A STUDY ON READING ABILITY OF SCIENCE DEPARTMENT STUDENTS OF TEACHER TRAINNING AND EDUCATIONN FACULTY-UNIVERSITY OF RIAU

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Abstract: The aim of this study is to discover the reading ability of Science Department students of Teachers Training and Education Faculty-University of Riau. The design of this study is quantitative research. This study used reading TOEFL equivalent as instrument of this research which consist of 50 questions. The sample of this research is Science Department Students in the 2016 academic year, namely Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Math, and there were 266 students involved. The result shows that Physic department student gained the highest average score (73.68) and Math Department Student reached the lowest average score (68.74). This study concluded that the reading ability of Science department students of teacher training and education Faculty University of Riau in the 2016 academic year is in poor level. The implication of this research, it is suggested that the students need to improve their reading ability by doing practicing on comprehending of TOEFL reading materials.

Key Words: Ability, Reading, Science Department Student

KEMAMPUAN MEMBACA MAHASISWA ILMU PENGETAHUAN ALAM FKIP UNIVERSITAS RIAU

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Abstract: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kemampuan membaca mahasiswa ilmu pengetahuan alam FKIP Universitas Riau. Desain penelitian ini adalah kuantitatif desain. Penelitian ini menggunakan tes TOEFL sebagai alat penelitian yang terdiri dari 50 soal. Populasi dari penelitian ini adalah semua mahasiswa ilmu pengetahuan alam tahun akademik 2016 yang terdiri dari jurusan Biology,Kimia,Fisika, dan Matematika. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa jurusan Fisika memperoleh skor rata-rata tertinggi(73.68) dan jurusan Matematika memperoleh skor rata-rata terendah(68.74). Kesimpulan dari penilitian ini bahwa kemampuan membaca mahasiswa pendidikan ilmu pengetahuan alam di tahun akademik 2016 berada di level terendah, dari penelitian ini dapat disarankan bahwa mahasiswa perlu meningkatkan kemampuan membaca mereka dengan melakukan latihan memahami materi bacaan TOEFL.

Kata Kunci*: Kemampuan, Membaca, Mahasiswa Ilmu Pengetahuan Alam

Introduction

English is now mostly used as the language of science. The adoption of a de facto universal language of science has had an extraordinary effect on scientific communication: by learning a single language, science student, scientists around the world gain access to the vast scientific literature and can communicate with other science students and scientists anywhere in the world (David G. 2012:8). The use of English as the universal scientific language creates new challenges for those who are not native speakers of English. Not all the science students able to understand read a text that written on English. According to Grellet (2004:7) reading is constant process of guessing, and what one brings to the next is often more important than what one finds in it. Thus, reading is complex process this is true no matter what language the text is in, reading is even more complicated if you read in a language that is not you first language. , this generally because they are lack of knowledge about English and lack of understanding the grammar structure in English.

. The lack of interesting in reading can be found from the participation from the students in the classroom while attending the class, not all the students love to read especially if what their read not their first language is especially reading on English text. For Science Department student, when they read a text on English language for example TOEFL reading section they feel anxiety, and they need to face some of the difficulties when reading a text on English language such as lack of vocabulary, lack of understanding the grammar structure of the new language, pronunciation or inability to understand or comprehend new language (Mahmud, 2014).

The teacher's role in this case is important to develop learner to improve their English skill in science context. For Science students they have to familiar and able to understand about English, because they are able to gain access to knowledge and contained in textbook that written in English and journals in orders to keep update information around the world and there is good chance in the future for them to looking for job in the area that majority use English as their language to communication.

TOEFL is used to measure the proficiency of English as a second language (ESL) students applying to English-speaking colleges and universities. ESL job applicants may also find that their potential employers require them to undergo TOEFL testing before they are offered a position. A passing grade on the TOEFL serves as proof of English fluency and can open many doors in both the academic and professional worlds.

TOEFL test as one of students' requirements before graduation at University of Riau. The requirement of standard score for English Department students at least they obtained five hundred, while for Non-English Department Students the requirement of the standard score passing grade is four hundred and fifty. The implementation Standard of TOEFL for requirements before graduation for all the students in University of Riau it seems so hard for the students need to obtain that standard score. In fact, many students are required to take remedies up to four or five times to achieve that passing grade. This condition makes the university makes a new education regulations for all the new students in University of Riau to follow TOEFL pre-test, if they do not passed the standard minimum score, then the student must follow the preparation class for one semester in order to improve their TOEFL score. This condition demanded the lecturers of English course in each department to be able to improve the student score on TOEFL.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted at Science Department of Teacher and Training and Education Faculty University of Riau from March to May 2019. According to Sugiyono (2008: 115), the population is an area of generality consisting of objects or subjects that have certain qualities and characteristics determined by researchers to be studied and then conclusions drawn. The population in this research is all of the Science Department Student at The Faculty of Teacher and Training and Education at University of Riau in the 2016 academic year .

The sample in this research was taken by using total sampling technique, where the sample of this research is the entire of the population of this research. (Supriyanto & Masyhuri, 2010: 188). In this research, the sample is Science Department Students in the 2016 academic year, namely Math, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Education Department. In collecting the data the researcher used reading TOEFL test in order to measure student's reading ability. After collecting the data, the data was analyzed by used statistical technique Ms.Excel 2010 in order to calculate and analyze the data. There are two types of analyzed the data:

1. **To find out the mean score**

After getting the entire student's score, the student's ability can be seen. Next, to find out the mean score of the students in answering the TOEFL test, the following formula will use:

$$M = \frac{\sum Fx}{N}$$

Where:
M   = The mean Score of each group
$\sum$Fx   = The sum of the respondents' scores
N   = The number of the respondents

(Heaton,1975)

2. **To know the percentage of the student's ability**
Then, to know the percentage of the student's ability in answering questions will use this formula:

$$P = \frac{F}{R} \; x \; 100\,\%$$

Where:
P   = The percentage
R   = The number of frequency
F   = The number of the students

(Arikunto, 2013)

In order to know the classification of the student score based on conversation TOEFL score. The table below is adapted from Conversion TOEFL table score in term of ability level. The classification is as follows.

The table of Conversion TOEFL table score

No	Correct answer	Conversion score	Level
1	0-17	21-37	Poor
2	18-34	38 -51	Good
3	35-50	52- 67	Excellent

According to conversation TOEFL table score in answering reading comprehension section, when the participants answered 0-17 questions correctly the range score is 21-37 which is the level of reading ability is in Poor level. While the participant answers 18-34 questions correctly, the range score is 38-51 with the level of reading ability in is good level. In other words, when the participant answers 35-50 questions correctly the range score is 52- 67 which is the level of reading ability is in excellent level.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

This research was conducted in order to find out the reading ability of Science Department Students of Teacher Training and Education Faculty namely Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math University of Riau in the 2016 academic year in answered reading comprehension on TOEFL reading section. The populations of this research consist of 266 students from Science Department Students in the 2016 academic year. The sample in this research was taken by using total sampling technique, where the sample used is the entire population sampled. (Supriyanto & Masyhuri, 2010: 188). In this research, the sample is all of students of Science Department Students in the 2016 academic year, namely Math, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Education Department.

After collecting the data, the result was analyzed to find out reading ability of Science Department Students in the 2016 academic year.

- To find out mean score and the percentage level

In order to find out the mean score and the percentage of level reading ability of Science Department Students the researcher classified into some categorized as presented in the following table.

The Result of Reading test Science Department Student

Study Program	Percentage level (%)			Average Score
	Poor	Good	Excellent	
Biology	62%	36%	2%	72.64
Chemistry	65%	35%	0%	71.67
Physics	57%	41%	2%	73.68
Math	80%	20%	0%	68.74

From the table above shows that the result of reading test of Science Department Students is categorized into three levels of ability. It is also shows the percentage of level and average score. It can be seen that, the percentage of poor level is gained the highest percentage than others levels. And Physics Department is gained the highest average score (73.68) in reading test. So, the students need to improve their reading ability by doing practicing on comprehending of TOEFL reading materials.

As it has been discussed in previous chapter, the researcher tried to find out the reading ability of Science Department Student that related to the formulation of the problem in this research, the researcher found that the reading ability of Science Department Student is in poor level.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusions

Based on the data analysis, the researcher concluded that reading ability of the reading ability of Science Department Students of Teacher Training and Education Faculty in academic year 2016 namely Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math Education Departments in answering TOEFL reading test is in Poor level. From each departments the percentage of poor level is gained the highest percentage than others levels.

Recommendation

Concerning the conclusion above, the researcher would like to give suggestion to the students. By knowing that their ability is in poor level, The students need to improve their reading ability by doing practicing on comprehending of TOEFL reading materials., students can borrow TOEFL books from library and they can learn from Internet too in order to help them to obtain their passing grade before their graduate from University of Riau and the last one is students need to improve their vocabulary in order to understand the passage on reading section.

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