

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS' ABILITY IN UNDERSTANDING A REPORT TEXT AT SMA NURUL IKHLAS PADANG PANJANG

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Abstract

In this research, the researcher described the problems faced by the second year students at SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang in understanding a scientific report text. The background in choosing this title was most of the students had difficulties in understanding a report text. In this research, the researcher used descriptive method. The purpose of this research was to describe the second year students' ability in understanding a report text. The population of this research was the second year students of SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang. The population was 136 students. The total of the sample were 37 students, it was chosen by using stratified cluster random sampling technique. The data were collected through reading test in the type of multiple choices. The result of this research showed that in general, the ability of the second year students at SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang in understanding a scientific report text was moderate. In fact, there were 22 (59.5 %) students had moderate ability in understanding generic structure, there were 33 (89.2 %) students had moderate ability in understanding general classification, there were 31 (83.8 %) students had moderate ability in understanding description, and there were 34 (91.9 %) students had moderate ability in understanding language features. In conclusion, the ability of the second year students at SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang in understanding a scientific report text was moderate. Dealing with the conclusion, the researcher has suggestion for the teachers; they should explain more about the material of report text and give more exercises to improve students' ability in understanding report text and for the students; they should do more exercises to improve their ability in understanding report text.

Key Words: Reading, Report Text, Scientific, Generic Structure, Language Features.

Introduction

English is an international language. It is not spoken by its native speakers only, but also by people whose native language is not English. English is one of the

international language which is used by almost people in the world. There are four skills that should be taught to the English students. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading is one of the

skills that is important in learning English language that should be mastered by students. Jeffries (2004:1) says that reading habits can make a big difference in reading. Mikulecky (1998:1) also says that reading is one important way to improve our general language skills in English because reading helps us in learning to think in English, reading can enlarge our English vocabulary, reading can help us to improve our writing, reading is a good way to find out about new ideas, facts, and experiences.

Unfortunately, based on the researcher's interview with an English teacher and students at SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang on May 26th 2013, the researcher could conclude that most of the students had difficulties in understanding a text especially in a report text. When the students read the text, they still translate the text word by word. So that, it could spend much time to understand the text and also it could make students lazy to continue to read it. As a result, they did not get any information from the text that they read.

A report text is a text which presents information about something. Report text consists of generic structure and language features. Generic structure of report text is general classification and description. General classification introduces the topic of report text. Description tells the shape/form part, behavior, habit and way

of survival. Language features of report text uses simple present tense, linking verbs and some of action verb. Davies (2000:4) says that student should know about the types of report text, such as : scientific reports (animals, plants, biologist), technological report and sociological report. Generally, the purpose of this research was to describe the second year students' ability in understanding a scientific report text at SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang.

Research Method

This research was designed to describe students' ability in reading, especially in understanding a scientific report text. Therefore, the researcher used a descriptive method. Gay (1987:189) states that descriptive research involves the activity to collect the data in order to test hypothesis or to answer the question concerning the current status of the subject of study. The population of this research was the second year students of SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang because they have learned about report text. To select the sample, the researcher used stratified cluster random sampling technique. Stratified sampling was used because the population was divided into two strata; they were exact science (IPA) and social science (IPS). Then the researcher used

cluster sampling because the population was distributed into some groups or classes. The researcher used random sampling because they had similar characteristics for each cluster and they were homogenous because they had the same materials in syllabus and the same period of time in learning English subject.

The instrument that the researcher used to collect data was reading test in the form of multiple choices. It was used because the researcher wanted to know the students' ability in understanding report text. The test consisted of seven report texts. There were 30 questions and the researcher asked the students to answer the questions in 35 minutes. The researcher gave one point for each correct answer and 0 for the wrong answer. A good test should be valid. According to Gay (1987:128), a test is said valid if it is able to measure what it wants to be measured. In the other words, the test is valid if it fixes the material that has been given to the student. To know the validity of the test, the researcher used content validity in which the test materials were constructed based on the syllabus. Reliability is the degree to which a test consistently measures whatever it measures (Gay, 1987:135). According to Arikunto (2012:10), a reliable measures in one that provides consistent and stable indication of the

characteristic being investigated. Reliability is expressed numerically, usually as a coefficient; a high coefficient indicates high reliability. To analyze 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.

In gathering the data, the researcher used the procedures as follows:

1. The researcher gave the test to the sample of the research.
2. The researcher collected the test.
3. The researcher checked all the student' answer
4. The researcher gave 1 score for the correct answer and 0 for the wrong answer.
5. The researcher counted the total score for each student.

The data of this research were students' scores in understanding a scientific report text. The researcher used some steps to analyze data:

1. The researcher calculated the Mean (M) by using the following formula:

Mean (Arikunto, 2012: 299):

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$

Where:

Σx : The total number of x score.

n: The total number of sample.

2. The researcher calculated Standar Deviation, by using the following formula:

SD (Arikunto, 2012: 299):

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

Where:

SD : standard deviation.

n : the total number of sample.

x : score.

3. The researcher classified the student's ability into high, moderate, and low by using the following formula (Arikunto, 2012 : 299) :

$$>M + 1 SD = \text{high}$$

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

$$>M - 1 SD = \text{low}$$

4. The researcher calculated the percentage of the students who got high, moderate, and low ability by using the following formula:

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

Where:

P: Percentage of the students who got each score

R: The sum of the students who got high, moderate or low.

T: The sum of the students.

Finding and Discussion

In general, the data indicated that the students' ability in understanding a scientific report text included general classification, description, and language features was moderate.

- Students' Ability in Understanding Generic Structure of a Scientific Report Text.

In data analysis indicated that there were 22 students (59.5 %) who had moderate ability. This finding indicated that most of the students had ability in understanding generic structure of a scientific report text.

N	Classificatio	Frequen	Percenta
o	ns	cy	ge (%)
1	High	10	27 %
2	Moderate	22	59.5 %
3	Low	5	13.5 %

- Students' Ability in Understanding General Classification of a Scientific Report Text

In data analysis indicated that there were 33 students (89.2 %) who had moderate ability. This finding indicated that most of the students had ability in understanding general classification of a scientific report text.

N o	Classificatio ns	Frequen cy	Percenta ge (%)
1	High	3	8.1 %
2	Moderate	33	89.2 %
3	Low	1	2.7 %

- Students' Ability in Understanding Description of a Scientific Report Text

In data analysis indicated that there were 31 students (83.8 %) who had moderate ability. This finding indicated that most of the students had ability in understanding description of a scientific report text.

N o	Classificatio ns	Frequen cy	Percenta ge (%)
1	High	0	0 %
2	Moderate	31	83.8 %
3	Low	6	16.2 %

- Students' Ability in Understanding Language Features of a Scientific Report Text

In data analysis indicated that there were 34 students (91.9 %) who had moderate ability. This finding indicated that most of the students had ability in understanding language features of a scientific report text.

N o	Classificatio ns	Frequen cy	Percenta ge (%)
1	High	3	8.1 %
2	Moderate	34	91.9 %
3	Low	0	0 %

Conclusions

Based on the findings of this research that was already discussed in the previous chapter, the researcher drew the several conclusions. Firstly, In general, the ability of the second year students at SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang in understanding a scientific report text was moderate. It was supported by the fact that there were 64.9 % who had moderate ability.

1. The ability of the second year students at SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang in understanding generic structure of a scientific report text was moderate. It was supported by the fact that 59.5 % students had moderate ability.
 - a. The ability of the second year students at SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang in understanding general classification of a scientific report text was moderate. It was supported by the fact that 89.2 % students had moderate ability.
 - b. The ability of the second year students at SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang in understanding description of a scientific report text was moderate. It was supported

by the fact that 83.8 % students had moderate ability.

2. The ability of the second year students at SMA Nurul Ikhlas Padang Panjang in understanding language features of a scientific report text was moderate. It was supported by the fact that 91.9 % students had moderate ability.

Acknowledgements

The researcher would like to express her deepest gratitude and appreciation to her advisors; Dra. Fatimah Tanjung, M.Hum and Yandri, S.Pd., M.Pd for spending their times in guiding and supporting her for the best improvement in this thesis. She also expresses his sincere appreciation to Dr. Marsis, M.Pd. as the Dean of Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Drs. Khairudin, M.Si. as the Vice Dean of FKIP Bung Hatta, Dra. Ernati, M.Pd. as the Chairwoman of English Department, and also for Dra. Lisa Tavriyanti, M.Pd. as the Secretary of English Department. Next, the researcher extends her great thanks to her beloved parents and her beloved friends.

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