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Finally, the researcher realizes that this thesis is not perfect yet and have

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Padang,

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ABSTRACT

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Advisors: 1. Lailatul Husna, S.Pd, M.Pd

2. Dra. Ernati, M.Pd

This reseach was aimed to describe the ability of the second year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University to understand simple sentence. The design of this research was descriptive. The population of this research was the second year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University. The number of populations was 25 students. The researcher used total sampling technique, and the number of the sample was 25 students. The instrument used to get the data was a reading test and its reliability was .74, it means that the test had high reliability. In analyzing the data the researcher counted the students' score, converted them and he categorized the students' ability by using Bung Hatta University criteria. The last he counted the percentage of students who had very good ability, good ability, moderate ability and bad ability in understanding simple sentence.

The result of data analysis revealed that the students' ability in understanding simple sentence was good. It ws proved by the fact that there were 13 (52%) students had good ability in understanding simple sentence. In addition, in term of understanding simple sentence, the students should be able to understand the key idea and supporting idea of the sentence. The researcher also counted the students' ability in each part. In understanding the key idea of simple sentence, the students' ability was good. It was proved by the data 16 (64%) students had good ability in understanding key idea, and the students' ability in understanding supporting idea was very good. It can be seen from the data 12 (48%) students had very good ability in understading supporting idea.

Finally, after the researcher identified the students' ability in understanding simple sentence, the students are expected to improve their ability in understanding key idea of simple sentence although they have got good ability, it is better for them to be able to attain very good ability. Besides, the lecturers are expected to find out the ways to teach the students who still have bad ability.

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