

THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN UNDERSTANDING DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY

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Abstrak: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kemampuan mahasiswa dalam memahami esai deskriptif pada Mahasiswa Semester II STKIP Insan Madani Airmolek. Peneliti menggunakan Penelitian Deskriptif. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti ingin mendeskripsikan kemampuan siswa dalam memahami esai deskriptif. Penelitian ini menggunakan rumusan persentase total hasil uraian kemampuan deskriptif siswa dan mendeskripsikan hasil dalam pemahaman uraian esai deskriptif. Jawaban tes kemampuan siswa mencakup semua memenuhi skor hasil tes dengan hasil sedang yaitu 57%. Hasil dalam memahami esai deskriptif adalah sebagian besar siswa memperoleh nilai kurang dalam memahami esai deskriptif, dua siswa mendapatkan kriteria cukup, dan dua siswa mendapatkan kriteria cukup baik.

Kata kunci: Kemampuan, Pemahaman, Deskriptif Esai.

Abstract: The purpose of this research is to find out the students' ability in understanding descriptive essay at Second Semester Students of STKIP Insan Madani Airmolek. The researcher used Descriptive Analysis Research. In this research, researcher wants to describe the students' ability in understanding descriptive essay. This research used the formulation total percentage of the result students ability descriptive essay and describe the result in understanding descriptive essay. The students' ability tests answer include all meeting their score of the test result were fair is 57%. The result in understanding descriptive essay are most of the students got less in understanding descriptive essay, two students got fair criterion, and two students got fair good criterion.

Keywords: Ability, Understanding, Descriptive Essay

A. Introduction

English is an international language that is very important controlled in order to be able to communicate globally. Therefore, everyone is expected to master the English has become the second language that is commonly used in addition to Indonesian. English is a compulsory subject at the level of secondary, as well as the Senior High school to University level even though learning English. Based on law the 1945 Constitution No. 20 of 2003 education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have spiritual and values, self-control, personality, intelligence, character, and skills needed by themselves, society, nation and country (Hasbullah, 2005).

English is one of learning in education, and often our learn is English language. In the study, the ability is related to understanding the subject or the materials. Ability is stable character that connect with someone physic maximum ability. It means that, ability always related with human and human thinking or action. So, the ability too needed in the study especially in English. There are four language the skill in English, there are speaking, listening, writing, and reading. (Yuliana, 2015).

Reading skill is an important tool for academic success. Reading is the most useful and important skill for people. This skill is more important than listening, speaking and writing skill. Good reader is that which provide him/her both pleasure a

profit and reading is very necessary to widen the mind and understanding of the foreign culture. According to Tarigan (2008) reading is the process to understand the meaning of a written text. To get the meaning in written text, students can use several strategies to convey the text. Kasihani (2007) argues that the process of learning to read English for Indonesian children is not as easy as they learn to read Indonesian, this is because the spelling of written language is not the same as pronunciation or speech. Harmer (2011) says that reading is not a passive skill. It means that, reading is an incredibly occupation, a active work which we must to understand to get the information that we want. Aliponga (2013) also argue that reading is the recognition of word. It means that, with reading we can know or recognition of the words that there is in the text. Willis (2008) also states that reading ability as comprehending ability to understand printed words and sentences. It means that, reading is capable to know, understand, and comprehend about the writer writes.

According to Fransisco (2006) says that the understanding is skills that make the individual's general intelligence. It means that, every individual has general intelligence in their ability or skill. Next, understand is level means the characteristic mode in intellectual activities in a highly consistent and persuasive way. Yuliana (2015) also states the understanding is someone's capacity to do few activities in a job. It proves that, someone is considered able if he can do or handle all his responsibilities. In this case, the understanding is related to ability causes there is no ability without understanding.

Descriptive essay is types of essays that describe something. Specifically, a descriptive essay must describe something the writer experienced or knew, with enough detail to communicate the subject to the reader. In this genre, students are assigned to describe objects, objects, places, experiences, people, and situations. Students use sensory information to enable readers to use the five senses of touch, taste, smell, hearing, and vision to understand the essay topic.

Based on syllabus of reading in second semester students of English program in STKIP Insan Madani Airmolek in reading, it is hoped the students can develop reading skills in learning such as find the main idea, vocabulary, supporting details paragraph, factual information, specific information, and etc. Reading skill for the second semester students of English program in STKIP Insan Madani Airmolek is expected that the students are able to understand the meaning of short functional text and essay formed report text, descriptive text, narrative text, essay text, descriptive essay, and any else for accessing knowledge.

Based on the researcher's observations on the second semester students, there are some students who are still confused to understand the essay descriptive. Some of the students felt difficult to understand in reading especially in descriptive essay. It was reported that most of the student problems above generally occur in every student because they do not understand about descriptive essay. The researcher hopes are student in this semester can understanding about informations from the descriptive essay.

According with the explanation above, the researcher want to analyze the students' ability in understanding Descriptive Essay at Second Semester Student of STKIP Insan Madani Airmolek. It is important to find a solution to improve their problems in understanding descriptive essay.

B. Method

This research was a descriptive method. The purpose of this research was to analyze the students' ability, and what are the students' ability in understanding descriptive essay based on the indicators of descriptive essay. This research was conducted at Second Semester STKIP InsanMadaniAirmolek. The participant were second semester students 2019/2020 Academic year consisting of 10 students. There were four instruments in this research; observation, test, interview and documentation. The data were analyzed quantitative and qualitatively by Sugiono (2011).

C. Finding and Discussions

The researcher has conducted this research through the techniques of collecting data as stated in the research method. The data collected were dedicated to answer the research questions of the students ability in understanding descriptive essay, and what are the students' ability in understanding descriptive essay at second semester students of STKIP InsanMadaniAirmolek based on the test. After doing the test, the researcher found the ability in understanding descriptive essay. The students were asked to the test. From the test, the researcher got the data the second semester English Study Program student of the School of Advanced Learning on Teachers Training and Education (STKIP) InsanMadaniAirmolek in the Academic year 2019/2010 is less. From the 10 samples of the research, there were 6 students who are less in doing test, 2 students got fair criterion, 2 students got fair good criterion. From the table below can be seen if no one got good and excellent criterion:

Result of the Students' in Understanding Descriptive Essay

No.	Name Of Students	Meeting I	Meeting II	Meeting III
1.	Student 1	50	40	40
2.	Student 2	50	60	50
3.	Student 3	40	50	40
4.	Student 4	60	50	50
5.	Student 5	70	40	40
6.	Student 6	40	40	40
7.	Student 7	40	40	40
8.	Student 8	60	60	60
9.	Student 9	70	60	50
10	Student 10	40	40	50

Based on table the students' ability in understanding descriptive essay test, the researcher got the data of the students' average score of the meeting I, II, III also can be seen there on the table below:

	The Students' Score test in reading descriptive text				
	Excellent	Good	Fair good	Fair	Less
Score	0	0	60 60	50 53,3 53,3	40 40 43,3 43,3

Total score	0	0	120	156,6	209,9
Number of students	0	0	2	3	5
Mean	0	0	60	52,2	41,9

Based on the table above the analysis is, the students' average score of the meeting I, II, III got excellent criterion is 0, students' average value got good criterion is 0, students' average value got fair good is 60, and the students' average value got fair is 52,2. So, the number of students divide total score is the students' average value got 41,9 and it so less. So, no one of the students in this semester got the excellent criterion.

After analyzing the score of the students test in understanding descriptive essay by using percentage score of the second semester English Study Program students at STKIP InsanMadaniAirmolek, the researcher used the technique for calculating the ability of all students in understanding descriptive essay by using the formula by AnasSudijono (2018). The data showed that the ability of second semester English Study Program students in understanding descriptive essay got fair criterion is 575%. It can be said that the second semester English Study Program students are fair in understanding descriptive essay.

Furthermore, based on the test student' answer, the researcher found the student's ability in understanding descriptive essay. It can be seen on the table below:

The Students' Ability in Understanding Descriptive Essay

No.	Activities	Yes	No	Remark
1.	The students can not to find the title based on descriptive essay	8	2	some of the students still confuseto finding the title based on descriptive essay
2.	Students can not to make a statement from the descriptive essay	6	4	Some of the students cannot to make a statement from the descriptive essay
3.	Students can not to find supporting information from descriptive essay	6	4	Some of the students do not find the supporting information for descriptive essay
4.	The Students do not able to draw or describe the conclusion from the descriptive essay	7	3	Some of the students do notlike descriptive essay, and because of that the students so hard to draw or describe the conclusion from the descriptive essay
5.	Limit of the time	8	2	Some of the students do not have time enough to answer the questions from the understand descriptive essay test.

Based on the table of this research, the researcher know that, the first is in that situations 8 Sudents from 10 students in this class still confuse to finding the title

based on descriptive essay, 6 students from 10 students in this class cannot to make a statement based on descriptive essay, 6 students from 10 students do not find supporting information from descriptive essay, 7 students from 10 students do not like descriptive essay that is why so hard to them to draw or describe the conclusion the descriptive essay, 8 students from 10 students do not have time enough to answer the questions from the understand descriptive essay test.

Based on interview the test after, in the fact the students cannot to read descriptive essay well, do not understand clearly and some of the students still do not able to get the informations especially the informations from descriptive essay. So, some of the students hard to find the title based on descriptive essay, students still do not to make the statement from descriptive essay, students cannot find supporting information from descriptive essay, students do not able to draw or describe the conclusion from descriptive essay, dan students do not have time enough to answer the questions from descriptive essay. After that based on the data of interview, 8 students cannot find the title of text because the students confuse and lazy to read the text, 6 students cannot make statement because the students have lack of vocabulary to make it. 6 students do not find supporting information from the text because the students have not able to understand to find supporting information from the text, 7 students do not able to draw or describe the conclusion from descriptive essay because the students cannot get information from the text and the students do not understand the meaning of the text, 8 students feel do not have time enough to get and looking for the important informations from descriptive essay because the students need more time to answer the test.

D. Conclusion

Based on the research finding and the presentation of data analysis, the researcher has conclusion about an analysis of the students' ability in understanding descriptive essay at second semester students of STKIP Insan Madani Airmolek. It mean that, the researcher found, most of the students are fair in understanding descriptive essay. All of students in this semester from the test can be seen if no one of the student got excellent criterion. Then, students also do not like to read, less concentrate, and the students do not understand about descriptive essay, that all of indicates that the students did not understand well about descriptive essay and easy the get more informations. So, at the second semester students in this semester should practice reading descriptive essay to able understanding in descriptive essay and the students must have motivation to study especially in reading text.

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