

## THE EFFECT OF COMIC BOOKS TO IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION ABILITY AT GRADE VIII AT SMP N 12 PEMATANGSIANTAR

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### ABSTRACT

*This study was aimed at investigating whether “Does comic books effect to improve student’s reading comprehension skill of narrative text at grade VIII SMP N 12 Pematangsiantar?” This research was a quantitative approach. For the data collection, there were Pre-test and Post-test. The population of this study was the students the Eighth grade of SMP N 12 Pematangsiantar has 5 classes which of 184 students with a sample 50 students. The data analysis started from scoring composition and finding average of the score. Based on the data analysis the researcher finding also proved the Score Pre-test of Control is 1308 and for average of control class is 52, 32. The Score Post-test of Control Class is 1484 and for average of control class is 59, 36. The Score Pre-test of Experimental Class is 1448 and for average of control class is 57, 92. The Score Post-test of Experimental Class is 2060 and for average of control class is 82, 4.*

*Keywords: Reading Comprehension, Narrative Text, Comic Books*

### INTRODUCTION

According to Dardjowidjojo (2010: 299) stated that English have four basic skills which should be studied are Speaking, listening, reading and writing. Reading is one of the skills which should be mastered by students. Reading is essential factor to improve the readers to third another skill. In addition, it brings some benefit for students. Students get more additional knowledge which has not gained from teacher explanation. In reading there are some skills to be mastered; those are descriptive, narrative, spoof or recount, procedure, report and anecdote. In other word, students have to comprehend well those kinds of text. On this research, the researcher will be focus on narrative text.

Reading is a very important thing in promoting every human person and a nation. By reading, we can get much knowledge and know the world. In addition, reading also improves a person's vocabulary, command on language, and communication skills, study new words, comprehend ideas, and gain the information. Trends show that a person who is reading is able to concentrate on their lessons and better than those who do not.

According to Mc Laughlin in Monarisa, Suwarno, Mulyadi (2016: 123) says that reading is the most complex and difficult skill that students should master at school. It is called complex because reading not only just understand but also the student are hoped to make a new idea from what have been reading.

Reading may be a simple word but often difficult to do and difficult to make a habit. Many people who mean that reading is a tedious activity and just a waste of time. Especially nowadays all things can be visualized into graphics thereby reducing interest in reading teenagers. Therefore the habit of reading should always be familiarized from an early age. Reading skills can improve a person's ability to easily understand concepts. This develops critical thinking skills in children. Understanding critical concepts and thinking are two important qualities of a successful individual.

However, according to Harmer in Ismail, Syahriza, & Basuki (2017:12) reading is one of the receptive skills of English. Reading means a skill which is comprehend an information that written in text. Reading becomes more essential since the progress of this world. Especially is reading in English. Right now, all the information, journal, article, or document is in English. Now days the most important thing reading absorbs and creating new idea.

### Research Problems

Based on the Background of the study above, the statements of the problem in this research is “Does comic books effect to improve student’s reading comprehension skill of narrative text at grade VIII SMP N 12 Pematangsiantar?”

**Objectives of the study**

The objective of this research can be stated as follow as to find out the effectiveness of using comic books to improve student's reading comprehension skill of narrative text at grade VIII SMP N 12 Pematangsiantar.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE****The Definition of Reading**

Reading is an important skill for the junior high school students to absorb the information from the text books. Based on syllabus of the text book, there are so many kinds of the text that the students have to understand. According to Urquhart in Sofyan, Hasanah & Haryudin (2019: 11) Reading means dealing with language message in written or printed form. Further, Pollard quoted by Utomo (2013:12) , reading is great source of language learning since it can give many information or knowledge to the reader not only about the information contained in the text , but also about the language used in it . Reading is a highly effective means of extending our command of language, so it has an important place in classroom, where language learning is the central purpose by Nutall in Monarisa and Suwarno (2016: 221).

**The Purpose of Reading**

According to Grabe and stoller (2011:11) there are six the purpose of reading, they are:

1. Reading to search for simple information  
Reading to search for simple information is a common reading ability, though some researchers see it as a relatively independent cognitive process. It is used so often in reading tasks that is probably best seen as type of reading ability.
2. Reading to skim quickly  
Reading to skim quickly is a common part of many reading task and a useful skill in its own right. It involves, in essence, a combination of strategies for guessing where important might be in the text, and then using basic reading comprehension skills on those segments of the text until a general idea is formed.
3. Reading to learn from Texts  
Reading to learn typically occurs in academic and professional contexts in which a person needs to learn a considerable amount of information from a text, it requires abilities to remember main ideas, recognize and build rhetorical frames and link the text to the reader base.
4. Reading to integrate information  
Reading to integrate information requires additional decision about the relative importance of complementary, mutually supporting or conflicting information and likely restructuring of a rhetorical frame to accommodate information from multiple sources
5. Reading to write and reading to critique texts  
Reading to write and reading to critique texts may be task variants of reading to integrate information. Both require abilities to compose, select, and critique information from a text.
6. Reading for general comprehension  
Reading for general comprehension when accomplished by a skilled fluent reader, require very rapid and automatic processing of words, strong skills in forming a general meaning representation of main idea, and efficient coordination of many processes under very limited time constraint.

**Technique of Improving Reading Skill**

To achieve the purpose of reading one should read effectively. States that effective reading means being able to read accurately, efficiently and to understand as much of the passage as you read in order to achieve your purpose.

To achieve one purpose of reading, you can apply some reading technique as follows Harmer in Munawaroh S (2018:11). How to Teach English. England: Longman

- a. Survey Reading  
Surveying is specialized technique for getting a mountain top new of Article chapter content and it helps to give a general point of view.
- b. Skimming  
Skimming is a kind of reading that make our eyes move quickly in order to get the main idea from the reading material. Skimming enable people to select content that want to read and to discard that which is in consequential for their purpose.

**c. Scanning**

Scanning is reading the text quickly to answer a specific question. This technique enables people to locate specific information without reading all the material around it.

**d. Pre-reading**

Pre-reading is a technique that a reader uses before he began to read the material to improve his comprehension and recall. Pre-reading involves only at those part of reading materials that will tell you what it is about or how it is organize.

**Comic****Definitions of Comic**

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) stated that comics are interpreted as an illustrated story that is easily digested and funny (usually found in newspaper magazines or made in the form of books). In general, comics can be interpreted as one of the media that serves to convey a story through picture illustrations to describe the story. In addition, comics can also be interpreted as literary works in the story there is leading figure. Comics generally contain fictional stories, as with other literary works.

According to Kekkonen (2013: 6) stated that, comics can be defined as words and images combined into a sequence. What is more important, usually they are words and images combined into a sequence for a particular purpose, namely, to tell a narrative.

**The Using of Comic Books in Teaching Reading**

Most people like reading comics. The appealing of pictures and a sequence of story drawn are interesting to read. They also find it easier to understand comics 'content because comics are always accompanied by visuals and use simple languages. Moreover because of the visuals, readers need less cognition to understand the contents. English teachers may find that comics can be a potential source to motivate students to read. This can be used as media applied in teaching English in the classroom. By making sure that students enjoy reading, it is easier to teach them various materials to improve their skills (Royanti: 2017:14).

The statements above are supported by Arikunto (2010: 123) who points out that comic book usually liked by teenagers and young adults are seen to be effective used as media in language teaching. Comic Books which are usually funny will amuse and interest L2 students in which it means their motivation to read can be increased. She also states that with the characteristics of comic strips which visuals, students will arebe able to learn better. Because if a word, expression, or concept is accompanied by a picture (a visual image in one's mind), they tend to memorize and to recall them more easily.

Droplet (2010: 40) says that it is better to implement authentic materials having real language use but still bring the students to do extensive reading. If students enjoy reading, it will bring positive results in the way of comprehending the text contents. Comics can be seen as a promising material to implement because they are not only attractive for most learners in different ages and levels but also contain real language use and also culture. The more students enjoy reading, the more their comprehension skills improve.

Because comic books are dominantly visual, it can help students to comprehend the text and the situation of comic strips easier. Visuals accompanying a text can help students to comprehend factual information.

Comic books like intermediary to reading comprehension. Comics can scaffold to difficult disciplines and concepts, can give reluctant readers the non-threatening practice and to experienced ones inspiration and confidence for more challenging texts. And comic books popular in child.

Comic books provide the structure and the stimulus to which students respond, and, since stories are universal, students from different cultures can understand their structure and identify themselves with the characters. This helps them to acquire vocabulary, grammatical and communicative competence and provides them with special cultural knowledge as well.

**METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH****Research Design**

According to Creswell (2016:3) stated that Quantitative research is mean for testing objective theories by examining the relationship among variables, these variables, in turn, can be measured, typically on instrument, so that numbered data can be analyzed using statistical of introduction,

literature and theory, methods, result, and discussion.

According to Sugiyono (2012:7) stated that Quantitative research is a scientific method because it has meet the rules of the scientific principles of concrete, objective, measurable, rational and systematic. This method called the method of discovery because of this method can be found and develop various new science and technology. This method is called quantitative method because the research data in the form of figures and analysis using statistics. This research is classified as quantitative research, because the object of this research is the improving reading comprehension by using comic books at SMP NEGERI 12 Pematangsiantar grade VIII (eight) .

#### **The Technique of Analyzing Data**

Analyzing data of this research is scores from pre-test and post-test at grade VIII of SMP N 12 Pematangsiantar. Pre-test and Post-test that given to the student about Narrative Text through a comic “Raju and The Money Tree “

### **THE RESULT OF RESEARCH**

The data were collected from the result of pre-test from control class and pre-test and post-test from control class and pre-test and post-test of experimental class to investigate students reading comprehension of narrative text before and after taught by using comic books. In pre-test and post-test the researcher selected the instruction of test. In control class, the researcher give 20 question without treatment using comic books because explained briefly while in experimental class researcher using comic books as a treatment. The scores from pre-test and post-test based on the correct of 20 questions. And the result of students reading comprehension of narrative text before and after taught was analyzed by using comic books score.

The score of the pre-test, post-test and also how the researcher analyzes their research. The researcher takes the eighth grades as the population. The eight grade of SMP NEGERI 12 P.SIANTAR has five classes which consist of 184 students.

The researcher use clustering sampling technique to get the sample and the researcher get 50 students. The researcher will take 33% from the amount population. The researcher chooses two classes randomly as the sample of this research is VIII<sup>10</sup> as control class and VIII<sup>11</sup> as experimental class.

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

#### **Conclusions**

Based on the result of the research, it could be conclude that:

Using comic books effective in improving students' reading comprehension through narrative text at the eight grade of SMP NEGERI 12 Pematangsiantar. Teaching reading comprehension using comic books also increase the student's motivation to read English text. It is because students didn't feel bored in reading narrative text. It meant that using comic books can be used as one of the alternative to teach how to comprehend reading text especially in narrative text. After analyzing the data, it was found out that the students' ability in reading comprehension of narrative text got improvement by using comic books. It was showed from the mean (average) of the score. It could be seen on the result of computation of mean (average) experimental class which is 83, 45 and 59.36 ( mean average) of control class. The standard deviation result also proved the significant difference. In control class pre-test was 33,97 and post-test was 24,99. The experimental class hadvalue pre-test was 4,33 and post-test was 9.0

#### **Suggestion**

Based on those findings above, the researcher here wanted to give the solutions to solve the problem in teaching English by giving these followingsuggestions as follows:

#### **For the teacher:**

1. The teacher should implement various strategies in learning English especiallyin reading comprehension.
2. The teacher should be as a partner for the students in learning process and care to the students.
3. The teacher should be creative to master the class became alive and interest
4. The teacher should be prepared to give the learner a more meaningful role.  
They support and encourage the learner's desire to learn.
5. The teacher should always improve own kills skills and knowledge in exploring the class

**For the students:**

1. The students should have some efforts to learn English by reading the kind of English books and the students should be active participants in learning English by asking some questions
2. The students must be courageous when they encounter difficulties so that the teacher can help what their problems are.
3. The students need to enrich their experience to learn vocabulary mastery so that they are able to read fluently.
4. The researcher hopes that it can help students solve reading comprehension problems through using comic books with interesting pictures.
5. Read the books whenever you are, because "the more you read, the more you get"

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