

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' READING COMPREHENSION
SKILLS IN UNDERSTANDING NARRATIVE TEXTS IN SMP N 7
MEDAN**

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ABSTRACT

This research elaborated an analysis of students' reading comprehension skills in understanding narrative text. This research was conducted at SMP N 7 Medan. The subjects of this study were 30 students of class IX-6. The purpose of this study is to analyze students' ability to understand narrative text and the factors that influence it. This research method used a descriptive qualitative method. This research used question-answering tests and interview test instruments. Based on the results of the study, it was found that the average comprehension ability of narrative text was 82.33 (high ability), then from the data, it was also found that the factor that most influenced students' reading comprehension ability at SMP N 7 Medan was the word meaning factor with a percentage of 29.54% out of 100%, followed by vocabulary 27.27%, grammar 25% and linguistic factors 18.18%. The main cause is the limited vocabulary owned by the students.

Keywords: *Reading, Narrative text, influencing factors, Ability Analysis*

INTRODUCTION

English, an international language spoken globally, is one of the subjects taught in junior high school. According to Rita Mae Brown (2019), language serves as a cultural roadmap, revealing one's origins and purpose. In English classes, students need to master four critical skills: writing, listening, speaking, and reading. Among these skills, reading is of particular importance as it involves understanding and applying language in various contexts. Reading includes tasks such as pronunciation, spelling, decoding symbols, and letters, and transforming them into meaningful words and sentences. To develop reading comprehension, a fundamental skill that students should have, they need to study different types of texts, including Narrative Text, Story Text, Procedural Text, Descriptive Text, and Short Story Text. Short stories, a form of fictional prose, fall under the category of narrative text as well as the factors that influence it. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is very interested in conducting a study entitled "An Analysis Of Students' Reading Comprehension Skills In Understanding Narrative Texts In SMP N 7 Medan". To achieve this, the researchers examined ninth-grade students at SMP N 7 Medan, with a special focus on analyzing reading comprehension in Narrative Texts, as these texts have an important meaning in foreign language teaching. According to the research above, the following are the research's problems:

1. How are the reading comprehension skills of grade IX students of SMP N 7 Medan in understanding short stories by Narrative text?
2. What is the most influential factor in the reading comprehension skills of grade IX students of SMPN 7 Medan in understanding short stories by Narrative text?

Based on the above problems, this research intended to analyze how the reading comprehension skills of grade IX students at SMP N 7 Medan in understanding short stories through narrative text and analyze the most influential factors on the reading comprehension skills of grade IX students at SMP N 7 Medan in understanding short story through narrative text?

The research has focused on the student's skills in understanding reading

comprehension through short story by Narrative text. The participants in this research are grade IX students of SMP N 7 Medan during the school year 2023/2024.

The findings of this research are expected to provide the following information:

a. For Researchers

Researchers can utilize the knowledge and skills gained during their academic journey to effectively and efficiently teach reading comprehension when they become competent educators.

b. For Students

This study can help students improve their reading comprehension ability and reduce the factors that affect their ability to understand texts. The results of this study are expected to increase students' motivation to learn and provide practical experience in understanding short stories through narrative text.

c. For Teachers

Teachers can benefit from this study by improving students' reading comprehension ability and reducing factors that affect their comprehension ability in terms of narrative text. The findings of this study are expected to be a reference for the development of English teaching models, particularly in the realm of narrative text comprehension.

d. For Other Researchers

This study is expected to help other researchers in finding references for further research in the analysis of reading comprehension ability. It is hoped that future researchers can apply their knowledge in understanding texts both in terms of grammatical and linguistic, which in turn can improve research results.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a qualitative approach with a descriptive research design. According to Mukhtar (2013), Qualitative research with descriptive design is a method used to describe the phenomenon or symptom being studied in depth. This approach tends to use an inductive approach analysis, which focuses on process and meaning based on the subject's perspective. Qualitative research with descriptive designs often involves collecting data through interviews, observation, and document analysis". This descriptive qualitative research approach intended to describe and categorize students' abilities and factors that influenced students' reading comprehension skills through short story texts. The variables of this research included Narrative Texts. The research has been conducted at SMP N 7 Medan which is located at Jl. H. Adam Malik No.12, Silalas, West Medan District, Medan City, North Sumatra, on 15 January 2024. The research subjects were students at SMP N 7 MEDAN. The research has been focused on one classroom, namely class IX-6, which consists of 30 students. The researchers used a question-answering test instrument and an interview test. The researchers provided four short stories by narrative texts entitled "The Bear and the two friends", "Princess Teja Nirmala", "Snow White", and "The Tortoise and The Hare" with 20 questions based on the narrative stories. Then, they shared the text with all students one by one. In the interviews part of the test, students were requested to give information according to the actual situation. The test asked what they knew about short stories, the structure of Narrative text, and the most influential factor in reading comprehension skills in understanding short stories by Narrative texts. Then the researchers collected the students' tests and used them to identify the abilities and factors that influenced reading comprehension skills in understanding short stories by Narrative texts. The data collection procedures for conducting research were as follows:

First, before students took the test, the researcher provided explanations and instructions on what students should do when taking the test.

Second, the researcher gave a test using a question-answering test and an interview test.

Third, to measure students' abilities, researchers provided tests in the form of a question-answering test understanding short stories by narrative texts, and a written interview test. The question-answering test conducted by students showed the student's understanding of reading comprehension through narrative texts and the written interview test determined the factors that influenced the student's reading comprehension ability through narrative texts. Finally, all the responses were collected and analyzed by the researchers.

The researchers analyzed the data in three steps, First Identifying skills and influencing factors. In this step, The researcher identified students' abilities and factors that affected students' reading comprehension skills in narrative text. Second Classifying skills and influencing factors. Students' abilities were categorized as very low skill (score <50), low skill (score 50-69), high skill (score 70-89), very high skill (score 90-99), and perfect skill (score 100) and the factors that most affected students' reading comprehension skill were categorized as vocabulary, word meaning, grammatical, linguistic.

Third Percentage data was calculated by counting the number of correct and incorrect answers and students' scores to determine students' skills and calculated the most influential factor in reading comprehension students' skills in understanding narrative texts. The researcher used this strategy to calculate the student's scores to determine students' skills through the formula:

$$S = T \times 5$$

S: Score

T: Correct Answer5: Constanta

The researcher used this strategy to calculate the percentage of influencing factors students through the formula:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} 100 \%$$

P: Percentage of influencing factors.

F: The number of a particular factor.

N: Total number of all influencing factors.

Knowing the average skill of the students as well as the most influential factor in reading comprehension skills.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

In reading, reading comprehension is one of the skills that must be mastered, not only for students or college students but also for professionals in the world of work, Maulana Adieb (2023). By having reading comprehension skills, you can become a mainstay and help support your career. In classifying the factors that influence students' reading comprehension skills, the researchers used a factor classification that included four different categories of factors. The data collected by the researchers were categorized according to an article on Glints, the factors that affect reading comprehension skills include:

1. Vocabulary: A good command of vocabulary will help facilitate reading comprehension. Vocabulary contains the vocabulary that builds a sentence so that the reading text is easy to understand Narrative text.
2. Word meaning: Understanding the meaning of the words used in the passage is very important to understanding the passage as a whole. The more you understand the purpose and the things you receive from the Narrative text.
3. Grammar: A good grasp of grammar will help you understand the sentence structure in the reading text. Sentence structure also affects the understanding of the meaning of a Narrative text, and the meaning of the words, the easier it is to understand
4. Linguistic: An adjective that means relating to language. Linguistics is the scientific study of language, its structure, function, and evolution. Linguists are experts in linguistics to analyze and describe different aspects of language, such as sounds, words, sentences, meanings, and communication

Based on the results of research that has been conducted at SMP Negeri 7 Medan, class IX 6 which amounted to 30 classmates obtained by question-answering tests and interview tests. Both approaches were used to capture information related to

students' reading ability, and factors that can influence the reading learning process.

No	Student's Initial	Correct Answer	Incorrect Answer	Score ($S = T \times 5$)	Category Of Ability
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The research, findings are shown in the following tables.

Table 1. Results of the question-answering test

1	ANN	17	3	85	High skill
2	ATK	18	2	90	very high skill
3	BAI	15	5	75	High Skill
4	BCV	16	4	80	Very High Skill
5	CCP	19	1	95	very high skill
6	DB	17	3	85	High skill
7	DLM	16	4	80	High skill
8	DNG	19	1	95	very high skill
9	ENP	18	2	90	very high skill
10	FS	15	5	75	High skill
11	FOP	16	4	80	High skill
12	GJS	17	3	85	High skill
13	GTF	16	4	80	High skill
14	HDB	17	3	85	High skill
15	JRT	17	3	85	High skill
16	KRP	17	3	85	High skill
17	KTT	18	2	90	Very high skill
18	MOS	14	6	70	High skill
19	MAS	18	2	90	Very high skill
20	MTS	16	4	80	High skill
21	MRM	15	5	75	High skill
22	MH	16	4	80	High skill
23	MAQ	13	7	65	Low skill
24	MAU	14	6	70	high skill

25	NAP	18	2	90	Very high skill
26	PJH	16	4	80	High skill
27	RJP	18	2	90	Very high skill
28	SS	15	5	75	High skill
29	SAP	17	3	85	High skill
30	TBK	16	4	80	High skill
	Total	494	106	2470	
Average				82,33	High Skill

Table 2: Results of the interview test

No	Student's Initial	Vocabulary	Word Meaning	Grammatical	Linguistic	Total
1	ANN	-	1	1	-	2
2	ATK	-	-	1	1	2
3	BAI	1	1	-	-	2
4	BCV	-	-	-	1	1
5	CCP	1	-	1	-	2
6	DB	-	-	-	1	1
7	DLM	-	-	-	1	1
8	DNG	-	1	1	1	3
9	ENP	-	-	-	1	1
10	FS	1	1	-	-	2
11	FOP	-	-	1	-	1
12	GJS	1	-	-	-	1
13	GTF	1	1	-	-	2
14	HDB	-	-	-	1	1
15	JRT	-	-	1	-	1
16	KRP	-	-	1	-	1
17	KTT	-	1	-	-	1
18	MOS	1	1	-	-	2

19	MAS	1	1	-	-	2
20	MTS	-	-	1	-	1
21	MRM	1	-	-	-	1
22	MH	-	1	1	-	2
23	MAQ	1	1	-	-	2
24	MAU	1	1	-	-	2
25	NAP	-	1	-	-	1
26	PJH	-	-	-	1	1
27	RJP	1	1	-	-	2
28	SS	1	-	-	-	1
29	SAP	-	-	1	-	1
30	TBK	-	-	1	-	1
	Total	12	13	11	8	44
Percentage of Influential Factors		27,27%	29,54%	25%	18,18%	100%

Discussion

From the data above, it can be found that students in class IX-6 SMP N 7 MEDAN have a sufficiently good ability within the high skill category that has an average score of 82,33 out of 30 students. Four types of factors can affect reading comprehension skills through short stories by Narrative texts. The types of factors and reasons are:

1. Vocabulary

There are 12 of the students (27,27%) stated that they could not understand the reading comprehension skill through Narrative stories due to their lack of vocabulary.

2. Word Meaning

There are 13 students (29,54%) who stated that they find it difficult to understand

reading comprehension skills through Narrative stories due to a lack of understanding of the meaning of a word.

3. Grammatical

There 11 of the students (25%) stated that they lack in understanding reading comprehension skills through Narrative stories because it is difficult to understand the elements of sentence structure.

4. Linguistic

There are 18 of the students (18,18%) stated that they could not understand the reading comprehension skill through Narrative stories because of the language composition.

From the data above, it was also found that the factor that most influences students' reading comprehension and understanding of Narrative texts at SMP N 7 Medan was the word meaning factor with a percentage of 29,54% out of 100%. Followed by vocabulary 27,27%, grammatical 25%, and linguistic factors 18,18%.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Based on research conducted at SMP N 7 Medan, it was found that students of class IX-6 showed ability in reading comprehension through Narrative stories. There are low-skill, high-skill, and very high-skill. The average ability is high skill with a score of 82,33. Then from the data it was also found that the factor that most influenced the students' reading comprehension skills at SMP N 7 Medan was the word meaning factor with a percentage of 29,54 % out of 100%, followed by vocabulary 27,27%, grammatical 25 % and linguistic factors 18,18%.

Suggestion

Based on the previous explanation, we can conclude that reading comprehension skills play an important role in education, and it is important to

continuously improve these skills. Here are some strategies to improve reading comprehension skills:

1. **Expand your vocabulary:** Increasing your vocabulary is a fundamental step in improving reading comprehension. A simple approach is to read articles, novels, and other materials regularly to expose yourself to new words and phrases.
2. **Summarize what you read:** Another effective method to improve reading comprehension is to create a summary of the text you have read. After reading an article, summarize the main points to strengthen your understanding and memory. This technique also helps evaluate your comprehension level.
3. **Identifying the main idea:** Recognizing the main idea in each paragraph allows for a better understanding of the author's message. Practice this skill regularly to improve your reading comprehension ability.
4. **Questioning the content:** Analyzing and questioning the content you read is a valuable strategy. For example, characters, recurring themes, the importance of the opening setting, and the message conveyed in a particular chapter or paragraph. This critical thinking approach will deepen your understanding of the text.
5. **Limit your reading:** Focusing on understanding 2 to 3 paragraphs before moving on to the next section can improve your reading comprehension. By limiting the amount of text you read at once, you can better analyze and understand the meaning of each paragraph.

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