

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND GRADE STUDENTS'  
DIFFICULTIES IN COMPREHENDING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT  
AT ISLAMIC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (MTsN) PARAK  
LAWEH PADANG**

**THESIS**

*Submitted to fulfill a Partial Requirement for Getting S.1 Degree at English  
Department of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Bung Hatta  
University*



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PADANG  
2017**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Bismillahirrohmanirrohim

Alhamdulillah robbil ‘alamin, the researcher expresses his highest gratitude to Allah subhanahu wa ta’ala for blessing, love, opportunity, health, and mercy to complete this thesis entitled “An Analysis of Second Grade Students’ Difficulties In Comprehending Descriptive Text at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang.”. This research was submitted to fulfill a partial requirement for obtaining S1 degree from English Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Bung Hatta University. Shalawat is also addressed to Prophet Muhammad shallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam who had delivered the truth to human beings in general and Muslim in particular.

In writing this thesis, a lot of people have provided motivation, advice, support, and even remark that helped the researcher. In this valuable chance, the researcher aims to express his gratitude and appreciation to all of them. First, he presents his sincere appreciation to her advisors; They are Drs. Syamsul Huda, M.Pd, as the first advisor and Dra.Ernati, M.Pd, as the second advisor who helped him patiently in completing this thesis by giving suggestions, guidances, and corrections.

The researcher also would like to express her gratitude and appreciation to Drs. Khairul, M.Sc. and Drs.Yusrizal, M.Si., as the Dean and the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Bung Hatta University, to Dra. Ernati, M.Pd., as the Head of English Department, Dra. Lisa Tavriyanti, M.Pd., as the Secretary of English Department and also to all of lecturers who have taught and guided the researcher during his study at this department. His thankfulness also goes to all his friends in English Department whose names cannot be mentioned here one by one.

Then the researcher’s deepest appreciation goes to his beloved parents, Erizal and Barnah Nurjanah, as well as his big family for their love and care which cannot be paid by any material in this world. And then, the researcher says thanks to the best grandmother and sisters; Alm.Mariana, Asih Anggraini, Ananda Trigina and Lilik Puji Lestari who has been supporting, encouraging, loving, praying and giving motivation to the researcher.

Finally, the researcher hopes this thesis could contribute to better process of teaching and learning English in the future. He realizes that this thesis is not

perfect yet. Therefore, she welcomes any criticisms and suggestions from the readers.

Padang, January 2017

The Researcher

## ABSTRACT

### **Asep Anwar Subarna (2017): An Analysis of the Second Grade Students' Difficulties in Comprehending Descriptive Text at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang**

**Advisors :** 1. **Drs. Syamsul Huda, M.Pd.**

2. **Dra. Ernati, M.Pd.**

This research is aimed at finding out the second grade students' difficulties in comprehending descriptive text at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang.

Design of this research is descriptive. The number of population is 67 students. They were distributed into two classes. The researcher took 32 students (one student was absent) as try out test and 26 students (eight students was absent) as sample taken by using convenience sampling technique. The researcher gathered the data by using reading test to measure students' difficulties in comprehending descriptive text. To analyze, the data the researcher used the Person Product Moment Formula.

In general, the result of the data analysis revealed that 80.77% of the second grade students at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang had difficulties in comprehending descriptive text and 19.23% had no difficulties in comprehending descriptive text. Specifically, 42.30% of them had difficulties and 57.69% had no difficulties in comprehending identification of descriptive text. Moreover, 92.30% of them had difficulties and 7.7% had no difficulties in comprehending description of descriptive text.

Learning from the result, it can be concluded that many students of the second grade year students at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang had difficulties in comprehending description of descriptive text. Consequently, it is suggested to the teachers to minimize the students' difficulties by giving the students more explanation and exercise in reading descriptive text. For the students, they are suggested to learn more and do more exercise in order to minimize their difficulties

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, research questions, purposes of the study, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

### **1.1 Background of the Problem**

Language is very important to human's life. It is used to communicate with other people. One of the languages is English, so English has become a major language in the world and the international language used by the people in the most entire countries. As an international language, English does not only enable us to communicate and interact with the most people in the world, but also can make our life better.

There are four language skills that must be learned by the students they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading is a skill that make students understand and comprehend the text. Through reading, the students can increase their knowledge, enrich their vocabulary, get information, and refresh their mind. In other words, this skill is a bridge to get information.

According to McCracken and Walcutt (1969:4), reading is to get information of some sort from the printed page. Reading is one of the receivitive skills that must be learned by the students of English as a foreign language. The basic goal of reading instructions for SMP/MTsN students are: (1) Improving their language development;

(2) giving them personal knowledge of the function of prints; helping them to learn about books and the importance of reading ( Junior High School curriculum 2003).

For Indonesian students, english is a foreign language, so to master it they have to follow learning processes which aims to master four language skills: namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each of those skills has its own characteristics and degrees of difficulties. To uncover problems faced by foregin students in mastering those four skills, research need to be conducted. The researcher is interested to conduct research about students difficulties in understanding descriptive text. Particullarly, this research focuses on investigating difficulties faced by the students at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang in uderstanding descriptive text.

Based on curriculum competency for Junior High School (SMP) and for Islamic Junior High School (MTsN), the second grade students are introduced several kinds of genre, such as procedure, descriptive, narrative, and recount. Each genre has its own characteristics. Based on the researcher's observation when he did practice teaching at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang, students still find difficultiesto do reading. Many of students faced several difficulties in comprehending descriptive text. Some of the difficulties are comprehending main ideas of the text.

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher is interested to investigate students' difficulties to comprehend text under the topic "An analysis of the Second grade students' difficulties in comprehending descriptive text at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problems**

Reading is a highly complicated process which relies on great variety of skills. According to Harris and Sipay (1990), reading is the act of responding with appropriate meaning to print or written symbols and reading comprehension is a part of reading skill.

There are four kinds of texts that are taught to the second grade students at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang such as procedure text, descriptive text, recount text, and report text. A procedure text is related to how to make something, while the generic structure is related to title, Ingredients/Material, Steps/Method, and Tips. A narrative text is used to entertain readers, while the generic structure is related to orientation, complication, resolution, and re-orientation. A recount text is used to tell the past event, while the generic structure is related to orientation, events, and re-orientation. Descriptive text is used to describe person, place or thing, while the generic structure is related to identification and description. The writer only focuses on the students' difficulties in reading descriptive texts because the second grade students has learned about descriptive text.

Many students do not understand the purpose of the descriptive text. Their reasons are difficult to comprehend especially in comprehending the generic structure of descriptive text.

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

From there are kinds of text that are taught to the second year students at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang such as procedure; descriptive, recount, and report. The researcher is limited to find students' difficulties

in comprehending the generic structure of descriptive text they are identification and description.

#### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Dealing with the limitation of the problem above, the problem is formulated as follow: “What difficulties are faced by students of Islamic Junior High School(MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang in comprehending descriptive text ?”

#### **1.5 Research Questions**

To achieve objectives, the researcher wanted to find out the answer to the following question:

1. Do the second grade students of Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang have difficulties in comprehending “*identification*” of descriptive text ?
2. Do the second grade students of Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang have difficulties in comprehending “*description*” of descriptive text ?

#### **1.6 Purpose of the Research**

The main purpose of this research is to find out second grade students’ difficulties in comprehending descriptive text at Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang. Specifically, the purposes of this research are :

1. To find out whether the students of Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang have difficulties in comprehending identification of descriptive text or not.

2. To find out whether the students of Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) Parak Laweh Padang have difficulties in comprehending description of descriptive text or not.

### **1.7 Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to give significant contribution for both practical and theoretical value of the significant knowledge. It's very important to the teacher to improve students' ability in reading comprehension. Particularly English teacher would get information of their students' difficulties in comprehending descriptive text. From the information, the teacher can improve their students' ability by giving more practice and using better and more proper teaching method so that the student will gain more successfullin comprehending descriptive text.

### **1.8 Definition of Key Terms**

In order to avoid misinterpretation and misunderstanding the terms used, in the study, definitions of the terms are given as follows:

1. Difficulties is something hard in comprehending descriptive text
2. Understanding is the act of one who understands a thing, in any sense of the verb; knowledge is discernment; comprehension; interpretation; explanation.
3. Descriptive Text is a text which lists characteristic of people, place or thing. descriptive means describe a particular person, place or thing in English text