

Reading Interests of Students at SMP Negeri 2 Lempuing

A Thesis by

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English Education Study Program

Department of Language and Arts Education



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SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSTY

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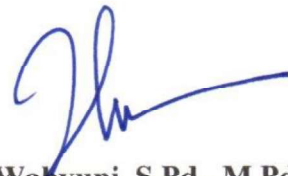
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Certify that the thesis entitled "*Reading Interests of Students at SMP Negeri 2 Lempuing*" is my own work and I did not do any plagiarism or inappropriate quotation against the ethic and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic of Indonesia Number 17, 2010 regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserve to face court if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

Indralaya, 20 January 2023

The Undersigned,



Feren Dias Zetira
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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

- The Almighty God of Allah SWT and Prophet Muhammad SAW
- To my beloved parents, Ayah and Bunda who have been the source of my inspiration, motivation, and strength, also my sisters, Pepen, Eza and Echa for the endless love and support.
- My beloved partner, M. Ridho Nasruddin. Thank you for accompanying me and always monitoring me to finish my study.
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- All my friend of English Education Study Program 2016

MOTTO

- *Train your mind to see the good in every situation.*
- *Stay real, stay loyal, or stay away.*

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Last, hopefully that this thesis will be useful to all of the people who need it.

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The writer

Feren Dias Zetira

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Reading Interests of Students at SMP Negeri 2 Lempuing

ABSTRACT

The reading process can be difficult and complicated or easy for some students. The students who have a bad experience in learning English might be have less interest in learning English and end up by not adopt reading English as their habit. This study aimed to identify the students' reading interest levels and find out the factors affecting the students' reading interest at SMP Negeri 2 Lempuing. The data were collected using two ready-made questionnaires about students' interest in reading from Nurul (2020) and experience in reading from Sri (2009). The descriptive analysis method applied in this study identified most of the students (83.82%) at SMP Negeri 2 Lempuing were in the high category of reading interest level. They likely paid attention to the English teacher when the teacher explained the contents of the English reading text, which showed their high interest in the reading material. After that, the study found that their reading habits in free time, the type or kinds of reading material, their feelings or emotions while reading, and the reading environments, including teachers, friends, parents, and also the facilities were the factors affecting their high category of reading interest.

Keywords: *Reading interest, reading interest levels and factors.*

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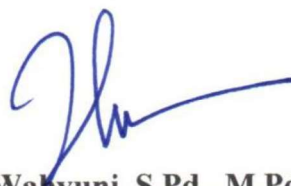
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents (1) background of study, (2) problem of the study, (3) objectives of the study, and (4) significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading one of languages skill plays principal role in students' activities because reading enables the students to gain information from printed or online sources. Healy (2002) stated that the most important skill for future success in school and in life is reading. Reading is one of the most crucial language skills, and it is a crucial instrument for all learners' lifetime learning. Alyousef (2005) mentioned that reading involves interaction between the reader and the text. Then it is essential to read in order to understand the target language especially in learning English.

Reading has a big role to gain the success in school and life. As Piyanukol (2001) said that the more people read, the more they learn and that reading is the road to knowledge. The reading process can be difficult and complicated or easy for some students. Some students might say that reading as a fun activity while others might avoid it (Wallace, 2007). The students who have a bad experience in learning English might be has less interest in learning English and end up by not adopt reading English as their habit. It is also maintained by lee, Schaer and Dismukes (1994) who discovered that many middle school pupils exhibit a striking deterioration in their views toward reading generally, their intrinsic motivation to read, and how often they read on their reading volition. Some students might be read not because their desire to read, but because they have to read.

A research by Taylor, Frye and Maruyama (1990), reported that Reading interest and students' achievement in school and in life are strongly correlated. According to Istanti (2012), reading is one of the essentials indicators in interpreting a written discourse. Reading interest must be promoted more to students. It can give the effect for the listening, speaking and writing skill. Thus,

the habits of reading must be a repetition among the students, in case it can increase the intellectual of a person. Diem and Novitasari (2012) stated that it is essential to promote reading interest in case that it has an important part in learning English as a second language.

In the twenty-first century, reading as a method of gathering and interpreting information is crucial for people's professional advancement. Reading may be a learner's top priority in order to succeed academically. Reading helps people reduce the uncertainty and confusion that could surround them in any given scenario, enabling them to react effectively to varied stimuli. The importance of reading in students is one of the highlights of learning; it is consistent with the 2013 Indonesian curriculum;

‘material based on language competence is emphasized as means of communication that conveys ideas and knowledge, students habitually read and understand the meaning of the selected text and summarize and represent it in their own language, students are accustomed to preparing text that are systematic, logical, and effective through scripture-containing exercise, students are presented by the corresponding text rule so that it is not ambiguous in the process of composition’.

Related to the 2013 Indonesian curriculum above, reading material in the English subject emphasizes on reading levels. It is important that pupils who learn English as their second language or foreign language grow up their reading interests because it is much involved in and has great advantage to English reading practice. Additionally, reading is important for everyone, but it is crucial for kids in particular because they can occasionally lack reading habits, show little enthusiasm in reading, or both. Commiyetti (2013) said that reading is one of the skills that is important to students to master because many information are presented in text throughout the world.

According to the OECD's PISA 2018 results study, Indonesian students' reading comprehension only scored an average of 371 points, while the OECD average is 487 points (OECD, 2019). Every three years, this survey evaluates 600,000 15-year-olds from 79 different nations. Teenagers should be encouraged to read, so they will get a wealth of knowledge and experiences.

According to Miller (2016) Indonesia was dedicated as 60th of 61th country of reading interest. Even in Southeast Asia, Indonesia was dedicated as third rank down of ASEAN in reading interest. The result of survey did by United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 2011 showed that the index of reading interests of Indonesian only 0,001 percent. It means that only one of one hundred people who has the desire to read. Also, reading has been one of requirements that determine the status of a country. The fact said that Indonesia has been listed as a developing country with the low reading habits among its society (Hafiz, Syofia, and Syafri 2016). The study from Adiarti (2018) found that some students have problems in reading and their reading interests were still low, it could be seen from her interviewed with the students. In South Sumatera, especially in Palembang, the case of reading interests also occurs. According to Ria (2018), after she interviewed some students in Junior High School Palembang, she found that the students have some difficulties in reading comprehension. It happened because the students did not do the assignment seriously, pay their attention to the teacher and have low interest in reading.

The cases above have some similarities with students in SMP Negeri 2 Lempuing. The students sometimes do not pay attention to the teacher so they do not focus on the subject or the text. Furthermore, it can affect their interest in reading. The reading interest of the students is also being a question to the writer. The least of them is eager to visit the school library and read some books, the library even though the school has provided facilities and some suitable reading source for the student. Most of students are more interested in spending their spare times by going to the canteen, talking to their friends in the class and playing something in the field than going to the library to get some books to read. So it means that the students get their time to read only in the learning and teaching activity, when the teacher sometimes brings some new English text with pictures to the students and asks them to hear the teacher read the text so they can read it by themselves in order to increase their interest in reading.

The more the student read, the more proficient he or she becomes. According to Shen (2006), reading habit can be explained as how often, how much, and what students read. Since the students can take greatly benefit from reading practice, therefore it is worth to say that the more frequently students read and the more number of books they read will help the students to enhance their academic performance. Otherwise Likewise maintained by Feurstein and Scholnik (1995), lack of practice in reading is probably the most serious source of reading difficulties. Someone who does reading of his or her own free will, it would anticipate satisfaction that he or she will get from the act of reading. It also refers to continue reading something after having started at someone else's request because we are interested in it (Clark & Rumbold, 2006).

SMP Negeri 2 Lempuing is one of junior high schools in Lempuing. The students of SMP Negeri 2 Lempuing have been taught English 4 periods in a week. In learning process, the students have been supported by library and text book. The condition where the place of reading rarely visit by the students, it is being a question for the writer about the students' reading interest.

Regarding the discussion above, the writer tries to analyze reading interest of junior high school students by conducting a study entitled "Students' Reading Interests of SMP Negeri 2 Lempuing" along with the factors affecting their interest in reading. At least, the researcher anticipates that the results of this research may encourage the students' awareness to read and hopefully reading activity can be a good habit of the students.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

- 1) What reading interest levels do SMP Negeri 2 students in Lempuing have?
- 2) What are the factors affecting the reading interest of SMP Negeri 2 students in Lempuing?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

Based on the above problems of the study, the objectives of the study are;

- 1) to identify the SMP Negeri 2 students' reading interest levels in Lempuing, and

- 2) to find out the factors affecting the SMP Negeri 2 students' reading interest in Lempuing

1.4 Significance of the Study

Since there has been a lot of research done on this topic, the findings of this study can provide the readers with new information. Students will be encouraged to develop a greater interest in reading. Furthermore, the outcomes of this study can be utilized to gauge the quality of the educational system in general and the Department of English Language Education in particular. Additionally, the stakeholders may act as facilitators and develop plans to increase students' enthusiasm in reading. Additionally, this research can be used as one of the helpful sources in undertaking other research that is related to it. This study is significance to assist the pupils to know their interests in reading. The writer hopes that from this study, when the students read every single sentence from the questionnaire they can realize about their interest in reading activity, so they have the desire to increase their interest in reading. And also this study hopefully can give some contributions for the development of language teaching and learning.

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