

A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMAN 1 KUBU IN READING COMPREHENSION

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Abstract : *The purpose of this study is to find out the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kubu in reading comprehension. This research focuses on students' reading comprehension in terms of finding main ideas, factual information, the meaning of vocabulary, identifying references and making inferences. The data were collected using reading comprehension test with multiple choice type. The test contained 25 items. The try out was conducted to check the validity and reliability of the test. Based on the research, it was found out that first: the ability of the second year students in reading comprehension is in the mediocre level with the mean score of 54.9. Second, the students' mean score in finding the main idea is in good level with the mean score of 61.47, finding the factual information is in mediocre level with the mean score of 51.76, in finding the meaning of vocabulary is in good level with the mean score of 61.17, in finding references is in mediocre level with the mean score of 53.5, in finding inference is in mediocre level with the mean score of 46.47. As a conclusion, the highest score obtained by the students is in finding main ideas with the mean score of 61.47 which is categorized into good level, and the lowest score that the students got is in finding inference, with the mean score of 46.47 which is categorized into mediocre level. This result of this study suggest that the students to learn more about reading comprehension.*

Keywords : *Study, Ability, Reading Comprehension.*

PENELITIAN TENTANG KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS DUA SMAN 1 KUBU DALAM PEMAHAMAN MEMBACA

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Abstrak: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk meneliti kemampuan siswa SMAN 1 Kubu dalam pemahaman membaca. Penelitian ini berfokus pada kemampuan dalam pemahaman membaca di bidang memahami informasi faktual, memahami ide pokok, memahami makna dari kata-kata sulit, mengidentifikasi *reference*, memahami *inference*. Data diperoleh dari tes pemahaman membaca dalam bentuk pilihan ganda yang terdiri dari 25 soal. Uji coba dilakukan untuk memperoleh validitas dan reliabilitas tes yang baik. Hasil penelitian yang diperoleh adalah sebagai berikut; pertama, kemampuan siswa dalam pemahaman membaca secara keseluruhan berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 54.9; kedua, nilai rata-rata siswa memahami ide pokok berada pada level baik dengan nilai rata-rata 61.47, dalam memahami informasi faktual adalah berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 51.76, memahami makna kata-kata sulit berada pada level baik dengan nilai rata-rata 61.17, dalam mengidentifikasi *reference* berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 53.5, memahami *inference* berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 46.47. Nilai tertinggi diperoleh siswa adalah memahami ide pokok berada pada level bagus dengan nilai rata-rata 61.47. Sedangkan nilai terendah diperoleh oleh siswa dalam memahami *inference* dengan nilai 46.47, yang masuk dalam kategori sedang. Hasil dari penelitian ini diharapkan siswa untuk lebih meningkatkan pembelajaran tentang pemahaman membaca.

Kata kunci: Penelitian, Kemampuan, Pemahaman Membaca

INTRODUCTION

Reading is a crucial part of English as foreign language learning and teaching activity. Reading ability in comprehending a text makes the students to able to understand what the text tells about. Beside that if the students able to getting the main point of the texts it will help the students to improve their knowledge or their comprehending about the texts. Nunan (2003), states that reading is a fluent process of readers combining information from a text and their own background knowledge to build meaning.

Klinger, *et al* (2007) point out that reading comprehension is a multi-components, highly complex process that involve many interaction between readers and what they bring to the text as well as variables related to the text itself. In other word, the reader and the writer become one mind and the concepts are translated from one person to another. Reading comprehension involves at least two people: the reader and the writer. Ahuja and Ahuja (2001), reading is both a sensory and mental process. It involves use of the eye and the mind. The eyes receive messages and the brain has to work out the significance of this messages. It requires the students to read for meaning. It means that they not only read the text but also understand the meaning of written text being read.

According to the target of curriculum on English syllabus, the Standard of Competence in Reading is the students should be able to comprehend text types. It means the students' must be able to comprehend the text types that learnt at this level. Besides that the target of indicators in English Curriculum for senior high school, the second year of students' they must be able to identify or understand about what the texts mean and the language component. It means the students must do reading in the process to comprehend text types in English and find out what the texts tell about and comprehending is one of the ways to support the students' knowledge about English as a language learnt.

SMAN 1 Kubu is the oldest senior high school in Kubu. The conditions of this school has 6 classes for the second year students divides into 3 classes for science class and also 3 classes for social class. Meanwhile the curriculum this school is still adopted School Based Competence (KTSP). Based on the writer interviewed with the students, some of them say comprehend a text is easy, but in the other side's some of them also say to comprehend a text is hard for them. These conditions make the writer confusion about the real ability of the students in reading comprehension. Therefore, this study will answer the research question about how the ability of the students in reading comprehension and what is most difficult aspect in reading comprehension.

METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive research to describe the students' ability in reading comprehension. Gay (2000) says that a descriptive research involves collecting data to test hypothesis or to answer question concerning the status of the study. It means that the descriptive research is used to summarize the distribution of a variable or more but limited to sample data only, not to be generalized to population. To the context this study the writer focuses a study on the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kubu in reading comprehension.

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 25 items from the text types. The students should complete selecting one correct answers of the multiple choice type in 60 minutes. The text was taken from English textbooks. And then, the test was checked to get the score of students individually. The population of the research is second year students of SMAN 1 Kubu.

THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

The result of the research was analyzed to find out the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kubu in reading comprehension. There were 5 components of reading that analyzed from the data, namely finding main ideas, finding factual information, finding main ideas, finding the meaning of vocabulary, identifying references and making inferences. The presentation of individual score of the students in reading comprehension can be seen in the following table.

1. Individual Score

Table 1. Percentage of the Students' Ability in Reading Comprehension

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	10	14.7	Excellent	54.94
2	61-80	11	16.2	Good	
3	41-60	30	44.1	Mediocre	
4	21-40	17	25	Poor	
5	0-20	0	0	Very Poor	
Total		68	100 %		

Table 1 shows that 10 students (14.7%) are in excellent level, 11 students (16.2%) are in good level, 30 students (44.1%) are mediocre level, 17 students (25%) are poor level ability and there is no student (0%) get very poor level. In short, it was obtained that the mean score of the students in reading comprehension 54.94. It can be stated that the ability of the second year students of SMA Negeri 1 Kubu in reading comprehension is Mediocre (54.94). It means that the students are classified in mediocre level, they have to learn more to get good ability.

2. The Classification of the Students' Ability in Each Components of Reading Comprehension

a. The Students' Ability in Finding Main Idea

Table 2. Students Score Classification in term finding main ideas

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	6	8.8	Excellent	61.47
2	61-80	16	23.5	Good	
3	41-60	25	36.8	Mediocre	
4	21-40	17	25	Poor	
5	0-20	4	5.9	Very Poor	
Total		68	100 %		

For finding main ideas, it can be seen that only 6 students (8.8%) have the score range from 81 to 100. Only a few students get excellent level. Besides that there are 16 students (23.5%) have good ability in finding main ideas. From the test in finding main idea there are 25 students (36.8%) are classified as mediocre level, 17 students (25%) are classified poor level and 4 students (5.9%) are classified as very poor level. The writer finds out that the students' mean score in finding main ideas is 61.47. It means that the students have ability in finding main ideas of the texts and it is also the indicator about their understanding to the texts.

b. The Student's Ability of Finding Factual Information

Table 6. Students Score Classification in term Finding Inference

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	8	11.8	Excellent	51.76
2	61-80	9	13.2	Good	
3	41-60	15	22	Mediocre	
4	21-40	23	33.9	Poor	
5	0-20	13	19.1	Very Poor	
Total		68	100 %		

For finding inference, it can be seen that 8 students (11.8%) get excellent level. After that, there are 9 students (13.2%) are categorized as good level. Besides that there are 15 students (22%) categorized mediocre. Besides that in poor level there are 23 students (33.9%) categorized in this level and 13 students (19.1%) are classified in very poor level. The writer finds out that the students' mean in finding factual information is 51.76. It can be concluded that the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kubu in reading comprehension especially in finding factual information is categorized as mediocre. It means that the students have ability in finding inference of the texts and it is also the indicator about their understanding to the texts.

c. The Students Ability in Finding Meaning of Vocabulary

Table 4. Students Score Classification In Term Meaning of Vocabulary

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	10	14.7	Excellent	61.17
2	61-80	17	25	Good	
3	41-60	22	32.3	Mediocre	
4	21-40	7	10.3	Poor	
5	0-20	12	17.7	Very Poor	
Total		68	100 %		

For meaning of vocabulary ,it can be seen that 10 students (14.7%) get excellent level. After that, there are 17 students (25%) are categorized as good level. In terms of difficult word the highest frequency is categorized mediocre because there are 22 students (32.3%) in this level. Beside that in poor level there are 7 students (10.3%) categorized in this level and 12 students (17.7%) are classified in very poor level. The writer finds out that the students' mean score finding meaning of vocabulary is 61.17. It can be concluded that the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kubu in reading comprehension especially in vocabulary aspect is categorized as good. . It means that the students have ability in finding reference of the texts and it is also the indicator about their understanding the texts.

Table 5. Students Score Classification in term finding reference

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	7	10.3	Excellent	53.5
2	61-80	17	25	Good	
3	41-60	15	22	Mediocre	
4	21-40	11	16.2	Poor	
5	0-20	18	26.4	Very Poor	
Total		68	100 %		

For finding reference, it can be seen that 7 students (10.3%) get excellent level. After that, there are 17 students (25%) are categorized as good level. Beside that there are 15 students (22%) categorized mediocre. Beside that in poor level there are 11 students (16.2.%) categorized in this level and 18 students (26.4%) are classified in very poor level. The writer finds out that the students' mean score in finding freference is 53.5. It can be concluded that the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kubu in reading comprehension especially in finding reference aspect is categorized as mediocre. It means that the students have ability in finding reference of the texts and it is also the indicator about their understanding the texts.

e. The Students' Ability in Finding Inference

Table 3. Students Score Classification in term finding factual information

No	Range score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean score
1	81-100	6	8.8	Excellent	46.47
2	61-80	7	10.3	Good	
3	41-60	8	11.8	Mediocre	
4	21-40	30	44.1	Poor	
5	0-20	17	25	Very Poor	
Total		68	100 %		

The students' ability in finding inference varies. From 68 students, 6 students (8.8%) get the score range from 81-100 and it is classified in excellent level, 7 students (10.3%) are categorized in good level. Besides that there are 8 students (11.8%) are categorized as Mediocre, 30 students (44.1%) are categorized as poor level and 17 students (25%) are in very poor level. The writer also finds out that the students' mean score in finding inference is 46.47. It can be concluded that the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kubu in reading comprehension, in terms of finding inference is categorized as Mediocre level. It means that the students have ability in finding inference of the texts and it is also the indicator about their understanding the texts.

f. The Mean Scores of the Students' Ability in Reading Comprehension

Table 7. Classification of Students' Mean Score in Reading Comprehension.

No	The Classification of the Question	Mean Score	Level of Ability
1	Finding Main Ideas	61.47	Good
2	Finding Factual Information	46.47	Mediocre
3	Finding meaning of vocabulary	61.17	Good
4	Finding Reference	53.5	Mediocre
5	Finding Inference	51.76	Mediocre
Total		54.9	Mediocre

The table shows that from 5 components of reading comprehension, the mean score of finding main idea (61.47) are classified as good, the mean score of finding

factual information (51.76) are classified as good, the mean score of finding meaning of vocabulary (61.17) are classified as good, the mean score of finding reference (53.5) are classified as mediocre, and the mean score of finding inference (46.47) are classified as mediocre. The mean score ability of the students based on the table is mediocre. From the table also shows that the most difficult aspect in reading comprehension is finding inference, with the mean score 46.47. Besides that the easiest is finding main ideas with the mean score is 61.47. It is the real ability of the students and also the indicator about their understanding to the text.

CONCLUSIONS

The main aim of the study is to find out the level of the second year students' ability of SMAN 1 Kubu in Reading Comprehension. The writer found out that the mean score of the students' ability in reading comprehension is 54.94. It means that the students' ability in reading comprehension are categorized in mediocre level. In addition, the mean score of students' ability in reading comprehension in terms of finding main idea is 61.47 (good), in terms of finding factual information is 51.76 (mediocre), in terms of finding meaning of vocabulary 61.17 (good), in finding reference is 53.5 (mediocre), and in finding inference is 46.47 (mediocre). The highest mean score of each component is finding main idea, and the lower is finding factual information.

RECOMMENDATION

Since the ability of the second year students of SMAN 1 Kubu in reading comprehension is in mediocre level, improvement is still needed. The students are suggested to practice more in reading so that their comprehension can be improved, especially in finding inference and they need to show their ability in understanding the content of the text for detail information. The English teacher is suggested to be more creative to use any strategies in teaching reading in order to make students be familiar to comprehend reading materials in terms of five indicators of reading comprehension. The teacher is suggested to give more exercise to the students to answer questions about reading comprehension.

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