

MILIK PERPUSTAKAAN
STAIN ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA

THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING READING
SKILL AMONGST THE STUDENT
SMAN 1 SERUWAY

THESIS

Submitted By :

AMIR HAMZAH

The Student of English Department
Tarbiyah Faculty
Student No : 140700085



STATE COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES
ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA
2013 M / 1434 H

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THESIS

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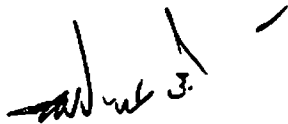
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The Writer,

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on The Problems of Developing Reading Skill Amongst the Student SMAN I Seuruway. Reading is typically an individual activity, although on occasion a person will read aloud for the benefit of other listeners. Reading aloud for one's own use, for better comprehension, is a form of intrapersonal communication. The purpose of the study is to find out the students' problems in developing reading skill at SMAN I Seuruway. This research used qualitative method and the writer administrated interview as the instrument of the research. The instrument was carried out to describe the problems of developing reading skill amongst the students. It was started from May 09th to May 20th, 2013 on students of SMAN I Seuruway. In conducting the research, the writer took 9 from 29 students as the samples by using purposive sampling technique. Afterwards, the result of this research was analyzed by using Milles & Huberman formula to find the result of the data and the triangulation technique was implemented as the validity of data. The data that was obtained will be presented in the descriptive form of text. The result of interview showed that many students' problems in reading skill such as many unfamiliar words, pronunciation, trouble sounding out words and recognizing words out of context, confusion between letters and the sounds they represent, slow oral reading rate (reading word-by-word), ignoring punctuation while reading. The writer suggests to the English teacher to be more serious and careful in selecting the method, which is suitable with the students' condition. Then the writer expects the students to improve their reading ability in reading class as often as possible. With this study, the writer hopes it will give good advantage to the reader.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

The majority of humans are able to read in their first languages at some basic levels. Literacy is seen as necessary for improving earning potential and quality of life. Reading and literacy provides a very special entry to a better standard of living. Without it, opportunities for improving one's life are limited.

In foreign language learning, reading is likewise a skill that teachers simply expect learners to acquire.¹ Basic, beginning level textbooks in a foreign language presuppose a students' reading ability if only because it is a book that is the medium. Most formal tests use the written word as a stimulus for test taker response. Even oral interviews may require reading performance for certain tasks. Reading, arguably the most essential skill for success in all educational contexts, remain a skill of paramount as we create assessments of general language ability.

By reading, understands written text, such as printed, visual and digital texts. It simply finds that the end of the result of any act engaged with a written text should be comprehended of text.² According to Dubin, "Reading is primarily a cognitive process, which means that the brain does most of the work".³ It is a

¹H. Douglas Brown. *Language Assessment, Principles and Classroom Practices* (San Francisco State University, 2007), 185.

² Pauline Harris, *Reading in the Primary Years* (Nelson Australia, 2006), 18.

³ F.Dubin, D.E. Eskey and W. Grabble, *Teaching Second Language Reading for Academic Purposes* (California, Edison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1986), 6.

multi dimensional process that involves the eyes, the ears, the mouth and the most important is the brain.⁴

Reading is a complex activity which involves a range of different skills process and types of knowledge.⁵ It consists of two related processes, word recognition and comprehension. Word recognition refers to the process of perceiving how written symbols correspond to one's spoken language. Comprehension is the process of making sense of words, sentences and connected text. Furthermore, it is the process of constructing meaning by coordinating a number of complex processes that include word reading, word and world knowledge and fluency.

Reading is one of the most basic, necessary important skills in life. It is the fundamental skill of mankind. By reading we expand our tiny world beyond the universe. When people master reading and gain an enjoyment of this powerful skill they will have a foundation in which they can learn any subjects, easily as the basis for understanding any subject matter. Even learning mathematics, science and other subjects are based on the ability to comprehend each chapter and its instructions. Reading is a must. We read when we open our eyes, do our routines and on the way to work until we get home to bed. We read many kinds of reading materials every day, such as books, newspaper, advertisements, magazines, etc.

Besides that, the important reason why the students should try to develop reading skill because the researcher has found that there is a strong correlation

⁴ Danny Brassel and Timothy Rasinski, *Comprehension at Work Taking Students Beyond Ordinary Understanding to Deep Comprehension* (Huntington beach, shell education, 2008), 15.

⁵ Kate Cain, *Reading Development and Difficulties* (Library of Congress, Publication Data United Kingdom, Mcmillan Company), 5.

between reading and academic success. In this case, a person who is a good reader is more likely to do well in school and pass exam than a student who is a weak reader. It is because good readers can understand the individual sentences and the organizational structure of a piece of writing. They can comprehend ideas, follow arguments and detect implications. They know most of the words in the text already, but they can also determine the meaning of many unfamiliar words from the context. They can use their dictionary effectively. Ideally, a good reader can extract writing content which is particular task employed in and they can do it quickly.

In general, educational researchers have also found a strong correlation between reading and vocabulary knowledge. In other words, people who have a large vocabulary are usually good readers. This is not very surprising since the best way to acquire a large vocabulary is to read intensively, which it will develop us to be a good reader. Thus, reading is crucial to people's life in order to succeed in one's chosen career and to personal fulfillment. As the world becomes more complex, reading is increasingly important for people who are trying to find their place in it. Now we can see that how important reading is, but do we really know what reading means to us.

Reading is not an easy skill to develop. We need many kinds of techniques to understand or comprehend what we have read. Students will never read

efficiently unless they can adapt technique to their aim when reading. Grellet states that reading is a constant process of guessing and what one finds in it.⁶

Many students of senior high school have learnt reading comprehension for years, but still find it hard to understand reading text. They have been taught about reading since they were in junior high school. However, when entering senior high school, they still face the difficulties in understanding the reading text. There are many factors such as materials, book availability, classrooms condition and teaching techniques which influence student in improving their reading skills. An English teacher has an important role to cope with those factors above by mastering or preparing the material that will be presented.⁷ To limit exposition of this research, the writer would like to focus only on the teaching technique of developing reading skill.

Therefore, in this study the writer wants to emphasize students' reading skill, in which it is usually a major become factor in learning process at the students of SMA N. 1 Seruway. At this school the writer finds many students who can not read well because they still have not enough skill in reading, so their ability is too low. Thus, this problem becomes interested for writer to make a research.

Based on the background above the writer is interested in doing research and takes the title ***"The Problems of Developing Reading Skill Amongst the Students of SMA N. 1 Seruway"***.

⁶ Francois Grellet, *Development Reading Skill, A Practical Guide to Reading Comprehension Exercise*, (New Direction in Language Teaching, Cambridge University Press, 1986), 7.

⁷ Habiburrahim, *Teaching English Reading Skill to the Second Year Student of MAN 1 Banda Aceh* (1996), 2.

B. The Problem of Study

Based on the background of study writer takes the following questions:

1. What are the students' problems in developing reading skill at SMAN 1 Seruway?

C. The Purpose of Study

The purpose of study as follow:

1. To find out students' problems in developing reading skill at SMAN 1 Seruway.

D. The Significance of Study

There are some significances of study expected to be useful:

1. For School

The result of this study can expect to add information about problems of learning English, especially developing reading skill.

2. For Teachers

The result of this study can be developed the problems in reading skill at the students in SMA N. 1 Seruway.

3. For Students

The result of this study can be used to know the problems in developing reading skill.

4. For Researcher

The result of this study can be used to know how to develop the students' problems in reading skill.

E. Terminology

There are some terms in this research that is needed to explain clearly, namely:

1. The problem is an obstacle, impediment, difficulty or challenge, or any situation that invites resolution, the resolution of which is recognized as a solution or contribution toward a known purpose or goal.⁸ A problem implies a desired outcome coupled with an apparent deficiency, doubt or inconsistency that prevents the outcome from taking place.
2. Developing is the effort done by everyone to improve a good ability than before.
3. Reading means the multidimensional process that involves the eyes, the ears, the mouth and the most important is the brain.⁹ On the other hands, Nuttal said reading as the meaningful interpretation of printed or written verbal symbols.¹⁰ From the statement the writer understands that reading is the result of an interaction between the graphic symbols that interpretation language and the perception about the word.

⁸ *Problem Solving*, <http://wikipedia.freencyclopedia.com>. (accessed October 13th, 2012).

⁹ Danny Brassel and Timothy Rasinski,, 17.

¹⁰ Nuttal, Cristine, *Teaching Skills in Foreign Language*, (London, Heineman Education Books, 1982), 14.

4. According to Martin, skill means the ability.¹¹ Allyn and Bacon said that “Ability is potential or power to do something physical or mental or special nature power to do something well.¹²” From statement above the writer concludes that ability or skill is someone’s basic (power and potential) which can bring to the progress and safety.

¹¹ Martin H. Manser, *Oxford Learners Pocket Dictionary*, (Oxford University, New York, 2003), 1.

¹² Allyn and Bacon, *Psychology the Science of Behavior*, (London: Longman, 1964), 2.