

***THE EFFECT OF USING “THE POWER OF TWO” STRATEGY ON
THE ABILITY OF THE SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP
BABUSSALAM PEKANBARU IN COMPREHENDING
DESCRIPTIVE TEXTS***

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Abstract: *This research aims to find out the significant effect of using the power of two Strategy on the ability of the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts. The selected sample was VII.4 class. The sample was selected by using random sampling technique. This research used pre-experimental research design for one group pre-test post-test and the data were collected by using on written test on descriptive texts. The instrument used in this research was multiple choice test consisted of four options “(A/B/C/D)”. The result of the study showed that the mean score of the pre -test was 63.04 while the result of the post-test was 79.16. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant effect of using the power two strategy on the ability of the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts. It can be stated that the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted. In conclusion, teachers are suggested to use the Power of Two as one of the alternative strategies in improving students’ comprehension of descriptive texts.*

Key Words: *Effect, The Power of Two strategy, Comprehending, Descriptive Text*

PENGARUH PENGGUNAAN STRATEGY THE POWER OF TWO PADA KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS TUJUH SMP BABUSSALAM PEKANBARU DALAM MEMAHAMI *TEXT DESCRIPTIVE*

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Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pengaruh yang signifikan dari strategi the power of two pada kemampuan siswa kelas tujuh SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks deskriptif, Sampel yang dipilih adalah kelas VII.4. Sampel dipilih dengan menggunakan teknik random sampling. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian pra-eksperimental untuk satu kelompok pre-test post-test dan mengumpulkan data dengan menggunakan tes pada teks deskriptif. Instrument yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah tes pilihan ganda terdiri dari empat pilihan (A/B/C/D). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa nilai rata-rata dari ujian pendahuluan adalah 63,04 sementara hasil pos-test adalah 79,19. Oleh karena itu, dapat disimpulkan bahwa ada efek signifikan dari pengaruh penggunaan strategi the power of two pada kemampuan siswa kelas tujuh SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks deskriptif. Bisa dikatakan bahwa hipotesa alternatif telah diterima. Sebagai kesimpulan, para guru disarankan untuk menggunakan the power of two sebagai salah satu strategi alternatif dalam meningkatkan pemahaman siswa tentang teks deskriptif.

Kata Kunci: Efek, Strategi *the Power of Two*, Memahami, Teks Deskriptif

INTRODUCTION

Grellet (2010) states, there are two main purposes of reading which are reading for getting information and reading for getting pleasure. In the classroom, the purpose of reading is reading for getting information. In order to get information, students need to comprehend what they have read. Reading would be meaningless without comprehension. Moreover, Alfassi (2004) states that students should understand the meaning of text, critically evaluate the message, remember the content, and apply the new-found knowledge flexibly. That's why teaching reading for students is very important.

Reading is also something crucial and indispensable for the students because the success of their study depends on their reading ability. By having good ability to read, they will be able to improve their knowledge. According to (Jerolimek, 2004), reading is a major point to satisfactory achievement in study because a high percentage of all instruction relies on the students' ability to read. It can be stated if they are poor in reading ability, they have failed in their study or at least they will have difficulty in making progress. On the other hand, if they have a good ability in reading, they will have a better chance to be successful in their study. In the school, the students always deal with some materials given by the English teacher that are presented in the written form, for example, in the form of textbooks. In order to understand the materials, the students must have the ability to comprehend the text. In the case, comprehension is needed. In line with this, (Hornby, 2000) says that comprehension is the power of understanding. It means that comprehension is the process of thinking sense of written ideas through meaningful interpretation and interaction as a multifaceted process affected by several thinking and language abilities.

Based on the 2013 curriculum, there are five kinds of texts that are taught in junior high school namely descriptive text, Procedure text, Report text, Narrative text and Recount text. In this study, the researcher focuses on Descriptive text because descriptive text is available in the syllabus of the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru. Descriptive text is also an important aspect for the students to learn as stated in the 2013 Curriculum. This research will use The Power of Two Strategy to measure the ability of students in comprehending descriptive texts.

Based on the result of observation and discussion with the English teacher of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru, the students got some difficulties in comprehending the text. This is because of low ability to comprehend the reading text, difficulty in getting the information, in interpreting the meaning of the difficult word, to clearly understand the information implied in the text, feel bored with difficult words, and lack and limited vocabulary of handling WH questions. The ineffective technique applied is also probably one of the causes of the students' difficulties in comprehending text. In addition, based on the interview with the students, they said that they feel bored when reading the text because the text is quite long and hard to understand. Moreover, they are not interested in the learning process because they need some new activities that provide a change of mood in the classroom. It will motivate them to read the text and increase their interest in reading activity in the classroom. Because of that, a teacher should use an appropriate technique in teaching reading comprehension so that they are able to comprehend the text.

The research question of this research was as in the following: Is there any significant effect of using *The Power of two Strategy* on the ability of the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was classified into pre-experimental research with one group pretest-posttest design. The participants of the research were the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru that consist of 25 students. The data of this research were collected from the result of the reading test in the pre-test and post-test. In this research, the researcher had 6 meetings through 3 activities to collect the data ; 1 meeting for pretest , 4 meetings for applying the treatment and 1 meeting for post-test. The population of the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru is shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1. The population of the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru

Classes	Total of students
VII.1	23
VII.2	26
VII.3	27
VII.4	25
VII.5	27
VII.6	31
Total	159

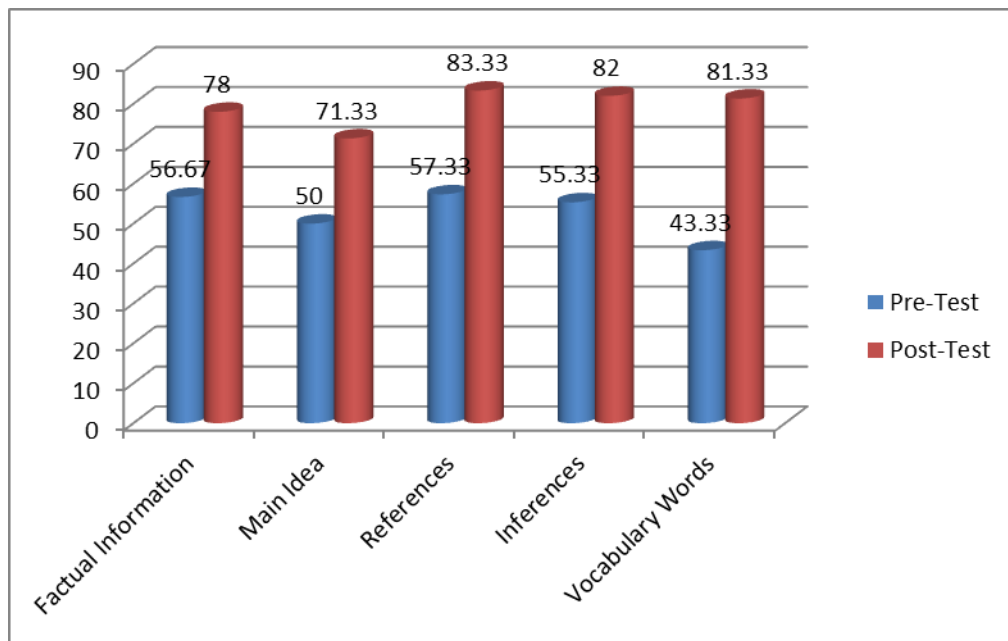
(Administration Office of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru 2019)

Based on the Table 1 above, the total population of the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru was 159 students in sixth classes. Cluster Random Sampling technique was used to get the sample. The researcher provided 6 pieces of paper into a bottle, one of the papers was written the word “Experimental Class” and the other papers are blank. Each chairman was asked to take one paper and who got the “Experimental Class” paper became the sample of the research. As a result, class VII.4 was chosen as the sample with the total number of 25 students.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

In this research, T-Test formula was used to compare the pre-test and the post-test results in determining whether the hypothesis could be accepted and measuring whether the instruments in treatment could give an effect to the students or not.

The finding of this research shows that *The Power of two Strategy* gives significant effect to students in comprehending descriptive texts through the pre-test and post-test result. The comparison between The Results of Pre-test and Post-test for each Components of Comprehending Descriptive Text can be seen in chart 2.



Picture 1. Chart 1 The Comparison between Pre-test and Post-test Score

Based on the data, there were some improvements of the students' ability in comprehending the descriptive texts after being taught by using *The Power of two Strategy*. It showed that the lowest score of the aspect in the pre-test was Vocabulary Words (43,33) and the highest one was References(57,33). Meanwhile, the lowest mean score of the aspects in the post-test was Main Idea (71,33) and the highest aspect was References (83,330).

Table 2 The Improvement The Results of Pre-test and Post-test for each Components of Comprehending Descriptive Text

Test	Component of Comprehending Reading Descriptive Text				
	FI	MI	R	I	VW
Pre-Test	85	75	86	83	65
Post-Test	117	107	125	123	122
Improvement	32	32	39	40	57

Table 3. The Result of T-test

		Paired Differences					t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Pre-Test - Post-Test	16,120	11,069	2,214	20,689	11,551	7,281	24	,000

$$\begin{aligned}
 T\text{-Table} &= n-1; \alpha/2 \\
 &= 25-1; 0,05/2 \\
 &= 24; 0,025 \\
 &= 2,06
 \end{aligned}$$

Based on data analysis, table 3 shows that mean difference is significant. The value of t-test is 7,281. Meanwhile, the values of t table on the df (degree of freedom) 24 is 2,06 with the level of significance (α) = 5%. Then, according to the result the t-test is larger than the t table on significant level 5%. The level of significances is $7,281 > 2,06$ means that t-test is higher than t-table.

Finally, to prove the hypothesis, the data were calculated by using the t-test formula with assumption as follows: If t-test > t-table, the Null Hypothesis (Ho) is rejected and an alternative hypothesis (Ha) is accepted. It can be concluded that the alternative hypothesis “there is significant effect of using The Power of two Strategy on the ability of the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts” was accepted and the null hypothesis was rejected.

DISCUSSION

According to the description of the data of pre-test and post-test, it was found that the mean score of post-test was higher than the score of pre-test. (79,16 > 63,04). This means that the students’ post-test score was better than their pre-test scores which indicated the improvement of students ability in comprehending descriptive texts. And also there were some improvements of the students’ achievement after being taught by *The Power of Two Strategy*. Then, the data analysis showed that t-test was higher than t-table ($7,281 > 2,06$). It can be concluded that *The Power of Two Strategy* could improve the students’ reading comprehension especially in descriptive text.

It shows that the highest mean score of the six components in the pre- test was references (57,33). and in the post-test there were also references (83,330).). While the lowest one in the pre-test was vocabulary words (43,33) and in the post-test was Main Idea (71,33). In factual information with 32% improvement between pre-test and post-test. Main idea with 32 improvements between pretest and post-test. In reference with 39 improvements between pre-test and post-test. In inference with 40 improvement

between pre-test and post-test. And the last improvement was 57 in meaning of vocabulary between pretest and post-test. Then, the lowest range that found an aspect of reading comprehension in the pre-test and post-test were 32 in finding factual information and main ideas. It happened because the students don't understand the factual information or the subject of the question and the students don't understand the main topic in each paragraph.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusions

The writer has some conclusions about The Power of Two Strategy that is effective in teaching reading. This is a pre-experimental research with the goals to find out the effect of using The Power of Two Strategy on the student ability in comprehending descriptive texts. The result shows that the post-test mean score is higher than the pre-test mean score. However, the scores might be influenced by some factors. First, this method can attract the student's attention in learning reading. Second, this method asked the students to participate in groups and trained how to ask and answer the questions. Third, this method taught the students to share their idea with friends. Fourth, this method trained the students to become more active in the teaching learning process. Based on the result of data analysis, it can be concluded that The Power of Two Strategy gave significant effect on reading comprehension of the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru. This method made students easier and enjoyed comprehending descriptive texts. It proved the result of students' post-test score was higher than pre-test score. So, The Power of Two Strategy can help students in comprehending Descriptive texts.

Based on the statistical calculation in chapter IV, it showed that the mean score of pre-test 63,04. After having conducted The Power of two Strategy and analyzed the result of post-test, it was found that the mean score of post-test is 79,16. In other words, the mean score of post-test is higher than the mean score of pre-test.

The result also showed that the value of t-test (7,281) is higher than t-table (2,06) at the significance level 5%. It means that alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted and null hypothesis (H_o) is rejected. Hence, there is a significant effect of using The Power of two Strategy on the ability of the seventh grade students of SMP Babussalam Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts.

Recommendations

Based on the research findings, the researcher would like to give recommendations as follows:

The students are suggested to study in groups like in the power of two strategy to become engaged in reading texts, learn a lot of material quickly, and share information with other friends in the group.

The teachers are suggested to use the power of two strategy as an alternative to improve the students' reading comprehension especially in descriptive texts and give

the students quiz at the end of the session and directly discuss it with them in the class. By applying this strategy, the teachers need to give more attention on how to improve students' comprehension when implementing the power of two strategy in the class. In addition, in order to make this strategy more effective in teaching and learning process, the time spent during teaching reading using the power of two strategy should be controlled and considered

In addition, other researchers should organize the time as wisely as possible in conducting the research effectively in order to get a satisfied result.

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