

# A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE FIRST GRADE STUDENTS OF SMK DAREL HIKMAH PEKANBARU IN COMPREHENDING DESCRIPTIVE TEXTS

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**Abstract:** *This research is intended to describe a descriptive study which is to find out the ability of the first-grade students of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru in comprehending Descriptive Texts. This is quantitative investigation, the subject of this investigation was the first-grade students of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru which consisted of 33 students. The data collection method used is a descriptive method by giving tests to students using a google form which contains multiple choices consisting of 40 questions. Based on the data analysis eight components of reading comprehension and descriptive texts like finding the most idea, finding factual information, finding references, finding inference, finding the generic structure of descriptive texts, finding social information of descriptive texts, and finding language features of descriptive text, it absolutely was found that score of the students is in finding references with the main score of 75.6 which is categorized as a good level. While the lowest score of the students is to finding language features of descriptive texts with the mean score of 58.8. The conclusion of this research shows that the first grade students of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru in Comprehending Descriptive texts have a good level of understanding, with a mean score of 68.7.*

**Key Words:** *Students' Ability, Comprehending, Descriptive Text*

# SEBUAH ANALISA TERHADAP KEMAMPUAN SISWAKELAS I SMK DAREL HIKMAH PEKANBARU DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS DESKRIPSI

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**Abstrak:** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan penelitian deskriptif yaitu untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa kelas I SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru dalam memahami Teks Deskriptif. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kuantitatif terhadap siswa kelas 1 SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru yang berjumlah 33 siswa. Metode pengumpulan data adalah metode deskriptif dengan memberikan tes kepada siswa menggunakan google form yang berisi pilihan ganda berisi 40 pertanyaan. Berdasarkan analisis data dari delapan komponen pemahaman membaca dan teks deskriptif seperti menemukan ide pokok, menemukan informasi faktual, menemukan tautan, menemukan kesimpulan, menemukan struktur umum teks deskriptif, menemukan informasi sosial olah teks deskriptif, dan menemukan ciri kebahasaan teks deskriptif, ditemukan bahwa nilai tertinggi siswa adalah dalam mencari referensi dengan nilai utama 75,6 yang termasuk ke kelompok baik. Namun, nilai terendah siswa terdapat pada kemampuan menemukan ciri kebahasaan teks deskriptif dengan nilai rata-rata 58,8. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kemampuan siswa pertama SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru dalam Memahami teks Deskriptif berada pada level baik dengan skor rata-rata 68,7.

**Kata Kunci:** Kemampuan Siswa, Memahami, Teks Deskriptif

## INTRODUCTION

Language is an necessary communication tool. It is a system of communication used by a particular country or community which consists of sounds and written symbols that are used for talking or writing (Scott, W.A.H.,1989, p.662). English is one of the most important subjects to learn. So, English will have to be a particular concern to increase material mastery for students. Including in SMK Darel Hikmah. It is one of the senior high schools in Pekanbaru. The lesson given in Darel Hikmah includes compulsory subjects in the valid curriculum and Islamic religious lessons. This school implements a curriculum of 13, it is taught 30 minutes a week.

Reading is a language that usually the place where a person's reading and writing skills are taught. Fauziati (2010) argues that text reading provides students with opportunities to learn good writing patterns in English such as vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and even sentences, paragraphs or texts.

In accordance with syllabus 2013, Descriptive text is written in basic competence 3.4 and 4.4 and the Minimum Standard Criteria (KKM) that should be gained by the students is 78. While in the learning process, SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru used a scientific approach. There are many topics and material of English that is learned in the first-grade students of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru. One of materials is aboutdescriptive text.

Mukarto,dkk (2007) states that descriptive text is empolyed to explain something, someone, or place. In other words, descriptive text is text intended to explain a specific person, thing, or place in order to provide information to the reader. During the text, someone usually describes their body shape, attitude, habits,the age, the activity, and the family. The passage describes the setting, size, and content of the text.

Descriptive text is needed to be learned and comprehended by the students. The reason for choosing this topic as the research is because based on the writer's impression when did practice teaching at SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru from September until December 2020. The writer's curious to know the Student's Ability level in comprehending descriptive text. Therefore, the writers are interested in conducting descriptive research entitled: "A Study on The Ability of The First Grade Students of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru in Comprehending DescriptiveTexts".

## METHODOLOGY

This study used a descriptive studies design. The aimed of this study is to find out the ability level of the first-grade students in comprehending descriptive text. According to Gay (2012), descriptive studies entails accumulating facts to check hypotheses or to answer questions regarding the modern-day popularity of the difficulty of the research. While quantitative research is the process of gathering and analyzing numerical data to describe, explain, or manage phenomena of interest. (Gay,2012).

The subject of this study is SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru, a first-year student. They are divided into two classes; they are X-TI (Teknik Informatika) and X-PS (Perbankan Syariah). The population of this research was 33 students. In this research, the sample was chosen by using total sampling technique.

The writer used a test to collect the data. The test type is multiple choice, the full quantity of items is 40 questions which give four choices for each query. Five texts are used as the instrument. The test was attempted out to the primary review understudies of Madrasah Aliyah (MA) Darel hikmah pekanbaru which consist of 34 students. The researcher calculated the thedifficulty, reliability, mean score and standard deviation the result of the tryout. From the calculation, it can be seen that the dependable quality of the test is unwavering. At that point, the genuine test was given to the test course. The students' scores were classified into four skill levels excellent level, good level, average level, and poor level (Harris,1974).

Table1. Classification of Students' Scores

Scores	Category
80–100	Excellent
60–79	Good
50–59	Average
0–49	Poor

## FINDINGSANDDISCUSSION

### *Findings*

The objective of this research is to find out the ability level of the first grade students of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru in comprehending descriptive texts. The writer administered a try out to the 34 first-grade students of Madrasah Aliyah (MA) Darel hikmah to quantify the validity and reliability of the test. The instruments used in Google Form consist of 40 items. After calculating the result of the try out, it is found that there were 7questions that should be revised.

Items Number 1, 6, 10, 18 were rejected because these items were very easy (FV) above 0.30, item number 40 were rejected because these items were very difficult (FV below 0.70) and item number 12, 16 were rejected because the questions were

invalid. Then, the mean score was 23.5 and the standard deviation was 4.19. After having the standard deviation, the writer found that the value of the reliability of the check becomes 0.45 means that the end result of the test becomes frequent and reliable.

Table 2. Student's Ability in Comprehending Descriptive Texts.

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage %	Ability	Mean Score
1	80-100	6	18%	Excellent	67.7
2	60-79	19	57%	Good	
3	50-59	6	18%	Average	
4	0-49	2	7%	Poor	
Total		33	100%		

The table shows that, from 33 students, there are 6 students (18%) categorized as excellent level, 19 students (57%) categorized in a good level, 6 students (18%) categorized in average level and 2 students (7%) categorized in poor level.

Table 3. The Students' Ability in Finding Main Idea

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage %	Ability	Mean Score
1	80-100	18	55%	Excellent	72.2
2	60-79	10	30%	Good	
3	50-59	0	0%	Average	
4	0-49	5	15%	Poor	
Total		33	100%		

This table shows that most of the students could understand how to find a main idea in a descriptive text. There are 18 students (55%) out of 33 students categorized in excellent level. It is followed by a good level with 10 students (30%) and the lowest one belongs to the poor level with 5 students 15(%)

Table 4. The Students' Ability in Finding Factual Information

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage %	Ability	Mean Score
1	80-100	15	46%	Excellent	64.3
2	60-79	9	27%	Good	
3	50-59	0	0%	Average	
4	0-49	9	27%	Poor	
Total	33	100%			

This table appears that in finding the real data, From the 33 students, there are 15 (46%) students who gain to excellent level. There is a similarity between good and poor level which are 9 (27%) students answer correctly about the text.

Table 5. The Students' Ability in Finding the meaning of word

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage %	Ability	Mean Score
1	80-100	15	46%	Excellent	67.3
2	60-79	10	30%	Good	
3	50-59	0	0%	Average	
4	0-49	7	24%	Poor	
Total		33	100%		

This table is similar with the previous table, because there are also 15 students (46%) who gain or could answer about finding the meaning of the words. While for good level there are 10 students (30%), the lowest level belongs to a poor level with 8 (24%) students.

Table 6. The Students' Ability in Finding References

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage %	Ability	Mean Score
1	80-100	19	57%	Excellent	75.6
2	60-79	11	33%	Good	
3	50-59	0	0%	Average	
4	0-49	3	10%	Poor	
Total		33	100%		

This data explained that students' scores in finding references varied. 19 students (57%) in excellent level, 11 students (33%) in good level, 0 student (0%) in average level, and 3 students (10%) in poor level.

Table 7. The Students' Ability in Finding Inference

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage %	Ability	Mean Score
1	80-100	18	57%	Excellent	69.7
2	60-79	9	33%	Good	
3	50-59	0	0%	Average	
4	0-49	6	10%	Poor	
Total		33	100%		

In finding inference, there are 18 students (55%) who get a score between 80-100. That is an excellent level. Then, 9 students (27%) get a score between 60-79, which is categorized as a good level. On the other side, 6 students (18%) get a score between 0-49, which is a poor level. However, there is no student gets a score between 50-59, which is an average score.

Table 8. The Students' Ability in Finding Social Function of Descriptive Texts

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage %	Ability	Mean Score
1	80-100	16	49%	Excellent	68.5
2	60-79	11	33%	Good	
3	50-59	0	0%	Average	
4	0-49	6	18%	Poor	
Total		33	100%		

In Social Function, from the table 16 students (49%) still gain an excellent level, 11 students (11%) in good level and 6 students (18%) in poor level. As usual, the poor level belongs to the lowest level. However, the average level is still 0 (0%) score. It implies that most of the understudies are able to discover a social function of descriptive text.

Table 8. The Students' Ability in Finding Generic Structure of Descriptive Texts

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage %	Ability	Mean Score
1	80-100	15	44%	Excellent	66.7
2	60-79	10	30%	Good	
3	50-59	0	0%	Average	
4	0-49	8	26%	Poor	
Total		33	100%		

In finding the generic structure of a descriptive text, 15 students (44%) get a score between 80-100. It can be stated that they are at an excellent level. Besides, 10 students (30%) get scores between 60 -79, and it can be stated that they are at a good level. Then, 8 students (26%) get scores between 50-59, it can be stated that they are at a poor score.

Table 9. The Students' Ability in Finding Language Features of Descriptive Texts

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage %	Ability	Mean Score
1	80-100	11	34%	Excellent	58.8
2	60-79	10	30%	Good	
3	50-59	0	0%	Average	
4	0-49	12	36%	Poor	
Total	33	100%			

Then, for language features of descriptive text, from 33 students, there are 11 (34%) students who get scores between 80-100, which is an excellent level. 10 (30%) students get scores between 60-79, which is a good level. Then 12 students (36%) are at a poor level. And there are no students who are average level.

Table 10. The Classifications of Students' Mean Score in Comprehending Descriptive Texts

No.	The Classification of the Question	Mean Score	Level of Ability
1.	Finding Main Ideas	72.2	Good
2.	Finding Factual Information	64.3	Good
3.	Finding the Meaning of Word	67.3	Good
4.	Finding References	75.6	Good
5.	Finding Inference	69.7	Good
6.	Finding Social Function of Descriptive Texts	68.5	Good
7.	Finding Generic Structure of Descriptive Texts	66.7	Good
8.	Finding Language Features of Descriptive Texts	58.8	Poor
<b>MeanScore</b>		<b>68.7</b>	<b>Good</b>

The table appears that, From the eight components of perusing comprehension over, the author found that the excellent level has a place to the most elevated level, except in language features. However, for the lowest level belongs to poor level, exceptin language feature and no one student could gain an average level.

### *Discussion*

This research was conducted to find out the ability of the first-grade students' of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru in Comprehending Descriptive texts. Before the researcher conducted the instrument to the sample class, the writer conducted a try-out test to the first-grade students of Madrasah Aliyah (MA) Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru to make sure that the instrument was valid or invalid.

In the reading comprehension test, the writer found that the mean score of the first-grade students' of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru in Comprehending Descriptive text is 67.8 which is categorized as a good level. It means that they need more improvement to get the best result.

The result of this research, the writer found that from the eight components ofreading comprehension by King and Stanley (1989), the most difficult aspect is the ability of the students in finding language features with the mean is 58.8 which is categorized as a poor level. Meanwhile, the easiest aspect is the students' ability in finding Main Ideas with the mean of 72.2, that is in a good level.

According to the writer's opinion, finding the main idea is the highest component because students are familiar with how to find the main idea in the text. Main idea is usually in within first sentence, and the second most common position is in the last sentence of the paragraph. The author first provides supporting in formation, and then puts forward a point of view in the last sentence. After that, the writer also has the lowest



score of the students' ability is in comprehending language features of descriptive texts focused on what type of sentence is used. This component is the lowest component because students are not too familiar with these components.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **Conclusion**

The objective of this inquiry is to find out the ability level of the first-grade students' of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru in Comprehending Descriptive Texts. Based on the data analysis of the first-grade students of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru in comprehending each component of descriptive text, From eight components of reading comprehension, there are seven components categorized as good level and there is one component that is categorized as poor level.

Then, as a result of comprehending descriptive texts of the 33 students of SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru, they were classified into 6 excellent level, 19 good level, 6 average level, and 2 poor level. It can be concluded that they have a good ability in comprehending descriptive texts.

Specifically, The students' score on the eight components can be conclude that they are at a good level. They are about finding basic ideas, finding factual information, finding the meaning of word, finding references, finding inference, and discovering the general structure of explanatory texts. However, there is one component at a lower level That is students' ability in finding language features of descriptive text. Therefore, it can be concluded that the first grade SMK Darel Hikmah Pekanbaru ability is at a good level with mean score of 67.8.

### **Recommendation**

The writer would like to give three recommendations that are hopefully useful for the teacher, students, and whoever is to come after this researcher. First, students should review the texts to increase their understanding especially descriptive texts. In this research, the writer found that the lowest component is in comprehending language features of descriptive text, especially on what type of sentences is used. It means the teachers must focus more on the detail about language features of descriptive texts to make the students more easily understand about the detailed information of language features of descriptive texts. And the teachers should choose a suitable strategy during the process of teaching reading, in order to maintain students' interest and make them understand the material easier. Then, for other researchers, the results of this study can be used as reference material in various discussions.

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