

ABSTRACT

Putri, Rika Nadila Yuli (2016): The Difficulties Faced by the Third Year English Department Students in Reading Comprehension Section of TOEFL at Bung Hatta University

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The purpose of this research was to describe the difficulties faced by the third year students in the reading comprehension section of TOEFL at English Department of Bung Hatta University. In this study, the researcher applied descriptive research. The population of this study was the third year students of English Department, Bung Hatta University. The number of population members was 24 students. Due to the limited number of the population members (less than 100 people), the researcher used total sampling. The instrument used to collect data of this study was multiple choice of TOEFL test in reading comprehension questions. The reliability index of the test was 0.67. It means that the instrument was reliable. Then the test was valid in term of content validity. The data were collected by using table of checklist and the data were analyzing by calculating the students' difficulties, counting the number of students who got (very high, high, moderate and low difficulty) in category of difficulty level, and calculating the percentage of students in each category of difficulty level.

The result of data analysis demonstrated that 54.17 % of the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University had high level of difficulty to answer reading comprehension section of TOEFL test. Specifically, the researcher divided them into five aspects of students' difficulties in answering reading comprehension section of TOEFL test. The first, 62.50% of the third year students had moderate level of difficulty to answer the questions about the ideas of the passages. The second, 50 % of the third year students had moderate level of difficulty to answer direct question. The third, 50 % of the third year students had moderate level of difficulty to answer indirect question. The fourth, 58.33% of the third year students had moderate level of difficulty to answer vocabulary question. The fifth, 62.50% of the third year students had very high level of difficulty to answer overall review question.

Based on the findings, the researcher drew a conclusion that the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University had difficulties in answering reading comprehension questions of TOEFL test. Related to the conclusion, the researcher proposes some suggestions of this study. For the lecturers, they should give appropriate strategies to solve students' difficulties in reading materials, provide some trick of answering reading questions, and give more exercises or tasks to the students about any kinds of question in reading text. For the students, they should enrich knowledge about reading dealing with strategies to answer the questions and vocabulary.