A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE ABILITY BETWEEN THE FIRST YEAR FEMALE AND MALE STUDENTS OF SMK PGRI PEKANBARU IN COMPREHENDING NARRATIVE TEXTS

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Abstract: *The purpose of this research is to compared between ability of the first year female and male students of SMK PGRI Pekanbaru in comprehending Narrative texts. The number of population was 213 students divided into seven classes. The writer used cluster random sampling technique to determine the sample. The samples were 28 students. The needed data were taken from the students' score in comprehending narrative texts. The test comprehends five narrative texts of which all text has six items or 30 items all together. The time allocation was 80 minutes. Based on the research finding, it can be found: first, the ability of the students is in good level. Second, the mean score of female students was higher than mean score of male students (71,17 % > 62%) in comprehending narrative texts. This research finding confirmed the theories that female students are better than male students in language learning. T-test formula proved that the differences of female and male scores were significant statistically.*

Key Words: *Comparative, Ability, Comprehending, Narrative Text*

SEBUAH PERBANDINGAN KEMAMPUAN ANTARA SISWA KELAS SATU PEREMPUAN DAN LAKI LAKI SMK PGRI PEKANBARU DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS-TEKS NARATIF

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Abstract: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk membandingkan kemampuan antara siswa kelas satu perempuan dan laki laki di SMK PGRI Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks-teks naratif. Jumlah populasi siswa adalah sebanyak 213 siswa dibagi dalam tujuh kelas. Penulis menggunakan teknik cluster random sampling untuk menentukan sampel. Jumlah sampel adalah 28 siswa. Data yang dibutuhkan diambil dari skor siswa dalam memahami teks-teks naratif. Ada lima teks naratif dimana semua teks memiliki enam item atau masing-masing 30 item. Alokasi waktu adalah 80 menit. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, ditemukan: pertama, kemampuan siswa ada pada tingkat good. Kedua, nilai mean siswa perempuan lebih tinggi dari nilai mean laki-laki (71,17 % > 62%) dalam memahami teks narrative. Hasil penelitian ini menegaskan teori-teori bahwa siswa perempuan lebih baik daripada siswa laki-laki dalam pembelajaran bahasa. Rumus t-tes membuktikan bahwa perbedaan antara nilai siswa perempuan dan siswa laki-laki signifikan secara statistik.

Kata Kunci: Perbandingan, Kemampuan, Memahami, Teks Naratif

INTRODUCTION

Reading is one of language skills that should be learned by the students. The purpose of learning reading is to comprehend the writer's ideas or the way the writer communicates with the readers by the written or printed words. Besides, reading is one of the very important skills in learning language to seek information and to gain knowledge. Hurwitz (2009) defines that reading is a process of getting meaning from printed or written materials. So, reading is the ability to obtain the meaning through reading, a reader needs to use eyes and process the image captured by eyes in brain to get clear comprehension.

According to Nunan (2003), reading is the most important skill that should be mastered by the students, because reading can helps develop the mind and imagination and the creative side of the students. It helps to improve vocabulary and spelling communication both written and spoken. And also, reading is a function that is necessary in today's society.

Students of SMK PGRI Pekanbaru are expected to comprehend any text types learnt in learning English as the expectation of the curriculum. One of the text types is narrative texts. As Anderson (2009) states that narrative is a piece of text tells a story and in doing so, entertains or informs the reader or listener. By reading narrative text as one of the text types in teaching reading, the students will be more interested because narrative text tells about an interesting story. The learners are also guided to understand the texts by understanding the text organization of narrative texts. By learning reading in the same context, it is expected that the learners have the competence in comprehending the narrative texts. While the minimun achievement criterion (KKM) for English in SMK PGRI Pekanbaru is 75 points.

However, students have different abilities. Based on the writer's observation, when she did practice teaching, she observed that most of female students liked studying English. Females are not only active during learning process but also they get higher score than male on test. It shows that females can do better than male in learning. Most studies show that, on average, females do better in school than males. According to Nowell (2002) females are better on verbal reasoning, verbal fluency, comprehension, and understand logical relations. While Powel (2004) state that females are better on memory. Females have good memory; they can remember what they know.

It shows that in learning languages, males and females may not have the same ability, including in comprehending texts. It is in questions about the female and male ability in comprehending a text. Therefore, the writer wants to conduct a research entitled "A Comparative Study on the Ability between the First Year Female and Male Students of SMK PGRI Pekanbaru in Comprehending Narrative Texts"

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The reserach was classified into descriptive research. According to Selinger and Shahomy (1989), descriptive research is used to obtain the information concerning the phenomenon that occurs when the research is done. To the context of this study, this research is used to get all the information related to what is being researched. It involves collecting data through an observation and test in order to answer questions concerning

the current status of the subject of study. This type of research is used to describe and interpret the data that is about the students' ability in comprehending narrative text.

The research was conducted in SMK PGRI Pekanbaru which is located on Jl. Brigjen Katamso Pekanbaru, Riau. The population of this research is the first year students of SMK PGRI Pekanbaru in which group into seven classes. The total number of population is 213 students. The population can be seen below.

Table 1. The Distribution of Population

No	Class	Number of students
1	Teknik Komputer Jaringan	30
2	Administrasi Perkantoran 1	33
3	Administrasi Perkantoran 2	35
4	Rekayasa Perangkat Lunak	28
5	Manajemen Bisnis	28
6	Usaha PerjalananWisata	24
7	Akutansi	35
	Total	213

Sampling is a process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that they represent the larger group from which they are selected (Ogula, 2005). Based on explanation above, sampling is a process of choosing a group from a population to participate in this research. Furthermore, the writer used Cluster Random Sampling to select the sample in this case. To choose the sample, the writer prepared 7 pieces of paper. One of the paperswas written the word "SAMPLE" and the others were blank. Then, the chairpersons of each classwere asked to take one paper, and the one who took the paper that written "SAMPLE" was choose as the class sample. Then the writer took another class as try out class.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The result of the research was analyzed to find out the ability between male and female of first year students of SMK PGRI Pekanbaru and the range of their scores. There were 6 components of reading that analyzed form the data, namely finding main ideas, identifying inferences, finding the meaning of vocabulary, finding factual information, identifying references, and finding social function.

After finding the individual score, mean score could be calculated as following:

$$M_1 = \frac{\sum x}{N}$$
$$M_1 = \frac{1003,3}{13}$$
$$M_1 = 71,17$$

So, mean score of female students is 71,17. And then mean score of male students could be calculated as following:

$$M_1 = \frac{\sum x}{N}$$
$$M_1 = \frac{930}{15}$$
$$M_1 = 62$$

So, mean score of male students is 62.

From the data above, it can be seen there was a difference achievement between female and male students. The mean score are 71,17 for female and 62 for male. In order to know whether there is any significant difference between two variables of sample, T-test was used to the test.

Table 2. T-test Generated From Statistical Product and Service Solution (SPSS)

Group Statistics

	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Scores	Group A	15	62,00	58,9005	15,2080
	Group B	13	77,17	85,7782	23,7906

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
Scores	Equal variances assumed	3.701	.065	-5.522	26	.000	-151.8256	27.4929	-208.3381	-95.3132
	Equal variances not assumed			-5.377	20.830	.000	-151.8256	28.2361	-210.5750	-93.0762

From the table above *Lower* is negative and *Upper* is negative, it means that hypothesis is accepted in this research where there is significant difference in comprehending narrative texts of the first year students of SMK PGRI Pekanbaru in terms of their genders.

After calculating the value, it was known that the females' scores are higher than males' scores. It meant there was a significant difference of ability of the first year female and male students of SMK PGRI Pekanbaru in comprehending narrative texts.

DISSCUSION

From the explanation above, it can be interpreted that female students' ability is better than male students' ability in reading narrative texts. Even though the classification of ability of the students is good, the differences between female students and male students in reading narrative were existed from the result of the main score that mention if female score is higher than male students, 71,17 % > 62% .

Based on the data it was clear that female students were better achievement almost in all aspects of narrative texts. The data also presented in the table (see appendix III) for each aspect. Brantmeier (2003) in Yousif A. N. Al-Shumaimeri's research indicated that reading performance, as measured by recall comprehension, was significantly influenced by passage content and readers' gender, whereas enjoyment and interest mattered little. 5 of 6 components of reading in this research, female students got higher score than male students. The 5 components are, guessing vocabulary factual information, references, making inferences and finding social function. Except for main idea, both female and male got the same score.

It was also proved thatabout females are better than male in language, reading is one of language skill. One of factors that caused female is better than male in language was interest. Females are more interested in verbal skill and males are more interested in spatial skill. Paula and friends (1997) state that "The psychological research exploring gender differences has focused on particular domains of cognitive functioning: mathematical, spatial and verbal abilities. It is typically claimed that men outperform women in mathematical and spatial abilities and that women outperform men in verbal abilities".

This finding also confirmed John Fewings (2010) theory about learning styles and gender differences. The theory states female are interested in reading romantic fiction and male are interested in reading action books, practical information and science fantasy. Narrative is a fiction story, it is the reason why female are better than male in comprehending narrative text. Female students also got higher scores than male students because female students are more motivated to learn English and to read English texts than male students, as Sousa (2011) states that the language area in females' brain are denser than males' brain and Rahmawati (2017) adds that female is superior in almost all of the test measuring achievement. It can be cause of the reading habit and reading comprehension of female students are better than male students.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusions

Based on the result of the research, it shows female students' ability in reading narrative text is different (higher) from male students significantly. There was 5

students (17,86%) that were classified into *Excellent* level. Next, 16 students (57,14%) were classified into *Good* level. And 7 students (25%) were classified into *Mediocr*e. More than 50% of the first year students chosen as sample were categorized into *Good* level in scoring.

The mean score of female students (71,17) is higher than mean score of male students (62) in reading narrative texts. This confirmed the theories that female students are better than male students in language learning. T-test formula also used in this research, from the calculation by using t-test formula, it was found that t_0 is higher than critical value (t_t). It was found the differences between both of them were statistically significant. It is proved some theories that believed females are better than male in language learning.

Recommendation

From the conclusion, it was suggested that:
1. Since the ability of the first year students of SMK PGRI Pekanbaru was in *Good* level, improvement was still needed. The improvement could be from the interest of learning, motivation of learning and quality of learning.

2. Because the female students are better than male students, it is expected that male students also improve their interest or the strategies of learning language. The teacher also could find the way or method to increase students' ability in comprehending narrative texts because narrative is labeled as difficult text and give more attention to male students.

In this research, it was found female students and male students are significantly different. It could happen because of many factors. Besides of interest, motivation and strategies of learning, English as foreign language may also became an obstacle in reading skill, especially in vocabulary words.

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