

## The Influence of Reading Interest and Mastery of English Grammar on Private Vocational School Students in Bogor Regency

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to find out whether there are:

Direct influence of reading interest and grammar mastery together on students' English reading skills at private vocational schools in Bogor Regency, Direct influence of reading interest on students' English reading skills at private vocational schools in Bogor Regency, Direct influence of grammar mastery on language reading skills English students at private vocational schools in Bogor Regency. The research method used is the survey method. The sample size was 100 people taken randomly and based on a comparison of the number of students in each private vocational school in Bogor Regency. Data analysis includes descriptive analysis and simple linear regression. The results of the research show that there is a significant influence on the English reading skills of private vocational school students in Bogor district. This is proven by sig:  $0.000 < 0.005$  and  $t = 3.942$ .

*Keywords:* Interest in reading, Grammar Mastery, and Students

### INTRODUCTION

The main problem with education in Indonesia is that students' reading skills at school are still low, especially for English subjects which are considered difficult and students tend not to like it. Reading skills in question are not only the ability to understand English as knowledge (cognitive), but also aspects of attitude (attitude).

The results of the education measurement and assessment survey by The Third International Mathematics and Science Study - Report (TIMSSR) in 2008 (Mulyana, 2007:2), concluded that Indonesia ranked 34th out of 38 countries.

On the other hand, all parties realize that English is a basic and applied science that must be mastered from elementary school to university, even in everyday life people cannot be separated from English. Through reasoning abilities, a student is drilled continuously so that his thinking ability and knowledge increasingly develop. Based on this opinion, English must be taught from elementary school, because according to experts at the elementary level a student experiences very rapid growth in brain abilities, especially in terms of calculating.

This symptom is a serious problem and needs to be addressed by all parties, not only teachers, but the attention of parents, government and society greatly influences students' reading skills at school. The attention of parents and students themselves greatly determines English reading skills.

The aim of the research was to determine the influence of interest in reading on the English reading skills of private vocational school students in Bogor district.

The essence of English reading skills

#### a. Study

Learning in general is an activity that is always carried out by a human throughout his life. Humans learn to live and live to learn. This means that learning activities are lifelong activities carried out by humans in order to enrich and increase their personal capacity.

Suchdi (2008: 21) says that:

"The occurrence of learning activities in the affective domain can be seen from the level of student behavior which shows enjoyment of learning. Positive feelings, emotions, interests, attitudes and appreciation give rise to constructive behavior in students. Feelings control

behavior, while thoughts (cognition) do not. Feelings and emotions have a major role in hindering or encouraging learning. Therefore, affective development, like cognitive development, needs to be emphasized in the learning process.

b. Reading skills

Learning, as stated in the previous point, is an activity that aims to provide change for people carrying out learning activities. These changes can generally take the form of changes in behavior, abilities, knowledge and skills, both from a cognitive, affective and psychomotor perspective. This is in line with Sudjana (2009: 22) who says,

"There are four main elements of the teaching and learning process, namely objectives, materials, methods and tools and assessment. "The goal as the direction of the teaching and learning process is essentially a formulation of behavior that students are expected to master after receiving or undergoing their learning experience."

## RESEARCH METHODS

In this research, a survey method with path analysis was used. The survey method was used because researchers wanted to understand a phenomenon that occurred in schools. The way to collect research data is by conducting a survey (collecting data directly on objects in the field). According to Riduwan (2008:2) path analysis is used to explain the phenomenon being studied or the problem being researched, predicting the value of the dependent variable (Y) based on the value of the independent variable (X) and tracing the mechanism of the influence path of the variable (X) on the variable (Y).

## RESULTS

### Data Description

#### 1. English Reading Skills Data (Y)

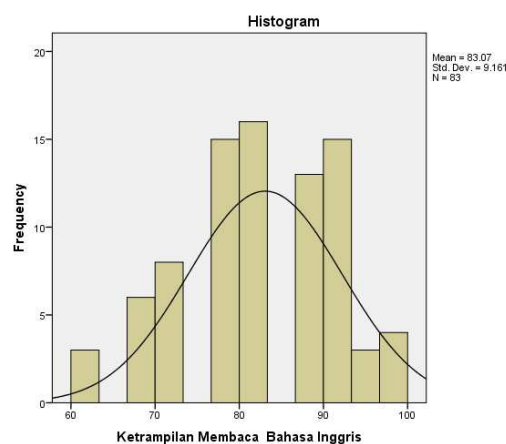
Data on English reading skills was obtained from the test scores of 83 students in the research sample. The values obtained were the lowest 62, the highest 98, the average 83.07, the median 83, the mode 83 and the standard deviation 9.161.

**Table 1.** Description of Research Data on English Reading Skills

Statistics		
Ketrampilan Membaca Bahasa Inggris		
N	Valid	83
	Missing	0
Mean		83.07
Median		83.00
Mode		83
Std. Deviation		9.161
Minimum		63
Maximum		98

If you look at the results of the calculations above, it can be said that the English reading skills of Bogor Regency Private Vocational School Students are relatively good. This is indicated by the average score of 83.07.

To clarify the data above, it is depicted in a histogram as follows:



**Figure 1.** Variable Polygon Histogram English reading skills

From the histogram and frequency polygon above, it can be concluded that the data on the English reading skills of Bogor Regency Private Vocational School Students has a normal distribution.

#### 2. Reading Interest Data (X)

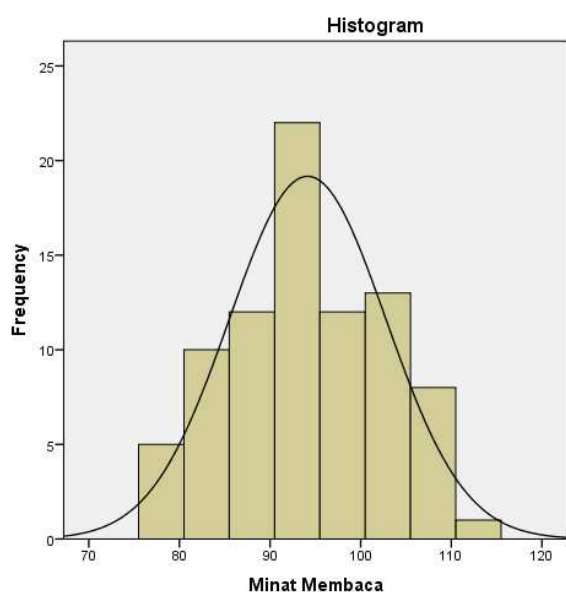
Data on interest in reading was obtained from a questionnaire score answered by 83 students in the research sample resulting in the lowest score being 78, the highest score being 113, the mean score being 94.14, the

median being 93, the mode being 93, and the standard deviation being 8.636.

**Table 2.** Description of Reading Interest Research Data

Statistics		
Minat Membaca		
N	Valid	83
	Missing	0
Mean		94.14
Median		93.00
Mode		93
Std. Deviation		8.636
Minimum		78
Maximum		113

From the results of the calculations above, it can be said that the reading interest of Bogor Regency Private Vocational School Students is good. This is indicated by the acquisition of a mean score of 94.14 above the median score. To clarify the data above, it is depicted in a histogram as follows:



**Figure 2.** Polygon Histogram of Reading Interest Variables

From the histogram and frequency polygon above, it can be concluded that the reading interest of Bogor Regency Private Vocational School students has a normal distribution.

## Discussion

The results of the research above conclude that interest in reading has had a positive influence on improving the English reading skills of Bogor Regency Private Vocational School Students. This means that the teacher's interest in reading has a significant influence on the English reading skills of Bogor Regency Private Vocational School Students.

The old paradigm of teaching teachers originates from the tabula rasa assumption theory of John Locke, who said that a child's mind is like white paper that is still blank, clean and has no scribbles, of course the person who will write on the blank paper is the parent or teacher. As a result of this assumption, many teachers carry out learning by transferring knowledge from teacher to student or the term transfer of knowledge. character. Other causes include a lack of interest in reading and learning from students themselves so that their English reading skills become low. In the popular scientific dictionary it is explained that the word interest in reading means encouragement, a reason for the purpose of action. Chung and Meggison define interest in reading as behavior aimed at a target. Interest in reading is related to the level of effort carried out by a person in an effort to pursue a goal that is closely related to employee satisfaction. Meanwhile, the definition of interest in reading according to Heidjrachman and Suad Husnan is: "interest in reading is a process of trying to influence someone to want to do something they want."

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