

**AN ANALYSIS ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THIRD YEAR
STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT BUNG HATTA
UNIVERSITY TO COMPREHEND MAGAZINE ARTICLE**

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

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Advisors :

1. Dra. Fatimah Tanjung, M.Hum
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The purpose of this research was to find out the problems faced by third year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University in comprehending magazine article. In this research, the population was the third year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University. The number of population members were 47 students. They were distributed into two classes, class A and class B. Because the population of this research was quite small, the researcher applied simple random sampling technique to select the sample. The sample of try out test of this research was selected randomly by the researcher. The size of the sample for try out test was 11 students. The researcher did try out test to get representative ability of the population. The size of the sample for real test was 36 students. The instrument used to collected the data was reading test in the form of multiple choices. To get the reliability of the test, the researcher used Split-Half Method and Pearson Product Moment formula. The researcher found the reliability of the test, that was (0.91). It means the test was valid and reliable (See Appendix 5).

The result of this research revealed that in general the third year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University had problems in comprehending magazine article. It was indicated by the number of percentage of the students (63.89%) who had problems and (36.11%) who had no problems in comprehending magazine article (See Appendix 14). In detail, 12 students (33.33%) had problems and 24 students (66.67%) had no problems in comprehending Headline in magazine article (See Appendix 15). In identifying Subhead of magazine article, 20 students (55.56%) had problems and 16 students (44.44%) had no problems (See Appendix 16). Next, 29 students (80.56%) had problems and 7 students (19.44%) had no problems in comprehending Caption in magazine article (See Appendix 17). Last, 26 students (72.22%) had problems and 10 students (27.78%) had no problems in comprehending Pull Quote/Call Out in magazine article (See Appendix 18).

The findings of the research lead the researcher to make conclusion that the third year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University had problems in comprehending magazine article. Dealing with this conclusion, the researcher suggests to English teacher to apply appropriate strategies and guide the students to find the Head/ Headline, Subhead, Caption and Pull Quote/ Call Out in the magazine article. For students, the researcher suggests to practice more and improve their own reading ability. They can read more articles in other magazines they like and try to find that elements of magazine article.

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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 research, significance of the research and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Problem

English is widely used as an international language. Mastering English does not only make a communication with different people from all over the world clearer but also to get the information from different sources in English, such as books, newspapers, internet, magazines, etc. That is one of the reasons why English is taught and learned in all levels of education as elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, university and even nowadays English is taught and learned in kindergarten level.

In teaching and learning English, students are expected to master such four integrated skills as listening, reading, speaking and writing. Reading skill as one of the four language skills takes important role to help us to get information and enlarge our knowledge. According to Villamin (1984: 3) reading is the key that unlocks the door to the world of enlightenment and enjoyment. She also notes that in our daily lives, 80 % of things we do involve reading, such a task as filling out an order form, application form, and enrolment form.

Reading is not an easy subject to study, especially for second language learner. There are problems faced by the readers to comprehend the text. Lack of vocabulary and cultural background knowledge are some examples of problems faced by the reader. This idea is supported by Droop & Verhoeven (1998). They say that background knowledge plays a substantial role in comprehending of text used in present- day reading curricula. The study gives evidence that cultural background knowledge affects the comprehension scores and the recall of text proposition. Moreover, Johnson in Droop & Verhoeven (1998) says that for the second- language reader's background language is a stronger determining factor than the semantic and syntactic complexity of the text.

The researcher was interested in conducting the research about students' problems in comprehending magazine article because based on his own experience when he was taking Reading IV he has the information that there were many students take the subject for the second time because they did not pass the subject and one of the material given in reading IV is about magazine article. The other reason was based on students information and the score of students in Reading IV subject was in the course of English Department. That was why the researcher decided to conduct this research.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

There are four levels of reading comprehension. The first is literal comprehension. Literal comprehension relates to stated information, the reader understands the basic facts. The second is inferential comprehension. It deals with what is implied or meant, rather than what is actually stated. The third level is

critical comprehension. Critical comprehension takes what is said (literal) and then what is meant by what is said (interpretive) and then extend (apply) the concepts or ideas beyond the situation. The fourth level is creative comprehension. Creative comprehension is where the reader takes information and the ideas, and then creates new ideas from then.

One of the sources which we can find the information is article. Articles are provided in magazine, newspaper, etc. In fact, there are many interesting English magazines. First is *High End Teen Magazine*. This magazine provides various information, such fashion and beauty for teenagers, music and films. Second is *Times Magazine*, this magazine discuss about political issues. Third is *Campus Asia Magazine*, this magazine discuss about the campus in Asia, inspiring people in education.

According to Tyson (2010) there are eleven elements of a magazine article. First is head (or headline). It gives the reader the first clue about the contents of the page. Second is Subhead that builds reader interest by contributing more information about the content. It often functions as a title of a section or chapter and aims to maintain the attention of the reader. Third is Byline contains the name of the author when used on the page. Fourth is Drop cap/ Hung Initial. This part of a magazine's text design is a large letter that starts a paragraph. Fifth is Folio/ Page Number containing such information as the periodical title, the issue data, and volume. Sixth is Pull quote/ call out. The pull quote or call out is text that is set off from the body for emphasis. Seventh is End dot/ end symbol, a bullet or other graphic that indicates the end of a piece and lets the reader know

not to bother looking for a continuation of the article. Eighth one is Caption. It is composed of text near an image that helps the reader understand the connection between the image and the piece. Ninth is Photo or image credit is used to give credit to the creator of the image or photo. Tenth is Image margin. It is the space around the image that prevent the text from butting up against the image. Eleventh is Gutter. It is the space between columns or - in the case of pages that are joined - the space between the pages.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

In accordance with the identification of the problem above, the researcher limited the study to the problem of the third year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University to comprehend the Head (or headline), Subhead, Caption and Pull Quote/ Call Out of the *Campus Asia* magazine. The researcher chose this magazine because it provides the information about Education issues and also it is closely related to our institution. Here, the researcher also focused on these four elements because they are the important elements among eleven elements in the magazine that should be comprehended by the readers.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

In accordance with the limitation of problem as already discussed previously, the problem of this research is formulated as follows, “What problems do the third year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University have in comprehending *Vision* article in *Campus Asia* magazine?”

1.5 Research Questions

Based on the formulations of the problem above, the research questions of the problems are:

1. Do the students have problems in comprehending the Headline in *Vision* article in *Campus Asia* magazine ?
2. Do the students have problems in comprehending the Subhead in *Vision* article in *Campus Asia* magazine ?
3. Do the students have problems in comprehending the Caption in *Vision* article in *Campus Asia* magazine ?
4. Do the students have problems in comprehending the Pull Quote (or Call Out) in *Vision* article in *Campus Asia* magazine ?

1.6 Purposes of the Research

The main purpose of this research was to explore and find out the problems are faced by third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University to comprehend the magazine article. Specifically, the purposes of this research are as follows:

1. To find out whether students have problems in comprehending the Headline of *Vision* article in *Campus Asia* magazine
2. To find out whether students have problem in comprehending Subhead of *Vision* article in *Campus Asia* magazine
3. To find out whether students have problem in comprehending Caption of *Vision* article in *Campus Asia* magazine
4. To find out whether students have problems in comprehending Pull Quote (or Call Out) of *Vision* article in *Campus Asia* magazine

1.7 Significance of the Research

This research is expected to give a valuable contribution for the lecturer and students. For the lecturer, hopefully this research is useful as a consideration for their student's problems in learning to read and they can provide the students with enough exercises to improve their ability in reading. For the students hopefully this research can open their mind that reading skill is not easy to master, that is why they must study harder than before to improve their own reading ability.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

To have similar interpretation and comprehension for the key terms used in this research, the researcher provides them with the following definition:

1. Problem is students difficulties in comprehending magazine article
2. Comprehension is ability in understanding the idea of magazine article
3. Magazine article is a piece of writing in a English magazine
4. Headline is the reader first clue about the content of the article
5. Subhead is part of article that builds reader interest by contributing more information about the content
6. Caption is composed of text near an image that helps the reader understand what is the connection between the image and the piece
7. Pull Quote is text that is set off from the body for emphasis
8. *Vision* article is a piece of writing about inspiring people in *Campus Asia* magazine