**THE STUDY OF THE STUDENTS’ INTEREST IN ENGLISH LESSON AND ITS EFFECT ON THEIR READING COMPREHENSION ABILITY AT ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMA N 1 PETANAHAN IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013.**

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**Abstract**

This research is intended to know whether there is correlation between the students’ interest in English lesson and reading comprehension ability and to know how far the students’ interest in English lesson and its effect on reading comprehension ability of the second semester at eleventh grade students of SMA N 1 Petanahan in the academic year 2012/2013. And in this study the researcher uses descriptive method. The result of the coefficient correlation between students’ interest in English lesson and reading comprehension ability, namely rstatistic was 0.410. And it was compared with rtable with the respondent of 40 with the level of significant 5% was 0.312. It means that rstatistic was higher than rtable, so the null hypothesis was rejected and the working one was accepted. And the degree of correlation coefficient is categorized as medium with the r-value between (0.40 – 0.599). And, the determinant Coefficeint (R Square) is 0.168 or 16.8%. It means that the students’ reading comprehension ability can be predicted by the students’ interest 16.8%. And, It found the value of Y, that the students who have 53 score in interest will get 69.25 score for reading ability. It means that the students’ interest in English lesson can affect the students’ reading comprehension ability.

Key words: study, students’ interest, reading comprehension ability.

1. **Background of the Study**

English is an international language. English is very important in educations. In Indonesia, English is the first foreign language which is not only taught in Junior High School and Senior High School but also introduced in elementary school; besides, in the local content and cotinuously to be taught through college and universities. There are four main skills in English: those are reading, listening, speaking and writing. Reading and listening are called receptive skill, in which people need the ability to receive written or spoken language when they do it. While speaking and writing are called productive skill because when people do it, they need the ability to produce written or spoken language. (Harmer, 2001:44).

In fact, many Indonesian students at all levels of education are reluctant to use English for communication. Some of the reasons, commonly, they have low interest and lack of vocabulary. Because of that if someone wants to learn a foreign language, he will obviously meet with all kinds of learning difficulties. That is why the students’ uninteresting in English lesson in the class. Now, to understan the students in the class, the teachers is very difficult to motivate the students in order to make interest in English lesson. Exactly, to follow up the lesson in the class, for example, in reading English. Sometimes, the students felt bored because according to them, English lesson is very difficult. To solve the students’ problem in the classroom, the teachers should build the students’ interest in English lesson for example in reading ability, because reading is very important. Reading is a perceiving a written text in order to understand its contents. (Richard and Schmidt, 2002:443).

If someone wants to learn foreign language, he will actually meet all kinds of learning problems (Ramelan, 1994:4). There are some facts that indicate the problem of mastering reading. First, the students’ interest in reading is still low. Second, students have difficulties in understanding the text. They get difficulties in understanding sentences, finding the meaning of the sentences or only understanding the word by word, so the students need a lot of time to understand the text. Finally, the students have difficulties in doing exercises. As it can be seen from the information, the problem of students in Senior High School is on acquiring the language skill of English: Reading.

The objective of this research is to find out how far the effect of students’ interest in English lesson on their reading ability and to find out the correlation between students’ interest in English lesson and their reading comprehension ability at the eleventh grade students of SMA N 1 Petanahan in the academic year 2012/2013.

1. **Research Method**

The research is conducted in SMA N 1 Petanahan. And the object of the study takes the second semester of eleventh grade students of SMA N 1 Petanahan in the academic year 2012/2013. It was carried out on 27th April, 11th May and 18th May 2013. The researcher took questionare and documentation.

In this study, the researcher needs the data which classified into qualitative and quantitative data. Descriptive research is divided into explorative research carried out to describe facts and phenomena. Quantitative research present in number which can be used to get precentages, table or graphic. (Arikunto, 2010:282).

The data were collected by using questionaire. The researcher applies a statistical analysis technique. Then, the research instrument used questionaire and documentation. The questionaire is prepared to know the respondents’ personality, experience, knowledge, ideas and something closely related to the respondents directly. Questionaire can consist entirely of close questions. (Nunan, 2007: 143). And, In this study, the researcher took a documentation of the mark on reading test. And the test was given by the English teacher.

1. **Research Finding and Discussion**

To analyze the data, the researcher applies an appropriate technique to find out the correlation between two variables in this research, there are descriptive analysis and inferential analysis. The researcher analyzed the data using normality test, linearity test, hypothesis testing, and regression.

The data is normal if the r-value is > 0.05 then the variance population is normal. If the r-value is < 0.05 then the variance population is not normal. The result of normality of the students’ interest in English lesson (Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed) is 0.351, it means higher than 0.05 so the data is normal. While the result of students’ reading comprehension ability (Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed) is 0.509, it means higher than 0.05 so the data is normal. Based on this result, the researcher found that the data in this research is normal.

The researcher found that the correlation between students’ interest in English lesson and the students’ reading comprehension ability was linear. It is because those variables have a correlation, each of the circles on the diagram was near with the line, those variables have a positive correlation because the circle shows tendency of the left to up right and those variables have a linearity because the circle shows tendency of vertical.

After calculating the data in this research, it is found that rstatistic with the respondents of 40 (0.410) is *higher* than rtable with the level of significance 5% (0.312). Therefore it is proved that the null hypothesis is rejected and the working one is accepted. It means that there is a significant effect of students’ interest in English lesson on their reading comprehension ability of the eleventh grade students of SMA N 1 Petanahan in the academic year 2012/2013. The result of the correlation analysis by using SPSS 16.0 for Windows shows the correlation coefficient of 0.410 with the significant level of 0.05. It means that the correlation between the students’ interest in English lesson and students’ reding comprehension ability is in the medium level since the value of r is 0.410 belongs to the range between 0.40 – 0.599. And, the researcher also found the determinant Coefficeint (R Square) is 0.168 or 16.8%. It means that the students’ interest in English lesson can affect the students’ reading comprehension ability at eleventh grade students of SMA N 1 Petanahan in the academic year 2012/2013.

Based on the data analyzed, it can be concluded that the highest score of the students’ interest in English lesson is 77, the lowest score is 53, and then the mean score is 65.25. And then, the reseacher concludes that the students’ interest in English lesson of the eleventh grade students in SMA N 1 Petanahan is in the high level. Based on the result of the data analyzed, the data that take from the reading mark, the researcher concludes that the highest score of students’ reading comprehension ability is 95, the lowest score is 55, and the mean score is 76.88. It can be concluded that the students’ reading comprehension ability in SMA N 1 Petanahan is in the good category.

1. **Conclusion and Suggestion**

After calculating the data in this research, it is found that rstatistic with the respondents of 40 (0.410) is *higher* than rtable with the level of significance 5% (0.312). Therefore, it is proved that the null hypothesis is rejected and the working one is accepted. It means that there is a significant correlation between the students’ interest in English lesson and their reading comprehension ability at the eleventh grade students of SMA N 1 Petanahan in the academic year 2012/2013. And the degree of correlation coefficient is categorized as medium with the r-value is between (0.40 – 0.599). Based on the result above, it means that there is correlation between two variables.

The data of the students’ interest in English lesson, which the data conducted by questionaire, shows that the high score (H) is 77, the low score (L) is 53, the range (R) is 24, the mean (M) is 65.25, the median (Me) is 66.50, the mode (Mo) is 66, and the standard deviation (SD) is 6.315. It means that the students’ interest in English lesson is categorised in high level. And, the data of the reading comprehension ability that have given by the English teacher, the high score (H) is 95, the low score (L) is 55, the range (R) is 40, the mean (M) is 76.88, the median (Me) is 75.50, the mode (Mo) is 71, and the standard deviation (SD) is 9.589. It means that the students’ reading comprehension ability is categorised as good.

The suggestion will be addressed to the English teacher, the students in Senior High School and the other researcher.

The English teacher in Senior High School is suggested to focus and the teacher should to explain the English text or story clearly, explain the meaning of it, and give more suport to the students more to improve their English such as in their reading comprehension ability. For the students of SMA N 1 Petanahan, they should study hard. And they should be interested and love English lesson in order that they can fluent in English and they easily do exercise in reading. For other researchers, they should use the information in this research to guide other research deal with reading.

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