

THE STUDENTS' READING COMPREHENSION AT SMP NEGERI 5 PEMATANGSIANTAR

¹Marhaeni K.D Matondang, ²Tiodora Fermisaka Silalahi, ³Kesia Silaban

^{1,2,3}Fakultas Keguruan Dan Ilmu Pendidikan Universitas Simalungun

ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to find out the use of comic strip for improving the students' reading comprehension of seventh grade students at SMP NEGERI 5 PEMATANGSIANTAR. This research was classified as a true-experimental study. It involved 30 students from two groups, Class VII⁷ (15 students) as control group and Class VII⁸ (15 students) as the experimental group. The control group was students taught using conventional technique whereas the experimental group was students taught using of comic strip. The data were obtained by using pre-test and post-test. The data of the pre-test and post-test of both groups were analyzed by using inferential statistics (SPSS 24). The result of the research shows that the testing hypothesis of post-test score, it is found that that $t_{count} (.491) > t_{table} (2.172)$ at the significance level $\alpha = 0.05$ with the degrees of freedom (df) = 14, H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted. It means that there are the improving in students learning by using Comic Strip For Improving The Students' Reading Comprehension At SMP Negeri 5 Pematangsiantar.

Keywords : Comic Strip, Strategy, Reading, Comprehension

I. INTRODUCTION

The Background of Research

Language is the system of communication through which humans send messages. Language is a means of communicating information from one person to another. Furthermore, according to (Harmer, 2007), language is widely used to communicate between people who do not speak the same first (or even second) language. As a result, we should learn one of the languages so that we can speak and understand what is being discussed.

English plays an important role in global communication as an International language. According to (Richard & Rodgers, 1986), English is the world's most widely studied foreign language. As a result, English is a widely used communication language. Furthermore, English is taught and used as a second or foreign language in many countries. In Indonesia, English has become a required subject in junior and senior high schools. Of course, mastering English as a foreign language is not the same as mastering English as a second language.

There are several ways to help students to improve their reading comprehension. One of the ways is by using interesting teaching materials. In this study, the writer wants to use English comic. As (Hornby, 2002) describes, the comic book is a sequence of drawings arranged in interrelated panels to display brief humor of narrative form, often serialized with text in balloons and captions. In addition, Liu (2004) states that comics are visual highly texts; they are effective, especially for reading comprehension for second or additional language learners. In summary, comic can attract the students' attention longer than blocks of print because the format is equal parts of pictures and texts. By prioritizing reading as a goal of student mastery, the existence of the current media can contribute positively to the child and make them feel happy.

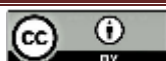
The Problem of Research

Based on the limitation of the problem of this study can be formulated as follows : "Does the use of Comic Strip Media Can Improve the students' Reading Comprehension of Seventh grade at SMP Negeri 5 Pematang Siantar ??"

The Objective of Research

The objective of this research can be stated as follow as to find out the whether of use comic strips improve student's reading comprehension of narrative text at seventh grade SMP Negeri 5 Pematang Siantar.

The Limitation of Research



The researcher limits and focuses this research only to improve the students' reading comprehension of narrative text by using comic strip of the seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Pematangsiantar in academic year 2022/2023.

The Significance of the Research

The result of this research intends to give explanation of narrative text through comic strip, and can be improving students' comprehension by comic strips. Then practically, this research may give contribution of using comic books for all reader.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The Definition of Reading

Reading is a complex process which involves instruction between the reader and language and ideas of the text. It means that reading is the good way to catch all of direction between us as the reader with the text. Every text of course has the ideas so get the idea in the text is a way to know what the text means. Reading is a way of getting the meaning or knowledge from the printed page such as textbook, newspaper, magazines and novel.⁸ Its means from the text that we have read we can get meaning or the knowledge which we need. From the statement above, it can be concluded that reading is getting a meaning from written text. Reading is also connected between the writer and reader, the writer explains the statement and knowledge, while the reader accepts meaning and the information.

The Definition Comprehension

Thinker (1975:5) states that reading comprehension is not just reading with a loud voice but also to establish and understand the meaning of words, sentence, and paragraph sense the relationship among the ideas. As it is, if a student just reads loudly, but cannot understand the content of the passages, it means he/she fails in comprehending the passage.

Teaching Reading

Furthermore, (Harmer, 2011) states that reading is useful for language acquisition. Provided that students more or less understand what they read, more they read, the better they get it. In addition, Patel and Praveen states that reading is an important activity in life with which one can update his/her knowledge. It means that reading has usefulness for providing more understanding in subject learning and it has important part in life which can update our knowledge. Reading is a complex process which involves instruction between the reader and language and ideas of the text. It means that reading is the good way to catch all of direction between us as the reader with the text. Every text of course has the ideas so get the idea in the text is a way to know what the text means. Reading is a way of getting the meaning or knowledge from the printed page such as textbook, newspaper, magazines and novel.

Reading Difficulties

Difficulty is something that complicated to do (Richard 2007, as cited in Wahab 2012). It will be seen from students' mistake or error learning process. In fact, many senior high school students often find the difficulties in reading comprehension. These difficulties result the student's poor performance in reading test. Thus, from these factors arise some difficulties in reading comprehension. Factors difficulties that faced by students divided into external and internal. Internal factor includes physics, intellectual, and psychological. While external factors include family and school environments (Rahim, 2006).

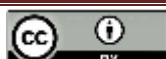
Definition of Comic Strip

A comic strip is defined in this study as a series of pictures inside boxes that tell a story. Among visual genres, comic strips catch many researchers' attention because they are communicative, popular, accessible, and readable, and they combine aesthetic perception with intellectual pursuit

In a comic-strip, verbal and nonverbal messages play the same important roles. The clues from illustrations help deliver implicit messages. The old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words" fits the creation of comic strips well. Since readers of comic strips figure out the genuine meaning by looking at both the narrative and non-narrative information, translators are supposed to render both verbal and nonverbal messages accurately and appropriately to enable the target audience to grasp the message more thoroughly and more effectively. Moreover, comic strips can be described as the short version of comics.

Principles of Comic Strip

Here are some principles of comic strip as a reasons why teacher might want to include comic strips in the classroom instruction : 1. Comics are fun, interesting and motivating, 2. Comics promote a



wide variety of skills: cognitive, intellectual, social, and cultural, 3. Can be used with students in different school grades, 4. Can be used to teach different school subjects, 5. Can help students develop higher-order thinking skills (sequencing, predicting, inferring, synthesizing, analyzing, evaluating...etc), 6. Enhance students engagement with multimodal texts, 7. Make students aware of the multimodal means through which meanings are constructed and communicated, 8. Ideal teaching tools for teaching a target language, 9. Visually illustrated content is much easier to process, understand and remember, 10. Can be used to teach reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

III. THE RESEARCH OF METHOD

The Research Design

This research used quantitative research technique with cooperative design. Quantitative research is the process of collecting and analyzing numerical data. It can be used to find patterns and averages, make predictions, test causal relationships, and generalize results to wider populations. The purpose of quantitative research is to attain greater knowledge and understanding of the social world. Researchers use quantitative methods to observe situations or events that affect people. Quantitative research produces objective data that can be clearly communicated through statistics and numbers. This data used the pre-test and post-test method to find out the progress of sing comics. So, the researcher managed two groups with the equal samples as the sample of the research. The first class is called as experimental group and the second class is called as control group. The design of the research is described as following:

Tabel 1. Research Design

Group	Pre-test	Treatment	Post-test
E	0 ₁	X	0 ₂
K	0 ₃	X	0 ₄

The Population of Research

Sugiyono (2017), said that the population is an area of generalization of objects that have certain qualities and characteristics set by researchers to be studied and then drawn conclusions. Population can be defined into two kinds, target of population and access of population.

Target of population is population that has been planned in the research planning. Access of population that can be accessed when the writer determines the number of population. And population not only the quantity in subject or the object. The population of this research will be taken from the first year students of Junior High School SMPN 5 PematangSiantar in academic year 2022/2023. There are three classes of all the seventh grade students.

The Sample of Research

According to (Arikunto, 2006) if the population less than 100, it is better to take all the population. And if the population more than 100, it can be taken between 10-15%, 20-25%. The population of this research is 270, so the researcher takes 11% and 270 from 11% is 29 students. So that the total sample of this research is 24 students. Because the number of students in 1 class is 30 students. Researcher decided to use all students, namely 30 students.

Technique of Collecting The Data

The technique of collecting data in this research is using a test. Test is one of the ways to collect the data. Test is a method of measuring a person's ability, knowledge, or performance in a given domain. In this research the researcher uses pre-test and post-test to measure the students' reading ability.

a. Pre-test

Pre-test is done before implementing the NHT and KWL strategy. It is to measure a student's reading ability in narrative text at first.

b. Post-test

Post-test is implemented after using the NHT and KWL strategy. The teacher gives a text. And the teacher explained about the process of using NHT and KWL strategy. Every student when reading the text, must also be able to understand the contents of the text. So that when the test is given based on the text, students can answer well.



The Technique of Analyzing Data

In the technique of analyzing data, the researcher uses quantitative data. The analysis quantitative data is used to measure the score of the students by using tests (pre-test and post-test). After the researcher knows the score of the students, the researcher will give the level achievement to the students. Before giving the predicate to the students, the researcher for the first must create the criteria of the score, and after that the categories of the score can be applied by this criteria such as: excellent, good, fair, less, and poor. The researcher calculates the frequency and normality of the test by using SPSS version 24.

IV. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Data Analysis

The data of the research were the scores from the result of the test. The data were collected from an experimental class which consists of pre-test and post-test. The pre-test was given to find out the initial students' fluency in reading and the post-test was given to find out the improvement of the students' ability in reading after giving the treatment. And the result of students' reading ability before and after being taught was analyzed by using storytelling picture series.

The score of pre-test, post-test and how the researcher analyzed their research. The researcher takes the seventh grade as the population. The researcher will take 30 students from every class and the researcher will get 60 students. The score of the pretest, post-test and also how the reading analyzes their score by using SPSS version 24 will be concluded in this chapter.

The researcher uses simple random sampling by using a lottery to get the sample and the researcher chooses two classes randomly as the samples of this research are VII⁷, VII⁸. The researcher found the mean of pre-test in control class is 48,46 followed with standard deviation 12,760. The maximal score is 65 and the minimum score is 20. Then the total of pre-test score is 727. And for the mean of post-test in control class is 90,40 followed with standard deviation 5,828. The maximal score is 98 and the minimum score is 80. Then the total of pre-test score is 1356. The researcher found the mean of pre-test in experimental class is 56,93 followed with standard deviation 19,956. The maximal score is 79 and the minimum score is 34. Then the total of pre-test score is 854. And for the mean of post-test in experimental class is 89,33 followed with standard deviation 4,952. The maximal score is 95 and the minimum score is 80. Then the total of pre-test score is 1340.

If the t_{count} value is higher than the t_{table} at the significance level 0,05 and the degree of freedom (df) N-1, thus the alternative hypothesis (H_a) was accepted and null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. So based on table 4.12, the researcher found that $t_{count}(.491) > t_{table}(2.172)$ at the significance level $\alpha = 0.05$ with the degrees of freedom (df) = 14, H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted. It means that there are the improving in students learning by using Comic Strip For Improving The Students' Reading Comprehension At SMP Negeri 5 Pematangsiantar

The Research Finding and Discussion

By analyzing the data, the researcher found the population of this research is 270 students where the sample is 30 students which get from two classes VII- 7 and VII-8 where one class will take 15 students as a control group and 15 students as experimental group. Then the researcher found the result of this research that the total of pre-test scores in control group is 727 with mean score 48,46 and post-test score is 1356 with mean score 90,40. Then the score of experimental group researcher found the total of pre-test score is 854 with mean 56,93 and the post-test score is 1340 with mean 89,33. The standard deviation result also proved the significant difference where the control group pre-test is 12,76 and post-test is 5,828 and the experimental group pre-test is 13,95 and post-test is 4,95. In the test normality, the researcher found that the post-test score of control group is 0,061 while the post-test score of experimental group is 0,002 so based on the data the researcher found that the post-test score of control group and post-test score of experimental group is normally because Sig. (2-tailed) > 0.05 . Based on testing hypothesis of post-test scores, it is found $t_{count}(0,491) > t_{table}(2,172)$ at the significance level $\alpha = 0.05$ with the degrees of freedom (df) = 14, H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted.

V. CONCLUSION

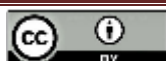
Based on the result of the data analysis in Chapter IV, it can be concluded that the Null Hypothesis is H_a is accepted and H_0 is rejected. It means that there are improving in the students by



using Comic strip For Improving the students' Reading Comprehension. The use of Comics Strip Method of control and experimental class can develop students' reading at the seven grade of SMPN 5 Pematangsiantar. It is proven by the students' mean score improvement from pre-test to post-test. The students' mean control score of pre-test is 78,46. While the post-test is higher than mean score of pre-test the post-test in interpretative comprehension (conclusion) is 90,40. The students' mean experimental score of pre-test is 56,93. While the post-test is higher than mean score of pre-test the post-test in interpretative comprehension (conclusion) is 89,33. Moreover, based on the data analysis, t-test value is higher than the t-test table (.491) > (2.172). It means that there is a significant difference. Therefore H₀ is rejected and H_a is accepted.

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