**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING ENGLISH COMIC TO IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION AT THE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENT OF SMA N 4 PURWOREJO IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013**

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**Abstract**

The objective of this research is to find out wheter the use of English Comic is effective or not to improve reading comprhension of eleventh grade students of SMA N 4 Purworejo. Comics is a form of cartoons that portray a story using the characters in order to entertain their readers. Comics as a kind of cartoon form expressing character and playing a story in sequences of closely related drawingand designed to give fun to the readers. As the fact, the result of t-value is 9,60 based on the 0.05 significant level, the value of t-table is 2.00. The result of computation shows that t-value is higher than t-table, that is 9,60 >2.00. Thus, it can be concluded that the hypothesis the effectiveness of using English comic to improve reading comprehension at eleventh grade students of SMA N 4 Purworejo in the academic year 2012/2013 is effective.

*Key words: English, Comic, Reading comprehensions.*

1. **Background**

There are many foreign languages that are taught at school in Indonesia, such as Japan, German, Chine, French, English etc. but English is more popular than another foreign language because English is an international language. Almost all countries have adapted English used as a compulsory subject at schools. Therefore, the Indonesian Government has set up the policy related to English language teaching by putting it into education system.It learned started from primary schools until to university. English also used by most people in the world for the purposes of trade, science, technology, education, art, and socio-cultural. Moreover, English competence is also important in career development.In Indonesia, there are so many problems in learning English especially for students such as they think that English pronunciation is too difficult to be learned, English vocabularies is very complicated and then grammatical pattern of English is too hard to be understood by students. According to Grabe (2009:25) reading is the process of receiving and interpreting information encoded in language form via the medium of print.

1. **Research Method**

This research belongs to quantitative research. This type of research can be categorized as a quantitative research with the research is a quasi-experimental research. This research was carried out in 16th, 18th, and 21st May 2013. The first is pre-test, the second is treatment, and the last is post-test. The population of this research is the eleventh grade students in SMAN 4 Purworejo in the academic year 2012/2013 with the total 188 students. Then, the sample of this research is XI IPA 1 with total 31 students as experimental group and XI IPA 2 with total 31 students as control group. For the technical samling, the researcher uses cluster random sampling. The instrument of this research is test. This research is divided into three sections. The independent variable of this research is the use of English comic while the dependent variable of this research is students’ ability in reading comprehension.

In this research, the researcher uses descriptive analysis and inferential analysis. Descriptive analysis is needed to describe the data which involve mean, range, median, mode, standard deviation, variance, highest score, and lowest score while inferential analysis is used to make easier in interpreting the data. This analysis involves normality test, homogeneity test and hypothesis test.

1. **Finding and Discussion**

The score of pre-test and post-test at the XI IPA 1 students as experimental group of SMAN 4 Purworejo. The highest score of pre-test was 76 and the lowest score was 53. While the highest score of post-test is 87 and the lowest score is 65 and the score of pre-test and post-test at the XI IPA 2 students as control group of SMAN 4 Purworejo. The highest score of pre-test was 73 and the lowest score was 50. While the highest score of post-test was 77 and the lowest score was 56. After knowing the test result, the researcher compared the mean post test result of experimental group and the mean post test of control. Experimental group is the group which is given the treatment by the researcher. In this group, the researcher taught the reading material with comic media. In this discussion, the researcher calculates the post test result of experimental group. the frequency distribution of post-test result of the experimental group of SMA N 4 Purworejo. The frequency of the students` explanation text that got excellent category was 58% (18 students), good category was 35% (11students), sufficient category was 6% (2 student), fairly sufficient category was 0 %, and low category was 0%. Control group is the group which is not given the treatment by the researcher. In this group, the researcher taught the reading material without pre-questioning strategies. In this discussion, the researcher calculates the post-test result of control group.

The frequency distribution of post-test result of the control group of SMA N 4 Purworejo. The frequency of the students` reading comprehension that got excellent category was 0%, good category was 68% (21 students), sufficient category was 32% (10 students), fairly sufficient category was 0, and low category was 0%. Knowing that the objective of this study is to find out whether there was significant effect of using comic as one of teaching media on the students’ reading comprehension at the eleventh grade students in SMA N 4 Purworejo in the academic year 2012/2013, the researcher employs the statistical analysis, in this case is t-test, to analyze the data. However, before employing the statistical analysis, the researcher mainly applied pre-requisite test analysis to test the homogeneity of variance. From the computation, the value of F is 1.82. Then, it is compared with the value of F table with df of numerator (31– 1 = 30) and df of denominator (31 – 1 = 30). Based on the table on F table, it is known that at the F value on the significant level 0.05 is 1.84. Because F obtained is lower than the value of F table (1.82<1.84), it means that the variance of two sample is homogeneous.

The calculations of the mean score of experimental group and control group are 78.71 and 66.81. If we compare the two means, it is clear that the mean of the experimental group is higher than the mean of the control group. To make the analysis more reliable, the researcher analyzes it by using *t-test.* In testing hypothesis, the researcher commonly faced with the null hypothesis. By using the null hypothesis, the hypothesis statement will be easier to be proved. The hypothesis of this research (Ha) said that “the use of comic media for teaching reading comprehension at the eleventh grade students of SMA N 4 Purworejo in the academic year 2012/2013 is effective”.

To prove whether the hypothesis is rejected or accepted, the researcher changes the research hypothesis into the null hypothesis. Therefore, the null hypothesis (Ho) said “the use of comic media for teaching reading comprehension at eleventh grade students of SMA N 4 Purworejo in the academic year 2012/2013 is not effective”. The previous analysis shows that the result of the computation of the t-value is 9, 60. Then, the t-value is consulted to the t-table at 0.05 significant levels. Because the number of sample of experimental group and control group is same (n1 = n2) and the variance is homogeneous (σ12 = σ22), t-table is calculated by df = n1 + n2 – 2 = 31 + 31 – 2 = 60. With degree of freedom (df) 60 and the level of significant 5%, t-table is 2.000. It means that t-test value is higher than t table (9, 60>2, 00).Based on the hypothesis testing above, it can be concluded that Ho was rejected and Ha was accepted. Therefore, the hypothesis of this research which said “the use of English comic media for improving reading comprehension at eleventh grade students of SMA N 4 Purworejo in the academic year 2012/2013” was accepted.

1. **Conclusion and Recomendation**

Based on the research finding which has been discussed in the previous chapter, the researcher is able to conclude that: the use of English comic as the teaching media to improve students reading comprehension can be concluded that it is effective. This statement is supported by the result of the t-test. The computation of t test shows that the Ha is accepted. It can be proven by the value of *t – test.*  The value of *t – test* is 9.60. Then the t table is 2.000. If the value of t test is higher that t table, the alternative hypothesis can be concluded that it is effective to use English comic as a media to improve students’ reading comprehension among the eleventh grade students of SMAN 4 Purworejo in the academic year of 2012/2013. It also can be seen from the score of the students in experimental group which mostly increased from the pre test and post test after they were given treatment. It can be proven by the increasing of the mean or mean score. The mean score before being given the treatment is 66.84, while the score after being given the treatment is 78.71. The score of the students in experimental group mostly increased from the pretest and posttest after they were given treatment.

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