

ABSTRACT

Yunita, Eka. 2018. *An Analysis of the Second Grade Students' Ability in Comprehending an Explanation Text at SMA Kartika 1-5 Padang*. Thesis. English Department, Bung Hatta University.

Advisors : 1. Dr. Joni Alfino, S.Pd, M.Pd.
2.Dra. Ernati, M.Pd.

The purpose of this research was to find out the ability of the second grade students of SMA Kartika 1-5 Padang in comprehending an explanation text. This research was limited to the students' ability in comprehending general statement, sequence and closing the explanation text.

The design of this research was descriptive. The population of this research was the second grade students of SMA Kartika 1-5 Padang. The number of population was 165 students. The researcher took the sample by using stratified cluster random sampling technique. The researcher took two classes as sample; XI MIA 3 and XI IIS 1. The number of sample was 52 students. The data were collected by giving a reading test. To know the reliability of the test, the researcher used split half method. The reliability index of this test was 0.89 and it was categorized into very high.

The result of data analysis revealed that the second grade students of SMA Kartika 1-5 Padang had low ability in comprehending the explanation text. It was indicated by the fact that 44 students (85%) had low ability in comprehending the explanation text. Specifically, the students' ability in comprehending the general statement of explanation text was low. It was indicated by the fact that 46 students (88%) had low ability. The students' ability in comprehending the sequence of explanation text was low. It was indicated by the fact that 45 students (86.5%) had low ability. The students' ability in comprehending the closing of explanation text was also low. It was indicated by the fact that 45 students (86.5%) had low ability.

By having known that the students' ability in comprehending the explanation text was low, the researcher gives suggestion to English teachers, the students and further researcher. The English teachers are suggested to give more explanation and exercises about explanation text. The students are suggested to study hard and learn more about explanation text, especially about generic structures. The further researchers are expected to find and analyze the factors which influence the students' ability in comprehending explanation text.

Key words : *Reading, ability, comprehending explanation text*