

**USING SNOWBALL THROWING TO HELP JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPREHEND
A NARRATIVE TEXT**

PAPER

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Strata One
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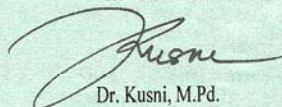
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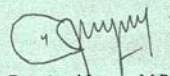
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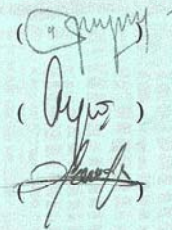
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ABSTRAK

Putri, Desni Triana Eka. 2010. “Using Snowball Throwing to Help Junior High School Students to Comprehend a Narrative Text”.
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Membaca merupakan salah satu bagian terpenting dalam pengajaran Bahasa Inggris. Tujuan dari pengajaran keterampilan membaca ini adalah untuk membantu siswa mendapatkan berbagai macam informasi dan pengetahuan. Kurikulum yang saat ini digunakan di Indonesia mengharuskan siswa SMP kelas II memiliki kemampuan memahami *narrative text* dan beberapa jenis teks lainnya. Dilihat dari *language feature* dan *generic structure*nya, *narrative text* adalah jenis teks yang sederhana. Namun pada kenyataannya siswa SMP kelas II masih mengalami kesulitan dalam memahami teks ini. Salah satu penyebabnya adalah kurangnya *vocabulary* yang dimiliki siswa dan strategi yang dipakai oleh guru dalam mengajar keterampilan membaca ini.

Untuk mengatasi hal tersebut, penulis menggunakan strategi pembelajaran *Snowball Throwing*. Dalam strategi ini, guru terlebih dahulu menjelaskan materi yang akan dipelajari kemudian guru membagi siswa dalam kelompok. Setelah itu, guru memberikan satu buah *narrative text* untuk setiap siswa. Setiap siswa diminta untuk menulis sebuah pertanyaan. Kemudian siswa diberikan satu lembar kertas untuk menuliskan pertanyaan apa saja yang berhubungan dengan teks yang telah dibaca dalam kelompok dan kertas tersebut dibuat seperti bola kemudian dilempar dari satu siswa ke siswa yang lain selama lebih kurang 5 menit. Setelah itu, siswa yang mendapatkan satu bola / satu pertanyaan diberikan kesempatan untuk menjawab pertanyaan yang tertulis dalam kertas tersebut secara bergantian sehingga siswa-siswa yang kurang memahami isi teks bisa memahami teks yang dibacanya. Kemudian guru membuat kesimpulan tentang materi dan hasil diskusi seluruh kelompok tersebut.

Melalui penerapan strategi *Snowball Throwing* penulis berharap dapat memotivasi siswa untuk lebih aktif dan bisa memahami teks secara cepat. Penulis juga berharap guru biasa menggunakan model pembelajaran ini dalam pengajaran membaca khususnya *narrative text* berdasarkan prosedur yang telah disediakan.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Reading is one of the important skills that should be mastered by students in learning English besides speaking, listening, and writing skill. This idea is supported by Harmer (2007) who says that reading is a good thing for language students. Through reading, the students can get knowledge. The knowledge can be got from books, newspapers, magazines, and other sources. Furthermore, the students will be more active in teaching learning process because they have knowledge that they get from reading. In addition, the students also get much information from the text that is being read. The students have to read many books to get information; they have to read carefully in order to comprehend what they read. If they cannot comprehend the content of the text, they will be difficult to get the information from the text. In other words, they will get failure in reading.

Based on the writer's experience in practice teaching at Junior High School in Lubuk Basung, the writer found some factors that cause the students difficulty to comprehend the text. First, they have lack of vocabulary. They read the text word by word so that they lost meaning of the sentence. When the students read the text, they found unfamiliar words in the reading materials and they were lazy to look for the meaning in the dictionary. It made them need long time to comprehend the text. If the students do not understand about the words, it is hard for them to comprehend the sentence. In short, they are not able to catch the main point of the materials that they have read.

The second factor that makes the students difficulty to comprehend the text is the material or the text given. Most of the teacher in that school did not provide the material based on the students' interest or level of understanding. As a result, the students feel bored and do not want to read the text. Thus, the students did not comprehend the text that they have read. This condition is supported by Smith (1998), he says that most of the students will not comprehend the text easily if the teacher gives unsuitable material for them.

The last factor is the teaching strategies in classroom. The teaching strategies that used by the teacher has not been satisfied yet so that the students have low motivation to read the text. The teacher just asks the students to read the text silently and answer the questions in exercise book. Hence, the students feel bored to learn English. Deutch (2005) says that reading strategies help the students to focus on reading and access relevant information. Therefore, the teacher should use a good reading strategy to the students. If the reading strategy is not good, their reading activities become boring and it will be difficult for them to comprehend the text.

According to School Based Curriculum (2006), teaching English in Junior High School is based on genres (kinds of text). There are five kinds of texts that should be taught in Junior High School, such as descriptive, procedure, narrative, recount and report. Each genre has different social functions, generic structures and language features of the text. The genres are introduced to the students in the form of reading text. The students are expected to understand and comprehend each genre correctly.

Among these texts, narrative text is one of the texts that should be comprehended by the students in the English subject at Junior High School. Narrative text is a kind of text which is used to tell a story that happened in the past. Its function is to entertain the reader. Narrative text has three generic structures, which are orientation, complication, and resolution.

Based on the writer's interview toward some of the students at Junior High School in Lubuk Basung, the students still got difficulty in comprehending the narrative text because the students still confused about past tense. Moreover, they did not have a large amount of vocabulary so that they were unfamiliar with imaginary verb and phrase that used in the text.

In helping the students to comprehend the text easily, the teachers have to apply good strategies. For example, teaching reading by using jigsaw, chart, predicting, snowball throwing, etc. By employing several good strategies, Snowball Throwing will help the students in comprehending the narrative text, it will also motivate the students to read and attract the students' attention because the teacher will ask the students to make a question based on the text.

Based on the problem above, the teachers should develop good strategies to make the students understand what they read. So, the process of teaching and learning run successfully. In this paper, the writer will introduce one of the good strategies for reading comprehension that is by using snowball throwing. The snowball throwing is a strategy that can be used to help Junior High School students in comprehending the text. In snowball throwing activities, the students are encouraged to make a question and answer it by themselves about the text that

they have read. Hence, the students have to focus to read the text. If they are not able to answer the friends' questions, they will probably be mocked by their friends. As a result, they will try to comprehend the text.

B. Limitation of the Problem

There are several strategies that can be used by the teacher to help the students reading comprehension in narrative text. This paper is limited on the use of Snowball Throwing strategy in teaching reading at Junior High School. This strategy can help the students to comprehend the text easily.

C. Formulation of the Problem

The problem will be formulated as follows: "How does the teacher implement snowball throwing strategy to help the students comprehend a narrative text in teaching reading at Junior High School?"

D. The Purpose of the Paper

This paper is intended to give information about how to help the students in reading comprehension by using snowball throwing. By using this strategy, it is expected junior high school student's reading comprehension will be improved. This paper will give valuable contribution and input for junior high school English teacher in teaching in order to improve the students reading comprehension and interest in learning any kind of reading text.