

**USING HOT POTATOES MEDIA AS AN EXERCISE IN TEACHING  
READING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**PAPER**

*Submitted to fulfill one of the requirements to get Strata One degree (S1)*



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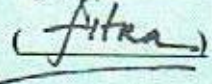
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## ABSTRAK

**Gusti, Anita Rosadi. 2013. “Using Hot Potatoes Media as an Exercise in Teaching Reading Descriptive Text at Junior High School”. Makalah Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris FBS UNP.**

Makalah ini bertujuan untuk memaparkan salah satu media pengajaran membaca teks deskriptif di Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP) dengan menggunakan aplikasi *Hot Potatoes*. Aplikasi ini menyuguhkan guru bahasa Inggris beberapa fitur-fitur untuk membuat berbagai macam soal yang nantinya berguna dalam pengajaran teks deskriptif di dalam kelas. Di awal pelajaran, guru memberikan siswa beberapa pertanyaan menyangkut teks deskriptif dan memperlihatkan gambar yang berhubungan dengan topik serta menayangkan teks tentang gambar tersebut. Selanjutnya, guru membagi siswa dalam beberapa kelompok dimana satu kelompok memiliki setidaknya memiliki satu komputer. Guru membuat sebuah kompetisi kecil dimana setiap kelompok bekerja sama untuk menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan secara offline yang dibuat dengan menggunakan aplikasi *Hot Potatoes*. Tentu saja, dengan menggunakan aplikasi ini dalam membuat pertanyaan dalam kelas, siswa menjadi lebih termotivasi untuk belajar bahasa Inggris lewat pertanyaan-pertanyaan dengan tampilan apik dan menarik. Guru juga terbantu dalam menciptakan pertanyaan-pertanyaan bermutu serta mudah dalam pengerjaannya.

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The writer

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the problem**

Reading is an important skill to be mastered by students who learn English as foreign language. In reading, the students learn through catching the information, growing their critical thinking, remembering their background knowledge, and getting the new knowledge from the passage they have read.

Moreover, reading ability is also important for daily life. If the students can read, they will be able to understand the content of newspaper and know how to describe their own, operate electronics' tool by reading brochure. Furthermore, reading is an all- important language skill that now more demanding than in any time in our history. By the exposure of the internet in global era, students need to master reading in order to understand the vast knowledge which embraces the world with.

Based on the Curriculum 2004 which was developed into curriculum KTSP 2006 of English at Junior High School, students need to know various genre or kinds of text (descriptive, narrative, report, procedure, and recount texts). One of the texts which must be understood by students is descriptive text.

The fact that based on writer's experiences in practice teaching at junior high school, there are some problems in comprehending various kinds of descriptive text. The problems may come from students, teachers, and reading materials. The students' problems are, for instance, it is difficult for students to

comprehend the texts. It happens because of some reasons. The first reason comes from the students who cannot activate their background knowledge and try to relate them with the new information provided. The other reason is that, the students do not have a lot of vocabulary. Kustaryo (1988) states that reading in the students' native language and reading in a foreign language learner is quite different matter, it means that reading in a foreign language is very difficult for students, because they are required to have adequate knowledge of the language which has a different system from their own language.

The media is the second reason in teaching reading. It plays an important role to the students in reading. However, the teacher still uses a traditional media in the learning process. The teacher just gives some explanation from the textbook or worksheet and distributes pieces of paper to the student. The teachers only distributed the texts and asked the students to read silently for several minutes, and then did some exercise by themselves. Finally, the teacher checked the answer together with the students and collected the exercises. As a result, they cannot explore the text too much. The media are not varied, monotonous activity, and lack of aids to help the students to comprehend the text easier. Because of that, the students do not understand a passage very well. They do not understand what they read because of lack of vocabulary. This cause the students do not get good mark at the end of the lesson. The students are prefer to choose a sophisticated media than the traditional one. Integrating internet in learning is more interesting for the students to do. The internet provides such a searching engine to find every informations the user wants to know. The students can find everything about

learning material by using the internet so fast and accurate. Comparing with the media from the teacher, the students will choose the sophisticated one in order to get a successful learning. It can be concluded that the media do not give good results.

The third problem comes from reading materials. Teacher should choose the materials which are relevant to the students' need and interest to understand a reading passage well, but teacher did not do it. The teaching materials are given to the students are not appropriate to the students' level, need, and ability. So, the students will be difficult to understand the text. Another reason is many students look bored in reading learning process, including in reading the descriptive text, because they are not interested in it. Sometimes the students have no interest on the text given, because some of the texts given no relationship with the students.

To overcome these problems, the teacher should give an interesting media and material in their teaching, in order to make the student get a good comprehension in reading. It is important to use a new media in order to help the teacher to teach reading successfully. The media is Hot Potatoes. It provides the teacher some features in making questions in order to teach reading to the students easier. It will make the learning process become more fun and interesting especially for the students.

## **B. Limitation of the problem**

Based on the problems discussed before, the writer is limited by the problem of using Hot Potatoes media as an exercise in teaching reading descriptive text at junior high school.

**C. Formulation of the problem**

The problem in this paper is formulated in the following question: “How can the Hot Potatoes media be used as an exercise in teaching reading descriptive text at junior high school?”

**D. Purpose of the paper**

The purpose of writing this paper is to explain how the teacher can use Hot Potatoes media as an exercise in teaching reading descriptive text at junior high school in order to make the teaching and learning process more interesting and fun.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

#### **A. Conclusion**

Based on previous discussion, it can be concluded that in order to help the students to learn about reading descriptive text, the teacher should pay more attention to material, media and activities in the class. The teacher is expected to be a good teacher in facilitating the learning process. He or she should be able to create some activities that can help students to understand what they are learning.

Hot Potatoes with its features can be used as a media to teach reading descriptive text at junior high school. This choice aims to find a new and interesting media to teach reading descriptive text. It helps the teacher to make the questions about the descriptive text and the students to understand the text by answering some questions from it. Hot Potatoes provides some features that are easy to operate and understand in order to achieve the goal of learning.

#### **B. Suggestions**

In order to make the students eager in studying English, especially in reading descriptive text, writer would like to give some suggestions that may be useful for English teachers. Writer wants to recommend English teacher to use appropriate methods in teaching reading descriptive text than the traditional one (the teacher only teaches the students by English textbook and later ask students to answer those questions, which relate with the topic that is being taught) because today's education demands the teacher to be attractive and creative in learning

process. It is important to do because the students need something interesting in learning in order to get success in learning. In addition, the teacher should encourage themselves to create new and creative method of teaching by using various material and media, so that the students more interested in learning English. It is suggested using Hot Potatoes as one of media that can be used in teaching reading descriptive text. It can be implemented out of classroom by using computer desktop, laptop. Hopefully, the teacher would use this to increase the student's interest and motivation in learning descriptive text.

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