

A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS OF SMP IT AZIZIYYAH PEKANBARU ON COMPREHENDING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT

¹⁾ Ranti Hardita, ²⁾ Jismulatif, ³⁾ Masyhur

Email: ¹⁾ ranti.hardita@student.unri.ac.id, ²⁾ faizjis@yahoo.co.id, ³⁾ masyhurr20@yahoo.com

Contact: 082387135892

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

Abstract: *This research aimed to find out the ability level of male and female students and the significant difference between the ability of the second year male and female students of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru on comprehending descriptive texts. The research was conducted from March 18, 2019 up to April 10, 2019. The population of this research was the second year students of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru with the total number of 88 students (52 males and 36 females). A purposive sampling technique was used to determine the sample of the research. The total sample was 72 students that consisted of 36 male students and 36 female students. To collect the data in this research multiple choice tests were used. Descriptive text was used to know the students' ability on reading comprehension. The result of the research showed that the ability of the second year male and female students of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru on comprehending descriptive texts is in good level and there is no significant difference on comprehending descriptive texts in term of their genders. It means that Null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted and Alternative hypothesis (H_1) is rejected.*

Key Words: *Comparative, Gender, Reading, Descriptive Text*

SEBUAH KAJIAN PERBANDINGAN ANTARA KEMAMPUAN SISWA LAKI-LAKI DAN PEREMPUAN TAHUN KEDUA SMP IT AZIZIYYAH PEKANBARU DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS DESKRIPTIF

¹⁾ Ranti Hardita, ²⁾ Jismulatif, ³⁾ Masyhur

Email: ¹⁾ ranti.hardita@student.unri.ac.id, ²⁾ faizjis@yahoo.co.id, ³⁾ masyhurr20@yahoo.com

Kontak: 082387135892

Mahasiswa Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris
Jurusan Bahasa dan Seni
Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan
Universitas Riau

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui tingkat kemampuan siswa laki-laki dan perempuan dan perbedaan yang signifikan antara kemampuan siswa laki-laki dan perempuan tahun kedua di SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks deskriptif. Penelitian ini dilakukan mulai 18 Maret 2019 hingga 10 April 2019. Populasi penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas dua SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru dengan jumlah total 88 siswa (52 laki-laki dan 36 perempuan). Teknik purposive sampling digunakan untuk menentukan sampel penelitian. Total sampel adalah 72 siswa yang terdiri dari 36 siswa laki-laki dan 36 siswa perempuan. Untuk mengumpulkan data dalam penelitian ini digunakan tes pilihan ganda. Teks deskriptif digunakan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa dalam pemahaman membaca. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kemampuan siswa laki-laki dan perempuan tahun kedua SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks deskriptif berada pada tingkat yang baik dan tidak ada perbedaan yang signifikan dalam memahami teks deskriptif dalam hal jenis kelamin mereka. Ini berarti bahwa hipotesis Null (H_0) diterima dan hipotesis Alternatif (H_1) ditolak.

Kata Kunci: Perbandingan, Jenis Kelamin, Membaca, Teks Deskriptif

INTRODUCTION

Reading is one of the important skill that should be mastered by the students in learning English. According to Burnes and Page (1991), reading is an interactive process, a process in which reader engages in exchange of ideas with an author through the text. It is accepted that reading is the way to communicate between the author and the readers. The communication will run well if the readers catch the authors' messages. To get the authors' message, the readers should be understand the text.

According to Tarigan (2008), reading is a process in which done by reader to get message or information from the writer through printed media. It is very complex process in recognizing and comprehending written symbols which influenced by perceptual skill, decoding, experiences, language background, mind set and reasoning of reader. Reading also becomes an activity that cannot be separated from students' daily life because it is a key to find or get the information in education areas.

To get the information, students need to comprehend what they have read. Reading is an important part of English subject in Junior High School level. Based on the Curriculum of 2013 (K13) for Junior High School, the students must learn the types of texts e.g., descriptive text, narrative text, and recount text. In this research, descriptive text is chosen. Sudarwati (2005) says that descriptive text is a kind of text with purpose to give information.

In addition, Djuharie (2007) says that descriptive text is to describe a person, thing, place, animal, ect. Shortly, descriptive text is a kind of text which to describe about something to get information. In learning descriptive text, the students are expected to be able to identify the topic, the content, and the generic structure of the texts.

However, students have different abilities in language learning, especially in reading comprehension. According to Sousa (2011), female is generally scoring higher on stan dardized tests, especially in language skill and verbal expression. Sousa (2011) also states that the language areas in females' brain are denser than males' brain. The difference in brain structure between male and female produces differences in learning. Wilder and Powel (1989) adds that female is better on memory. In other words, female have good memory, they can remember what they know.

In addition, Rahmawati (2017:136-137) also states that "female not only active during learning process but also they can get higher score than male on test. It proves by generally at every grades, female is superior in the class. Even female score significantly higher than male in almost of tests measuring achievement. It shows that female can do better than male in learning. It can be cause of the reading habit and reading comprehension of female is better than male. In this case, it is clear that there are the researchers who says that the abilities between male and female are different.

Based on explanation above, it is important to conduct an investigation about significant difference between ability of the second year male and female students of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru on comprehending descriptive texts since there is no research has been made before in English Study Program of Teachers Training and Education Faculty of Universitas Riau.

METHODOLOGY

Participants of the Research

The participants of this research were the second year students of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru. The sample was selected by using a purposive sampling technique (non random sampling). The number of the sample is 72 students that consisted of 36 male students and 36 female students.

The Data Collecting Technique

To collect the data, it is necessary to use multiple choice tests. The result of the test is to find out whether there is a significant difference between the ability of the second year male and female students and their ability level in comprehending descriptive texts.

Before the test was given to the sample, the researcher conducted the try out to determined that the test was valid and reliable. The real test was conducted in three classes using the test that the validity and reliability has been checked. Then researcher was separated the answer sheets of male and female students, after that the researcher was calculated male and female students' scores to get the results that showed their ability in comprehending descriptive texts.

The Data Analyzing Technique

This research used multiple choice tests to collect data in order to find out the result of significant difference between the ability of the second year male and female students and their ability level in comprehending descriptive texts. To calculate the score of the students' ability and to analyze whether there is a significant difference of the second year male and female students Microsoft Excel 2010 and SPSS 21.0 was used.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The percentage of male and female students' ability on reading comprehension can be seen in Table 4.3 as in the following:

**Table 4. 1 Percentage of Male Students' Ability
in Reading Comprehension**

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability Level
1	81-100	10	27,78%	Excellent
2	61-80	15	41,67%	Good
3	41-60	7	19,44%	Mediocre
4	21-40	4	11,11%	Poor
5	0-20	0	0,00%	Very poor
Total		36	100%	

Based on the calculation of Microsoft Excel 2010 table 4.3 shows that 10 male students (27,78%) are in excellent level, 15 male students (41,67%) are in good level, 7 male students (19,44%) are in mediocre level, 4 male students (11,11%) are in poor level and there is no students in very poor level.

**Table 4. 2 The Percentage of Female Students' Ability
in Reading Comprehension**

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability Level
1	81-100	11	30,56%	Excellent
2	61-80	14	38,89%	Good
3	41-60	8	22,22%	Mediocre
4	21-40	3	8,33%	Poor
5	0-20	0	0,00%	Very poor
Total		36	100%	

Table 4.4 shows that 11 female students (30,56%) are in excellent level, 14 female students (38,89%) are in good level, 8 female students (22,22%) are in mediocre level, 3 female students (8,33%) are in poor level and there is no students in very poor level.

After finding out male and female students' individual scores in comprehending descriptive texts, the researcher analyzed the difference between the ability of male and female students on comprehending descriptive texts. To analyzed the differences between male and female students in comprehending descriptive text, t-test generated from SPSS has been used. The results can be seen in the table below:

**Table 4. 3 The Classification of the Differences between
Male and Female Students in Comprehending Descriptive Texts
Group Statistics**

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Value	Male	36	67,100	16,4149	2,7358
	Female	36	69,208	16,7245	2,7874

Independent Sample Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Value	Equal variances assumed	,012	,914	-,540	70	,591	-2,1083	3,9057	-9,8980	5,6813
	Equal variances not assumed			-,540	69,976	,591	-2,1083	3,9057	-9,8980	5,6814

Table before shows that the mean score of male students is 67,1 and female students got 69,2. Sundayana (2015), states criteria for testing the hypotheses: H_0 is accepted if *Lower* is negative and *Upper* is positive, or the value Sig. (2-tailed) $> \alpha$, where α is 0,05. Thus, it means that null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted in this research where there is no significant difference between the ability on comprehending descriptive texts of the second year students of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru in terms of their genders.

DISCUSSIONS

In reading comprehension test, the mean score of the second year male students' ability of SMP IT Aziziyyah is 67,1. While, the female students is 69,2. It means that the ability of male and female students on comprehending descriptive texts can be categorized in good level. However, they still need to practice more in reading comprehension, especially in comprehending descriptive texts, so they can get higher scores than the previous tests they have done.

The difference between male and female students' ability in comprehending descriptive texts has been analyzed using t-test generated from SPSS. The result shows that there is no significant difference. It means that null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted in this research where there is no significant difference between the ability of the second year male and female students of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru on comprehending descriptive texts.

From all the data, it can be interpreted that the ability of the second year male and female students of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru is in good level, and there is no significant difference between the ability of the second year male and female students of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru on comprehending descriptive texts.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

The present research seeks to find out the students' ability in comprehending descriptive texts and the ability difference between male and female students in comprehending descriptive texts. Previous studies in this issue revealed two major findings, there is a significant difference between male and female students in

comprehending descriptive text, and the second one there is no significant difference between male and female students in comprehending descriptive texts.

The result shows that Null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted, where there is no significant difference between the ability of the second year male and female students of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru on comprehending descriptive texts. Their ability on comprehending descriptive texts is in *good* level.

Suggestions

Considering the students' ability level in comprehending descriptive texts categorized in good level, it is suggested the students need to do more practice in reading to improve their reading skill, especially in reading texts, so the students can comprehend the components of reading comprehension from each texts and they can get higher scores than the previous tests they have done.

The researcher would like to suggest the English teachers of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru should be able to differentiate the ability difference between male and female students especially on comprehending reading texts. Eventhough the result of this research shows that there is no significant difference between the ability of the second year male and female students on comprehending descriptive texts but for the rest (the first and the third year) may have difference ability on comprehending descriptive texts or something else. The English teachers of SMP IT Aziziyyah Pekanbaru could differentiate other aspects such as the interest in learning English, motivation, habit, etc.

For the next researcher is suggested not only focus on one type of texts but also consider students' ability in comprehending other texts for instance, narrative texts, recount texts, prosedure texts, report texts, ect and expected to conduct a research that not only covering students' ability in reading comprehension but also in other skills (listening, speaking, writing).

REFERENCES

- Burnes, Don and Page, Glenda. 1991. *Insight and Strategies for Teaching Reading*. Melbourne: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Group.
- Djuharie, Otong Setiawan. 2007. *Genre dilengkapi 700 Soal Uji Pemahaman*. Bandung: Yrama Widya.
- Jismulatif. 2014. A Reconstruction of the Racist Ideology in Richard Wright's Native Son. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 19 (3), 197-202.
- Jismulatif. 2016. *Wacana dan Ideologi Rasisme*. Pekanbaru: UR Press.
- Jismulatif and Delfi, Syofia. 2018. Exploring Personal Reading Histories in Developing Reading Interest of English Study Program Learners of University of Riau.

Rahmawati, Kimsiyatur and Ummah, S. Sumihatul. 2017. "The Comparison between Male and Female Students in Reading Comprehension Achievement at the Third Semester of TBI STAIN Pamekasan." *Journal of English Education*. 1(1), 136-137.

Sousa, D. 2011. *How the Brain Learns (4th Ed)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

Sudarwati, Th. M and Grace, E. 2005. *Look Ahead: An English Course*. Jakarta: Penerbit Erlangga.

Sundayana, Rostina. 2015. *Statistika Penelitian Pendidikan*. Bandung: ALFABETA.

Tarigan, Henry Guntur. 2008. *Membaca sebagai Suatu Keterampilan Berbahasa*. Bandung: Angkasa.

Wilder, Gita Z and Powell, Kristin. 1989. *Sex Differences in Test Performance: A Survey of the Literature*. New York: College Entrance Examination Board.