THE CORRELATION BETWEEN READING INTEREST AND READING COMPREHENSION OF THE NINTH GRADE STUDENTS OF PUBLIC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS WITH "A" ACCREDITATION IN PALEMBANG

A Thesis

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FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION SRIWLJAYA UNIVERSITY INDRALAYA 2019 The Correlation between Reading Interest and Reading Comprehension of the Ninth Grade Students of Public Junior High Schools with "A" Accreditation in Palembang

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The Correlation between Reading Interest and Reading Comprehension of the Ninth Grade Students of Public Junior High Schools with "A" Accreditation in Palembang

## ABSTRACT

The purposes of this study were to find out whether or not there is a significant correlation between reading interest and reading comprehension, and whether or not there is a significant contribution of reading interest to reading comprehension achievement of students of public junior high school with "A" accreditation in Palembang. The participants of this study were 378 students of public junior high school with "A" accreditation in Palembang which were randomly selected by using slovin formula to figure out an appropriate sample size from a population. Reading interest questionnaire and reading comprehension test were used to collect the data. The data in this study were analyzed using correlation analysis and regression analysis in SPSS version 24. The results of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient showed that there was a weak significant correlation between reading interest and reading comprehension with r-obtained was higher than rtable (0.304 > 0.101) at the 0.05 level (two-tailed), and the pvalue was lower than 0.05 (0.000 < 0.05). Moreover, regression analysis revealed reading interest contributed 10.5% to reading comprehension. It can be concluded that once the reading interest is increased, the reading comprehension is also increased.

**Keywords**: Reading Interest, Correlation, Reading Comprehension, Junior High Schools.

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#### **CHAPTER 1**

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes (1) background, (2) problems of the study, (3) objective of the study , and (4) significance of the study.

#### 1.1 Background

Reading is an important skill that students must have to enhance their knowledge. Reading is an important consideration in language learning (Noor, 2011). In recognition of significance of reading comprehension it should be indicated that it is notably the principal aim for EFL and ESL learners to acquire apprehending of the environment, community and allows students to find out more about their reading material (Tierney & Readence, 2005). In reading activity, students can get much information. These days read carefully explained to direct EFL learners in learning and gather information to understand a text, both in printed form and other visual media to compensate for the technological era (Reutzel & Cooter, 2012). Students also have a simple access to this information either for all intents and purposes by means of web or through huge range of printed materials (Rajab & Al-Sadi, 2015). Koc (2005) explains that incorporating elements of technology into the learning curriculum aims as media for measuring students' thinking skills and as the additional media for teaching academic subjects. Therefore, students should read and understand the content of the passage in order to gain an information as it is stated by curriculum 2013(Kemendikbud, 2013).

Reading is not only a process to gain information, but also to improve learning ability. Students may read because they need for their study, or even students want to read because they are interested in the reading activity. For an EFL student, reading is necessary because it can help them in their study. Yukselir (2014, p. 66) states that the interaction between the text, background, readers, background of the reader, reading strategy, L1 and L2, as well as decision making from the reader is the result of reading comprehension. Grabe and Stoller (2002) also state that reading comprehension is the ability to understand the contents of a text and interpret it appropriately and correctly. According to PIRLS 2011 (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study), the average score in Indonesia is only 428 where the results are below the PIRLS scale average (500) in terms of reading achievement. It indicates that most of students in Indonesia are lack in reading.

There are 3 factors that affect reading comprehension. A study done by Sakina (2014) with an English teacher in one of junior high schools in Palembang, showed that there were three main factors making the level of students' reading skill still low such as (1) lack of vocabulary, (2) lack of prior knowledge, and (3) low interest in reading. Apparently, this occurs for readers at all achievement levels as they strive to make sense of their reading. One of the factors that can influence EFL learners is knowledge of vocabulary. In recent decades, foreign language research has centered on the importance of vocabulary knowledge in reading comprehension (Anjomshoa, 2014).

The result of a study by Rosadi (2016) also showed that there was a significant correlation between reading interest and reading comprehension achievement of the eleventh grade students of SMA YPI Tunas Bangsa Palembang, and there was a significant influence of reading interest to reading comprehension achievement. As reported by Annamalai and Muniandy (2013), feelings and willingness to read related to their interest in reading and reading achievements have been shown to have a relationship with interest.

To improve students' reading ability, the reading activities used in teaching reading must be as enjoyable as possible. Hidayat and Aisah (2013) explain that without interest someone is impossible to do anything. As stated by Hornby (2010, p. 783), interest is the quality that something has when it attracts somebody's attention or makes them want to know more about it. Slameto (2010, p.57) adds that interest has a bigger effect to the lesson, as if the material learned is not appropriate to the students' interest, students will not learn well. Ainley, Hidi, & Berndorff (2002, p.545) add that interest has a strong influence on individual's cognitive and affective functioning. Reading will be more fun if the reader feels pleasure or interest to read. Robinson and Samuel (1973, p.82) state that many techniques can be used to identify children's reading interests. Students' reading interest can be seen from how often students read each day, how many books students have, or how often students come to the library to read, because students who are interested in reading will spend more time to read many books. According to Slameto (2010, p.57), interest has a bigger effect to the lesson, as if the material learned is not appropriate to the students' interest, students will not learn well.

In Indonesia, there are some schools that are entrusted to get A accreditation. According to Badan Akreditasi National Sekolah/Madrasah or National Accreditation Board School/Madrasah, an A accreditated schools have passed the 8 Standar National Pendidikan or National Education Standards which includes content standards, process standards, graduate competency standards, educator standards and education personnel, equipment and infrastructure standards, management standards, financing standards and assessment standards. An investigation by Darusmiyati (2018) found that there was a fair correlation between students' English achievement and public senior high school accreditation. The correlation was fair because it was between the range of 0.25 -0.5. Siahaan (2018) found that there was a significant correlation between accredited private senior high school and students' English achievement and there was 30.6% contribution of school accreditation on students' English achievement was. It can be concluded that there is a contribution of school accreditation to students' English achievement. With the accreditation, the school will strive to improve the quality of education. One of the efforts to improve the quality of education is through upgrading facilities such as a good library or varied books. By doing this, reading interest of the students and reading comprehension of the students will increase. Therefore, based on the description above, This study investigated the correlation between "Reading Interest and Reading Comprehension of students of Public Junior High Schools with "A" Accreditation in Palembang".

#### 1.2 Problems of the Study

The problems of the study are formulated into the following reasearch questions:

- 1. Was there any significant correlation between reading interest and reading comprehension of ninth grade students of public junior high schools with "A" accreditation in Palembang?
- 2. Was there any significant contribution of reading interest on reading comprehension of ninth grade students of public junior high schools with "A" accreditation in Palembang?

## **1.3** Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems, the objectives of this study were:

- 1. To find out whether or not there was a significant correlation between reading interest and reading comprehension of ninth grade students of public junior high schools with "A" accreditation in Palembang
- To find out whether or not there was a significant contribution of reading interest on reading comprehension achievement of students of public junior high school with "A" accreditation in Palembang.

#### 1.4 Significance of the Study

By doing this study, the writer hopes this study will give meaningful contribution not only to the English lecturers but also for students. The result of the study gives information about reading interest and reading comprehension of public junior high school students. The writer also hoped that this study can be useful as a reference in an improvement effort school quality and school development. For the students, it is hoped that the result of this study can help the students know their interest, so that the students can improve their reading comprehension.

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