

ABSTRACT

Aji, Grandis S. 2020. *The Analysis of Thai Students' Difficulties in Learning English Reading Comprehension in Indonesia at the University Of Muhammadiyah Jember*. Thesis. English Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Muhammadiyah University of Jember. Advisor: (1) Dr. Hanafi, M.Pd. (2) Nurkamilah, M.Pd.

Key Word: Reading comprehension, International students, reading comprehension difficulties.

Reading comprehension is a very basic skill that students must master because it is such a bridge that connects the incoming written knowledge or information and mind's capability to master it. However, reading comprehension is considered a major problem of students worldwide especially for EFL learners who study English in another non-native English country. Therefore, it is important to conduct a research deal with the difficulties of Thai Students of the University of Muhammadiyah Jember in learning English reading comprehension in Indonesia, factors that caused the difficulties, and their techniques to overcome the difficulties. The design of this research is qualitative and the type is descriptive research. The research subjects two Thai students who study English at the University of Muhammadiyah Jember. The data are collected using interview, test, and questionnaire. The researcher took about six months to finish this research.

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that Thai students who study English at the University of Muhammadiyah Jember face several difficulties such as guessing meaning of text, finding the main idea, finding the references, pronunciation, and words identification in sentence structure. The factors that caused such difficulties are different native language and lack of its vocabularies, their inability to catch the point of lecturers' explanation, lack of confidence, easily forget the lessons, and reading interest problem. And their techniques to overcome the difficulties such as asking friends, using Google Translate online dictionary, double translating from Indonesian into Thai into English or vice versa, applying extensive reading to gain reading skills and intensive reading to dig information from the text.

The findings of this research are expected to be useful for the potential readers to understand the condition of EFL learners in Indonesia especially Thai students who study English in Indonesia specifically in reading comprehension.