

**A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS
OF SMPN 1 PEKANBARU IN COMPREHENDING SHORT
FUNCTIONAL TEXTS**

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Abstract: *This descriptive research was aimed at finding out the ability of the second year students of SMPN 1 Pekanbaru in comprehending short functional texts. This research focuses on students' comprehending three kinds of short functional text in terms of advertisement, invitation card and short message text. The data were collected by using reading comprehension test with multiple choice types. The test contained 36 items. The population were the second year students of SMPN 1 Pekanbaru in academic year 2016/2017. The sample size was 40 students out of the population, chosen by using cluster random sampling technique. Based on the data analysis, each type of short functional texts is in the good level with the mean score of 60.98, advertisement, 62.68 is in the good level, invitation card, 58.31 is in mediocre level and short message text, 63.10 is in good level. As a conclusion, the highest score obtained by the students is in comprehending short message text with the mean score of 63.10 which is categorized into good level. The lowest score among three types of short functional text is in comprehending invitation card, with the mean score of 58.31 which is categorized into mediocre level. The implication of the findings is that the students need to learn more seriously about short functional text, particularly about invitation card.*

Keywords: *Reading Ability, Short Functional Text.*

SEBUAH KAJIAN TENTANG KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS 1 SMPN 1 PEKANBARU DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS FUNGSIONAL PENDEK

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Abstrak: Penelitian deskriptif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa kelas 2 SMPN 1 Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks fungsional pendek. Penelitian ini berfokus pada kemampuan siswa dalam memahami tiga jenis teks fungsional pendek yaitu: iklan, kartu undangan dan pesan singkat. Data diperoleh dari tes memahami teks fungsional pendek dalam bentuk pilihan ganda yang terdiri dari 36 soal. Uji coba dilakukan untuk memperoleh validitas dan reliabilitas tes yang baik. Hasil penelitian yang diperoleh adalah sebagai berikut; pertama, kemampuan siswa dalam memahami teks fungsional pendek secara keseluruhan berada pada level good dengan nilai rata-rata 60.98, kedua, nilai rata-rata siswa memahami teks iklan berada pada level baik dengan nilai rata-rata 62.68, dalam memahami kartu undangan adalah berada pada level sedang dengan nilai rata-rata 58.31, dan dalam memahami pesan singkat berada pada level baik dengan nilai rata-rata 63.10. Nilai tertinggi diperoleh siswa adalah dalam memahami pesan singkat berada pada level bagus dengan nilai rata-rata 63.10. Sedangkan nilai terendah diperoleh oleh siswa dalam memahami kartu undangan dengan nilai 58.31, yang masuk dalam kategori kurang. Hasil dari penelitian ini diharapkan siswa untuk lebih meningkatkan pembelajaran tentang memahami teks fungsional pendek, terutama tentang kartu undangan.

Kata kunci: Penelitian, Kemampuan, Teks Fungsional Pendek.

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language and it is used by many people of the world to communicate one another. It plays important role in the process of modernization. Based on Curriculum 2013, English is taught in Indonesian schools starting from primary schools up to the university level. The teachers realize that English teaching from primary schools up to university level is very important because, they need to explore effective technique, methods, and approaches.

The purpose of teaching English is hoped that the students are able to use English correctly and to achieve four language skills. In learning English, there are four language skills: speaking, writing, reading and listening. One of the skills the students need to acquire is reading. According to Leipzig (2001), reading is a multifaceted process involving words recognition, comprehension, fluency, and motivation. Reading is making meaning from text. It refers to: identify the words in print – a process called word recognition, construct them – a process called comprehension, and coordinate identifying words and making meaning so that reading is an automatic and accurate – an achievement called fluency.

Reading is actually a very complex process that requires a great deal of active participation on the part of the reader. We do not only need to understand the structure of the text, but also to comprehend the meaning of the text. The ability to comprehend something from reading materials for students who learn foreign language need to be improved in order to enable them to get used to reading process and give enough time to develop their ability. Furthermore, the purpose of reading is to get information and knowledge. In this situation, a comprehension is needed. According to Alderson (2000), comprehension refers to the product of reading. It means that after the students read, the students must have a comprehension of text they read.

One of the materials must be learnt by the students at Junior High School is reading short functional text. Based on Syllabus Bahasa Inggris Curriculum 2013, functional text is a text is used to inform about something that we have the aims and special messages based on kinds of texts which used. The examples of short functional text might include: instructions, notice, shopping list, greeting cards, announcement, advertisement, invitation, short message, letter and etc.

The research question of this research was as in the following: how good is the ability of the second year students of SMPN 1 Pekanbaru in comprehending short functional text?.

METHODOLOGY

The type of the research is descriptive research. According to According to Gay (2002) the descriptive research involves collecting data to answer question concerning the current status of the subject of the study. In this research, the descriptive research is used to describe the ability in comprehending short functional texts particularly about advertisement text, invitation card and short message text by the second year students of SMPN 1 Pekanbaru.

The technique of collecting the data plays an important role in conducting a research. To get the data, the writer constructs a test as an instrument. The students are

asked to answer the question of the research. The test consists of 36 items from the report text. The students should complete selecting one correct answers of the multiple choice type in 60 minutes. The text was taken from English textbooks and internet. Then, the test was checked to get the score of students individually. The population of the research is second year students of SMPN 1 Pekanbaru in the academic year 2016/2017. There are six classes and the number of population is 244 students.

Table 1 The Population of the Research

No	Class	The number of the students
1	Hang Jebat	41
2	Hang Kesturi	40
3	Hang Lekir	40
4	Hang Nadim	41
5	Hang Tuah	41
6	TuankuTambusai	41
Total Class = 6		Total 244 students

The writer took samples by using cluster random sampling. Gay (2002) says that cluster random sampling is sampling in which selects groups, not individuals. If the population is homogeneous enough, for the population more than 100 persons the sample can be taken 15% of them minimum. So, $15\% \times 244 = 36$ students. But, because one class only consists of 40–41 students, therefore the writer take all the students from the class. Furthermore, the writer assumes that one class can be a representative for all the second year students of SMPN 1 Pekanbaru.

Before the real test was administered to the students, it was tried out first. So, the writer chose two classes, they are a sample and a try out class. The writer took one class as try out class and one class as sample class. The writer provided six pieces of paper and each paper was written the name of the class. The procedures in taking the try out and the sample class were like the following

1. The writer took six pieces of paper and numbered them from numberone to four that represented the number of the classes
2. Randomly the writer took one piece as the try out class in class VIII Hang Kesturi (HK) and one piece as the sample class in class VIII Hang Lekir (HL).

The classification of students' scores by Harris, 1974 and it can be seen in the following table 2:

Table 2 The Classification of Students' Score

Classification Score	Score Categories
80 – 100	Excellent
60 – 79	Good
50 – 59	Mediocre
0 – 49	Poor

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The result of the research was analyzed to find out the ability of the second year students of SMPN 1 Pekanbaru in comprehending short functional text. The description of the students' score and their level of ability can be seen in the table 3:

Table 3 Students' Scores and Their Level of Ability in Comprehending Short Functional Texts

Scores	Frequency	Level of Ability	Mean Score
80-100	3	Excellent	
60-79	20	Good	
50-59	9	Mediocre	60.98
0-49	8	Poor	
Total	40		Good

Table 3 shows the students' scores and their level of ability are varied. From 40 students, 3 students are in excellent level. There are 20 students are in good level. After that, there are 9 students are in mediocre level. The last, there are 8 students are in poor level.

Table 4 Students' Scores and Their Level of Ability in Comprehending Advertisement Texts

Scores	Frequency	Level of Ability	Mean Score
80-100	12	Excellent	
60-79	8	Good	
50-59	5	Mediocre	62.68
0-49	15	Poor	
Total	40		Good

Table 4 shows that the students' scores and their level of ability in comprehending advertisement text are varied. From 40 students, 12 students are in excellent level. There are 8 students are in good level. After that, there are 5 students are in mediocre level. The last, there are 15 students are in poor level.

Table 5 Students' Scores and Their Level of Ability in Comprehending Invitation Cards

Scores	Frequency	Level of Ability	Mean Score
80-100	5	Excellent	
60-79	10	Good	
50-59	6	Mediocre	58.31
0-49	19	Poor	
Total	40		Mediocre

Table 5, shows that the students' scores and their level of ability in comprehending invitation cards. From 40 students, 5 students are in excellent level and 10 students are in good level. Then, there are 6 students are in mediocre level. The last, 19 students are in poor level.

Table 6 Students' Scores and Their Level of Ability in Comprehending Short Message Texts

Scores	Frequency	Level of Ability	Mean Score
80-100	7	Excellent	
60-79	18	Good	
50-59	5	Mediocre	63.10
0-49	10	Poor	
Total	40		Good

Table 6 shows that the students' scores and their level of ability in comprehending short message texts are varied. From 40 students, 7 students are in excellent level and 18 students are in good level. Then, there are 5 students are in mediocre level. The last, there are 10 students are in poor level.

Table 7 The Comparison of the Students' Ability in Comprehending Short Functional Texts

No	Type of texts	Mean Score	Level of Ability
1	Advertisement Texts	62.68	Good
2	Invitation Cards	58.31	Mediocre
3	Short Message Texts	63.10	Good
	Total	60.98	Good

Table 7 shows that the students' ability in comprehending short functional texts is in good level. The students' mean score is 60.98. The table indicates that the students have good level in comprehending advertisement texts and short message the students' mean score of advertisement text is 62.68. Meanwhile, the students' mean score of short message text is 63.10. Then, the students' mean score in comprehending short invitation cards is 58.31. It is in mediocre level.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

Based on the result of this research, there are 40 students of SMPN 1 Pekanbaru who participated in this research. Out of 40 students, 3 students (7.5%) into classified as excellent, 20 students (50%) are classified into good, 9 students (22.5%) are classified into mediocre and 8 students (20%) are classified into poor. While, the mean score of

the students' ability in comprehending advertisement texts is 62.68 (good level), invitation cards is 58.31 (mediocre level), and short message texts is 63.10 (good level). It can be concluded that the ability of second year students of SMPN 1 Pekanbaru in comprehending short functional texts is categorized in good level. It can be seen from the students' mean score was 60.98.

Recommendations

This research still had a lot of weaknesses. However, from this research finding, it is possible to give some recommendations as follows: First, the writer suggested for the students need to practice on short functional texts, particularly about invitation cards. Second, for the teachers are expected to be more detail about generic structure and language feature of short functional texts (advertisement texts, invitation cards and short message texts) especially in language feature. Third, for the next researchers, this research can be continued in action research to improve the students' ability in comprehending short functional texts.

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