

A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMPN 1 PANGKALAN KURAS IN READING DESCRIPTIVE TEXTS.

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Abstract : *This descriptive research is aimed to find out the ability of the second year students of SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras in reading descriptive texts. The research data were collected in July 2018. The sample of this research is class VIII H which consists of 33 students. The data were collected by administering a test to the students in the form of multiple choice types. The test contains 25 items. Based on the data analysis, it was found out that the highest score obtained by the students was in comprehending main ideas with the mean score of 79,39 which is categorized into good level. The lowest score was in comprehending factual information with the mean score of 72,72 which is categorized into good level. As a conclusion the ability of the second year students in reading descriptive texts was in good level with the mean score of 75,51.*

Keywords: *The Ability, Reading Ability, Descriptive Texts.*

SEBUAH PENELITIAN MENGENAI KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS VIII SMPN 1 PANGKALAN KURAS DALAM MEMBACA TEKS-TEKS DESKRIPTIF.

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Abstrak : Penelitian deskriptif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa kelas VIII SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras dalam membaca teks-teks deskriptif. Data-data penelitian ini diperoleh pada bulan Juli 2018. Subjek penelitian ini adalah kelas VIII H yang terdiri dari 33 siswa. Data-data tersebut diperoleh dengan mengadakan tes kepada siswa dalam bentuk pilihan ganda. Tes tersebut berisi 25 soal. Berdasarkan analisis data tersebut, diketahui bahwa nilai tertinggi yang diperoleh oleh siswa adalah dalam memahami *main idea* dengan nilai rata-rata 79,39 yang dikategorikan ke dalam tingkat yang baik, dan nilai terendah adalah dalam memahami *factual information* dengan nilai rata-rata 72,72 dikategorikan ke dalam tingkat yang baik. Sebagai kesimpulan, kemampuan siswa kelas VIII SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras dalam memahami teks-teks deskriptif adalah pada tingkat yang baik dengan nilai rata-rata 75,51.

Kata Kunci: Kemampuan, Kemampuan Membaca, Teks Deskriptif.

INTRODUCTION

Reading is regarded as a decoding skill, that is interpreting codes into ideas. People consider reading as an important activity and they often say that reading is the window of the world. By reading, people can get a lot of information without going anywhere. Reading is one of the important language skills that have to be learned well by students in learning English. According to Sheng (2000), reading is the process of recognition, interpretation, and perception of written or printed material. Reading is an activity to obtain the message of a text. To get the message, the students need to figure out what they read. Reading is a very important skill because without a good reading skill, one cannot obtain many kinds of information printed in the form of media such as bulletin, magazine or newspaper (Koda, 2005). By reading, foreign language students are expected to learn how to read a text to get information from many sources.

It is important to develop the students' reading skill because they need it every day. Through reading, we also can broaden our knowledge. However, based on the writer's informal observation in SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras, many students in the school did not like reading. According to Martin (1991), the purpose of reading is to connect the ideas on the page to what the readers already know. If we do not know anything about a text, then we will find it much more difficult to get the message of the text.

Based on the 2013 curriculum, there are some kinds of text that should be learned by junior high school students such as Descriptive, Recount, Narrative, Procedure, and Report text. Descriptive text is one kind of texts that is quite obligatory to be taught to junior high school students especially the second year students. Descriptive text is a text which tells a description of a particular person, place or thing in detail. Descriptive text is a text which says what a person or a thing is like (Puguh Yulianto, 2001).

From the explanation above the writer is interested in conducting a research to know the ability of the second year students of SMPN 1 Pangkalan kuras in reading descriptive texts.

METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted in SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras. The design of this research is descriptive design. The population of this research is the second year students of SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras. The population can be seen in the following table.

Table 1 The Distribution of Population

Class	Number of Students
VIII A	33
VIII B	34
VIII C	33
VIII D	33
VIII E	33
VIII F	33
VIII G	34
VIII H	33
VIII I	33
VIII J	34
Total	333

Since the total population of the second year students of SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras is large enough to be taken as sample, it was necessary to select the sample.

The writer used cluster random sampling by using lottery. Cluster random sampling randomly selects the group, not individual. The writer wrote the word “sample” on one piece of paper and blank paper on 9 pieces of paper to decide which class as the sample of this research. Ten lotteries were chosen by the chairman of each class. Then, the chairman who got the paper with word “sample” became the sample of the research. Finally, class VIII H are chosen as the sample of the research.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

The Presentation of the Research Finding

The specific objective of this research is to find out the ability of the second year students of SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras in reading descriptive texts. The writer classifies the questions into some categories to help students read the texts, they are: comprehending main ideas, social functions, factual information, references, and difficult words of descriptive texts. The results of the research can be described as follows:

Individual Scores

To find out the students individual scores, the writer divides the number of the correct answers with the total number of items and then multiplied it by one hundred (100). The result of the reading test can be seen on table 4.1 below.

Table 2 The Students' Individual Scores in Reading Descriptive texts

Student	Correct Answers	Scores	Ability Level
1	24	96	Excellent
2	24	96	Excellent
3	24	96	Excellent
4	24	96	Excellent
5	23	92	Excellent
6	23	92	Excellent
7	23	92	Excellent
8	23	92	Excellent
9	23	92	Excellent
10	23	92	Excellent
11	23	92	Excellent
12	23	92	Excellent
13	22	88	Excellent
14	22	88	Excellent
15	21	84	Excellent
16	20	80	Good
17	20	80	Good
18	20	80	Good
19	20	80	Good
20	20	80	Good
21	19	76	Good
22	19	76	Good
23	19	76	Good
24	18	72	Good
25	14	56	Mediocre
26	14	56	Mediocre
27	13	52	Mediocre
28	13	52	Mediocre
29	12	48	Mediocre
30	10	40	Poor
31	10	40	Poor
32	9	36	Poor
33	8	32	Poor
TOTAL	623	2.492	
MEAN	18,88	75,51	Good

Table 3 The Percentage of the Students' Ability in Reading Descriptive Texts

Score Range	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean Score
81 – 100	15	45.5%	Excellent	75, 51
61 – 80	9	27.3%	Good	
41 – 60	5	15.2%	Mediocre	
21 – 40	4	12.1%	Poor	
0 – 20	0	0%	Very Poor	
Total	33	100.0		

To find out the mean of the students' scores, the writer calculated it by using the formula below:

$$m = \frac{\sum fx}{N} = \frac{2492}{33} = 75,51$$

Where: M = The Mean score
 $\sum fx$ = Total of the students' scores
 N = The number of the students

The results show that fifteen students (45.5%) are in excellent level, nine students (27,3%) are in good level, five students (15,2%) are in mediocre level and four students (12,1%) are in poor level.

In short, the mean score of the students in reading descriptive texts is 75,51. It can be stated that the ability of the second year students of SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras in reading descriptive texts is in good level (75,51). Most of the students are classified into good level, and they have already reached the standard minimum score of this school. It also indicates their understanding of the texts.

The Classification of the Students' Ability in Reading Descriptive Texts

The students' individual scores in reading descriptive texts can be seen in terms of comprehending main ideas, social functions, factual information, references, and difficult words based on the classification of the questions as stated in the blueprint of the instrument.

The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending Main Ideas

The students' ability in finding main ideas can be seen from the scores of the students for questions number 1, 6, 11, 16, 21. The students' ability in terms of comprehending main ideas can be seen on table 4.3.

Table 4 The Students' Ability in Terms of comprehending Main Ideas

Score Range	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean Score
81 – 100	13	39.4%	Excellent	79,39
61 – 80	11	33.3%	Good	
41 – 60	5	15.2%	Mediocre	
21 – 40	3	9.1%	Poor	
0 – 20	1	3.0%	Very Poor	
Total	33	100.0		

Table 4 Shows that the students' ability in terms of comprehending main ideas. It shows that thirteen students (39,4%) are in excellent level, eleven students (33,3%) are in good level, five students (15,2%) are in mediocre level, three students (9,1%) are in poor level, and one student (3,0%) is in very poor level.

The writer finds out that the students' mean score in f comprehending main ideas is 79,39. It can be stated that the ability of the second year students of SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras in reading descriptive texts, in terms of comprehending main ideas is in good level. However, the students still need to improve their ability in comprehending main ideas. Can be seen on the figure 1 below.

Figure 1 The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending Main Ideas

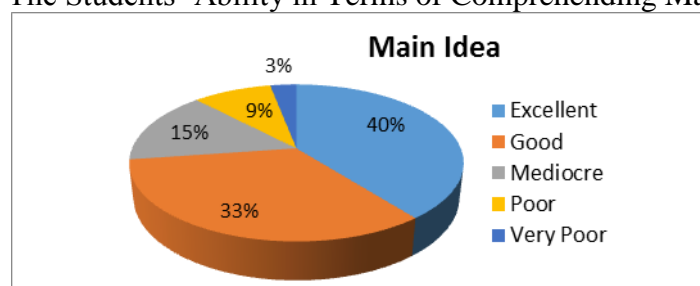


Figure1 shows the percentage of the students' ability in terms of comprehending main idea is in a different number. The highest percentage that students can gain is (40%) which thirteen students in the excellent level. Then, there are eleven students (33%) at a good level and there are five students (15%) in mediocre. Meanwhile, there are three students (9%) in poor level. And there is one student (3%) who gained very poor level.

The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending Social Functions

The students' ability in comprehending social functions can be seen from the students' scores for questions number 2, 7, 12, 17, 22. The students' ability in terms of comprehending social functions can be seen on table 4.4.

Table 5 The Students' Ability in Terms of comprehending Social Functions

Score Range	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean Score
81 – 100	14	42.4%	Excellent	76,36
61 – 80	7	21.2%	Good	
41 – 60	7	21.2%	Mediocre	
21 – 40	2	6.1%	Poor	
0 – 20	3	9.1%	Very Poor	
Total	33	100.0		

Table 5 shows that the students' ability in terms of comprehending social functions. It shows that fourteen students (42,4%) are in excellent level, seven students (21,2%) are in good level, seven students (21,2%) are in mediocre level, two students (6,1%) are in poor level, and three students (9,1%) are in very poor level.

The writer finds out that the students' mean score in comprehending social functions is 76,36, and is in good level. It means that for the students who are in average, poor and very poor level, they have to learnt more to get good ability in comprehending social function of descriptive texts. Can be seen on the figure 4.4 below.

Figure 2 The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending Social Functions

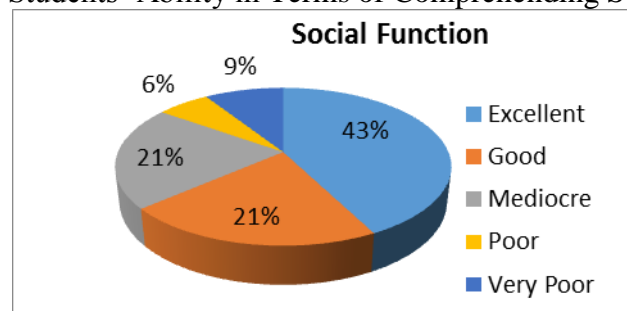


Figure 2 shows the percentage of the students' ability in terms of comprehending social functions is in a different number. The highest percentage that students can gain is (43%) which fourteen students in the excellent level. Then, there are seven students (21%) at a good level and there are seven students (21%) in mediocre. Meanwhile, there are two students (6%) in poor level. And there are three students (9%) who gained very poor level.

The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending Factual Information

The students' ability in comprehending factual information can be seen from the scores by the students for questions number 3, 8, 13, 18, 23. The students' ability in terms of comprehending factual information can be seen on table 4.5.

Table 6 The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending Factual Information

Score Range	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean Score
81 – 100	11	33.3%	Excellent	72,72
61 – 80	8	24.2%	Good	
41 – 60	7	21.2%	Mediocre	
21 – 40	5	15.2%	Poor	
0 – 20	2	6.1%	Very Poor	
Total	33	100.0		

Table 6 shows that the students' ability in terms of comprehending factual information. It shows that eleven students (33,3%) are in excellent level, eight students (24,2%) are in good level, six students (21,2%) are in mediocre level, five students (15,2%) are in poor level, and two students (6,1%) are in very poor level.

The writer finds out that the students' mean score in comprehending factual information is 72,72 (good level). It means that for the students who are in mediocre, poor and very poor level, they have to learn more to get good ability in comprehending factual information of descriptive texts. Can be seen on the figure 4.5 below.

Figure 3 The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending Factual Information

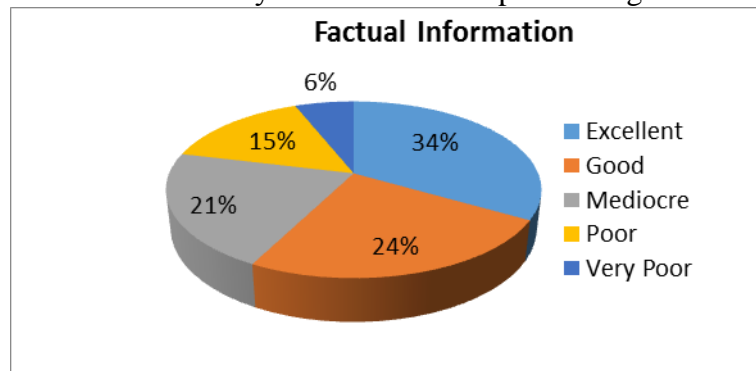


Figure 3 shows the percentage of the students' ability in terms of comprehending factual information is in a different number. The highest percentage that students can gain is (34%) which eleven students in the excellent level. Then, there are eight students (24%) at a good level and there are seven students (21%) in mediocre. Meanwhile, there are five students (15%) in poor level. And there are two students (6%) who gained very poor level.

The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending References

The students' ability in comprehending references can be seen from the scores by the students for questions number 4, 9, 14, 19, 24. The students' ability in terms of comprehending references can be seen on table 6

Table 7 The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending References

Score Range	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean Score
81 – 100	11	33.3%	Excellent	75,75
61 – 80	12	36.4%	Good	
41 – 60	5	15.2%	Mediocre	
21 – 40	2	6.1%	Poor	
0 – 20	3	9.1%	Very Poor	
Total	33	100.0		

Table 7 shows that the students' ability in terms of comprehending references. It shows that eleven students (33,3%) are in excellent level, twelfth students (36,4%) are in good level, five students (15,2%) are in mediocre level, two students (6,1%) are in poor level, and three students (9,1%) are in very poor level.

From the data above, the writer finds out that the students' mean score in comprehending reference is 75,75. It can be concluded that the students' ability in reference aspect is in good level. It means that the students level in comprehending reference still needs improvement to get best result. Can be seen on the figure 4.6 below.

Figure 4 The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending

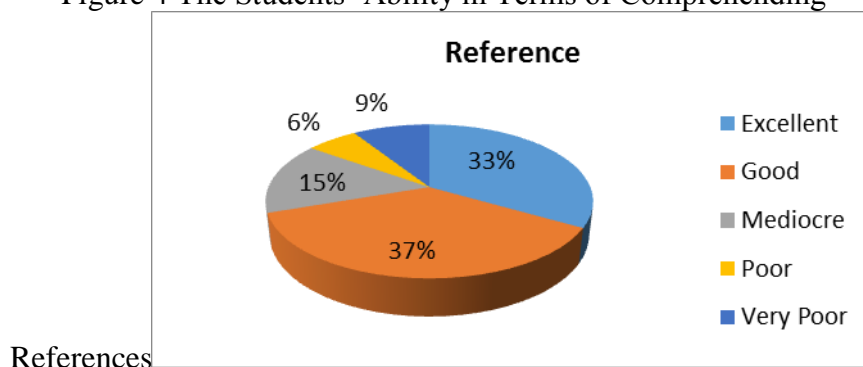


Figure 4 shows the percentage of the students' ability in terms of comprehending references is in a different number. The highest percentage that students can gain is (33%) which eleven students in the excellent level. Then, there are twelfth students (37%) at a good level and there are five students (15%) in mediocre. Meanwhile, there are two students (6%) in poor level. And there are three students (9%) who gained very poor level.

The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending Difficult Words

The students' ability in comprehending difficult words can be seen from the scores by the students for questions number 5, 10, 15, 20, 25. The students' ability in terms of comprehending difficult words can be seen on table 8.

Table 8 The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending Difficult Words

Score Range	Frequency	Percentage	Ability	Mean Score
81 – 100	11	33.3%	Excellent	74,54
61 – 80	13	39.4%	Good	
41 – 60	1	3.0%	Mediocre	
21 – 40	5	15.2%	Poor	
0 – 20	3	9.1%	Very Poor	
Total	33	100.0		

Table 8 shows that the students' ability in terms of comprehending difficult words. It shows that eleven students (33,3%) are in excellent level, thirteen students (39,4%) are in good level, one student (3,0%) is in mediocre level, five students (15,2%) are in poor level, and three students (9,1%) are in very poor level.

The writer found out that the students' mean score in terms of comprehending difficult words is 74,54 (good level). It means that for the students who are in mediocre, poor and very poor level, they have to learn more to get good ability in comprehending difficult word of descriptive texts. Can be seen on the figure 4.7 below.

Figure 5 The Students' Ability in Terms of Comprehending Difficult Words

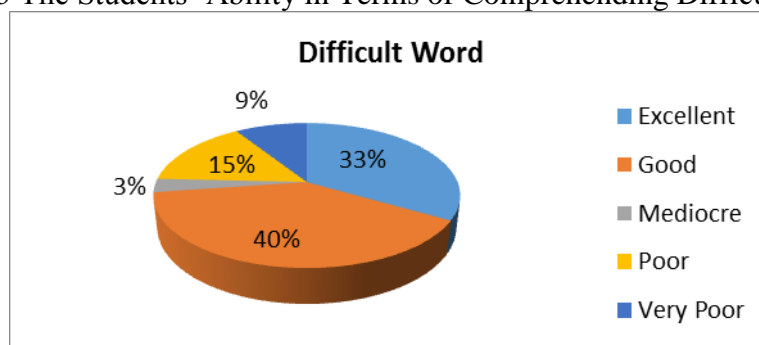


Figure 5 shows the percentage of the students' ability in terms of comprehending difficult word is in a different number. The highest percentage that students can gain is (33%) which eleven students in the excellent level. Then, there are thirteen students (40%) at a good level and there is one student (3%) in mediocre. Meanwhile, there are five students (15%) in poor level. And there are three students (9%) who gained very poor level.

The Mean Scores of the Students' Ability in Reading Descriptive Texts.

The students' mean scores for each classification of questions in reading descriptive texts can be seen on table 9.

Table 9 The Classification of the Students' Ability in Reading Descriptive Texts

No	Classification of the Question	Mean Score	Level of Ability
1.	In Terms of Comprehending Main Ideas	79,39	Good
2.	In Terms of Comprehending Social Functions	76,36	Good
3.	In Terms of Comprehending Factual Information	72,72	Good
4.	In Terms of Comprehending References	75,75	Good
5.	In Terms of Comprehending Difficult Words	74,54	Good
Mean Score of the whole test		75,51	Good

Table 9 shows that from five components of reading descriptive texts, the mean score of comprehending main ideas (79,39) is classified as good, the mean score of comprehending social functions (76,36) is classified as good, the mean score comprehending factual information (72,72) is classified as good, the mean score of comprehending references (75,75) is classified as good, and the mean score comprehending difficult words (74,54) is classified as good. Therefore, the mean score of the students' ability based on the table is good. From all the data, it can be inferred that the ability of the second year students of SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras in reading descriptive texts is in good level.

The Interpretation of the Findings

In reading test, the mean score of the students' ability of SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras in reading is 75,51 and was analyzed by Heaton (1975) formula. Besides that, fifteen students were in excellent level. Then, there were nine students categorized into good level. And five students were categorized into mediocre and four students were categorized into poor level. It means that they had excellent ability in reading descriptive texts. The students may be satisfied with this result, but they still need to practice more their reading skill especially reading descriptive texts.

In this research, the student's ability from each reading component can be described as follows: three components are in excellent level and two components are in good level. There are five different mean score. The most difficult component in reading descriptive texts is in terms of comprehending factual information with the mean score 72,72. On the other hand, the easiest aspect of reading is in terms of comprehending main ideas with the mean score 79,39. Meanwhile, the other aspect such as comprehending difficult words was 74,54, comprehending references was 75,75, and comprehending social function was 76,36. It means that the students' ability was good enough in reading descriptive texts. But, in terms of comprehending factual

information, their scores were still not good enough. Some of the students got difficulties in this component. This problem might be caused by the students' low accuracy in reading. So, the students should read more accurately.

Based on the previous discussions, the researcher analyzed that the second year students of SMPN 1 Pangkalan Kuras can be categorized at good level in reading descriptive texts, but the students still need more practice in reading descriptive texts. Most of the students passed the standard minimum criteria (KKM) of their school which is 72,00.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the result of this research, the writer intends to offer some suggestions. They are as follows:

First, for the English teacher. They should recognize the students' ability in reading descriptive texts and observe the students' difficulties to upgrade and improve the teaching strategies in giving explanation and exercise about reading texts, especially descriptive texts.

Secondly, for the students. They should learn more the components of descriptive text that will help them in reading descriptive texts. In addition, the students need to really enjoy reading activities due to many advantages that they can get.

Thirdly, the writer also hopes that all findings, conclusions, and suggestions in this research will have valuable contribution to the readers in reading, especially descriptive texts.

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