**STUDENTS’ UNDERSTANDING OF VOCABULARY IN READING AT THE SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF MUHAMMADIYAH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GOMBONG IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013.**

By

Rr. Ratna Lestari. P

English Department

Muhammadiyah University of Purworejo

Email: radenratna@gmail.com.

**Abstract**

This research is qualitative research. Research problems: (1) how far is the students’ understanding of vocabulary in reading of the seventh grade student of Muhammadiyah Junior high School in Gombong? (2) What problem happens in understanding vocabulary in reading of the seventh grade students of Muhammadiyah Junior High School in Gombong? The aims of this research are: (1) To know how far the students’ understanding of vocabulary in reading at the seventh grade students of Muhammadiyah Junior High School in Gombong., (2) To explain the problem in understanding vocabulary in reading. In this research, the researcher chooses qualitative research method as the method of the research or uses descriptive methods. The population in this research is in seventh grade students’ is 162. The researcher takes 29 students. The researcher uses purposive sampling in taking the sample. The result of the study showed that the students’ ability in understanding vocabulary in reading text classified into fair category, the mean score of the students is 65.51. Then, some difficulties faced by the students in doing the test are: the students still have difficulties in finding the meaning from the context, finding antonym, and finding synonym from context of the reading text.

Key Words: Understanding, Vocabulary, and Reading.

1. **BACKGROUND**

English is an international language which is really important to learn. Ramelan (1992: 3) says that English has accordingly been chosen as first foreign language to be taught in our school, rather than other language.

Learning English is very important in this globalization era, including Indonesian students with the aim that they can get involved in the development of scientific and technological information worldwide. Introducing English as early as possible is necessary.

Reading is something crucial and indispensable for students, since the result of the students’ reading skill are poor, the students will have any difficulties in reading. By reading, students will learn a lot of information.

Vocabulary is very important in reading. The readers cannot understand what they read without knowing the meaning of words. Learning vocabulary in reading refers to words we recognize in the text.

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the following research questions. How far is the students’ understanding of vocabulary in reading of the seventh grade students of Muhammadiyah Junior High School in Gombong? The objectives of this research are as follow, to know how far the students’ understanding of vocabulary in reading of the seventh grade students of Muhammadiyah Junior High School in Gombong.

1. **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, the researcher uses descriptive methods. According to Arikunto (1995: 309) descriptive method means the research which has an aim to collect the information about the students of the exits indication that is natural condition of indication when the research is carried out. In this research, the researcher chooses the qualitative research method as the method of the research.

In conducting the research, the research was conducted at Muhammadiyah Junior High School 1 Gombong that is located on JalanAnggrek No.28 phone/fax (0287) 471391 Gombong-KebumenJawa Tengah 54411.This research was done on 24 May 2013 at seventh grade students of Muhammadiyah Junior High School 1 Gombong in the Academic Year 2012/2013.

According to Saleh (2001: 17) population is a group of objects, or events phenomena as an object of research. Population can be mean as all inhabitants or individuals that have similar characteristics to be researched.

The sampling technique which is used in this research is simple random sampling by choosing which class or group that would be the sample. Because in this research, the researcher uses probability sampling and the technique of representative sample is random sampling. In this research technique all individuals have the same chance to be the sample. In random sampling, there are three ways of getting random sample such as: lottery, ordinal number, and table of random number.

Instrument plays an important role in collecting data that are needed by researchers. Instrument is one tool used by researchers to collect data in the form of answers that will be on further thought by researchers to obtain answers of research. According to Arikunto (2006:137), research instrument is kind of tool used by the researcher in conducting a research method.

In Technique of collecting the data, the researcher focused on objective test. The researcher chooses the types of multiple choices in reading test. The test consists of 20 items. Multiple choices are the best that consists of a statement or notification of an incomplete statement. The testee must choose one of several possible answers or options. Possible answers consist of one correct answer which is called key answer and a few distracters.

1. **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

The researcher collected the data from 29 students of the popultion of 162 students. The researcher takes the seventh grade students Muhammadiyah Junior High School 1 of Gombong in the Academic Year 2012/2013. To collect the data, the researcher used the reading comprehension test which consists of 20 items in multiple choice form based on context. The research gives score 5 for each correct answer and the data collected distributed in the form of score. Then, the writer analyzed and described the score of the form of score of the students’ answer of the test and present mean of the students. After that, the researcher analyzed the questionnaire and described the difficulties are faced by students in answering questions.

According to Arikunto’s (2009:245) criterion referenced scale, there are 4 students (14%) of the students get score classified into very good category, 12 students (41%) of students get score classified into good category, 6 students (21%) of the students get score classified into fair category, 6 students (21%) of the students get score classified into low category, and the last 1 students (3%) of students get score classified into very low category. The highest score is 85 and the lowest score is 35.

Items number 15 and 17 is about antonym. Antonym is a word opposite in meaning to another. In this item, the students have to choose the best word that suitable with the word in the questions.

Items number 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 19, and 20 is about synonym. Synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another in the language. In this item the students have to choose the appropriate answer that has the same meaning with the word in the questions.

Items number 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, and 13 is about finding the meaning from the context. The students should find the meaning from the context. In this item the students have to choose the best appropriate meaning from the question to get answer.

1. **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

Based on the data finding, the result of the study showed that the students’ ability in understanding vocabulary in reading text in Muhammadiyah Junior High School 1 Gombong, at the seventh grade isclassified into fair category; the mean score of the students is 65.51. The result of the test from 29 students are: 4 students (14%) of the students get score classified into very good category, 12 students (41%) of the students get score classified into good category, 6 students (21%) of the students get score classified into fair category, 6 students (21%) of the students get score classified into low category, and the last 1 student (3%) of students get score classified into very low category. The highest score is 85 and the lowest score is 35.

The researcher give some suggestions for the students should be able to recognize their difficulties in understanding vocabulary on context in reading comprehension.

1. **BILIOGRAPHY**

Arikunto, Suharsimi. 2006. *ProsedurPenelitian*. Jakarta: RinekaCipta.

Nunan, David. 2005. *Practical English Language Teaching: Young Learners*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Ramelan. 1992. *Curriculum of Indonesian School.* Jakarta: DepartementPendidikandanKebudayaan.

Saleh, Mursid. 2001. *Pengantar Praktik Penelitian Pengajaran Bahasa*. Semarang: CV IKIP Semarang Press.

Sugiyono. 2006. *MetodePenelitianKuantitatifKualitatif*. Bandung: Alfabeta.