

UNP CHEMISTRY STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF USING TEXTBOOK WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

THESIS

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Diah Fauzanah
15018003 / 2015

Advisor :
Sitti Fatimah, S.S, M.Ed, Ph.D
NIP. 197206151999032002

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION PROGRAM
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG
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PERSETUJUAN SKRIPSI

UNP CHEMISTRY STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF USING TEXTBOOK WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

Nama : Diah Fauzanah
NIM / BP : 15018003 / 2015
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, Agustus 2019

Disetujui Oleh

Pembimbing



Sitti Fatimah, S.S, M.Ed, Ph.D

NIP. 197206151999032002

Diketahui Oleh,
Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris



Dr. Refnaldi, S.Pd., M.Litt
NIP. 19680301 199403 1 003

HALAMAN PENGESAHAN LULUS UJIAN SKRIPSI

Dinyatakan Lulus Setelah Dipertahankan di Depan Tim Penguji Skripsi

Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni

Universitas Negeri Padang

UNP Chemistry Students' Perception of Using Textbook Written in English

Nama : Diah Fauzanah
NIM/BP : 15018003/2015
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, Agustus 2019

Tim Penguji

1. Ketua : Dr. Ratmanida, M.Ed., TEFL
2. Sekretaris : Dra. An Fauzia Rozani Syafei, M.A
3. Anggota : Sitti Fatimah, S.S, M.Ed, Ph.D

Tanda Tangan





UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG
FAKULTAS BAHASA DAN SENI
JURUSAN BAHASA DAN SASTRA INGGRIS
Jl. Belibis. Air Tawar Barat, Kampus Selatan FBS UNP, Padang. Telp/Fax: (0751) 447347

SURAT PERNYATAAN TIDAK PLAGIAT

Saya yang bertandatangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Diah Fauzanah
NIM/TM : 15018003/2015
Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : FBS UNP

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Diketahui oleh,

Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

Dr. Refnaldi, S.Pd., M.Litt.
NIP. 19680301 199403 1 003

Saya yang menyatakan,



Diah Fauzanah
15018003/2015

ABSTRACT

Fauzanah, Diah. 2019. “UNP Chemistry Students’ Perception of Using Textbook Written in English”. *Thesis*. Padang: Universitas Negeri Padang

Chemical Department has the policy that the students should use textbooks written in English as the medium of instruction in teaching and learning process. Certainly, the students should use and read textbooks written in English in their study. However, some students find difficulties to understand textbooks written in English which brings out different perceptions about using textbook written in English to the student. This research aims to find out Chemistry students’ perception of using textbook written in English. This research is a quantitative research which used descriptive method. There were 56 Chemistry students as the sample of this research which chosen by using cluster sampling technique. The instrument used in this research is the questionnaire about students’ perception which based on the text matter in the textbook. The main result shows that students from education program are ready to use textbook written in English in learning process since most of them show the positive response and perception of using textbook written in English. Meanwhile, the students from non-education program seem not ready enough to use textbook written in English since they show negative responses and perception of using Chemistry textbook written in English.

Key words: *students’ perception, textbook written in English*

ABSTRAK

Fauzanah, Diah. 2019. “UNP Chemistry Students’ Perception of Using Textbook Written in English”. Skripsi. Padang: Universitas Negeri Padang

Jurusan Kimia Universitas Negeri Padang memiliki kebijakan bahwa mahasiswa harus menggunakan buku berbahasa Inggris sebagai media dalam proses belajar dan mengajar. Mahasiswa harus menggunakan dan membacabuku teks berbahasa Inggris dalam pembelajaran mereka. Namun, beberapa mahasiswa merasa kesulitan untuk memahami buku teks berbahasa Inggris yang menimbulkan persepsi yang berbeda di antara mahasiswa terhadap penggunaan referensi berbahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui persepsi mahasiswa kimia terhadap penggunaan referensi berbahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kuantitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Terdapat 56 mahasiswa sebagai sample penelitian yang di pilih menggunakan teknik cluster sampling. Instrument yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah angket tentang persepsi mahasiswa yang berdasarkan isi buku di dalam buku teks. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa mahasiswa kimia dari program kependidikan siap untuk menggunakan buku teks berbahasa Inggris dalam pembelajaran karena kebanyakan dari mereka memberi respon dan persepsi yang positif terhadap penggunaan buku teks berbahasa Inggris. Sementara itu, mahasiswa dari program non-kependidikan terlihat tidak begitu siap untuk menggunakan buku teks berbahasa Inggris karena mereka menunjukkan respon dan persepsi yang negatif terhadap penggunaan buku teks berbahasa Inggris.

Key words: *persepsi mahasiswa, buku teks berbahasa Inggris*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Becoming fluency in English has become a must for both English and non-English Department students in Universitas Negeri Padang since English has been known widely as an international language. For English Department students, proficient in English becomes the primary aspect because it cannot be denied that they should face the learning process which mostly use textbook written in English as the sources of learning. For non English Department students, English proficiency is also required since English is an important language for all kinds of professional and personal goals.

Moreover, it is not only English Department students which used textbook written in English in learning process. One of the crucial examples about of using textbook written in English can be seen at the Faculty of Math and Natural Sciences of Universitas Negeri Padang, especially in Chemical Department. The website of the department ([Jurusan Kimia](#), 2019) shows this major has six missions. One of them is to produce graduates who have high academic ability and professionalism in chemistry and chemical education and who can develop science and technology. To achieve this mission, this major should develop teaching technique and learning process which enables the learner to have high academic ability and professionalism in chemistry. Furthermore, the students are also required to have an English skill in order to accomplish this mission.

Practically, one of the method used by this department is applying the policy where the students should use and read textbook written in English during the learning process. It is also stated by the chairman of Chemical Department, Dr. Mawardi, M.Si, that the students in this department should use Chemistry textbook written in English as the medium of instruction in learning process. The aim of this method is not only to develop students' comprehension about the materials and facilitate them with more authentic materials since almost of the authentic sources about Chemistry are written in English, but also to get them closer with English and to improve their English skill especially in reading skill. Moreover, most science textbook are written in English and most science are used English to communicate the new issues or research findings.

In fact, many students seem not ready to use textbook written in English. They face difficulties in reading textbooks written in English. There are some factors that hamper students to deal with it. The first one is they are not used to read the texts or materials written in English related to science when they were in Junior and Senior High School. They were often given the texts in English but the texts contain general matters/issues. Moreover, their reading materials were limited to short and simple texts rather than books. So, when they are required to read textbooks written in English, they find it very difficult. However, they still have to use and read Chemistry textbooks and other references written in English because almost all of their main and authentic sources are written in English.

Dealing with textbook written in English is not the simple thing for the students. From the data obtained through preliminary research, some textbooks

that are required to use and read by the students are: *General, Organic, Biochemistry* by Denniston, et al and *Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry* by Nelson DL for students in 2016 academic year, *Physical Chemistry* by Atkins, P.W for students in 2017 academic year, *General Chemistry* by Brady. J for students in 2018 academic year, and many others. Some students support the use of textbooks written in English, but others find difficult to use it. For example, they have difficulty to comprehend some vocabulary and high level sentence construction. The high level sentence constructions include complex sentences, such as adjective and adverbial clauses. Thus, they tend to use textbooks written in Indonesia so that they don't need to translate the materials to Indonesian language.

This condition brings the different perceptions toward the use of textbook written in English through the Chemistry students. Perception means a process preceded by process of sensing, it is a process of receiving stimulus by individual through the senses or called sensory processes (Walgito, 2005) In this research, the writer focuses to collect and analyze chemistry students' perceptions toward the use of textbook written in English in learning process. The aim of this study is to find out students' perception of using textbook written in English and also find out whether they get ready or not to use Chemistry textbook written in English.

Besides, the research about perception is very common in education area, including students' and teachers' perception toward language teaching. The study conducted by Asrifan (2017) toward the Educational Technology students at STKIP Muhammadiyah Rampang, Makassar, concluded that the students had

positive perception toward bilingual-based materials in English class. The students stated that bilingual-based materials gave certain advantages for them in learning English. However, the study related to students' perception of using textbooks written in English for non English Department students was rarely found. One of the related research that the writer found is the study conducted by Nugroho (2008) which investigated the Psychology students' responses toward the use of English references at Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta. He informed that most of the students had positive perception and believed that using English references is beneficial in learning process even though there were some difficulties that arose.

Because of this reason, the writer is interested to analyze Chemistry students' perceptions of using textbook written in English. The writer would like to do the research with the title **“UNP Chemistry Students' Perception of Using Textbook Written in English”**. This study is conducted to Chemistry students enrolled in 2016 academic year in Chemical Department.

B. Identification of the Problem

Chemical Department has the policy that the students should use textbooks written in English as the medium of instruction in teaching and learning process. Certainly, the students should use and read textbooks written in English in their study. Moreover, almost of the authentic sources about Chemistry are also written in English. However, some students find difficulties to understand textbooks written in English because of some reasons. For example, they have difficulty to comprehend some vocabulary and high level sentence construction. This

condition brings out different perceptions about the use of textbook written in English to the students at this department.

C. Limitation of the Problem

In this study, the writer limits her study on analyzing Chemistry students' perception of using textbook written in English.

D. Formulation of the Problem

The problem of the research is formulated in this following question "What is Chemistry students' perceptions of using textbook written in English?"

E. Research Question

The problem of the research is elaborated in the following question

1. What is Chemistry students' perceptions of using textbook written in English?

F. Purpose of the Research

The purposes of the research can be described as follow:

1. to find out students' perception of using textbook written in English and find out whether they get ready or not to use Chemistry textbook written in English.

G. Significance of the Research

Be aware of students' perception is an integral part of learning and it becomes an essential component of learning process. It is crucial to get more information regarding the perception among the students in order to understand their competence, thought and feeling about the strategy or methodology in learning process. This research is conducted in order to give the information about

Chemical department students' perception about the use of textbook written in English. The results of this study will be used as the consideration whether the policy of using textbook written in English gains the positive or negative perception among the students.

Hence, if the results indicate negative perception among the students toward the use of textbook written in English, it can be concluded that applying the policy to use textbook written in English for the students needs to be reconsidered. Moreover, the students need more English courses subject especially English for Science in order to get them easier to understand textbook written English. Nevertheless, if the results show the positive perception, the use of textbook written in English in learning activities can be maintained and upgraded. In addition, this research can also be a reference for the researchers who are interested to carry out further study related to perception in different or similar context.

H. Definition of the Key Terms

To prevent misinterpretations among the readers, here are some key terms used in this study:

1. Chemistry

Chemistry is the branch of science concerned with the substances of which matter is composed, the investigation of their properties and reactions, and the use of such reactions to form new substance.

2. Perception

Perception means people's responses through the stimuli or events around them that affect the senses. It is a process of receiving, selecting, organising, interpreting, checking and reacting to stimuli.

3. Textbook

A book used as a standard work for the study of a particular subject.