IMPROVING STUDENTS' READING ABILITY
USING SHORT STORY AT GRADE VIII
SMP NEGERI 1 TOMOHON

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Abstract: The short story is effective way in improving students' reading ability at grade VIII SMP Negeri 1 Tomohon. This research aims to find out the effectiveness of short story in improving students' reading ability at Grade VIII SMP Negeri 1 Tomohon. The research design employed in this research was true experimental. The population of this research was the students' at grade VIII SMP Negeri 1 Tomohon and the sample was 20 students in the experimental group and 20 students in the control group. The result of data analysis showed that the experimental group got mean score 84.25 than the control group got mean score 39.5. It means that, the mean score of the students in the experimental group was higher than for those in the control group. It showed that there is a significant improvement on students' reading ability through short story and it indicated that short story is effective to improve students' reading ability at grade VIII SMP Negeri 1 Tomohon. Regarding to the research findings, it is recommended to the English teachers to use short story to improve the students' reading ability. For the future researchers, it is also recommended to use the results of this research as a reference in employing a similar research on the same or different language skills in different setting.

INTRODUCTION

Language is human communication tool to interact. Language is fundamental to all social processes, and human do need language to communicate to each other, stated by (Sudarsono, Samola and Maru, 2018). Without language, people would find problems in sharing information, interacting with others, showing sympathies and clarifying important cases (Liando and Lumettu, 2017). In human life this

communication tool plays an important role, so that human being will always try to improve their ability in language (Lumentut and Lengkoan, 2021). People require communication in order to interact with one another. They must communicate through language in order to interact with one another and express their feelings or share ideas and views (Liando, Sahetapy and Maru, 2018).

According to (Mogea, 2019), English is an international language used all over the world, for education, technology, political, and commercial purpose. In Indonesia, English language has the important role as the first foreign language to be taught in schools from the elementary school up to the university level. In Junior High School level, English is a compulsory subject that must be studied by the students that is four hours in a week. The Junior High School students are hoped to master the four language skills, they are: listening, speaking, reading, writing and these language skills are taught integrated.

Junior High School students in Indonesia still find difficulties in learning the four language skills one of them is reading (Tangiduk, Samola and Rorimpandey, 2021). If they wish to adapt themselves in this era, they have no choice but to try to learn it. A person's ability to learn is frequently aided by his willingness to read extensively. Whether he reads scientific writings (journals or books on social or natural sciences) or popular literature, it makes no difference (magazine, newspaper, novels or short story). All of this provides a wealth of opportunities for them to expand their knowledge.

To learn narrative text reading abilities, students require materials that are simple, informative, motivating, and engaging (Rivers & Temperley, 1978). Narrative literature tells us about a fascinating story that pupils may appreciate. According to (Pamela, 2004), reading narrative text is generally referred to as aesthetic reading because it is done for pleasure and delight.

In a similar vein (vein, Ghasemi, and Hajizadeh, 2011), the learners are particularly well-suited to reading since short stories have different characteristics. The goal is for students to understand it and for any form of educational material to be created so that reading does not become tedious or boring. Short stories are generally more engaging than course material, which is why they are chosen as reading

materials. It is backed up by (Setyani, 2009), who claims that the short story is entertaining and can assist students become more interested in the target culture and language. In contrast, the short story is a modern prose form.

To address the aforementioned issue, the author is considering employing short stories to help pupils improve their reading skills. The author wants to see if using short stories may help pupils improve their reading skills. The writer wants to know how short stories affect pupils' reading abilities for the reasons stated above. The impact of materials can be facilitated as a learning tool depending on the reading level and learning style. The writer is interested in undertaking a study titled "Developing Students' Reading Ability Using Short Story at Grade VIII SMP Negeri 1 Tomohon" in response to the students' problems in improving their reading ability and achieving basic competence.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Reading Ability

Ability is described as an individual's ability to do a variety of activities in a given situation. To put it another way, ability is that you have the ability to perform something. Ability, or talent, is the ability or power to do something.

Reading is process of analyzing a text's meaning or message from a series of written words. (Lambe, 2011), "Reading is an activity and process that is done by reader to understand written texts"

The ability to communicate with the writer in order to get knowledge and information is known as reading ability. According to (Tatipang et al, 2021), the greatest way to strengthen reading skills is to combine them with writing, listening, and speaking exercises. Even in reading classes, relying on the interaction of talents, especially the reading–writing relationship, will help you achieve your objectives.

A short story is a literary work of fiction that is shorter than a novel. According to MacMillan, "a short tale is a brief work of prose narrative" (1985). A brief narrative, then, might be a short exposition story that can be studied in a short period of time. To put it another way, the reader doesn't require much time to figure out what the short story is about.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the writer used true-experimental design with the pattern:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
R & X & 0_1 \\
\\
R & & 0_2
\end{array}
$$
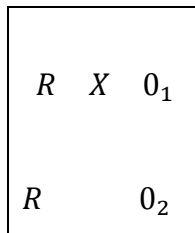
Information:

R=Random

X= Treatment

01= Post test scores from experimental group

02= Post test scores from control group

(Sugiyono, 2017)

This study's participants are all second-year students at SMP Negeri 1 Tomohon. There are 196 pupils in the population, divided into seven classes. In the academic year 2021/2022, the sample for this study consisted of 20 students in the experimental group and 20 students in the control group.

A research instrument is a gadget used by a researcher to make his work easier and to produce a more full and systematic result in order for the data to be processed more easily (Arikunto, 2002: 132). The test is the research's instrument.

Data collection techniques are carried out by giving test to students. The following are the steps in data collection, they are:

1. The writer conducted observation at SMP Negeri 1 Tomohon in order to collect data.
2. The writer design material (narrative text) and test of questions that gave to the students in data collection
3. The writer takes MID score of the students from English teacher for identification of experimental group and control group.
4. The value of the students in the 2 group is the used as data processing.

The writer used data calculation techniques in statistics, namely by looking for a comparison of the average value of each learning technique using the formula:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$

Notes:

$\bar{x}$: Mean score

$\sum x$: Total number of students score

N   : Total number of students

(Gulo. W. 2002)

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this study, there were two groups: a control group and an experimental group. Before the writer used a short narrative to the experimental group and a lecture approach to the control group, the groups had the same ability. The following are the findings of the study:

1. Frequency Distribution of Experimental Group

Score	Tally	Frequency	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percentage
75	II	2	2	10
80	VI	6	8	30
85	V	5	13	25
90	VII	7	20	35

The result of the calculation of the experimental group score showed that there were 20 students as sample in this research. Two or 10% students got 75, four or 30% students got 80, five or 25% students got 85, and seven or 35% students got 90.

2. Frequency Distribution of Control Group

Score	Tally	Frequency	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percentage
20	I	1	1	5
30	V	5	6	25
35	II	2	8	10
40	III	3	11	15
45	V	5	16	25
50	III	3	19	15
55	I	1	20	5

The result of the calculation of the control group scores showed that of the 20 students sampling, one or 5% got 20, five or 25% got 30, two or 10% got 35, three or 15% got 40, five or 25% got 45, three or 15% got 50, and one or 5% got 55.

3. Result of Mean Score

Experimental group		Control Group	
$\Sigma X(0,)$	1.685	$\Sigma X(0,)$	790
N	20	N	20
Mean score	84,25	Mean score	39,5

The writer gives the discussion of students' data after calculating and evaluating the data at the findings. This part summarizes the findings of the data analysis and

connects them to the theory presented in Chapter II. This portion also attempted to describe the pupils' improvement in reading ability as a result of the short narrative.

Reading ability is the ability to communicate with the writer in order to obtain knowledge and information. Reading skill will be best enhanced in conjunction with writing, listening, and speaking activities, according to (Brown and Lee, 2015). Even in reading classes, relying on the interplay of abilities, particularly the reading–writing connection, will help you reach your goals.

The results of this study indicated that the total score of the experimental group test was higher than the control group test. There were twenty students who take parts in experimental group test and there were also twenty students who take the parts in the control group test. In experimental group the highest score was ninety got by seven students (35%) and the lowest score was seventy five by two students (10%). Six students got eighty (30%), five students got eighty five (25%). In the control group the highest was fifty five got by one student and the lowest score was twenty got by one student. Five students got thirty (25%), two students got thirty five (10%), three students got forty (15%), five students got forty five (25%), three students got fifty (15%). The mean score of experimental group was 84,25 and the mean score of control group was 39,5. It can be said that the result of experimental group test was better than control group. It caused by 1) Conventional study is done in the study of English, even the other lessons are boring to the students. 2) Short stories have unique characteristics thus making the students interest and stimulate curiosity toward the target culture and language. So, the result of this research showed that the students' learning outcomes in English narrative text material by using short story is more appropriate than conventional method at school.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion at the previous pages, the writer can conclude that using short story is more effective and better than conventional method. It was proven by the result of the research in the experimental group test is 84.25 and the mean score of the control group test is 39.5. The mean score of experimental group

is higher than the control group's mean score. As a result, using short story more effective and better than conventional method especially in teaching English with narrative text as the material. From the conclusion above, there are some suggestion that are proposed by the writer, The English Teacher of SMP Negeri 1 Tomohon can apply short story in teaching English, especially in improving students' reading ability. It is suggested for the students to improve their ability in English especially in reading skill. The future researcher is expected to conduct a research to find another significant of short story in other English language skills.

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