

ABSTRACT

Puspita, Anisah. 2020. “The Third Year Students’ Difficulties in Comprehending Argumentative Essay at the English Department of Bung Hatta University Padang.

Advisor I : Dr. Drs. H. Welya Roza, M. Pd.

Advisor II : Drs. Khairul Harha, M. Sc.

The purpose of this research is to describe the difficulties of the third-year students in comprehending argumentative essay at the English Department of Bung Hatta University Padang. The design of this research was descriptive. The population of this research was the third year students of the English Department of Bung Hatta University. The total number of this population (sample) research was 24 students. The instrument of this research was the reading test. The reliability index of the test was 0.96 (Appendix 4).

Based on the result of analyzing the data, it was found that in general, the third-year students at the English Department of Bung Hatta University Padang had difficulties in comprehending argumentative essay. Specifically, they had difficulties in comprehending the introductory paragraph, body paragraph, and concluding paragraph of argumentative essay. It was indicated by the fact that; 70.8% students had difficulties in comprehending the introductory paragraph of an argumentative essay (see Appendix 8), 70.8% students had difficulties in comprehending the body paragraph of an argumentative essay (see Appendix 10), and 79.2% students had difficulties in comprehending the concluding paragraph (see Appendix 12).

Referring to the findings of this study, it can be concluded that the difficulties of the third-year students at the English Department of Bung Hatta University in comprehending argumentative essays were still problems. Relating to this, the researcher suggested to the lecturer to give more explanations and exercises for the students in comprehending the contents such as introductory paragraph, body paragraph, and concluding paragraph of argumentative essay. The students are suggested to read and do more exercises of argumentative essays to improve their ability. The next researcher are suggested to do research related to reading comprehension because there are many aspects of reading skill problems that have to be researched.

Keywords: *Reading comprehension, Argumentative Essay, the student’s difficulties*