

**THE CORRELATION BETWEEN READING INTEREST AND ENGLISH WRITING
ABILITY OF THE SEVENTH GRADE AT SMP MUHAMMADIYAH 2 KALISAT
IN THE 2015/2016 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**Chusnul Chotimah
NIM 1210231105**

UNIVERSITY OF MUHAMMADIYAH JEMBER
FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Advisor : (1) Drs. H. Moch. Zaki Hasan, M.Si

(2) Anita Fatimatul L., M.Pd

Email : Daewoong30@yahoo.com

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Abstract

Based on the research problem and the relevant theory, the hypothesis of this research is “There is a significant correlation between reading interest and English writing ability of the seventh grade at SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Kalisat in the 2015/2016 academic year”. This thesis uses the correlation research design. The sample of this research is selected by using simple random sampling. The data is analyzed by using IBM SPSS Statistic 23 Version.

In conducting the research, the data was taken from Questionnaire and Writing Test. Finally, the results calculated by using Pearson correlation was .467. It was significant at the level 5% (.05). The r-statistic was higher (.467) than the r-table (.294) with 45 respondents. The writer concluded that H_a was accepted and H_o was not accepted in this research.

Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant correlation between reading interest and English writing ability of the seventh grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Kalisat in the 2015/2016 academic year.

**HUBUNGAN ANTARA MINAT MEMBACA DENGAN KEMAMPUAN MENULIS
BAHASA INGGRIS PADA KELAS TUJUH SMP MUHAMMADIYAH 2 KALISAT
TAHUN AJARAN 2015/2016**

**Chusnul Chotimah
NIM 1210231105**

UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH JEMBER
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN
PROGRAM STUDI BAHASA INGGRIS
2016

Pembimbing: (1) Drs. H. Moch. Zaki Hasan, M.Si
(2) Anita Fatimatul L., M.Pd

Email : Daewoong30@yahoo.com

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Abstrak

Berdasarkan masalah penelitian dan teori yang relevan, hipotesis dari penelitian ini adalah "Ada korelasi yang signifikan antara minat membaca dan kemampuan menulis bahasa Inggris dari kelas tujuh di SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Kalisat tahun ajaran 2015/2016". Tesis ini menggunakan penelitian korelasi. Sampel penelitian ini dipilih dengan menggunakan simple random sampling. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan IBM SPSS Statistik 23 Versi.

Dalam melakukan penelitian ini, data diambil dari kuesioner dan test tulis. Akhirnya, hasil dihitung dengan menggunakan Pearson korelasi, hasilnya adalah 0,467. Dan signifikansi pada tingkat 5% (0,05). r-statistik lebih tinggi (0,467) daripada r-tabel (0,294) dengan 45 responden. Peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa H_a diterima dan H_o tidak diterima dalam penelitian ini.

Oleh karena itu, dapat disimpulkan bahwa ada hubungan yang signifikan antara minat baca dan kemampuan menulis bahasa Inggris siswa kelas tujuh di SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Kalisat tahun ajaran 2015/2016

Introduction

Writing is one of the language skill that should be mastered by students, but writing is considered as one of the difficult skill to master. Khaled Barkaoui (2007:35) state that writing is one of the most difficult skills that second language learners are expected to acquire, requiring the mastery of a variety of linguistic, cognitive, and sociocultural competencies. Their statement is supported by Richards (1990:100) who says that learning to write well is difficult and lengthy process, one that include anxiety and frustration in many learners. Dealing with difficulty of writing, Byrne (1984:4) divides the problems or difficulties in writing into three groups, namely psychological problem, linguistics problems, and cognitive problems. Psychological problems are some problems which are mostly caused by the lack of interaction and feedback between the writer and the readers. In this case, the writer cannot receive the readers' response directly. Linguistic problems are some problems which are related to the use of structure of the utterance produced. This means that in writing the sentence produced should use correct words and structures so that the readers may understand the content of the writing easily. The last problem is the cognitive problems relating to the learning process of writing. Writing is include in the English subject taught in junior and senior high schools in Indonesia; therefore, it should be learned by the students to achieve language competence. According to Rozimela in Utami (2008:01), the importance of being able to write in English is often ignored in the discussion of the teaching of English for high school students in Indonesia.

Writing can help the learners express themselves. If the learners do not involve their skill of writing in the communication, they cut themselves off from a community. In writing, reading interest is also important, Hidi and Boscolo (2007:73) state that some research on interest and writing includes several studies conducted on the conditions which make writing task attractive to children and which may contribute to a long lasting positive orientation to writing. They also note that some studies have investigated the role of interest in writing. in the light of the distinction between situational and individual interest hypotesized that a source of situational interest, that is the interestingness of themes and topics, which has been shown to influence students comprehension, should also influence students production of expository text. Verma (2006:21) also supports the statement by saying that we cannot learn without interest, the presence of interest alone is enough to signify that the work is already half complete.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting a research to know the relationship between interest in reading and the ability to write a text with a title "The Correlation Between Reading Interest and English Writing Ability of the Seventh grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Kalisat in the 2015/2016 academic year".

The Definition of Reading

Allexander (1988:3) said that "reading is a communication process between the writer and the reader, utilizing written language". While Finochiaro and Bonomo in Tarijan (2008:10) give opinion that "reading is bringing meaning to and getting meaning from printed or written material".

Interest

Many people fail to understand the true meaning of the term "interest", the meaning of interest is of many kinds, which is scientists give different definition about it. In general, interest is related to intrinsic motivation and is centered on the individual's inherent curiosity and desire to know more about himself or herself and his or her environment (Dornyei, 2001:110). Hurlock (1987:420) said that "interests are sources of motivation which drive people to do what they want to do when they are free to choose".

Interest is the factor which determines one's attitude in working or studying actively, the stronger he or she has, the harder he or she wants to learn. Gage and Barliner (1997:374) said: "Students with an interest in a subject tend to pay attention to it. They feel it makes a difference to them. They want to become fully aware of its character. They enjoy dealing with it, either for what it can lead to or for its own sake. Their attention level is high; their work output is sustained..."

Reading Interest

For some people, reading can be interpreted as a hobby that is part of the daily activities. For students in particular, interest in reading is something very necessary for those that are expected to facilitate the learning process. With self-interest in reading the students will likely be able to motivate them to learn to be independent so it can help to achieve the maximum learning achievement.

Sudarsana and Bastiano (2009:4.27) said that reading interest is the force that drives the child to pay attention, to feel interested and excited to read the activities that they want to do on their own reading activity. In other words someone who has a strong reading interest will be realized in willingness to get reading material and then read on awareness of themselves or encouragement from the outside.

The Definition of Writing

Writing is the activity of expressing ideas in written form. According to Kellogg (2008:2), writing an extended text at an advanced level involves not just the language system. Writing is the communication of content for a purpose to an audience, Steve P (1993-2005:58). Writing represents the means by which a message can be communicated to someone else.

The Relationship between Reading Interest and English Writing Ability

Interest is something which drives the person to participate in some activities. Interest can motivate students to enjoy the lesson. Besides that, high interest in reading English makes the students possible concentrate on learning reading. The more the students' concentration on the lesson, the better the achievement they obtain, because concentration can increase the motivation. High motivated students can arise a feeling and emotional connection to the lesson. The students who have a feeling and emotional connection to the material, they are easier to activate previous experience, and then the retention can be enhanced. Therefore their reading score is better.

According to Readance and Buss (1988) in Hynd (1998:47) also states that when students interested in a topic, they are more likely to put an extra effort into processing the information from the text. Lyons and Heasley (2006:9) also says that one highly approach to improving writing ability is through reading. Specifically, they recommend reading widely in the area of students' interest. Oster (1989) in Kroll (2002:272) further states that reading literature can help students understand and take varying points of view, that reading to more flexible writing and thinking at the same time.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the writer uses correlation design. Correlation is a research that intends to find the correlation between two variables (Arikunto, 2010:313). This idea is also supported by Ary et al (2010:128) that correlation research is a quantitative method designed to show the relationships between two or more variables. Research instrument are some tools which are used when a research is conducted using a particular methods (Arikunto, 2010:192). They are needed in order to get the data of the research. There were two kinds of data in this research, namely primary data and supporting data. The researcher uses the test only of the data collection method as the primary data. In this research, the data taken from the score of questionnaire and writing test that was given to the 20% of the seventh grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Kalisat in the 2015/2016 academic year.

The Result of this Research

The primary data in this research consist of the data obtained from giving questionnaire and writing test on Thursday, May 3rd, 2016, from 08.20 to 09.40 A.M. which were given to the seventh grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Kalisat class VII A and VII B as the respondent of the research. Based on the research finding, the writer stated that there is significant correlation between reading interest and English writing ability. According to the calculation result of IBM SPSS Statistic 23 Version by using Pearson correlation, r-count was ,467 and the r-table was ,294 in the significant correlation at the 0,01 levels. The writer concluded that Ha was accepted and Ho was not accepted in this research.

Discussion

In reading interest can drives the child to pay attention, to feel interested and will be realize in willingness to get writing material. It supports by Lyons and Heasley (2006:9) also says that one highly approach to improve writing ability is through reading. Specifically, they recomended reading widely in the area of students' interest. And also when students read extensively they become better writers is an important part and it is process between the reader and the writer to communicate and to get information. Wilson (1981:279) states that the relationship between reading and writing is based on communication. Both processes should develop as a natural extension of the child's need to communicate.

it can be interpreted that reading interest can be considered as the variable which affects someones ability in writing. Reading interest and writing ability were correlated to each other. This implied that reading interest contribute as an important role on the English writing ability of the students, existence of reading and writing was really important for succesful in English writing ability of the students.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Conclusion

From the result it can be concluded that there is a significant correlation between reading interest and English writing ability of the seventh grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Kalisat in the 2015/2016 academic year.

Suggestion

1. For the Teachers : The English teacher should be more attractive in teaching the students so that their reading interest in English writing ability would be increase..
2. For the Students : For all students, they are suggested to take more practices through writing and learning English more
3. For other researchers, they are suggested to use the information in this research as an input in conducting other research deals with Reading Interest or English Writing Ability in different kind of research design such as classroom action research.

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