitive theory and assessment: Measuring individual differences in reading comprehension.* School Psychology Review, 41(3), 315-325.