

**STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ABOUT USEPT-LIKE  
READING TEST FOR ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
STUDENTS AT SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY**

**A THESIS**

by

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**Department of Language and Art Education**



**FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

**SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY**

**PALEMBANG**

**2022**

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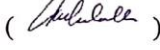
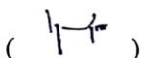
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## DECLARATION

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Certify that thesis untitled “Students’ Perception About USEPT-Like Reading Test for English as a Foreign Language Students at Sriwijaya University” is my own work and I did not do any plagiarism or in appropriate quotation against the ethic and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic Indonesia Number 17, 2010 regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserved to face the court if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

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## THESIS DEDICATIONS

This thesis is dedicated to:

- Allah SWT for the blessings and gifts so that I was given the ease and strength, and always accompanied me while working on this thesis.
- my beloved parents, Ayah dan Ibu who have been the source of my strength and motivation, also my brother and my sister, Kiki and Anugrah for the endless love and happiness. And the whole big family who also give attention and support for me.
- all SEESPA friends, both classmates and seniors who have provided advice, encouragement, and direction so that this thesis can be completed properly.

*“Make the afterlife in your heart, the world in your hands and death in your eyelids”*

(Prophet Muhammad Shalallaahu ‘Alaihi Wassalaam)

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Palembang, 02 Agustus 2022

The Writer,



Permata Augustia

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**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study was to find out what students' perceptions of TOEFL-based reading tests are similar to USEPT (Sriwijaya University English Proficiency Test). The method applied in this research was qualitative method. The data were collected by using an interview and a questionnaire that was given to the sample students who were selected from the population by applying the purposive sampling technique. The students' responses were calculated by using Google Form percentage analysis to determine which the participants' responses that showed lower or higher percentages. The results of the data analysis showed that 89.6% of the participants agreed that there was necessary to have a reading test similar to USEPT for practicing their reading skills. In other words, there is perception to have a reading test similar to USEPT in the hope that it can help the test participants, especially the English Education Study Program at Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Sriwijaya University, to practice their reading skill and at the end, it is hoped that it can help them increase their USEPT score in order to achieve the minimum score target specified as a graduation requirement for a bachelor's degree.

**Keywords :** *Students' Perception, EFL tertiary students, USEPT, reading test*

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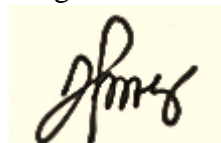
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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the description of the research question, the objective, and the significance of the study.

### 1.1 Background of Study

Reading is useful to increase knowledge of their own discipline for students in college today, that's why this skill is considered the most important (Safdarian et al., 2014). Reading is an effective choice to gain knowledge as a suggestion in explaining a phenomenon or situation. As students read more and more academic texts, it is possible to express their ideas into well-structured written or spoken texts related to the main reading. In other words, reading is an activity that will be a way to fulfill students' expectations for their academic needs.

Grabe (2009) sees reading as the most important skill that people need in multicultural settings, academic learning, and self-study conditions. The statement "*The book is a window to the world*" means that reading a book or newspaper or something informative offers people a broader attitude of the world. Reading teaches people new words and perspectives; it helps enhance speech and sharpen sentence structure and gives people better commands in the language. Reading is also an important foundation for developing logic and problem-solving skills.

For the English Education Study Program students at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education within Sriwijaya University, Reading course is a compulsory subject. Based on the regulations in the Academic and Student Handbook (Sriwijaya, 2020) on the distribution of courses, the Reading course is part of the Expertise and Supporting Course. In the English Education Study Program at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education within Sriwijaya University, there are four Reading courses that the students have to enroll, namely: 1) Literal Reading (1<sup>st</sup> semester); 2) Interpretive Reading (2<sup>nd</sup> semester); 3) Critical Reading (3<sup>rd</sup> semester); and 4) Extensive Reading (4<sup>th</sup> semester). The students must complete all these Reading courses within four consecutive semesters as the

requirement to meet the minimum standards of Semester Credit Units (Satuan Kredit Semester or SKS). This shows how important it is for the students of the English Education Study Program to have a good performance in reading.

Reading is also important that it is one of the skills included in the English test administered within Sriwijaya University which was formerly known as SULIET or Sriwijaya University Language Institutes English Test and now it is referred to USEPT or Sriwijaya University English Proficiency Test. As stated in the Academic and Students' Guideline Book of Sriwijaya University (Sriwijaya, 2020, p. 37), the USEPT is the English test administered by Sriwijaya University and all the Sriwijaya University students must take the test and reach the score as required by their own study program. Based on the regulations, the minimum USEPT score that must be met by the students of the English Education Study Program is 500. If it has not been achieved, the students are required to do the test again until the score is met and unable to reach the required score means that the students are not allowed to take the graduation ceremony (Sriwijaya, 2020, pp. 23-24).

However, there are many English Education Study Program students who have failed the USEPT; they have not reached the required score and must do the test again. There are even students who have done the test more than once. Based on the results of the study conducted by Syafitri (2021), the English Education Study Program students participated in her study had a challenge in doing the USEPT, especially the Reading section due to the long passages and unfamiliar words (lack of vocabulary). Another challenge faced by the participants was concerned with the time allocation for the Reading section which made the students felt anxious thinking whether or not they could answer all the questions within the allocated time.

An alternative to help the English Education Study Program students at Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Sriwijaya University to manage doing the reading test is by practicing. To do so, the students need reading test materials that are similar to the one they have done for USEPT. However, first of all, it is very necessary to conduct such a students' perception study to find out the students' opinion about a reading test that is similar to USEPT and this was the objective of this present study.

### **1.2 Problem of the Study**

The problem of this present study is formulated in the following research question: Are the student's perception of the TOEFL-based reading test similar to the USEPT?

### **1.3 The Objective of the Study**

In accordance with the formulation of research questions, the objective of this study is: To find out what students' perceptions of TOEFL-based reading tests are similar to USEPT.

### **1.4 The Significance of the Study**

Reading in L1 or L2 such as English is important for students that it can support their academic lives. Having a good reading performance not only helps the students in comprehending the information they need for the subjects they are studying at schools, but also helps them in doing the reading test. For the English Education Study Program students of Faculty of Teacher Training and Education within Sriwijaya University, Reading section of USEPT, the English test administered at Sriwijaya University, is very challenging. It is important to carry out this research which aims to gather students' opinions about developing a reading test similar to the USEPT. It is because the USEPT-like of the reading test can help the students of the English Education Study Program students of Faculty of Teacher Training and Education within Sriwijaya University to practice their reading skill.

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