

**ANALYZING ON THE THIRD YEAR STUDENTS' READING ABILITY IN
COMPREHENDING AUTHENTIC MATERIAL AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF
BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY**

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to describe the ability of the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University to comprehend authentic material. This research aimed at describing whether or not students could identify general statement, main idea and main supporting detail as a reflection of their ability in comprehending authentic material. The number of population was 112 students. Twenty four of them were taken as the sample of this research by using cluster random sampling. The instrument used to collect data in this research was reading test. The test had twenty four questions. It consisted of three articles and each article consisted of eight questions. Before giving the test, the researcher tried out to the students out of sample at English Department, Bung Hatta University to find out the reliability of the test, and it was found the reliability index of this test was 0.77. Based on the result of data analysis, it was found that students' ability to comprehend internet article was moderate. It was indicated by the fact the most students (70.8%) had moderate ability, 10 students (41.67%) had moderate ability in comprehend general statement. Then, the result of the study also revealed that 19 students (79%) had moderate ability in comprehending main idea. Next, the result showed that identifying main supporting detail there were 16 students (66.67%) who had moderate ability. Based on those findings above, it could be concluded that the students' ability in comprehending authentic material could be categorized into moderate ability. Based on the findings, the researcher suggested that the lecturer give more strategies to the students to identify general statement, main idea and main supporting detail.

Introduction

Reading is important skill in learning English. It enables someone to expand knowledge and find enjoyment. A proverb says that, the more we read the more knowledge we acquire. In addition, we can be familiar with other ways of life, behavior or ideas through reading.

Students faced different problems of reading in different materials. Jordan (1997:87) says that there are many kinds of materials that a teacher uses in teaching reading in the classroom. They can be the material specially made for language teaching or they are not created specially for language teaching. Each kind of both

materials has different difficulties for the students. In short, the students are required to be able to understand all kinds of material with different difficulties. It is clear that understanding an English material is not simple activity.

Authentic materials are commonly used as additional sources of reading materials. The use of authentic materials to comprehend like newspaper, internet sources, pictures, brochures, maps, TV program, etc may an important role in learning English. Because authentic materials are interesting, they can be one of the ways to improve students' motivation to read.

There are many problems that students face in comprehending internet article. The problem might come from the students themselves and others deal with outside factors. The factors coming from students deal with the unfamiliar with the topic, difficulties in identifying topic, general statement, main idea, and main supporting details, limited vocabulary, having no background knowledge about the article, low reading motivation and reading interest. The outside factors appear since the articles contain difficult language, having complex language structure, and unneeded vocabulary.

The purpose of this research was to find out the ability of the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University to comprehend authentic materials taken from internet article.

Cziko et al (2000:2) says that reading is a complex process of problem solving in which the reader works to make sense of a text not just from the words and sentences on the page but also from the ideas, memories, and knowledge by those words and sentences. It is the way a person gets information from written letters and words. It means understanding the idea, information, or feeling the words convey when they are put together in a particular pattern. If we are not getting the message, we are not reading.

Furthermore, Kim (2004:44) says that reading is a complex process involving a variety of resources of information and levels of analysis. It means that the readers not only read a kind of text to get information but they can read several of text. In processing reading text, the readers need to analyze what they are reading.

Research Method

This research used descriptive research in which the researcher described the phenomenon existing in the field. Gay (1987:189) states that, descriptive research involves collecting data through the questionnaire survey, interview, or observation in order to test hypothesis or to answer research questions concerning the current status of the object of the study.

The population of this research was the third year students English Department of Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Bung Hatta University in academic 2012/2013. The number of member of population was 112 students. In selecting the sample of this research, the researcher used cluster random sampling technique. The researcher used this technique because all members of the population were considered homogeneous.

Instrument used in this research was reading test. The test consisted of 24 items with three texts of authentic materials taken from internet article. The test was constructed in the form of multiple-choice test. The test has been tried out to the students out of sample to know whether the instruction of the test was understood by the

students, and to find out whether it was a reliable one.

To find out the reliability of the test, the researcher used split-half method. It is a kind of method, which divides the items of the test into odd group, and even group. To find out the coefficient correlation between the score for odd and even items, the researcher used Pearson Product Moment Formula (Arikunto, 2010: 72) as follow;

$$r_{xy} = \frac{n \sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[n \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2][n \sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

To find out the degree of coefficient correlation of the total test, the researcher analyzed it by using Spearman-Brown Formula (Arikunto, 2010: 93) as follows:

$$r_{II} = \frac{2r_{xy}}{(1 + r_{xy})}$$

The result of tried out test was also used to analyze the item discrimination by using the formula stated by Arikunto (2010: 213) as follows:

$$D = \frac{BA}{JA} - \frac{BB}{JB}$$

Item discrimination was the ability of item to differentiate between students who get high achievement and students who get low achievement. Arikunto (2010: 213) suggested the following classification of the item discrimination:

To analyze the difficulty of the test items, the researcher used the formula stated by Arikunto as follow:

$$P = \frac{B}{JS}$$

Related to the range of item difficulty and item discrimination, the researcher got 22 items; 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 as good items, and two items (1, 20) were revised.

In gathering data the researcher followed the following steps:

1. The researcher gave one point for the correct answer and 0 for the wrong answer.

So, the minimum score was 0, and the maximum one was 24.

2. Count the total score for each student.

The procedures that the researcher used to analyze the data were as follows:

1. Calculate the Mean (M) of the score by using the formula suggested by Arikunto (2010: 264)

$$M = \frac{\sum x}{N}$$

2. Calculate Standard Deviation (SD) by using the following formula:

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum x^2}{N} - \left(\frac{\sum x}{N}\right)^2}$$

3. Classify the students' ability into high, moderate, and low ability by using authentic materials the following categories Arikunto (2012:299):

> M + SD = high

M - SD => M + SD = moderate

< M - SD = low

4. Calculate the percentage of the students who have high, moderate, or low ability:

$$P = \frac{R}{T} \times 100 \%$$

Findings and Discussions

Based on the result of data analysis on student's ability to comprehend internet article, it was found that the highest score was 18 and the lowest score was 6. Moreover, it also revealed that the mean was 10.83 and standard deviation was 3.51.

The result of this study showed that there were 4 students (16,7%) whose ability could be classified into high ability, 17 students (70,8%) were classified into moderate ability, and 3 students (12,5%) were classified as students who had low

ability. In order to make it clear, it can be seen on following table.

Table 1
The Students' Ability to Comprehend Internet Article.

Classification of Ability	Frequency	Percentage
High	4	16.7%
Moderate	17	70.8%
Low	3	12.5%
Total	24	100%

Students' Ability in Comprehending General Statement of Internet Article

After analyzing the data on students' ability in comprehending general statement of internet article, the researcher found that the highest score was 3 and the lowest score was 1, while the mean was 2 and standard deviation was 0.76. In addition, the result of the study demonstrated that there were 7 students (29.17%) who could be categorized into high ability, 10 students (41.67%) were classified into moderate ability, and 7 students (29.17%) were classified as students' who had low ability. It is shown clearly in table.

Table 2

The Students' Ability to Comprehend General Statement of Internet Article.

Students' Ability	Number of Students	Percentage
High	7	29.17%
Moderate	10	41.67%
Low	7	29.17%
Total	24	100%

Students' Ability in Comprehending Main Idea of Internet Article

The result of data analysis on students' ability in comprehending main idea of internet article, showed that the highest score was 6 and the lowest score was 0. The researcher also found the mean of students' ability to comprehend main idea of internet article was 2.83 and standard deviation was 1.37. The researcher found that there were 3 students (12.5%) whose ability could be classified into high ability, 19 students (79%) were classified into moderate ability, and 2 students (8.3%) were classified into low ability. To make it clear, it was shown in table.

Table 3

The Students' Ability to Comprehend Main Idea of Internet Article.

Students Ability	Number of students	Percentage
High	3	12.5%
Moderate	19	79%
Low	2	8.3%
Total	24	100%

Students' Ability in Comprehending Main Supporting Detail of Internet Article.

Based on the result of data analysis on students' ability to comprehend main supporting detail of internet article, it was found that the highest score was 10 and the lowest score was 2. The researcher also found the mean was 6 and standard deviation was 2.35.

The result of the study displayed that there were 5 students (20.83%) were classified into high ability, 16 students' (66.67%) could be classified into moderate ability, and 3 students (12.5%) were classified into low ability. In order to make clear, it was shown in table.

Table 4

The Students' Ability to Comprehend Main Supporting Detail.

Students Ability	Number of Students	Percentage
High	5	20.83%
Moderate	16	66.67%
Low	3	12.5%
Total	24	100%

Discussion

In general, the result of data analysis showed that the ability of the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University to comprehend authentic material taken from internet article was moderate. It is supported by the data that demonstrated that 70.8% student was categorized into group having moderate ability. It indicates that many students still had difficulties to comprehend authentic material of internet article, and it was probably caused by some factors which could be identified through the students' answer sheet.

Based on the students' answer sheet, some students' could not comprehend authentic material taken from internet article. It was probably caused by their lack of comprehending which subject matter was discussed in article. They also could not differentiate between main idea and main supporting details. Beside, most of students could not understand general statement on the article

Conclusion

Having known the result of data analysis, the researcher concluded that the ability third year students of English Language Teaching Department of Bung Hatta University who register in academic year 2012/2013 comprehending authentic material taken from internet article. The student ability to comprehend internet article in general was moderate. It was shown from the data that there were 17 students (70.8%) had moderate ability.

The next conclusion of this study was that most of the students had moderate ability in comprehend the general statement of internet article. It was supported from the data that there were 10 students (41.76%) had moderate ability.

Another conclusion that could be drawn the student ability to comprehend main idea of internet article was moderate. It was indicated by the data that were 19 students (79%) categorized into moderate ability.

The last conclusion of this study was that most of the student ability to comprehend main supporting detail of internet article was moderate. It was supported by the data that there were 16 students (66.67%) categorized into moderate ability.

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