

# AN ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND GRADE STUDENTS' ABILITY AT SMPN 1 BASO IN UNDERSTANDING ANNOUNCEMENT

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## Abstract

This study was designed to describe the second grade students' ability in understanding announcement. Specifically, it was aimed to describe students' ability in understanding opening, content, and closing of the announcement. This study was descriptive in nature. The number of the population was 175 students. The number of the sample was 26 students. The researcher used reading test to take the data. The researcher analyzed the data by presenting the raw score, calculating mean and standard deviation, classifying the students' ability into high, moderate, and low ability, and calculating the percentage of the students who get high, moderate, and low ability. The result of the data analysis showed that the ability of the second grade students at SMPN 1 Baso in understanding announcement was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 16 students (61,54%) had moderate ability. Specifically, the students' ability in understanding opening of the announcement was moderate. It was indicated by the fact that 13 students (50%) had moderate ability. The students' ability in understanding content of the announcement was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 18 students (69,23%) had moderate ability. The students' ability in understanding closing of the announcement was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 18 students (69,23%) had moderate ability. The researcher concluded that students' ability in understanding announcement was moderate. Hence, it was suggested that the teachers give enough explanation, and more exercises to the students in teaching announcement.

**Key words: Ability, Reading, Announcement**

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## Introduction

Reading is one of the language skills that must be possessed by the students in learning English language. Without neglecting the other language skills, reading receives more attention in English learning activity at school. The teacher allocates more time for teaching reading skill than other skills because

many questions in English semester test and English national test deal with reading comprehension. As a matter of fact, there are about 35 questions on reading comprehension out of 50 questions.

According to Montgomery and Durant (1992: 20), to read a text we do not only decode what the text literally says, but at the same time we should also bring our knowledge to the text to determine

what the text actually means. The knowledge that we bring might concern with history, the everyday life, geography, zoology or botany, literature, science and so on. Any kinds of knowledge can in principle be relevant in making sense of a literary text.

According to Grabe (2009:15), reading is a strategic process in that a number of the skills and processes occurred in reading call for effort on the part of the reader to anticipate text information, monitor comprehension, repair comprehension, and match comprehension output to reader goals.

In addition, Johnson (2008:3) states that reading is the practice of using text to create meaning. The two keywords here are creating and meaning. If the reading activity is done, the meaning of what we read should be created. So that, if we do not get meaning from what we have read, it means we do not read yet.

There are some kinds of texts taught at junior high school, and one of them is announcement. Announcement is one of the forms of short functional text. It is taught to the second year students at SMPN 1 Baso. The teacher teaches announcement in reading material by introducing the students to the reading model texts. The students are expected to know and understand the text. Also, they

are expected to be able to improve their ability in reading comprehension, so that they are able to answer the question based on the text given.

Yet, actually many students still seemed confused in comprehending announcement. Some students could comprehend announcement text which was given to them and could answer questions about it. But, some others could not understand it well and as the result they could not answer questions.

The purpose of this research was to describe the ability of the second grade students of SMPN 1 Baso in understanding announcement.

## **Research Method**

This research used descriptive method. According to Gay (1987:10), descriptive research involves collecting data in order to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study. In this research, the researcher described the ability of the second grade students of SMPN 1 Baso in understanding announcement.

The population of this research was all second grade students of SMPN 1 Baso. The number of the population was 175 students. In this research, the researcher used cluster random sampling to take the sample. Cluster sampling was

used by the researcher since the population is divided in groups or classes. Random sampling was used because the population is homogeneous. The researcher took 26 students as the sample. The researcher used cluster random sampling technique to take the sample.

In this research, the instrument used to collect the data was reading test. This test was constructed in the form of multiple-choice, which consists of 30 items. It consisted of six announcements, and each has five questions. The test has been tried out to the students out of the sample to determine item difficulty, item discrimination, and to find the reliability of the test.

Determining item difficulties was conducted in order to know whether the items are easy or difficult. To determine them, the researcher used formula suggested by Arikunto (2012:223) as follows:

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

Item discrimination is the ability of the item to differentiate between students who have high ability and students who have low ability. Arikunto (2012:228) suggested the following formula to determine item discrimination:

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

From the range of item difficulty and item discrimination, the researcher found good items for the real test were 22 items. Then, there were eight items that were revised.

Reliability is the degree to which a test consistently measures whatever it is measuring (Gay, 2009:158). To know the reliability of the test, the researcher uses split half method. By this method, the test items are divided into odd and even items. To find out the correlation coefficient of the two groups of score, the researcher uses Pearson Product Moment formula. The formula is suggested by Arikunto (2012:87) is as follow:

$$r_{xy} = \frac{N \sum XY - (\sum X)(\sum Y)}{\sqrt{\{N \sum X^2 - (\sum X)^2\} \{N \sum Y^2 - (\sum Y)^2\}}}$$

After that, the correlation coefficient is analyzed by using Spearman Brown Formula suggested by Gay (1987:139) to know the reliability of the whole test:

$$r_{total\ test} = \frac{2r_{xy}}{1+r_{xy}}$$

In collecting the data, the researcher distributed the reading test that was used as the instrument to the students. The students would do the test in 45 minutes. There were some steps in gathering the data, they are as follows:

- The researcher gave score 1 for the correct answer and 0 for the wrong answer.
- The researcher counted the total score of each student.

To analyze the data, the researcher used the following steps:

- Calculating Mean (M) and Standard Deviation (SD) by using the formula that suggested by Arikunto ( 2012 : 299) :

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

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

- Classifying the students' ability into high, moderate, and low ability based on the criteria below (Arikunto, 2012:299)

$$M + 1SD = \text{High}$$

$$(M - 1SD) - (M + 1SD) = \text{Moderate}$$

$$M - 1SD = \text{Low}$$

- Calculating the percentage of the students who get high, moderate, and low ability by using the formula:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

## Result and Discussion

Based on the result of the data analysis on students' ability in understanding announcement, the

researcher found that the lowest score obtained by the students was 13 and the highest score was 27. Then, she found that the mean was 18,46 and standard deviation was 4,17.

After that, the students' ability was classified into three groups; they were high, moderate, and low. Finally, the researcher calculated the percentage of students whose ability in understanding announcement classified into high, moderate, and low (see table 1).

**Table 1**

### The Classification of Students' Ability in Understanding Announcement

Classification	Frequency	Percentage
High	5	19,23%
Moderate	16	61,54%
Low	5	19,23%

### Students' Ability in Understanding Opening of the Announcement

In measuring the students' ability in understanding opening of the announcement, the researcher counted the students' scores. The lowest score found by researcher was 2 and the highest one was 5. While she got 3,92 for mean and 0,79 for standard deviation. After that, the students' ability was classified into three groups; they were high, moderate, and low. Finally, the researcher calculated the

percentage of students whose ability in understanding opening of the announcement classified into high, moderate, and low (see table 2).

**Table 2**  
**The Classification of Students' Ability in Understanding Opening of the Announcement**

Classification	Frequency	Percentage
High	6	23,08%
Moderate	13	50%
Low	7	26,92%

**Students' Ability in Understanding Content of the Announcement**

Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher found the lowest score was 5 and the highest one was 14. It also demonstrated that mean was 8,46 and standard deviation was 2,67. After that, the students' ability was classified into three groups; they were high, moderate, and low. Finally, the researcher calculated the percentage of students whose ability in understanding content of the announcement classified into high, moderate, and low (see table 3).

**Table 3**  
**The Classification of Students' Ability in Understanding Content of the Announcement**

Classification	Frequency	Percentage
High	5	19,23%
Moderate	18	69,23%
Low	3	11,54%

**Students' Ability in Understanding Closing of the Announcement**

The result of data analysis revealed that the lowest score was 4 and the highest one was 9. It also demonstrated that the mean was 6,08 and standard deviation was 1,42. After that, the students' ability was classified into three groups; they were high, moderate, and low. Finally, the researcher calculated the percentage of students whose ability in understanding closing of the announcement classified into high, moderate, and low (see table 4).

**Table 4**  
**The Classification of Students' ability in Understanding Closing of the Announcement**

Classification	Frequency	Percentage
High	5	19,23%
Moderate	18	69,23%
Low	3	11,54%

## Discussion

In general, finding of this study was that the second grade students' ability to understand announcement was moderate. It was indicated by majority of students whose ability was include into moderate category (61,54%). This result indicated that some students still had difficulties in understanding announcement.

Based on the students' answer sheet, some students could not understand each part of the announcement. They did not know type of event that was included into announcement text. Also, most of students could not understand which subject matter was discussed in the text. Beside, some students could not understand that the end of the announcement includes contact person/address, and the writer

## Conclusions

Based on the result of this study and discussion as already discussed previously, it was found that the ability of the second grade students at SMPN 1 Baso in understanding announcement was moderate. It was verified by the percentage of students whose ability felt into moderate category (61,54%).

The next conclusion that could be drawn that the ability of the second grade

students at SMPN 1 Baso in understanding opening of the announcement was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 50% of the students had moderate ability.

Another conclusion of this study was that the ability of the second grade students at SMPN 1 Baso in understanding content of the announcement was moderate. It was verified by the fact that the ability of the most students (69,23%) was categorized as moderate one.

The last conclusion was that the ability of the second grade students at SMPN 1 Baso in understanding closing of the announcement was moderate. It was proved by the fact that the majority of the students (69,23%) had moderate ability.

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