

A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF BINA INSAN VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SIAK HULU IN COMPREHENDING RECOUNT TEXTS

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Abstract: *The purpose of this study is to find out the second year students' ability of Bina Insan Vocational High School Siak Hulu in comprehending recount texts. This research focuses on finding factual information, finding main ideas, locating the meaning of vocabulary in context, identifying references, and making inferences based on recount texts. Data were collected using reading comprehension test with multiple choice type. The test contained 30 items. The try out was conducted to check the validity and reliability of the test. The research findings are as follows: first, the ability of the students in comprehending recount texts is 51 which is in mediocre level. Second, the students' mean score in finding factual information is 60, the mean score in finding main ideas is 41, the mean score in locating the meaning of vocabulary in context is 69, the mean score in identifying references is 68, and the mean score in making inferences is 68. The highest score obtained by the students is in finding the meaning of vocabulary in context that falls into good ability level, and the lowest score that the students get is in finding main ideas that falls into mediocre ability level.*

Keywords: *Ability, Comprehending, Recount Texts.*

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Abstract: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk meneliti kemampuan siswa SMK Bina Insan Siak Hulu dalam memahami teks recount. Penelitian ini berfokus pada kemampuan memahami informasi faktual, memahami ide pokok, memahami makna dari kata-kata sulit, mengidentifikasi reference, dan memahami inference. Data diperoleh dari tes pemahaman membaca dalam bentuk pilihan ganda yang terdiri dari 30 soal. Uji coba dilakukan untuk memperoleh validitas dan reliabilitas tes yang baik. Hasil penelitian yang diperoleh adalah sebagai berikut; pertama, kemampuan siswa dalam memahami teks recount secara keseluruhan adalah 51 yaitu pada level sedang; kedua, nilai rata-rata siswa dalam memahami informasi faktual adalah 60, memahami ide pokok adalah 41, memahami makna kata-kata sulit adalah 69, dalam mengidentifikasi reference adalah 68, dan memahami inference adalah 68. Nilai tertinggi diperoleh siswa adalah dalam memahami makna kata-kata sulit, yang masuk dalam kategori baik. Sedangkan nilai terendah diperoleh oleh siswa dalam memahami ide pokok, yang masuk dalam kategori sedang.

Keywords: Kemampuan, Pemahaman, Teks Recount.

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language that is used by many people in different countries for exchanging information in many aspects such as science, technology, culture and social aspects.

Because of the importance of English, the Indonesian government determines English as a compulsory for students of Junior High School level to University level. The aim of this subject is to make students have good ability in using English effectively and efficiently. In order to reach these goals, the language should be focused on four skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing.

In learning English, one of the main skills that students need to acquire is reading. The purpose of teaching reading is to make students able to read the texts effectively. They need to understand the structure and the content of the texts at the same time. According to Burnes and Page (1991), reading is an interactive process, in which the reader engages in exchange of ideas with an author via the texts. There are four components in reading; reader, writer/author, reading texts and author's message. The writer transfers his message to the readers' mind through the texts.

Brown (1982:18) states that the aim of teaching reading is to enable the students to comprehend the text and react to what is written. It means that the students should be active in responding to what they read. In comprehension process, students must see and identify the writing symbols, and be able to comprehend to what they read. Generally, reading activities in English consist of reading texts, finding out the meaning of difficult words, and answering the questions based on the text.

Bina Insan Vocational High School in Siak Hulu is located in Pasir Putih, Kampar. The second year students are divided into three classes. All the students are taught by one English teacher. Based on 2013 curriculum of senior high school, they learned some kind of texts. Recount is one of the texts that they have learned during the first grade of second semester. Recount text is telling about the activity or story in the past. Recount texts can be considered easy to be comprehended by the students because they also have learned it when they were Junior High School.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in carrying out a research in identifying the ability of the second year students of Bina Insan Vocational High School siak Hulu in comprehending recount texts.

METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive research which applies only one variable. Gay (2000) states that a descriptive research is carried out to find out the answer to questions concerning the current status of the study. It is useful for investigating a variety of educational problems. In this case, the writer describes and interprets the data on the students' ability in comprehending recount texts.

The technique of collecting the data plays an important role in conducting a research. To get the data, the writer constructs a test as an instrument. The students are asked to answer the question of the research. The test consists of 30 items from different recount texts. The students should complete selecting one corret answers of the multiple choice type in 60 minutes.

The text was taken from English textbooks and some sources from internet. And then, the test was checked to get the score of students individually. The population of the research is second year students of Bina Insan Vocational High School Siak Hulu.

THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

The result of the research was analyzed to find out the ability of the second year students of Bina Insan Vocational High School Siak Hulu in comprehending recount texts.. There were 5 components of reading that analyzed from the data, namely finding factual information, finding main idea, locating the meaning of vocabulary in context, identifying references and making inference. The presentation of individual score of the students in comprehending recount texts can be seen in the following table.

Table 1
The Ability of Students Ability in Comprehending Recount Texts

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability
1.	81-100	2	5%	Excellent
2.	61-80	7	18%	Good
3.	41-60	27	72%	Mediocre
4.	21-40	1	2,5%	Poor
Total		37	100%	

Table 1 shows that 2 students (5%) belong to excellent level, 7 students (18%) belong to good level, 27 students (72%) belong to mediocre level, and only 1 (2,5%) student belongs to poor level. The mean score of the students in comprehending recount texts is 57. Based on the mean score, it can be stated that the students' ability in comprehending recount texts is categorized into mediocre level (see Appendix 6).

Table 2
The Students' Ability in Finding Factual Information

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability
1	81-100	8	22%	Excellent
2	61-80	10	27 %	Good
3	41-60	14	38 %	Mediocre
4	21-40	5	13%	Poor
5	0-20	0	0%	Very Poor
Total		37	100 %	

Table 2 shows that from 37 students who took the test, 8 students (22%) belong to excellent level, 10 students (27%) belong to good level, 14 students (38%) belong to mediocre level and 5 students (13%) belong to poor level and nobody belongs to very poor level. The students' average score in finding factual information is 60 (see Appendix 7). It can be stated that the ability of the second year students of Bina Insan

Vocational High School Siak Hulu in finding factual information of recount texts is in mediocre level.

Table 3
The Students' Ability in Finding Main Ideas

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability
1	81-100	2	5,4%	Excellent
2	61-80	5	13,5%	Good
3	41-60	11	29,7%	Mediocre
4	21-40	10	27%	Poor
5	0-20	9	24,3%	Very Poor
Total		37	100 %	

Table 3 shows that from 37 students who took the test, only 2 students (5,4%) belong to excellent level, 5 students (13,5%) belong to good level, 11 students (29,7%) belong to mediocre level, 10 students (27%) belong to poor level, and 9 students (24,3%) belong to very poor level. The students' average score in finding main ideas is 41 (see Appendix 8). It can be stated that the ability of the second year students of Bina Insan Vocational High School Siak Hulu in finding main ideas of recount texts is also in mediocre level.

Table 4
The Students' Ability in Locating the Meaning of Vocabulary

No.	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability
1	81-100	14	37,8%	Excellent
2	61-80	14	37,8%	Good
3	41-60	7	18,9%	Mediocre
4	21-40	1	2,7%	Poor
5	0-20	1	2,7%	Very Poor
Total		37	100 %	

Table 4 shows that from 37 students who took the test, 14 students (37,8%) belong to excellent level, 14 students (37,8%) belong to good level, 7 students (18,9%) belong to mediocre level, only one student (2,7%) belongs to poor level and very poor level. The students' average score in finding main ideas is 69 (see Appendix 9). From the description above, it can be stated that the ability of the second year students of Bina Insan Vocational High School Siak Hulu in locating the meaning vocabulary in context is in good level.

Table 5
The Students' Ability in Identifying References

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability
1	81-100	13	35%	Excellent
2	61-80	19	51%	Good
3	41-60	1	3%	Mediocre
4	21-40	3	8%	Poor
5	0-20	1	3%	Very Poor
Total		37	100 %	

Table 5 shows that from 37 students who took the test, 13 students (35%) belong to excellent level, 19 students (51%) belong to good level, 1 student (3%) belongs to mediocre level, only 3 students (8%) belong to poor level and a student (3%) belongs to very poor level. The students' average score in identifying references is 68 (see Appendix 10). From the description above, it can be stated that the ability of the second year students of Bina Insan Vocational High School Siak Hulu in identifying references is in good level.

Table 6
The Students' Ability in Making Inferences

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage	Ability
1	81-100	13	35%	Excellent
2	61-80	19	51%	Goosd
3	41-60	1	3%	Mediocre
4	21-40	3	8%	Poor
5	0-20	1	3%	Very Poor
Total		37	100 %	

Table 6 shows that from 37 students who took the test, 13 students (35%) belong to excellent level, 19 students (51%) belong to good level, 1 student (3%) belongs to mediocre level, only 3 students (8%) belong to poor level and a student (3%) belongs to very poor level. The students' mean score in making inferences is 68 (see Appendix 11). From the description above, it can be stated that the ability of the second year students of Bina Insan Vocational High School Siak Hulu in making inferences is in good level.

CONCLUSIONS

The main aim of the study is to find out the ability level of the second year students of Bina Insan Vocational High School Siak Hulu in comprehending recount texts. The writer also found out that the highest score of the students is in finding main ideas. It can be seen from table 3 where the mean score from this type of questions is 41. On the other hand, the lowest score of the students is in locating the meaning of vocabulary. It can be seen from table 6 where the mean score from this type of questions is 69. Meanwhile, the other aspects such as finding main ideas, identifying references and making inferences are categorized into good level where the mean score of finding main ideas is 41, the mean score of identifying references is 68 and the mean score of making inferences is 68. the average score of the students' ability in comprehending recount texts is 57, it means that the students' ability in comprehending recount texts is in mediocre level.

RECOMMENDATION

Since the ability of the second year students of Bina Insan Vocational High School Siak Hulu is in mediocre ability level, improvement still needed. The students are suggested to practice more in reading so that their comprehension can be improved. The English teacher is suggested to be more creative to use any strategies in teaching reading so that learning process can be interesting. The teacher is suggested to give more exercise to the students to answer question about recount texts.

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