

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Problem

In learning English, reading is one of the important skills, which must be studied by the students includes writing, speaking, and listening, which are taught to all levels of education in Indonesia from elementary school, high school, even university level. Reading is one of the activities that is done by the English language learners. The purpose of reading activity is to get the information of the text and to combine their own background knowledge to build the meaning. In line with the idea, Nunan (2003:68) said that reading is fluent process of readers combining information from a text and their own background knowledge to build meaning. It means that by reading makes the learners more extensive their knowledge.

Reading is one of language skills that should be mastered by the students. By reading, people may have a lot of information. The more she or he reads, the more information she or he will get. Reading also makes someone smarter and creative.

Reading is one of the receptive skills. In line with the ideas above, Hasibuan and Ansyari (2007:114) said that this is an activity that has a purpose. This skill has a very important role to play, especially to obtain information from the English text or book. In reading we should know many vocabularies to help the students to get the information easily.

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Vocabulary knowledge is indispensable for reading comprehension as well. The larger vocabulary store of a learner, the better he or she can perform on reading comprehension. Hornby (1989:419) said that vocabulary is total number of words in language. In this study, the vocabulary means the total number of words that the students have.

Senior High School YKPP Dumai is one of the Senior High Schools located in Dumai. As a formal education, it also provides English language to the students, especially reading skill. This school uses the new curriculum that is introduced by the Indonesia Government in 2013. In this curriculum, English is one of the primary subjects that must be taught to the students. Based on 2013 curriculum, reading must be provided as one of the skills in mastering English that should be taught and learned by the students. In 2013 curriculum, the students should learn English twice (2 JP) a week, and each meeting has 45 minutes. So, the students learn English about 90 minutes in a week.

In the syllabus of the second grade students there are 4 main competences. For main competence 1, students are required to apply spiritual attitude. For main competence 2, students are required to apply social attitude. For main competence 3, students are required to comprehend the material. For main competence 4, students are required to master the skill that they have learned. While the basic competence, the students must be able to analyze social function, text structures, language feature, and comprehend the meaning of the texts (Syllabus of SMA YKPP Dumai based on 2013 curriculum). Then, the

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passing scores of learning English (KKM) for the second grade of senior high school YKPP Dumai in reading 75.

Based on preliminary study of the writer in Senior High School YKPP Dumai, especially in science class of second grade, it's clear that the students got difficulties in English subject, especially in reading. There were some ways that the teacher had done such as conversation, role play, and discussion in teaching learning reading subject to increase the students' vocabulary knowledge to understand reading comprehension of analytical exposition text. Some of students got difficulties to comprehend any kind of text especially in analytical exposition text. Ideally, the students must be able to understand the text well. But in reality the students' reading comprehension was still insufficient. Students had lack of the vocabulary knowledge in reading comprehension of analytical exposition text. This happened because they did not know the meaning of the difficult word in analytical exposition text.

Based on the preliminary study that the writer did on the science class of second grade at Senior High School YKPP Dumai the writer find out the following phenomena:

1. Some of the students had lack of vocabulary.
2. Some of the students were difficult to get the main idea of analytical exposition text.
3. Some of the students could not recognize the generic structure of analytical exposition text.

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4. Some of the students could not recognize the detail information of analytical exposition text.
5. Some of the students could not identify social function of analytical exposition text.
6. Some of the students could not identify the meaning of unknown word of analytical exposition text.

From the explanation mentioned above, the writer knows how important the vocabulary in reading activity is, it shows that they have close relation.

Based on the problems described above, thus, the writer is interested in investigating the problems above into a research entitled **“The Correlation between Students’ Knowledge of Science Vocabulary and Their Reading Comprehension of Analytical Exposition Text”**

B. The Problem

1. The Identification of the Problem

The identification of the problems are as follows:

- a. What were the causes that some of the students had lack of vocabularies?
- b. What were the causes that some of the students had difficult to get the main idea of analytical exposition text?
- c. What were the causes that some of the students did not know to recognize the generic structure of analytical exposition text?

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- d. What were the causes that some of the students did not know to recognize the detail information of analytical exposition text?
- e. What were the causes that some of the students were not able to identify social function of analytical exposition text?
- f. What were the causes that some of the students were not able to identify the meaning of unknown word of analytical exposition text?

2. The Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem stated above, the writer limits the problems of this research to correlation between students' knowledge of science vocabulary and their reading comprehension of analytical exposition text in science topic.

3. The Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, it is very clear that most of the students at second grade of Senior High School YKPP Dumai have some problems in reading comprehension. The writer formulates the problems as follows:

- a. How is students' knowledge of science vocabulary in analytical exposition text at the second grade of SMA YKPP Dumai?
- b. How is students' reading comprehension in analytical exposition text at the second grade of SMA YKPP Dumai?

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- c. Is there any significant correlation between students' knowledge of science vocabulary and their reading comprehension in analytical exposition text at the second grade of SMA YKPP Dumai?

C. The Reason of Choosing the Title

There are some reasons why the research is interested in carrying out this research:

1. The title of this research is relevant to the writer's status as a student of English education department.
2. The title of this research is not yet investigated by other previous researcher.
3. The location of this research facilitates the writer in conducting this research.

D. The Objective of the Research and Significance of the Research

1. The Objectives of the Research

- a. To know the students' vocabulary knowledge of analytical exposition text.
- b. To know students' reading comprehension of analytical exposition text.
- c. To find out the correlation between students' knowledge of science vocabulary and their reading comprehension of analytical exposition text.

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2. The Significance of the Research

- a. Hopefully, these research findings are able to contribute the benefit the writer as a novice researcher learning how to conduct a research.
- b. This research finding is also expected to be useful and value able especially for students and teachers of English at second grade of SMA to be considerations in their teaching and learning English in the future.
- c. Besides, this research finding are also expected to be positive information, especially for those who are in the field of teaching and learning English as a foreign or second language.
- d. Finally, these research findings are also expected to be the practical and theoretical information to the development of the theories on language teaching.

E. Definition of the Term

The topic of this research is a correlation between students' knowledge of science vocabulary and their reading comprehension of analytical exposition text at second grade of Senior High School YKPP Dumai. To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation and to make this study easy to understand, the writer defines the terms used in this study as follows:

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1. Correlation

According to Creswell (2012:388), a correlation is a statistical test to determine the tendency or pattern for two (more) variables or two sets of data to vary consistently. In this research, the correlation means correlation between students' vocabulary knowledge in science and their reading comprehension of analytical exposition text.

2. Reading Comprehension

According to Nunan (2005:69), reading is a set of skills of deriving meaning from the printed word. When we are reading, we must be able to decode the word and catch the idea of what being read. In this research reading comprehension refers to the understanding of science text in terms of vocabulary, generic structure and main idea.

3. Vocabulary Knowledge

According to Nassaji (2004), vocabulary knowledge is in association with the knowledge of word with regard to its pronunciation, spelling, register, and stylistic and morphological features as well as the word's syntactic and semantic relationships with other words in the language, including collocational meanings and knowledge of antonymy, synonymy, and hyponymy.

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4. Analytical Exposition Text

Analytical exposition is a text that elaborates the writer's idea about the phenomena surrounding. Its social function is to persuade the readers. Besides, Th. M. Sudarwati and Eudia Grace (2007:109) explained that analytical exposition is type of text that belongs to the type of argumentation where the paragraph contains detailed author's thinking about a phenomena that is around.