

**THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN READING EXPOSITORY TEXTS
AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNIVERSITY OF PADANG**

THESIS

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to
Obtain Strata One (S1) Degree*



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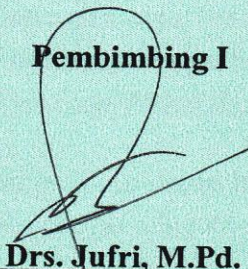
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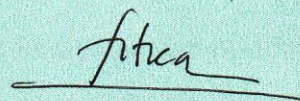
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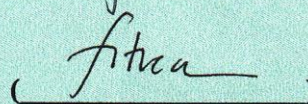
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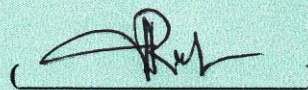
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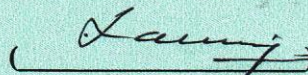
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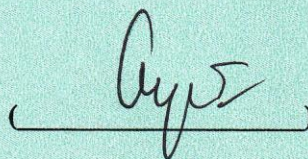
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Dengan ini menyatakan, bahwa tugas akhir saya dengan judul *The Students' ability in Reading Expository Texts at English Department of State University of Padang* adalah benar merupakan hasil karya saya dan bukan merupakan plagiat dari karya orang lain. Apabila suatu saat terbukti saya melakukan plagiat maka saya bersedia diproses dan menerima sanksi akademis maupun hukum sesuai dengan hukum dan ketentuan yang berlaku, baik di institusi UNP maupun masyarakat dan negara.

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ABSTRAK

Syafdiani. 2016. The Students' Ability in Reading Expository Text at the English Department of State University of Padang. *Skripsi*. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Padang.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan mahasiswa tingkat IV Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris tahun masuk 2012 dalam membaca teks ekspositori berbahasa Inggris ditinjau dari tiga tingkat kemampuan pemahaman membaca mereka. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif. Populasi penelitian ini adalah mahasiswa tingkat IV Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris tahun masuk 2012 Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Padang. Sampel penelitian ini berjumlah 23 orang yang terpilih dengan menggunakan teknik kluster acak (*cluster random sampling*). Data dikumpulkan melalui instrument yaitu tes *reading*. Dalam tes *reading*, mahasiswa diberikan total pertanyaan 30 butir yang mengukur pemahaman membaca teks secara literal, inferensial, dan kritis dengan masing-masing 10, 12, dan 8 pertanyaan. Data penelitian ini berupa skor jawaban tes *reading*. Berdasarkan data yang diperoleh, kemampuan mahasiswa di dalam membaca teks ekspositori berbahasa Inggris adalah pada kualitas *good enough* (cukup baik).

Kata kunci : teks ekspositori, kemampuan membaca

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Padang, April 2016

Syafdiani

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

For university students, reading becomes a crucial skill in academic purpose. The students are demanded to gain more knowledge of the lesson that they get from learning teaching process in classroom by reading to learn. The term, reading to learn, means that the students are able to study something through reading one or any kind of texts either in handed form (written and printing) or visualized form (pdf. format and web page). Their understanding toward the texts will influence how well they get information that contained in the text.

In English Department in State University of Padang, English which is a foreign language is used as medium language in learning process and also in course materials. To deal with the need of developing the students' reading ability, based on the 2012 academic year curriculum of English Department, there are some reading courses that are designed to help the students increasing their ability in reading text in English, and they must pass all the subjects. From earlier level, they have to take Intensive Course (IC) which is an integrated English basic skills subject: reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Then next semesters, the students take Reading 1, Reading 2, Reading 3, and Extensive Reading class. Also, the students have to attend a class that is named English Language Learning Strategies or ELLS where the students are informed regarding to any strategies and discuss their way to study in using English well.

Moreover, based on the researcher's experience while studying at English Department, the students are required to learn and read any kinds of texts. In extensive reading course syllabus, one of learning outcomes relates with the students' ability to evaluate the strategies of active reading by reading any qualified books and other reading materials at the appropriate level. One kind of the materials which relate with this is expository text or also known as informational text.

Unfortunately, not all of the students are able to read the expository texts like what they have been taught. The expository texts which they have to face are such as reading a textbook, journal articles, essay, and so on. It is also supported by McCormick (2007), the expository texts, also known as informational texts (e.g. textbooks, journal articles, lab procedures government documents), are more difficult to comprehend than narrative texts (e.g. realistic and historical fiction, myths, fairy tales, plays, legends). Similarly, Jennings et al. (2006) supports that the challenges of expository text when comparing it to narrative texts are less personal, more concept dense, contain more vocabulary and technical terms, require more background knowledge, and the reading level is often above students' frustration levels.

Related with reading, according to Gray in Alderson (2000:7), there are three understanding levels, such as reading 'the lines' for literal level, reading 'between the lines' for inferential level, and reading 'beyond the lines' for critical evaluations level of the text. These understanding levels can lead the students to be skilled with reading in college level and impact the students higher order

thinking. By realizing the understanding level, relates with reading expository texts, the students are able to comprehend the texts better and learn by reading well.

The researcher was interested in conducting research to find out the fourth year students' ability in reading expository texts at English Department of State University of Padang. Therefore, the researcher wants to know and analyze the students' understanding in reading expository text whether it is in literal, inferential or critical level.

B. Identification of the Problem

Reading plays an important role to the student's success in academic. Based on 2012 registered academic year curriculum that is used at English Department of Padang State University, the students have to take several compulsory reading courses in order to improve their reading ability level to read any material texts in English. Reading to learn becomes a must for the students to study through reading texts especially expository text which also called informative text, such as textbook, article, essay and so on. Related with their ability in reading, the three levels in understanding the texts need to be considered which are literal, inferential, and critical understanding to make them able to study appropriately. It is an interesting subject to be researched about understanding level of the students in reading expository text. Therefore, this research is focused on the student's ability in reading expository texts that belongs to the fourth year students of English Department.

C. Limitation of the Problem

It was stated previously in the identification of the problem above that the students still have any difficulties in reading texts. Related with that, this research was limited to the analysis of the students' ability in reading expository texts by the fourth year students of the English Department of State University of Padang. This study covered the students' ability in literal, inferential, and critical understanding level.

D. Formulation of the Problem

The research problem was formulated in this following question: "How was the students' ability in reading expository texts at English Department of Padang State University?"

E. Research Questions

The problem of this research was elaborated into the following questions:

1. How was the students' literal understanding ability in reading expository texts?
2. How was the students' inferential understanding ability in reading expository texts?
3. How was the students' critical understanding ability in reading expository texts?

F. Purpose of the Research

This study was conducted to find out:

1. The students' literal understanding ability in reading expository texts

2. The students' inferential understanding ability in reading expository texts
3. The students' critical understanding ability in reading expository texts

G. Significance of the Research

This research was about the students' ability in reading expository texts which related with their literal, inferential and critical understanding level to success in college. It is expected that this study can give contribution to English teaching and learning, particularly for the reading field. The finding of this research notifies the need to improve reading ability belongs to the fourth year students of English Department of Padang State University in understanding the expository texts. Also, it gives description to the lectures about the students' ability in reading viewed from their literal, inferential and critical understanding. Besides, this is hoped can be used as a reference for future research.

H. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid the misunderstanding, there are meaning of several terms used:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Reading ability | : the skill that relates in understanding any information through texts and recognizing the codes of words and build meaning from what has been read. |
| Expository texts | : one of the text genres that is structured to facilitate the study process and connect ideas for help guide students through their reading. |