

**AN INVESTIGATION OF ENGLISH READING COMPREHENSION  
DIFFICULTIES OF THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS AT SMP  
MUHAMMADIYAH 1 JEMBER**

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**Abstract**

This research is purposed to know students' difficulties in reading comprehension text, the problem of this research is What are the main Difficulties Comprehension encountered by Eighth Grade Students in Reading Comprehension, to solve the problem in this research was decriptive quantitative research. The sample of the research is VIIIA students of SMP Muhammadiyah Jember. The number of population in this research was 22 students. In this researcher used lottery as the taking simple, because sample in this research was all of population and it was less than 100. To obtain the research data, the researcher is use a test in the from of multiple choice item, contain 40 items. The result of the test is analysis by using fomular, and the result of the calculation is show that the mean score of comprehending word is 76, score of comprehending sentence is 71, score of comprehending paragraph is 62 and score of comprehending text is 66. The result of the data shows that the eight grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah1 Jember in 2017/2018 gets difficulties in comprehending paragraph of English reading comprehension.

**Key Word:** Reading Comprehension Difficulties

**INTRODUCTION**

In English teaching there are some skills that the students have to comprehend, one of which reading. The students will be easy to learn foreign

language if they are fluent in reading English. Rivers (1981:422) stated that "reading is the most important activity in any language class, not only as a source of information and a pleasurable

activity, but also as means of consolidating and extending one's which are knowledge of the language". It mean, reading is a source of knowledge and it is one of the important skills to communication, the students can get a lot of information if they often read books or other media. In Indonesia, English reading is most important skill that has been learn in every school. The main important thing that the reader should have the ability to comprehend what they have to read.

In fact, there are many difficulties faced by students in reading comprehension as they are good at reading comprehension. Reading is one of difficult skill to master because it is complex skill to learn. In reading texts, students often find some difficult word, setence that they do not know its meaning. Before they translate the word, they must know or understand though comprehension so that they can discribe their ideas or can give conclusion from English reading texts though their comprehension. In SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember, students always found the English textbook in academic class, reading is very diffilcult subject for the students of SMP Muhammadiyah1 Jember. The reason is

because the student feel that and they have problem when they read English texts, such as : students are difficult to find the main idea of the texts, difficult to find word meaning from the texts that they read and do not understand and comprehending of the texts well when they read. In this research, the researcher was to investigate which a difficulties comprehension of eight grade students in comprehending word, sentence, paragraph and text in english reading comprehension texts. Based on the explanation above, it was known that students at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember still had some difficultes dealing with their reading comprehension, the reseacrcher concluded a research study entitles " An Investigation of English Reading Comprehension Difficulties of the Eighth Grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember in the 2017/2018 academic year"

## **METHOD**

In the research desigh the researcher takes descriptive quantitative research, the researcher chooses design because this research was not intended to prove a hypothesis. A descriptive research is the research that intended to describe or image the phenomena (Syadid, 2008: 72). The same context,

descriptive research is to describe or to get information about the current condition of certain objects.

According to Syaodih (2008:53) Quantitative is one of the research which use is objective measurement and statistical analysis as quantitative to understand and explanation objective phenomena.

Population is Population is a group of something that has one species. As Sugiyono (2017:80) stated that population is the general region consist of object/subject that have quality and certain characteristic that decided by researcher to learn and then take conclusion. Population of this research is class X of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember

Sample is Sample is part of population. According to Sugiyono (2017:81) sample is element of population that have the same characteristic. The sample in this research is take one class from four classes. The researcher may either collect the data from the representative samples of the population. In this study the researcher uses random sample in choosing the sample by sing lottery. The sample of this research is VIIIA.

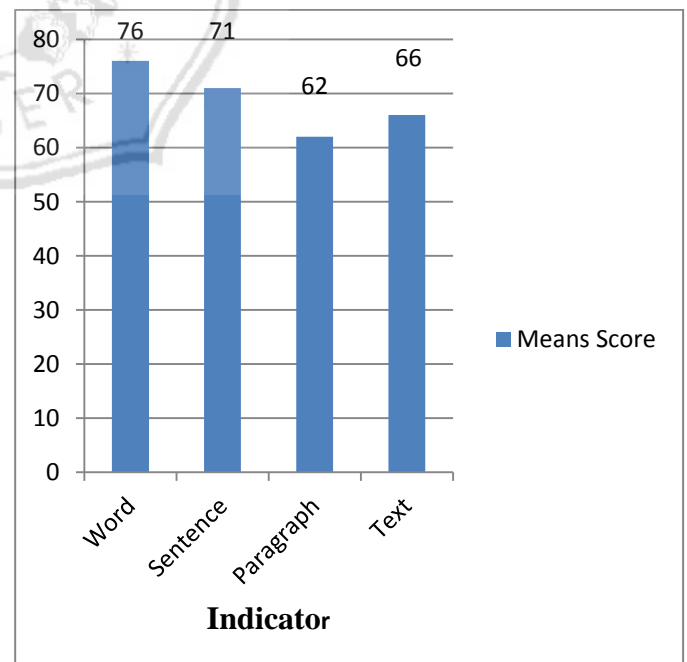
The instrument of this research is reading test. . The test is in the form of multiple choices. The total numbers of items are 40 items which consist of 10 items of word, 10 items of sentence, 10 items of paragraph, and 10 items of text.

## DISCUSSION

This research focused to know the students difficulties in reading comprehension, to get the data the researcher give the text to the students.

The result of the investigation showed that the students comprehending in reading comprehension test was below.

**Chart 5.1 The Mean Score of Students Right Answer**



Based on the result above, students got low result understand to comprehending of comprehending paragraph, comprehending paragraph is the lowest one than others. Students found difficulties in answering comprehending paragraph test items. This is because student did not master to classified in comprehend paragraph correctly. In paragraph comprehension can be classified into three parts they are the begining, the body, and the ending (Sanggam :2008). Beside that, students still difficult to found the main idea of the paragraph.

Comprehending word is the highest one than others. This because students already had been familiar with the words. Comprehending sentence was lower than comprehending word with 5 differences. Comprehending sentence was more difficult than comprehending word for students. This caused students were still poor in mastering, they difficult to find the important information in the sentence such as difficulty comprehend the meaning of words in each sentence, do not understand the types of sentences correctly. Comprehending text is the lowest than comprehending sentence but the higher one than comprehending

paragraph. It mean that the comprehending paragraph is more difficult than comprehending text, comprehending text is more difficult than comprehending sentence and the last comprehending sentence is difficult than comprehending word for student in English reading text.

In this discussion can be concluded that the EightA students of SMP Muhammadiyah1 Jember got difficulties in comprehending reading text especially in comprehending paragraph.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the investigation, the result of the research was the VIII A grade shows that the result of data analysis the mean score of comprehending word was 76, the mean score of comprehending sentence was 71 and the mean score of comprehending paragraph was 62 finally the last one was comprehending text where the mean score was 66. In this research the students got difficulties in comprehending paragraph because it was the lowest score of all indicator in reading comprehension.

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