

A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMA PGRI PEKANBARU IN COMPREHENDING HORTATORY EXPOSITION TEXTS

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Abstract: The study aimed to find out the ability of the second year students in comprehending hortatory exposition texts. This research was conducted at SMA PGRI Pekanbaru on May to June 2013. The participants were 36 students of class XI IA 3 of SMA PGRI Pekanbaru. The data were collected by using multiple choices test. The writer administered a try out to another class before the test was administered. There were 5 items being revised after doing the try out. 2 items revised because their facility value scores were lower than 0.30 (difficult), and 3 items being revised because their facility value scores were higher than 0.70 (easy). The result of this study showed that the students' mean score in comprehending hortatory exposition text was 63.1. So, it can be concluded that the students' ability was in "good" level. Based on the result of the students' ability in each of reading comprehension component, the most difficult component of reading comprehension for the students was making inference and the easiest one was identifying reference.

Keywords: Descriptive research, Reading Comprehension, Hortatory Exposition Text.

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mencari tahu kemampuan murid kelas 2 SMA dalam memahami teks hortatory eksposisi. Penelitian ini dilakukan di SMA PGRI Pekanbaru dari Mei hingga Juni 2013. Peserta penelitian ini adalah 36 murid kelas XI IA 3 dari SMA PGRI Pekanbaru. Data penelitian ini dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan tes pilihan ganda. Peneliti memberikan try out ke kelas lain sebelum tes yang sesungguhnya diberikan. Ada 5 butir soal yang direvisi setelah try out diberikan. 2 butir soal direvisi karena nilai tingkat kesulitannya lebih kecil dari 0.30 (sulit), dan 3 butir soal direvisi karena nilai kesulitannya diatas 0.70 (mudah). Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa nilai rata-rata murid dalam memahami teks hortatory eksposisi yaitu 63.1. Oleh karena itu, dapat disimpulkan bahwa kemampuan murid dalam memahami teks hortatory eksposisi berada dalam tingkatan “baik”. Berdasarkan hasil dari kemampuan murid dalam setiap komponen pemahaman bacaan, komponen yang paling sulit bagi murid yaitu membuat inferen, dan yang paling mudah yaitu menemukan referensi.

Kata Kunci: *Penelitian deskriptif, Membaca, Teks hortatory eksposisi*

INTRODUCTION

English is learnt by most people in the world as an international language. For most Indonesian people, learning English is important because by knowing English well, it will be easier for them to understand any information written in English. The aim of teaching English, based on the latest curriculum for senior high school, Competence Based Curriculum: 2006, is to enable the students to function their competence of English as an international medium of communication. In learning English, the students are required to master the four English skills, namely: reading, listening, speaking and writing.

As one of English skills, reading plays an important role in learning English. Reading is a communication process which requires a series of skills. In acquiring reading skill, students have to realize that the aim of learning this skill is to enable them to comprehend reading texts in their effort in order to enrich their knowledge. It implies that reading texts is not simple as many people think. As Hammer (1998) states that reading is an exercise dominated by the eyes and the brain. The eyes receive the message and the brain has to work out the significance of these messages.

The writer chose hortatory exposition text as a students' genre problem in reading activity that needs to be improved. The choice of this text is based on the syllabus of the second year students that they learn about hortatory exposition text. It means that, the second year students have knowledge about this genre already. They were still confused about the existence of different types of tasks such as how to get specific information through the text, identify main idea, references, and so on. As well as analytical exposition text, hortatory

exposition text appertains into the academic reading. Hortatory exposition text requires the students to have a critical thinking, scientific ideas and argumentative expression. Those characteristics cause a lot of students getting frustrated in comprehending this text.

METHODOLOGY

Participants

The participants of this research were the second year students of SMA PGRI Pekanbaru. The writer chose class of XI Science 3 as the sample class. The number of the students was 36 students.

Data Collection Instruments and Analysis

This is a descriptive research that has only one variable. Descriptive research is collecting numerical data to answer a question (Kritsonis: 2009). This research describes systematically the facts and characteristics of a given population. This descriptive research is proposed to find out the students' ability in comprehending hortatory exposition texts.

The data for this research is obtained using an objective test. In order to answer the question of this research, the writer distributed test to the students. They were asked to answer the questions of reading comprehension test of hortatory exposition text. The test contained of 30 multiple choices questions in 6 different hortatory exposition texts. The time allocation was 60 minutes.

Before the test was given to the students as the instrument of the research; the writer conducted a try-out in another class to know whether or not it was reliable. The try out aimed at finding the difficulty level of each test item. There are 10 items being revised after doing try out. 2 items revised because their facility value scores are lower than 0,30 (difficult), and 3 items being revised because their facility value scores are higher than 0,70 (easy) with the mean score is 57.8, standard deviation is 9.39, and the realibility of test is 0.23 (sufficient).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The ability of the second year students of SMA PGRI Pekanbaru in comprehending hortatory exposition texts can be seen in the table 1:

The Students' Scores in Comprehending Hortatory Exposition Text

No	Students	Correct Answer	Score	Classification	Percentage (%)
1	21	26	87	Excellent	3%
2	2	23	77	Good	42%
3	7	23	77	Good	
4	14	23	77	Good	
5	19	23	77	Good	
6	1	22	73	Good	
7	29	22	73	Good	

8	33	22	73	Good		
9	5	21	70	Good		
10	12	21	70	Good		
11	16	20	67	Good		
12	20	20	67	Good		
13	11	19	63	Good		
14	17	19	63	Good		
15	18	19	63	Good		
16	23	19	63	Good		
17	3	18	60	Moderate	50%	
18	8	18	60	Moderate		
19	10	18	60	Moderate		
20	15	18	60	Moderate		
21	22	18	60	Moderate		
22	24	18	60	Moderate		
23	25	18	60	Moderate		
24	31	18	60	Moderate		
25	6	17	57	Moderate		
26	9	17	57	Moderate		
27	13	17	57	Moderate		
28	26	17	57	Moderate		
29	27	17	57	Moderate		
30	35	17	57	Moderate		
31	36	17	57	Moderate		
32	4	16	53	Moderate		
33	30	16	53	Moderate		
34	34	16	53	Moderate		
35	28	15	50	Poor		5%
36	32	13	43	Poor		
Total		681	2270	Good	100%	
Average		18.9	63.1			

From table above, only 1 student got “excellent” level. It means she/he could comprehend the text well. Then, there were 15 students or 42% of the students who could reach “good” level. It means they had average ability in comprehending hortatory exposition text. Then, there were 18 students Or 50% of the students who got in “moderate” level, and only 2 students who got “poor” level.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the ability of second year students at SMA PGRI Pekanbaru in comprehending hortatory exposition texts was in **Good** level with the mean score of **63.1**.

The data on the table above can be illustrated by the following graph:

The Percentage of the Students' Ability in Comprehending Hortatory Exposition Texts

Rank	Ability Level	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
81-100	Excellent	1	3%	63.1
61-80	Good	15	42%	
41-60	Moderate	18	50%	
21-40	Poor	2	5%	
0-20	Very Poor	0	0%	
Total		36	100%	Good

The table above indicated that the students' ability in comprehending hortatory exposition texts in all level was in different numbers. The highest number of the student gained was in "moderate" level (50%). This number was quite different from the level of "good" level (42%). It was because most of the students had ability in comprehending hortatory exposition text. Few of them still got problem in comprehend hortatory exposition text (33%). Then the student in "excellent" level was only 3% of the students. It means that only 1 student who was in this level. The data showed that the students could comprehend the text well in hortatory exposition texts because the highest number of students was on "good" level. So, it means that the students' ability was enough from standard of the school.

DISCUSSIONS

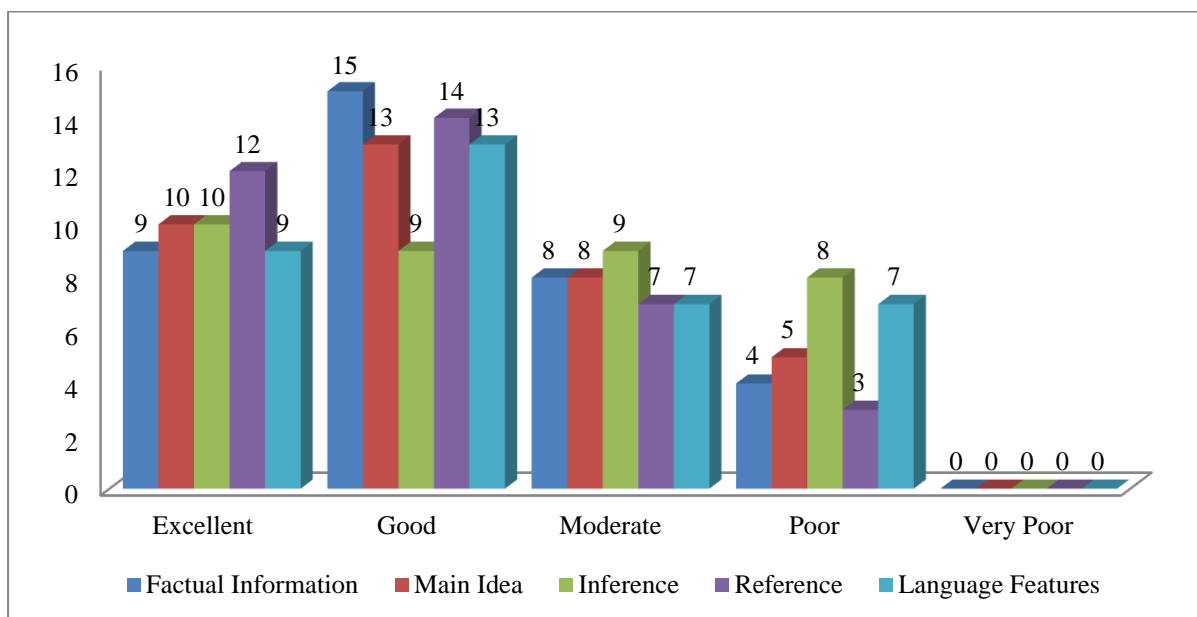
From the students' score, the writer found that the total mean score of students in comprehending hortatory exposition text was 63.1. It can be concluded that the ability of the second year students of SMA PGRI Pekanbaru in comprehending expository texts was in "good" level.

No	Texts	Components of Reading									
		Factual Information		Main Idea		Making Inference		Identifying Reference		Identifying Language Features	
		Correct	%	Correct	%	Correct	%	Correct	%	Correct	%
1	I	17	57%	13	43%	25	83%	23	77%	18	60%
2	II	21	70%	19	63%	19	63%	22	73%	20	67%
3	III	17	57%	18	60%	15	50%	20	67%	29	97%
4	IV	19	63%	18	60%	22	73%	20	67%	20	67%
5	V	16	53%	22	73%	19	63%	16	53%	25	83%
6	VI	21	70%	14	47%	19	63%	20	67%	16	53%
T. Average		20	63.9%	120	63.4%	18	60.2%	22	66.7%	22	66.7%

Based on the table above, most of students can identify reference and generic structures of hortatory exposition texts with its frequency of *excellent* level was 22 students (66.7%). However, some students still find difficulty in making inference with its frequency of *very poor* level was 8 students (60.2%). Generally, the writer found that the ability of the

second year students SMA PGRI Pekanbaru in comprehending hortatory exposition texts was in **good** level with the mean score of **63.1**.

The data on the table above can be illustrated by the following graph:



CONCLUSIONS

1. From 36 students in table 1 shown that 1 student (3%) classified into “excellent” level, 15 students (42%) classified into “good” level, 18 students (50%) classified into “moderate” level and 2 students (5%) classified into “poor” level. The highest score obtained by the students was 87 while the lowest score was 40. The mean score of the students’ ability in comprehending hortatory exposition texts was 63.1.
2. After analyzing the component of reading comprehension, the writer found that: The mean score of the students in finding factual information is 63.9. It is classified as “good” level. The mean score of students in finding main idea was 63.4 and the mean score of the students in making inference was 60.2. The mean score of the students in identifying reference of the texts was 66.7, and the last, the mean score of students in identifying language features of hortatory exposition text was 61.1. All of the indicators were classified as “good” level. From that result, the most difficult category in comprehending hortatory exposition texts was making inference and the highest aspect was identifying reference category.
3. Based on the mean score from the results of the test, the students falls into “good” level. This was accordance with the general objective of this research was to answer the question “How good is the ability of the second year students of SMA PGRI Pekanbaru in comprehending hortatory text?” It can be concluded that 36 students in second year of SMA PGRI Pekanbaru could comprehend hortatory exposition texts even though still had some mistakes in doing the test. The ability of the students in

comprehending hortatory exposition texts was still below the standard English score (KKM) for second year of SMA PGRI Pekanbaru, which score should be at least 73.

SUGGESTIONS

The writer suggests that the second year students of SMA PGRI Pekanbaru need to improve their ability in comprehending hortatory exposition texts by reading more English reading books. Considering that the students' ability level in comprehending hortatory exposition text was at "good" level, it is suggested that the students must to do more practice in reading, read any book to improve reading skills, especially in making inference, identifying language features of hortatory exposition text and finding factual information and main idea of the text well. It is because the students got the lowest scores in answering the three types of questions.

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