A CORRELATIONAL STUDY BETWEEN THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS' TO COMPREHEND AND TO WRITE A NEWS ITEM TEXT AT SMA N 1 RAMBAH ROKAN HULU RIAU

Dianmalasari[1], Khairul Harha[2], Ernati[2]

[1]Mahasiswa Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, FKIP Universitas Bung Hatta

[2]Dosen Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, FKIP Universitas Bung Hatta

[1]E-mail maladian23@gmail.com

[2] E-mail harha_khairul@yahoo.co.id

Abstract

The aim of this research is to correlate the first year students' ability to comprehend and to write a news item text at SMAN 1 Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau. The design of this research was correlation research. Total number of population was 294 students. In this research the researcher used cluster random sampling technique to establish the sample. The researcher took class B as sample with total members 30 students. The researcher used two kind of instruments; reading test and writing test. The researcher did try out for the test because the test is nonstandard test. The tests were valid in term of content validity and the tests were reliable and categorized high correlation. The research result showed that there was a significant correlation between the first year students' to comprehend and to write a news item text at SMA N 1 Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau was categorized as high correlation. It was proved by the value of r- counted (.80) which was bigger than r- table (.36), at the level of significance 95%, with α =0,05 and degree of freedom (df) n-2 . Based on the result above, it suggested to teacher and students. The teacher leads the students to comprehend before writing a news item text,the teacher should consider of generic structure of news item text and pay attention to the studentscomprehend in news item text. To the students they should make efforts to increase their ability in reading, if they have more information from reading they can make good text in writing.

Key words; Correlation, Reading, Writing, News Item Text

Introduction

In English there are four language skills that students learn. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These basic skills are interrelated each other. One can speak well if she or he can listenEnglish well, and one can write well if she or he can read well.

Today, reading is one kind of hobbies for people. Someone who has a lot of reading also has a good knowledge. With reading somebody can see the word, and with reading somebody can know what happens in this world. With reading we can also know something, from have known nothing become have known many things. It's not only reading that become a hobby today but also writing. In writing some people try to express their feeling, moment and everything that happen in their life. Nowadays some people also make writing as a job. Well, there are many people who can make a good writing, but there are also some people can't write well. Based on the result of informal interview that researcher did with some of English teachers at SMA N 1 Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau,

students of the first year have already learnt news item text. The result of She found that the students at senior high school got difficulties to comprehend news item text that the teacher gave them. Another result of the interview was that, the students also got difficulties to write news item text. The difficulties include comprehending and writing components of news item text; newsworthy event, background events, and sources.

Based on the description above, the researcher wa interested in conducting a research about a correlational study between the first year students to comprehend and to write a news item text at SMA N 1 Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau.

According to Whorter (2006), reading is a thinking process, in which the readers interact with textual material, evaluate, and reacts to its organization and content. Furthermore, Grellet (1999:7) says that reading is a process of guessing and what one bring to the text is often more important than what one can find in it. So, reading is a process

to find out some information from a text.

Oshima and Hogue (1991:4) state that writing is a skill that people able to express their daily activities. Then, Smith (1987:3) also says that writing is a discovery process. It is a way to find out what the writer is thinking and what the writer wants to say in particular situation. Furthermore, Oxford Dictionary (2008; 516) states that writing is the activities to write something, or experience. So, writing is a process to tell something.

Research Method

Thisresearch was correlational study between reading and writing ability. The researcher used correlational research because it correlated between two variables. According to Gay (1987: 230), correlation research involved collecting data in order to determine whether and to what degree a relationship exists between two or more quantifiable variables. The

degree of relationship is expressed as a correlation coefficient.

a. Population

According to the Gay (1987:102), population is the group of interested to the researcher, the group to which she or he would like the results of the study to be generalized. The population of this research was the first year students of SMA N 1 Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau who registered in 2012/2013 academic year.The members of the population were 294 students, and they were divided into eight classes; class X.A1, X.A2, X.B, X.C, X.D, X.E, X.F and X.G. The distribution of members of population was shown in thistable

NO	Class	Number
1	X. A1	37
2	X.A2	37
3	X.B	34
4	X.C	36
5	X.D	38
6	X.E	38

7	X.F	37
8	X.G	37
	Total	297

(Source: Teacher SMA N 1 Rambah)

b. Sample

Because of the population was large, the researcher used sample to do this research. According to the Gay (1989:115), sampling is the process of selecting a number of populations for a study in such a way that the individuals represent the largest group from which they are selected (Gay, 1987:101). The sample is only a part of the population. Gay (1987:103) states that a good sample should be representative of the population from which it was selected. Furthermore, Gay (1989:115) states that the minimum number of sample for correlation study is 30 subjects.

To select the sample the researcher used cluster random sampling.According to Gay (1987:110), cluster random sampling is sampling technique in which the sample in group and not individuals was randomly selected. Cluster sampling was used because the population was distributed in groups or classes, and the researcher chose

the class sample randomly because they were homogeneous that had the same syllabus, teaching materials, time allocated, and the same teacher. It means that all members of the population have the same chance to be the sample.

In selecting the sample, the researcher wrote the name of classes (X.A1, X.A2, X.B, X.C, X.D, X.E, X.F, and X.G) on the small papers, and then she put into a box. After mixing them she took one of the papers in the box with close eyes and the class selected a class sample was class B, and the members of class B were 34 students. Therefore, the total members of sample were 30 students.

In this research the researcher used two kinds of intruments to collect the data.

a. Reading Test

The reseacher used multiple choice form. The total number of question 30 items. Construct on 9 question tell about newsworhty event, 11 question on background of the problem, and 10 question on sourse. It took 60 minutes to do this test. To make the test valid the researcher used content validity.

The reliability is the degree to which a test consistently measures whatever it measured (Gay, 1987:135). In order to get reliability index of the test the researcher used split half method, by dividing the items of the test into odd group and even group. To calculate the coefficient correlation between the scores of odd and even items, the researcher used the Pearson Product Moment Formula (Arikunto, 2006: 72) as follows:

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

Where: rxy = the coefficient correlation between x and y variables

n = the number of the students who follow the test.

x = the even item scores

y = the odd item scores

∑xy = the total score of cross product x y

b. Writing Test

The researcher used writing test to find out the students' ability to write news item text, concerning to write newsworthy event, background event, and sources. The researcher prepared some topics taken from internet and other source. The students chose one of the topics and wrote news item text. The topics were:

1. The farrawell party at SMAN 1 Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau

2. Fatin Sidqia Lubis as a winner at X-factor Indonesia

3. Mourinho will be Coach in Chealse

4. Ahmad (regent of Rokan Hulu) as candidate of Riau governor in 2013-2014

The researcher offered these topics because they were hot news for them now days. The researcher gave 60 minutes to write and develop these topics. In order to see the validity of the test the researcher used content validity. Arikunto (2006:67) states that one of the characteristics of the validity of the test was content validity. Relating to

this, to have a valid test it was constructed based on the materials that have been given to the students of SMA N 1 Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau.

To know the reliability of the test the researcher used Inter- rater technique. There were to scorers; the first scorer was the researcher and the second scorer was Mustifa Ria, an English teacher at SMAN 1 Rambah. It also functioned to minimize the subjectivity of scoring the test.

To calculate the coefficient correlation of the two scorers the researcher used the Pearson Product Moment Formula (Arikunto, 2006: 72) as follows:

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

Where: rxy = the coefficient correlation between x and y variables

n = the number of the students who follow the test

x = the score giving by first scorer

y = the score giving by second scorer

∑xy = the total score of cross product x y

Finding and Discussion

Total number of population on this research were 294 and the sampel of this research were 30 students'.As already discussed before, the researcher had two instruments to collect the data for two variables; reading test and writing test.in reading test use multiple choise form and writing test gave some topics and develop the topic to a news item text. Both instruments were given to 30 students chosen as sample of this research. There were 30 items for reading test and time allocation was 60 minutes. For writing test the

researcher gave four topics with time allocation was 60 minutes.

To find out the correlation between reading test and writing test of news item text at the first year students at SMAN 1 Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau, the researcher used Pearson Product Moment formula. From the data analysis, it was found the value of r between reading test and writing was .80 .

From the finding, it can be seen that the value of r-counted in this research was .80. To test the hypothesis, the researcher compared the r- counted with r-table. If r-counted is bigger than r-table, the correlation is significant (Arikunto.2002:245). As a matter of fact, level of significance .05 and the degree of freedom (df= n-2) was .31 (see Appendix 23). It meant that the value of r-counted (.80) was bigger than r-table (.31) with level of significance .05 and the degree of freedom (df = n-2: 28). Therefore, it can be said there is a positive significant correlation between the first year students' ability to comprehend and to write a news item text at SMAN 1 Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau

Discussion

Based on the result of testing hypothesis, the correlation between reading and writing news item text was significance. The result of data analysis showed there was a positive and significant correlation between reading and writing news item text. Its index of coefficient was .80. In relation to the classification of correlation elaborated by Arikunto (2002:245), the correlation of two variables: reading and writing could be classified as high. Relating to this, it could be interpreted that an increasing grade in reading probably

has relationship with an increasing grade in writing a news item text.

Conclusions

Based on finding as already discussed in previous chapter, the researcher pointed out the following conclusions:

1) There was a positive and significant correlation between first year students to comprehend and to write news item text at SMAN 1Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau. It was proved by the value of r- counted (.80) which was bigger than r- table (.36), at the level of significance 95%, with α =0,05 and degree of freedom (df) n-2 .

2) The correlation between the first year students to comprehend and to write a news item text at SMAN 1 Rambah Rokan Hulu Riau was categorized as high correlation.

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