

## ABSTRACT

Susiana Farida, 2017. *Improving the eight grade students' reading comprehension by using Activating Background Knowledge at SMPN 7 Bondowoso in the 2016/2017 academic year*. Thesis. English Language Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muhammadiyah Jember.

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In junior high schools, reading is an essential skill that must be mastered by the students. But related to the condition and situation right now, there are some students who still unable to read comprehensively. Therefore, it is important to conduct a research entitled "improving the eight grade students' reading comprehension by using activating background knowledge".

In this research, the problems are "How does the use activating background knowledge improve the reading comprehension of eight grade students' at SMPN 7 Bondowoso in academic year 2016/2017?" and "How does the use background knowledge improve the eight grade students to be actively involved in english learning process at SMPN 7 Bondowoso in the 2016/2017 academic year?". The purpose of this study is to know how activating background knowledge is able to improve the VIII B grade student's reading comprehension narrative text.

The kind of this research is classroom action research which done in two cycle. The participants that the researcher used are 28 students of VIII B. The preliminary observation is done by observing the teaching and learning process of reading during the implementation and the observation the score of reading from the English teacher. To know the validity of the test, content validity is used and to know the reliability of the test, the researcher used Pearson's and Spearman Brown formula. In collecting the data, the researcher used writing test and observation using checklist.

Based on the result of reading test in the first cycle, showed that in cycle 1 there were 39% students who got score  $\geq 72$  and 60% students who got score  $\geq 72$ . And in cycle 2 there were 22% students who got score  $\geq 72$  and 79% students who got score  $\geq 72$ . Based on the average result of observation checklist, showed that there were 60, 71% students in cycle 1 and 78,5% students in cycle 2 that active in teaching learning activity.

Based on the result of reading test score in cycle 2, the target percentage of the research that was 75% of students got  $\geq 72$  has been achieved. It can be concluded that activating background knowledge is able to improve the students' reading comprehension at SMPN 7 Bondowoso in the 2016/2017 academic year.