**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MIX/FREEZE/PAIR AS STRATEGY IN TEACHING READING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT THE SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP NURUL MUT’TAQIN KEMIRI IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013**

**By**

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**Abstract**

This study is an experimental research. The aim of this research is to find out whether there is any effectiveness in using Mix/Freeze/Pair as strategy in teaching reading descriptive text to the seventh grade students of SMP Nurul Mut’taqin Kemiri in the academic year 2012/2013. In this study, the researcher took 64 students as sample. The researcher conducted pre-test and post-test. The researcher uses Mix/Freeze/Pair as strategy in teaching reading descriptive text. The researcher computed the data by using t-test and analized the result. The result of the research shows that Mix/Freeze/Pair is effective as strategy in teaching reading descriptive text to the seventh grade students of SMP Nurul Mut’taqin Kemiri in the academic year 2012/2013 since the result of the t-value is 3.90. Based on the 0.05 significance level, the value of the t-table is 1.671. The computation shows that the t-value is higher than t-table, that is 3.90>1.671.

**Keywords: Effectiveness, Mix/Freeze/Pair, Strategy, Teaching Reading, Descriptive Text.**

1. **Background**

In modern life, reading becomes more and more important. Through reading people acquire new ideas, obtain needed information, seek support for their ideas and broaden their interest. Being able to read English is a valuable attribute in the development of science and technology. Sadoski (2004:47) describes the goal of teaching reading is balanced between the affective domain and the cognitive domain, those are developing positive attitudes toward reading, developing personal interests and tastes in reading, developing the use of reading as a tool to solve problems, developing the fundamental competencies of reading at higher levels of independence.

In teaching reading, a teacher must realize that he can not apply only one or two strategies to all levels. Oxford (2003:7) explains that strategy is a tactic which involves the optimal management of troops, ships, or aircraft in a planned campaign to achieve the success. Therefore, the teaching-learning process is not monotonous, because the monotonous class can lead the students into reluctance in learning English.

Mix/Freeze/Pair is one of strategy which is appropriate to apply in teaching reading to the students. Crawford (2007: 54) states Mix/Freeze/Pair is a lively means of having students work with new partners to complete a closely defined task. The rationale of this strategy is having students move around. Finding a random partner with whom to solve a problem develops social skills, especially the ability to work cooperatively to solve problems. Mix/Freeze/Pair is appropriate to be applied for students at the pre-productive language acquisition level which allow kinesthetic responses so students can engage in and demonstrate the full range of thinking skills: knowledge, comprehension, analysis, application, synthesis and evaluation.

Furthermore, Smith (2006: 67) describes that the student’s brain can only sustain concentrated attention for short periods of time. Whereas, the higher levels of thinking are stifled when students are asked to stay seated too long. Mix/Freeze/Pair activity is a great activity to get students standing and moving to review material. Therefore, the students get the knowledge without stifling their brain.

Based on the background above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the use of Mix/Freeze/Pair as strategy in teaching reading descriptive text. The researcher formulates the following research problem: Is the use of Mix/Freeze/Pair as Strategy effective in teaching reading descriptive text at the seventh grade students of SMP Nurul Mut’taqin in the academic year 2012/2013? The result of this research is expected to be useful information to the teachers, the students and the other researcher.

1. **Method**

This research was carried out on April 11th to April 20th. The type of this research is experimental research. This research was conducted at SMP Nurul Mut’taqin Kemiri. The population of this research is 64 students (2 classes) of seventh grade students. They are class VII B as the experimental group and class VII C as the control group. In this research, the researcher uses purposive sampling. The researcher undertakes this research by giving pre-test, treatment and post-test. To collect the data, the instrument which is used is test. The researcher uses 25 items of multiple choice test in both pre-test and post-test for the experimental group and the control group. For the technique of the data analysis, the researcher used descriptive analysis (mean, mode, median, standard deviation, variance, the low score and the highest score) and the inferential analysis (test of normality, test of homogeneity, and the test of hypothesis).

1. **Research Findings**

The table below is the summarized scores of students’ achievement of reading test of the control group and experimental group.

Table 1. The students’ result of experimental and control group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Group | H | L | R | Me | Mo | T | M | SD |
| Experimental | 92 | 64 | 28 | 80 | 80 | 2540 | 79.38 | 6.97 |
| Control | 84 | 64 | 20 | 72 | 72 | 2344 | 73.25 | 5.51 |

The highest score of the students of experimental group at the seventh grade students of SMP Nurul Mut’taqin Kemiri was 92 and the lowest score was 64. The mean was 79.38, the median was 80, the modus was 80, the range was 28, the standard deviation was 6.97, and the variance was 48.63. The mean was included in the interval of 79 to 83. It means that the students of experimental group of the seventh grade students of SMP Nurul Mut’taqin Kemiri had good result on their reading comprehension.

The highest score of the students of control group at the seventh grade students of SMP Nurul Mut’taqin Kemiri was 84 and the lowest score was 64. The mean was 73.25, the median was 72, the modus was 72, the range was 20, the standard deviation was 5.51, and the variance was 30.38. The mean was included in the interval of 72 to 75. It means that the students of control group of the seventh grade students of SMP Nurul Mut’taqin Kemiri had sufficient result on their reading comprehension.

From the previous analysis, it shows that with the number of sample (N1=32 and N2=32) and the level significance 5%, the result of the computation of t-value is 3.90. Based on the value in the t-table for N1 − 1 = 31 and N2 − 1 = 31 and the significance level is 5%, the value of t-table is 1.671. The computation shows that t-value is higher than t-table that is 3.90>1.671.

1. **Conclusion**

Based on the research finding, the conclusion can be drawn as follows; the using of Mix/Freeze/Pair as strategy in teaching reading descriptive at the seventh grade students of SMP Nurul Mut’taqin Kemiri in the academic year 2012/2013 is effective. This statement is supported by the result of t-test. The computation of t–test shows that the Ha is accepted because the value of t– test is 3.90. Then the t–table is 1.671. The Ho is rejected while Ha is accepted because the value of t–test is higher than t–table. Therefore, the use of Mix/Freeze/Pair as stratgey in teaching reading descriptive text at the seventh grade students of SMP Nurul Mit’taqin Kemiri in the academic year 2012/2013 is effective.

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