

A STUDY ON THE READING ABILITY OF THE THIRD YEAR STUDENTS OF SMPN 3 TAMBANG IN COMPREHENDING ENGLISH LEGENDS

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Abstract: *This research was designed to describe the student's reading ability in comprehending english legends and aimed to find out the students ability in comprehending English Legends for each component. This research was conducted in SMPN 3 Tambang that has been collected from September to Oktober 2017. The try out class was IX.6 (31 students) and the sample was IX.7 (32 students) chosen by cluster random sampling. The result showed that the ability of the third year students of SMPN 3 Tambang in comprehending English Legend for each component was in good level whose mean score was , however, the students have not passed the minimum score of the school which is 76. For the level of remembering; finding factual information the mean score was 84.38, finding references was 72.9, finding meaning of difficult words was 67.2. The level of understanding (finding restatement) the mean score was 67.19 and for the analyzing level (finding main idea) the mean score was 81.77. Therefore, this research suggests the English teachers to focus on the levels and components that students still find such difficulties that they are into poor level. Students should learn the components in English legend and other text types. Further researchers are expected to find the standard guidance of classification of Bloom's Revised Taxonomy indicated the components of reading comprehension.*

Key Words: *Student's Ability, Comprehending, English Legends.*

STUDI MEMBACA SISWA KELAS TIGA SMPN 3 TAMBANG DALAM MENGUASAI TEKS LEGENDA INGGRIS

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Abstrak : Penelitian ini di desain untuk menjelaskan kemampuan siswa dalam menguasai Legenda Inggris komponen dalam *reading comprehension* dan untuk mengetahui apa saja level-level dalam Taksonomi Bloom Revisi yang terindikasi di dalam kemampuan siswa. Penelitian ini dilakukan di SMPN 3 TAMBANG. Data dalam penelitian ini dikumpulkan dari bulan September sampai Oktober 2017. Kelas *try out* pada penelitian ini adalah kelas XI.7 terdiri dari 31 siswa dan sampel pada penelitian ini adalah kelas IX.7 terdiri dari 32 siswa yang dipilih melalui teknik pemilihan kelompok acak. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan kemampuan siswa tahun kedua *SMPN 3 Tambang* dalam menguasai Lagenda Inggris berada di level *good* dengan nilai rata-rata kelas adalah 74.68. Meskipun demikian siswa belum mencapai nilai KKM sekolah yaitu 76. Untuk level mengingat; menemukan informasi faktual nilai rata-ratanya adalah 84.38, untuk menemukan *references* 72.9, menemukan makna dari kata-kata sulit 67.2. Untuk level memahami (menemukan *restatement*) nilai rata-ratanya 67.19 dan untuk level menganalisa (menemukan ide pokok) adalah 81.77. Oleh karena itu penelitian ini menyarankan kepada guru bidang studi bahasa Inggris untuk fokus pada level dan komponen yang siswa masih menemukan kesulitan dalam menemukannya. Siswa harus mempelajari tentang komponen-komponen dalam teks *Legenda Inggris* dan jenis teks lainnya. Peneliti berikutnya disarankan untuk menemukan klasifikasi baku dalam Taksonomi Bloom Revisi terhadap komponen-komponen dalam membaca.

Kata Kunci: Kemampuan Siswa, Memahami, Legenda Inggris

INTRODUCTION

Based on the School Based Curriculum (KTSP 2006), the purpose of teaching reading at Junior High School is to find out the main idea, the general and the specific information of the text. The syllabus for the third year students of junior high school, there are four text types offered, they are narrative text, descriptive text, recount text, and procedure text. Based on target of curriculum on English syllabus, the standard of competence in reading is that the students should know and be able to comprehend text types. It means, that students should do reading to find out what the text tells about in the process to comprehend text type in English. The comprehend of reading will be shown by answering correctly question the text provided such as to know the main idea, factual information, vocabulary, reference, and inferences as stated by King and Stanley (1989).

To tackle these issues, it is desirable for teachers to try to explore the use of interesting type of texts in reading activities. One of the possible ways is to use narrative fictional stories like folktales, legends, fables, fairy tales, and myths in the English learning as a foreign language. Not only are the texts interesting for students, the narrative texts are also good texts for examining language use in a realistic context.

Based on the curriculum, the narrative text begins to be taught since the last semester of the second grade junior high school. It means that the teachers could opt to use narrative fictional stories since this grade. However, teacher should be aware that there are some possible factors which can hinder students' ability in reading narrative text. Since some of the factors that make students could not comprehend the narrative text are due to the interest and familiarity, it is better to involve the texts that are familiar and interesting for the students into the learning. It will improve the students' willingness to read as they would be able to relate what they read to their personal experiences or surrounding. The fictional characters and stories are sometimes also helpful to elicit students' imagination and creativity. One of narrative text which fulfills these criteria is legend.

Milyani (2010) states that stories are commonly enjoyed by the whole class. Thus, using narrative fictional stories would be helpful materials to gain students' interest during the learning process. Besides, using stories is also useful in a way that they contain some moral values which can be inferred though the reading process. With the interesting materials, the students are therefore expected to learn better so that they could acquire the language as well as the knowledge within the materials.

METHODOLOGY

This research was a descriptive research. This type of research was used to describe and interpret the data being studied based on fact that is supported by accurate theories. Therefore, the aims of this research were to find out students' reading ability of the third year students of SMPN 3 TAMBANG in comprehending English legends.

The population of this research was all of the third year students of SMPN 3 TAMBANG in 2016/2017 academic year which consisted of seven classes.

Table 1. The Distribution of the Population

No.	Classes	Number of Students (Population)
1.	IX.1	28
2.	IX.2	31
3.	IX.3	30
4.	IX.4	30
5.	IX.5	31
6.	IX.6	32
7.	IX.7	32
Total		120 Students

The population of this research was all the third year students of SMPN 3 TAMBANG. The try out class was IX.6 and the sample class was IX.7 chosen by using cluster random sampling techniques. The researcher used a test as the instrument to collect the data. The test consisted of 30 items. The duration time for doing the test was 60 minutes. Five texts were used in the instrument. Each text consisted of five items of multiple choices question. Before the researcher distributed the test to the sample, the test has been tried out to the population that had been chosen as the try out class. The validity and reliability was known by doing this test. Heaton (1975) states that the test will be accepted if the degree of difficulty (FV) is between 0.30-0.70 and they will be rejected if the index of the difficulty is below than 0.30 (too difficult) and above 0.70 (too easy). The researcher calculated the difficulty level, the discrimination index, the mean score, standard deviation, and reliability of the result of the try out test. From the result, it can be seen that the reliability of the test is 0.65 which means that the test is reliable. After that, the real test was given to the sample class. The data was analyzed by calculating the students' score individually and found out the mean score. The students' score were classified into four level mastery, they are excellent, good average and poor (Harris, 1974). The data was presented by using figures.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The items of the test are accepted if the difficulty level is between 0.30-0.70 and they will be rejected if the index of the difficulty is below 0.30 (too difficult) and above 0.70 (too easy). By using the formula, there were 5 items that should be revised; they were items number 4,10,20,21 and 25. All items were revised because their index difficulty above 0.7. It means that they were too easy. The reliability of the test is 0.65 which means the test is reliable.

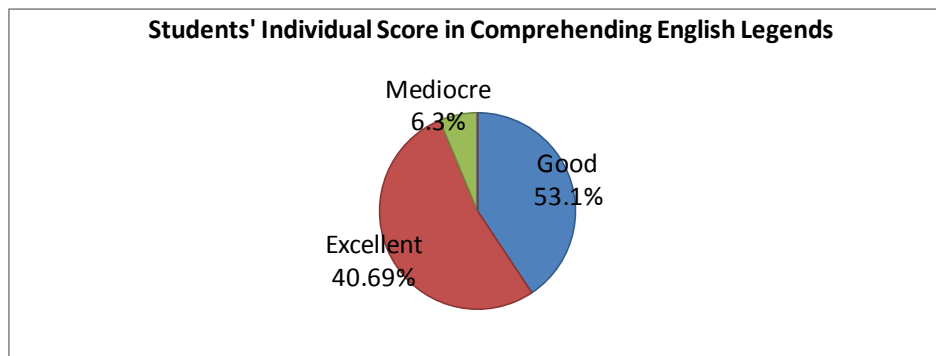


Figure 1. Individual Score in Comprehending English Legends

The figure of percentage of the students' ability in comprehending English Legend in all level is in different numbers. The highest number that students can gain is in the level of excellent; it is 40.69% of students (13 students). For the good level; it is 53.1% of students (17 students). There are 2 students (6.3%) can gain the mediocre level.

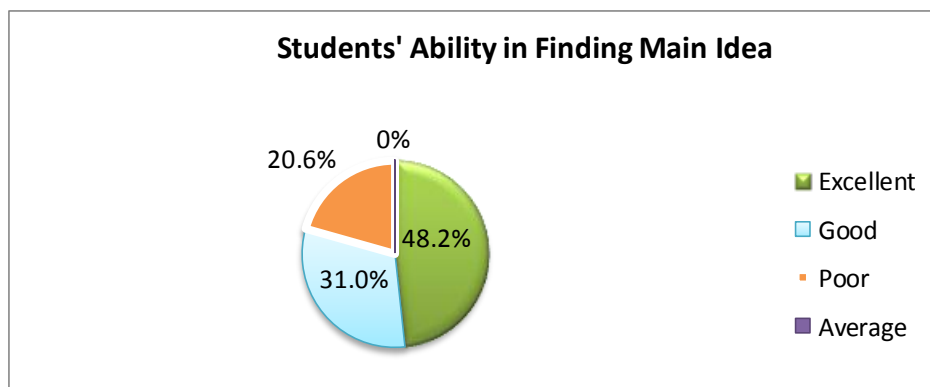


Figure 2. Ability in Finding Main Idea

From the figure 2 shows that the students' ability in finding main idea/ general clasification/ analyzing level in Bloom's Taxonomy in all level is in different numbers. Some students did undersand and some did not. From the figure above can bee seen the highest number that students can gain is in the level of excellent; it is 48.2 % of students (14 students). There is no students gets the average level. For the good level; it is 31.0% of students (9 students). There are 6 students (20.6%) can gain the poor level.

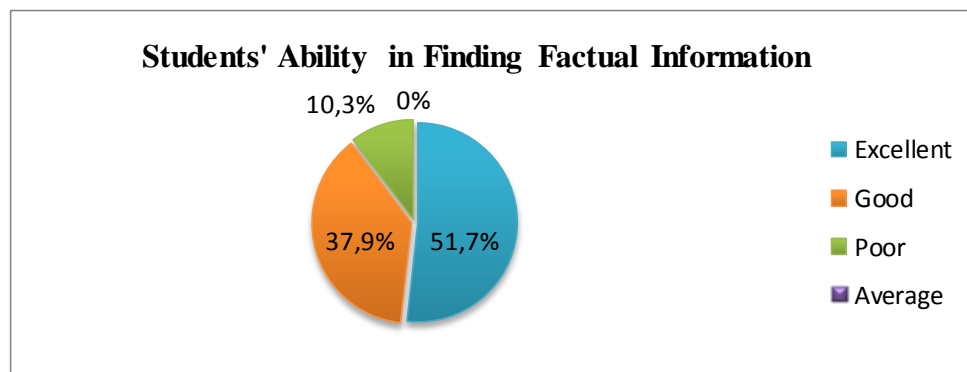


Figure 3. Ability in Finding Factual Information

From the figure 3 shows that the students' ability in finding factual information/ finding generic structure / remembering level in Bloom's Taxonomy in all level is in different numbers. The highest number that students can gain is in the level of excellent; it is 51.7% of students (15 students). It can be seen that more than half students reach the level of excellent. There is no students gets the score of (50-59) means no one gets the average level. For the good level; it is 37.9% of students (11 students). There are 3 students (10.3%) can gain the poor level.

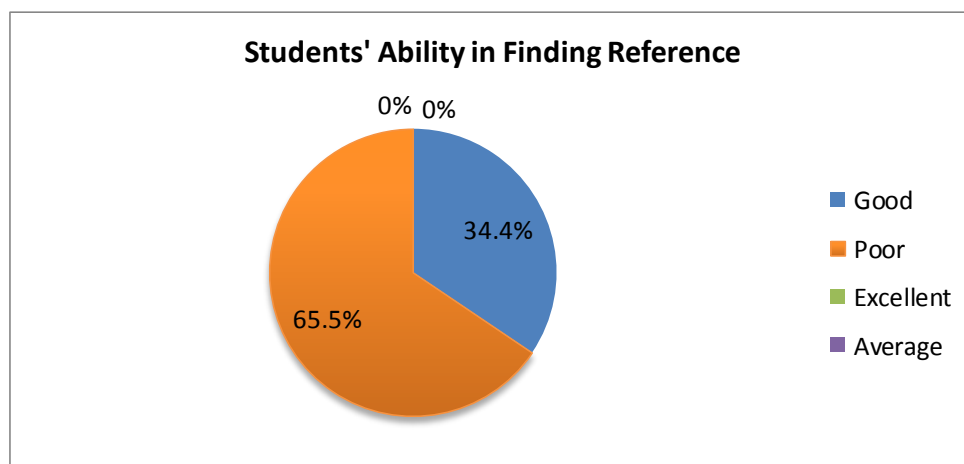


Figure 4. Ability in Finding Reference

From the figure 4 shows that the students' ability in finding references in all level is in different numbers. The highest number that students can gain is in the level of poor; it is 65.5% of students (19 students). There is no student gets the average level. There is no students got the score of (80-100). It can be seen there is no student got the excellent level for this component. For the good level; it is 34.4% of students (10 students). from this result it can be stated that more than half of students felt into poor level in comprehending the component of finding references

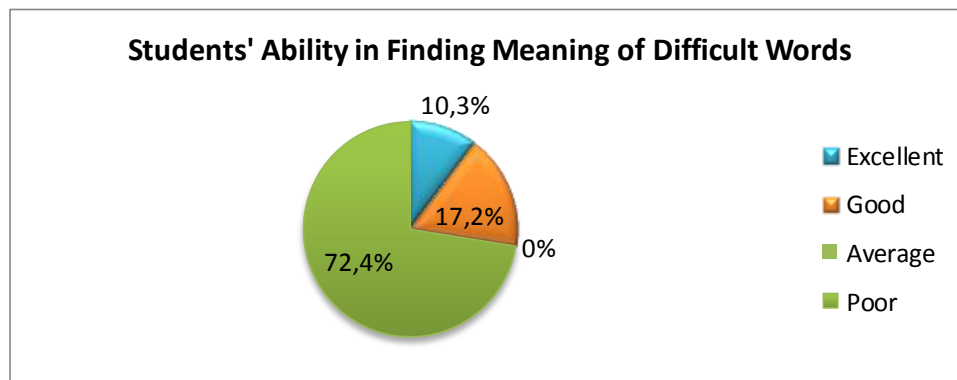


Figure 5. Ability in Finding Meaning of Difficult Words

From the figure 5 shows that the students' ability in finding difficult words in all level is in different numbers. The highest number that students can gain is in the level of poor; it is 72,4% of students (21 students). It can be stated more than half of students felt into poor level. There is no students gets the average level. There are 3 students (10,3%) get the excellent level. For the good level; it is 17,2% of students (5 students).

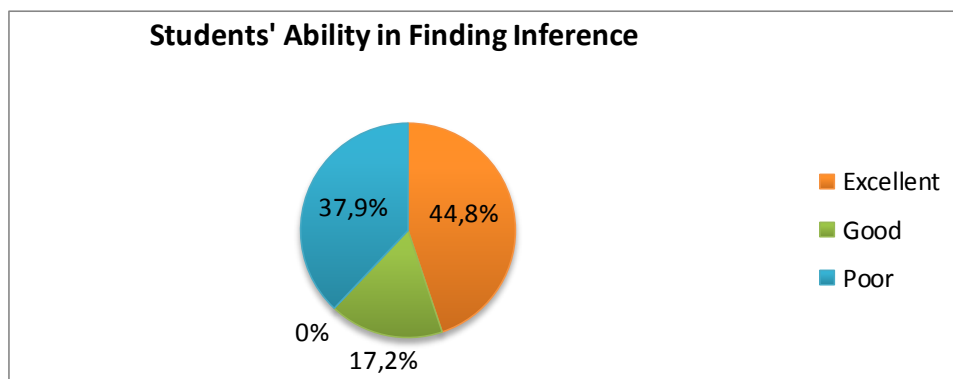


Figure 6. Ability in Finding Inference

From the figure 6 shows that the students' ability in finding restatements in all level is in different numbers. The highest number that students can gain is in the level of excellent; it is 44,8% of students (13 students). It can be seen almost half of the students got the level of excellent. There is no student gets the average level. There are 11 students (37,9%) get the poor level. For the good level; it is 17,2% of students (5 students)

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

The objectives of this study are to find out the students' ability of the third year students of SMPN 3 Tambang in comprehending English Legends for each component. The score of students in comprehending each component of English Legend is falls into excellent level, except in finding inference and finding difficult words which are in good level.

This study shows that the ability in comprehending English Legends for each component can be concluded that the students' ability is in level of excellent (finding main idea and factual information) and in level of good (reference, vocabulary and inference). The students are in excellent level in finding main idea in which the score is 81.77 and in finding factual information in which the score is 84.38. This finding shows that they are excellent in comprehending English Legends based on text organization (generic structure) because they recognize the position where they find the information. They are also good in understanding level to find restatement/ inference, vocabulary and reference. Their scores in these levels are good as their score in the previous level. Their scores in understanding level to find vocabulary 67.20 and in finding reference is 72.9. However, they have problem in finding restatement/ inference. The in finding restatement/ inference are 67.19.

Recommendation

According to the research findings, the writer would like to offer some recommendations. The recommendations are expected to be beneficial for the teachers, students and other researchers in teaching and learning English especially in teaching reading. They are as follows:

Firstly, the writer suggests English teachers to give more exercises taken from textbook and other authentic materials so that students could determine the information from the text fluently.

Secondly, considering that the students' ability level in comprehending English legends is still in good level, they have to keep they should learn more about English legends and should do much improvement to get perfect result.

Thirdly, the next researcher should monitor the process of data collection to prevent cheating among students so the result would become accurate. The writer also hopes this research can help the next researchers in conducting more detailed and further studies, which might be the continuation of this study.

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