

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARD READING  
COMPREHENSION SKILL BEFORE AND AFTER JOINING  
ENGLISH CLUB**

**THESIS**

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Bachelor  
of Education (B.Ed.) in English Language Education*



*By:*

**VINY BELLYANA  
19018052**

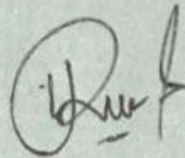
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HALAMAN PERSETUJUAN SKRIPSI

Judul : An Analysis of Students' Perception toward Reading  
Comprehension Skill Before and After Joining English  
Club  
Nama : Viny Belliana  
NIM/TM : 19018052/2019  
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris  
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

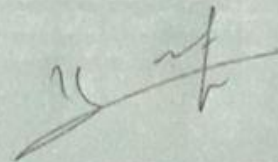
Padang, November 2023

Disetujui oleh,  
Pembimbing



Ririn Ovilla, S.Pd., M.Pd.  
NIDN. 006029102

Mengetahui  
Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris



Dr. Yuli Tiarina, S.Pd., M.Pd.  
NIP. 19770720 200212 2 002

## HALAMAN PENGESAHAN LULUS UJIAN SKRIPSI

Dinyatakan lulus setelah dipertahankan di depan Tim Penguji Skripsi Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Padang

### An Analysis of Students' Perception toward Reading Comprehension Skill Before and After Joining English Club

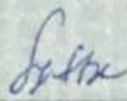
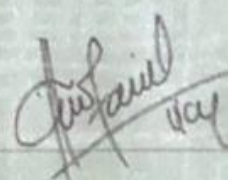
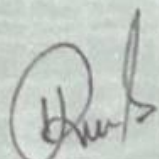
Nama : Viny Belyana  
NIM/TM : 19018052/2019  
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris  
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, November 2023

#### Tim Penguji

1. Ketua : Syafitri Ramadhani, M.Pd.
2. Sekretaris : Dinovia Fannil Kher, M.Pd.
3. Anggota : Ririn Ovilia, S.Pd., M.Pd.

#### Tanda Tangan

1. 
2. 
3. 





**SURAT PERNYATAAN TIDAK PLAGIAT**

Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Viny Bellyana  
NIM/TM : 19018052/2019  
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris  
Departemen : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

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Diketahui oleh,  
Ketua Departemen Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris,

Dr. Yuli Tiarina, S.Pd., M.Pd.  
NIP 197707202002122002

Saya yang menyatakan



Viny Bellyana  
NIM. 19018052

## **ABSTRACT**

**BELLYANA, VINY. (2023). "An Analysis of Students' Perception toward Reading Comprehension Skills before and after Joining English Club". Thesis. Padang: English Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Reading English is one of the important skills that everyone must have. This study aimed to analyze the students' perception toward reading comprehension skills before and after joining English club. The study was a descriptive qualitative research. The participants in this study were 10 students who had joined the English club for one year. The data were collected through an interview, which included 12 questions. The findings showed that students had a positive perception toward reading comprehension skills after joining the English club. There were changes in the students' reading comprehension skills between before and after joining the English club. It can be concluded that the students agreed that their reading comprehension skills improved after joining the English club.

**Keyword: Perception, Reading Comprehension Skills, English Club**

## ABSTRACT

**BELLYANA, VINY. (2023). "An Analysis of Students' Perception toward Reading Comprehension Skills before and after Joining English Club". Thesis. Padang: English Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Membaca bahasa Inggris merupakan salah satu keterampilan penting yang harus dimiliki setiap orang. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis persepsi siswa terhadap keterampilan pemahaman membaca sebelum dan sesudah mengikuti klub bahasa Inggris. Partisipan dalam penelitian ini adalah 10 orang siswa yang telah mengikuti klub bahasa Inggris selama satu tahun. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui wawancara yang mencakup 12 pertanyaan. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa siswa memiliki persepsi positif terhadap keterampilan pemahaman membaca setelah bergabung dengan klub bahasa Inggris. Terdapat perubahan kemampuan pemahaman membaca siswa antara sebelum dan sesudah mengikuti klub bahasa Inggris. Dapat disimpulkan bahwa para siswa setuju bahwa keterampilan pemahaman membaca mereka meningkat setelah bergabung dengan klub bahasa Inggris.

**Kata Kunci: Persepsi, Keterampilan Pemahaman Membaca, Klub Bahasa Inggris**

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Padang, November 2023

The writer



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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Research**

Reading English is an important skills that everyone should have. Reading is the process of understanding the meaning contained in a written material. Reading is also an activity carried out by readers to obtain messages through words or written language conveyed by the author. In addition, reading is also an activity carried out by readers by reciting or spelling out a written material. According to Fitria (2019), reading is an activity that helps readers gain more knowledge without waste more money. Through reading, readers obtain new information, acquire new knowledge, and discover new ideas.

Reading English is an important part of our life today. According to Sulaiman (2019), people who read poorly are very likely to fail in their studies, or at least have difficulty making progress. This is because reading has many benefits including getting information, knowledge, entertainment and even solutions to solving problems can be done through reading activities. To get the benefits of reading, we can read various types of reading materials including through books, newspapers, magazines, comics and so on. In addition, in understanding the meaning of a text, reading comprehension skills are important for everyone to have.

Another significant of reading is as the provider of input for language learners. As it is stated by Krashen (2003), the language learning will not happen unless they are exposed to abundance of input.

There are several challenges that occur when reading English. According to Thornbury (2007) which cited in Rahayuningsih (2020), there are several challenges in reading that can affect reading success, they are knowledge of vocabulary, punctuation, grammar and linguistics which are other parts of language. In addition, students also experience difficulties in understanding the English text they read. This is due to low mastery of vocabulary and grammar. Knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and finding topics in a reading material are important things that must be possessed when reading. When we read we not only read what we see but also gain an understanding of the meaning contained. Therefore, reading comprehension skill in English is important for English learner.

One way to improve reading comprehension skills in English is by joining an English club. In improving reading comprehension skills it is not enough only through learning English at school, but additional classes such as English clubs are also important for students to join. This is caused by the limited amount of time for English in regular classes, making students less effective in learning. Through English club activities, students learn all English skills including reading comprehension skills. According to Mattarima, Afifi and Qamaria (2022), to maintain students' English skills, English club gives students and teachers an English language environment.

English club is an extracurricular activity at school. Extracurricular is an activity carried out outside school to develop student potential. Extracurricular activities conducted to help and develop students' potential, the needs and



desires of students and their talents (Kardiansyah & Qodriani, 2018). Extracurricular is important for students because extracurricular can improve academic results, higher educational attainment and also in extracurricular students can learn important skills such as leadership and teamwork skills (Wilson, 2009).

English club is an extracurricular activity which focuses on learning English which is expected to improve the achievement in English. English club has been proven to improve students' communication skill (Hamadameen & Najim, 2020), English proficiency (Yuliandasari & Kusriandi, 2015), and students' motivation to speak (Bage et al., 2021). It is clear that English club are able to help students in increasing their English language skills and also their confidence in English. English club is also a place for students who have the desire to join various English competitions and as a place for students who are only interested in sharpen their students' English skills.

English club is an activity that has the aim of improving students' skills and achievements in English. In English language club activities, all participants are expected to be able to share knowledge and communicate with each other in English. English Club is an important environment in learning more English (Mattarima et al., 2022). In the English club all skills are learned be it reading, speaking, listening and writing. But, the researcher in this research only wanted to focus on students' reading comprehension skills before and after joining the English club.

There have been several previous studies conducted regarding the influence of English club on speaking skills. First, Melviza et al., (2017)

conducted a study aiming to reveal how students perceive English club activities on speaking skills. There are two instruments used to find data in this study which were questionnaires and interviews. All members of the English club, totaling 40 students were the sample in this study. It was found that students thought English clubs play a role in encouraging students to practice their speaking skills. It was also found that the English club motivated students to practice speaking.

In the following year, Yulianasari and Kusriandi (2018), this research has a purpose to examine the impact of students' perceptions of extracurricular English clubs on their speaking ability. Data collection technique were speaking test, observation and then a questionnaire. Like the research above, the respondents were students who were members of an English language club. The finding show that in the speaking test the average English club member gets a high score.

Moreover, Nahdah and Fatimah (2019) conducted this research to know how students' perception about English club and factors that influence students' perceptions. Semi structured interviews and class observations were techniques for collecting data. In this research, the respondents were five students who joined the English club and five who did not join. The results show that the majority of students rated the English club positively for practicing speaking. Out of 10, there were 8 students who had positive opinion and 2 others who had negative opinion. It was found that the English club had a role in improving English practice. Moreover, It was discovered that the

English club was able to motivate them in speaking practice. Students said that they were satisfied with the existence of the English club.

Another study was conducted by Nguyễn (2021), this research has purpose to see how students perceive the Step-Up club in speaking skills. Research instruments were observation and interviews. Qualitative methods were used in this research. The participant were students who joined the SU club. It was found that many students positively perceive SU club. The students believe that SU English clubs can increase the fluency in English. In addition, the students think that this English club is a better environment to improve English skills, especially speaking skills.

In the same year, Virawan et al., (2021), this research has purpose to investigate English club that supports students' speaking performance. In this study, in collected the data, observations, interviews and documents were used by researchers. The sample were all students who join the English club and also English teachers. It was found that the English club members had good skills in speaking. In addition, it was also found that the English club supports the abilities of all its members, by creating a good English learning environment and appropriate learning activities in the English club. According to these findings, it shows that English clubs really supports speaking performances.

Based on the research above, it shows that many studies have been conducted related to students' perceptions of English club on speaking skill. However, there is still limited research on students' perceptions of English club on reading comprehension skill.

In addition, in reading, students often experience challenges in reading English such as knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and also linguistics. These challenges can affect the success of students' reading in English. Knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, and finding topics in reading is something that students must have. Therefore, the challenges in reading is an important thing that is experienced by students.

Moreover, reading is a skill that must be mastered in English. Reading has an important role to make learning successful. Reading is a skill in English that is as important as writing, speaking and listening skills. Reading is a skill that students are familiar with and close to because most of the material provided by the teacher is presented in written form, which means that students must have reading comprehension skills to understand the material. Besides that, students must have reading comprehension skills more than other skills because the English semester exam is presented in written form, students must have reading comprehension skills in order to understand it.

Therefore, the researcher is interested in researching students' perceptions on reading comprehension skills before and after joining the English club. In this research, qualitative research was conducted for high school students whose schools have extracurricular English club activities. This research focuses on students' perception toward reading comprehension skills before and after joining the English club.

**B. Focus of the Research**

The research focus is to find out students' perception toward reading comprehension skill before and after joining English club.

**C. Formulation of the Problem**

In this study, the formulation of the problem is as follows :

1. How are students' perception toward reading comprehension skill before and after joining English club.

**D. Research Questions**

The research questions of the study as follows:

1. What is students' perception toward reading comprehension skills before joining English club?
2. What is students' perception toward reading comprehension skills after joining English club?

**E. Purpose of the Research**

The purpose of this study as follows:

1. To find out the students' perception toward reading comprehension skills before joining English club.
2. To find out the students' perception toward reading comprehension skills after joining English club.



## **F. Significance of the Research**

### 1. For the English teachers

This research provides information about the students' perception toward reading comprehension skills before and after joining English club. In this study it is expected that it can help teachers to know the students' English proficiency in reading comprehension skills before and after joining the English club. So that teachers can provide alternative ways for students to learn English, specifically in reading comprehension skills.

### 2. For the students

This research presents information about students' perception toward reading comprehension skills before and after joining English club. In this research students are expected to know the benefits of joining the English club. In addition, this research is also expected to make students aware of how their reading comprehension skills are before and after joining the English club.

### 3. For the researchers

The research is expected to help other researchers as a reference in their new research in the same field with different student levels. This research provides information about the students' perception toward reading comprehension skills before and after joining English club. So, this research can be used as a foundation in developing their ideas in their research.

### **G. Definition of the key term**

There are several important term to be explained in this study that connected to the tittle of this research an analysis of students' perception toward reading comprehension skills before and after joining English club. They are perception, English club and reading comprehension skill.

1. Perception is a process of giving impressions, responses, intentions, explanations for what is experienced, seen, heard, and felt in the form of opinions, attitudes and behavior.
2. English club is an extracurricular activity that focuses on learning english with the aim of increasing student achievement in English skills.
3. Reading comprehension skill is a very important basic skill that must be have by all English learners. Through this reading comprehension skill, English students are able to understand the meaning and information of reading material.