

**A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF READING COMPREHENSION
BY THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMPN 2 GATAK
SUKOHARJO IN 2008/2009 ACADEMIC YEAR**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is one of subjects that people study at school. People can learn many languages to communicate with people from other countries. It is a vital area of study for a better understanding of us. Learning language especially English, is a window to the outside world. English has an important role in all aspect of human life such as in science, technology, education and economics. From this reasons, the government of Indonesia decides that English is the first foreign language and it is put in the school curriculum. English as a subject matter in a school covers the four basic language skills; speaking, listening, reading and writing.

In every subject, students learning activities involve reading. Reading is one of the complex ways in learning English. Reading is such kind of activity to comprehend the writers ideas or the way the writer to communicates with the readers by way of the written or printed words (2007, www.if.la.org). Reading is important for every body in order to cope with new knowledge on the changing world of technological age. The existence of the importance of reading will hopefully continue to increase in the years to come. Nevertheless, there are still some people who never have much initial interest or lasting interest in book and readings, so they cannot access to reading activities and reading programs.

English and Indonesian language are different. There is no guarantee that the students who have good understanding of Indonesian text will have good understanding of English text. When the students are reading Indonesian text they have mastered vocabulary and the structural system, but when they are reading English text, they are demanded to have adequate knowledge of the target language which have different system. Reading comprehension involves a variety of skills, which are a key to comprehend the text. Based on the description above, students should have mastery of reading skill. Good achievement in reading comprehension is important to the students. Students will get many information and ideas which can enrich the student's vocabulary.

“Reading comprehension is the heart of reading evaluation in the most school. Comprehension test are instrument for assessing the ability of the reader to understand the content of a selected reading text. Teacher can build comprehension test by constructing various kinds of reading matter or writing short selections with follow up questions on the facts of ideas given” (Kennedy, 1991: 28).

Reading is a process of decoding message in which the students need their own experiences and knowledge. In line with this opinion, Roller (1990) in amberoid (1997: 33) argues that “background information is most helpful with moderately unfamiliar text”. Relevant background knowledge is a more important factor in reading comprehension. If the students have prior knowledge of the topic and use it to help them predict what might be in the text, so they can understand

the text easily. In this case, they can find the main idea and can understand the meaning of the text. So, reading comprehension is very important for students. The facts show that the textbook for most science and technologies are written in English. This means that learners are expected to be able to understand English textbook they are reading. In this case, having higher ability on reading comprehension is always needed by learners of English as a foreign language.

English is the foreign language learned by Indonesian students. To reach a good achievement in reading comprehension, the students need more time to practice it. A good achievement in reading will help the student's achieve the ability of any other aspect of English language such as good speaking, enrichment student's vocabulary and ideas. A good reading will improve the student's ability in gathering ideas to communicate. In fact, sometimes the language learners have difficulties in reading comprehension. The student's of Junior High School are the beginners in learning English. The main goal of reading in the second year students of Junior High School in order the students can be understand the meaning and contain of short narrative and recount text to interact with society. They get reading materials from text books and students worksheet which may difficult on their understanding. So, they may have some problems in learning English especially in reading comprehension.

This is the reason why the writer is interested in observing the students ability of SMPN 2 Gatak Sukoharjo, especially in reading comprehension. The writer wants to know the problems faced by the students on reading

comprehension and how the teacher solves the problems. In fact, the facilities of learning process in this school are limited, because the language laboratory is unavailable there. So, the limitation of facilities in English learning process may affect the ability of the students.

In daily activities the students of SMPN 2 Gatak Sukoharjo are less interested when they get English materials from the teacher. Therefore the abilities of students in comprehending the English text are limited, because they didn't have good spirits to comprehend it. Only some of students can comprehend and understand the meaning of the text quickly.

Based on the background above, the writer is interested in having a study on A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF READING COMPREHENSION BY THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMPN 2 GATAK SUKOHARJO IN 2008/2009 ACADEMIC YEAR.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the background above, the problem of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. How is the ability of reading comprehension by the second year students of SMPN 2 Gatak Sukoharjo?
2. What are the problems faced by the second year students of SMPN 2 Gatak Sukoharjo in reading comprehension?

3. How does the teacher solve the problem faced by the second year student's of SMPN 2 Gatak Sukoharjo in reading comprehension?

C. Objective of the Study

The writer has some objectives of the study, those are:

1. To describe the ability of reading comprehension by the second year students of SMPN 2 Gatak Sukoharjo.
2. To describe the problems faced by the second year student's of SMPN 2 Gatak Sukoharjo in reading comprehension?
3. To describe the ways the teacher solve the problems by the second year student's of SMPN 2 Gatak Sukoharjo in reading comprehension.

D. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes that this research will have some benefits in the study of English especially in reading skill. There are two kinds of benefits in this research, those are:

1. Theoretically

For the researcher this research will give reference for conducting such kind of research in the future. This research gives description about the student's ability in reading comprehension, and the problem faced by the students in reading comprehension that is useful for improving teaching ideas especially in the reading subject.

2. Practically

- a. This research will give the information about the student's ability in reading comprehension.
- b. This research will give the information about problem solving in reading comprehension.

E. Research Paper Organization.

To enable the writer in arranging the research and to make easy to understand, the writer divides this research paper into five chapters, there are as follows:

Chapter I is introduction. It deals with background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is review of related literature that consists of previous study, underlying theory, notion of comprehension, factor affecting the comprehension skill, and reading comprehension.

Chapter III is research method. This chapter presents type of research, place and time of the study, subject of the study, data and data source, technique of collecting data, credibility of the data, and technique for analyzing data.

Chapter IV is research result and discussion. The research result is divided into research result and discussion of the finding.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.