# The Difficulties Encountered by the Second Grade Students of SMA YPTB Ketong in Reading Comprehension

**[1]Sudarto*, [2] Nadrun, [3] Andi Naniwarsih**

[1,2,3] *Language and Art Education Department. Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Muhammadiyah University of Palu*
*(\*)Email Korespondensi : sudarto.darto@gmail.com*

**Abstract**
*The objective of this research was to find out the difficulties in reading comprehension encountered by the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong. The researcher used descriptive method. The subject of this research was 24 students of the second grade of SMA YPTB Ketong. The data was collected by interviewing the students and the English teachers. The result of this research shows some findings. The result of questionnaire shows that 71% students who agree that they do not give more attention in reading text and 71% students who agree that they do not master grammar when reading a text as a higher percentage. Furthermore, the result of interview from the teachers shows that in the teaching process they do not know the name of the method, explain more and more because students get confused in understanding and translating the words in reading text. The student have insufficient vocabulary so that they find it difficult to understand reading comprehension, difficult in getting message from the reading text, to understand the teacher's explanation and words in English that have more than one meaning.*

*Keywords: Difficulties, Reading, and Comprehension.*

**Abstrak**
Tujuan penelitian ini untuk mengetahui kesulitan yang dihadapi siswa kelas 2 SMA YPTB Ketong dalam Pemahaman Membaca. Di bawah pengawasan Nadrun dan Andi Naniwarsih. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kesulitan dalam membaca pemahaman yang dialami oleh siswa kelas II SMA YPTB Ketong. Peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif. Subjek penelitian ini adalah 24 siswa kelas II SMA YPTB Ketong. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan mewawancarai siswa dan guru bahasa Inggris. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan beberapa temuan. Hasil angket menunjukkan bahwa 71% siswa yang tidak terlalu memperhatikan teks bacaan dan 71% siswa yang setuju tidak menguasai tata bahasa saat membaca teks sebagai penyajian yang lebih tinggi. Selanjutnya, hasil wawancara guru menunjukkan bahwa dalam proses pembelajaran mereka tidak mengetahui nama metodenya, menjelaskan lebih banyak lagi karena siswa bingung dalam memahami dan menerjemahkan kata-kata dalam teks bacaan. Siswa memiliki kosakata yang kurang memadai sehingga sulit memahami pemahaman bacaan, sulit memahami pesan dari teks bacaan, memahami penjelasan guru dan kata-kata dalam bahasa Inggris yang memiliki makna lebih dari satu. setuju bahwa .

**Kata Kunci**: Kesulitan, Membaca, dan Pemahaman

## INTRODUCTION

In education, English has been chosen as one of the subjects that should be mastered by the students, in junior high school, senior high school, and university level. In Indonesia, teaching English to students focuses on four basic skills, namely; listening, reading, speaking and writing. In addition, it is learned about English components; vocabulary, structure, and pronunciation in integrated way as well.

Reading is the process of constructing meaning from written texts. It is a complex skill requiring the coordination of a number of interrelated sources of information. By knowing how to comprehend a passage in reading, the students will get information in the passage.

Reading is also something crucial and indispensable for the students because the success of their study depends on the greater part of their ability to read. According to Irianti (2011:9), reading is an act of communication in which information is transferred from a transmitter to a receiver. If their reading skill is poor, they are very likely to fail in their study or at least they will have difficulty in making progress. On the other hand, if they have a good ability in reading, they will have a better chance to succeed in their study. In fact, many students get problems in comprehending the reading, such as getting the general information and specific information.

On the preliminary observation, the researcher found that the second grade students of SMA YPTB (Yayasan Pendidikan Tanjung Balaesang) Ketong still find difficulties in reading comprehension. Firstly, the students find difficulty in getting message from the reading text. Secondly, the students find difficulty to understand the teacher's explanation and the thirdly, the students have insufficient vocabulary.

From the definition above, the researcher needs to do research to find out how far the difficulties in reading under the title *"The Difficulties Encountered by the Second Grade Students of SMA YPTB Ketong in Reading Comprehension"*.

## Problem Statement

Based on the previous background, the researcher formulates problem statement of this research, as follows: What are the difficulties encountered by the Second Grade Students of SMA YPTB Ketong in Reading Comprehension?

## Objective of the Research

The research is aimed to find out the difficulties encountered by the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong in Reading Comprehension.

## Significance of Research

The finding of this research is expected to be useful for the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong in Reading Comprehension.

This research can contribute some benefits to students and teachers. Firstly, student are able to increase their vocabulary and its' meaning. Secondly, the teacher can add their knowledge about methods in teaching process. Thirdly, the researcher can add experience about good method to be applied in the school.

## Scope of the Research

The scope of this research is the difficulties encountered by the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong in Reading Comprehension.

According to Elizabeth (2008:1-2), reading is the process of constructing meaning from print and from other symbol. Reading involves not just the print and the illustrations, but also readers bringing to the process their knowledge of the world and their past experiences. The reading process does not involve reading every single letter and that is why proofreading is so difficult: when you are very familiar with the ideas you hardly need to read the words at all.

Nuttal (1996:11) argues that he has to guess and shape the text accordingly, but as he never knows who the readers will be, he will never completely succeed. Reading is interactive process as conversation because both reader and writer depend on each other.

The interaction is complicated by the fact that the writer is absent at the time of reading; so he gets no feedback and cannot know what parts of her text will cause misunderstanding. Reading is seen as selective process taking place between the reader and the text, in which background knowledge and several of language interacts with information in the text to contribute to text comprehension.

Based on explanation previously, it can be concluded that reading means a process between the readers to understanding the messaging that is written from the text.

## METHOD
### Research Design
This research used descriptive method to find out the difficulties encountered by the second year students of SMA YPTB Ketong in Reading Comprehension.

### Location and Time of the Research
This research was conducted at SMA YPTB Balaesang Tanjung. Wednesday on July, $5^{th}$ 2017 WITA.

### Subject of the Research
The subject of the research was the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong, there was only one class. The total number of subject is 24 students.

### Observation
Observation is an activity to collect data and information by seeing and observing the student's activity. The researcher observed the things related to the research process, which can support the result of the data such as the condition of the class, the student's capacity in English skill especially in reading and the condition of students.

### Questionnaire
It carried out to get main data. It intended to obtain the accurate data from the students. The function of this instrument in this research is to get information about the difficulties encountered by the second students of SMA YPTB Ketong in reading comprehension.

### Interview
Another instrument was interview. Interview supported in collecting the data because the respondent gave their answer about their problems in reading comprehension. Through interview the researcher found out the difficulties encountered by the second students of SMA YPTB Ketong in reading comprehension.

### Technique of Data Analysis
After collecting the data, the researcher identified the difficulties encountered by the students in reading. The researcher used descriptive analysis in analyzing the data from observation and interview. Then, he transcribed the result of the questionnaire by calculating the percentage of each item. To get the percentage of the questionnaire.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS
In this chapter, the researcher presents the data analysis on the problems are difficulties faced by the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong in reading comprehension. The data were calculated by taking document analysis, observation, conducting interview, and distributing questionnaire.

### Finding from Interview of Students
The interview was done to the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong on Tuesday at 10.00 August, $6^{th}$ 2017. It showed that reading is priority to learn because it is an international language, but the

students have insufficient vocabulary that they find the difficulties to understand the conversation. While in reading text the students have no enough vocabulary, have a difficulty in getting message from the reading text. Second, the students find difficulties to understand the teacher's explanation.

Refers to the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong, the strategy is good because the teacher gave the chance to the students for sharing and more active in doing task. It can improve their understanding and get more vocabulary the most important problem of students is difficult to translate it into bahasa indonesia and most word in English have more than one meaning.

### Finding from Interview of Teacher

According to the teacher, the purpose of teaching reading is improving student's vocabulary because it is the key to understand reading comprehension. However, the students still find the problems. For example; they get the difficulties to catch the point from the passage and lack of vocabulary. The teacher also stated that the other problems of the students that English is not the focusess of that school because there is no competition of English in there such as debate, speech and storytelling. The teacher argue that need to be explained more and more because students get confuse in understanding and translating the words in reading text because English word has more than one meaning.

### Finding from Questionnaire

The questionnaire was distributed to the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong. It was started on Wednesday, at 10.00 August, $5^{th}$ 2017 WITA – Monday, at 10.00 August$8^{th}$ 2017. There were 24students filling the questionnaire. It was given in order to get accurate data of the problems faced by students in reading.

To identify the difficulties encountered by the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong in reading comprehension, the researcher asked them to put their answer on scale of frequencies (strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, strongly disagree, disagree). The questionnaire consisted of 12 items. In this case, the researcher only focuses on strongly agree and agree.

### Discussion

In this part, the researcher elaborates the result of the research finding in details. The purpose of this research is to find out the difficulties of the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong in reading comprehension. Based on interview with the students, it showed that the students have insufficient vocabulary that they find difficulty to understand reading comprehension, translate it into bahasa Indonesia, difficult in getting message from the reading text, understand the teacher's explanation, and words in English have more than one meaning.

The result of interview from the teacher shows that in teaching process they do not know the name of the method, they ask the students to cooperate in order they can share their opinion each other. To know student understands of the text given, the teacher asks the students some questions then the students try to answer it. They need to explain more and more because the students get confused in understanding and translating the words in reading text because English word has more than one meaning.

The difficulties are also strengthened by the result of questionnaire which showed that 71% students who agree that they do not give more attention in reading text and 71% students who agree that they do not master grammar when reading a text

By gathering all the data, the researcher concludes that the difficulties of the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong in reading comprehension is coming from themselves especially their insufficient vocabulary. Therefore, they find difficulty getting message from the reading text  difficult in understanding the teacher's explanation.

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the data gathered from the questionnaire and interview, the researcher draws conclusion that difficulties of the second grade students of SMA YPTB Ketong in reading comprehension are that

they have insufficient vocabulary, they do not get important message from the reading text, and they get hard to understand the teacher's explanation.

Based on the conclusion above, the researcher would like to give some suggestions. Firstly, students should motivate themselves to study hard and to read a lot of English books and text, in order to improve their vocabulary and it also can make them easily to comprehend the passage or text. They can also learn together. By sharing opinion each other about reading if they find difficulty to comprehend it.

Secondly, teachers or lecturers should be a good problem solver and motivator to overcome the difficulties faced by the students in reading. The teacher should be able to convince his or her students to improve their reading and teachers should encourage students to practice reading and makes the students feel more comfortable and enjoy their self when study.

**REFERENCES**

Alison. (2007). *Teaching Reading Comprehension to Students with Learning Difficulties*. New York: The Guilford Press.

Anderson, R. C. (2001). *The Report of the Commission of Reading* . Washington, DC: The National Institute of Education.

Barth (2012).*Language Teaching Analysis.* London and New York: Longman.

Beatrice. (2008). *Teaching Reading in A Second Language.* Pearson Education: Boston University.

Broadman (2007) *Comprehension Strategies for English Language Learners*. New York: SCOLASTIC Inc.

Chard D. J. (2008). *What is Reading Comprehension*. Building a community of Reading Experts. National Centre for Reading First

Dombey (2003).*Teaching Reading What the Evodence Says*. Brighton: University of Brighton.

Duke, N. K. (2002). *The Genre Specific Nature of reading Comprehension*. New York: Routledge.

Elizabeth. (2008) .*Developing Literacy: Assessment and Teaching*. Cina: Sue Hill.

Helgesen. (2005).*Extensive Reading Reports*. Tokyo: Miyagi Gakuin Women's University.

Irianti, S. (2011). *Using Role Play in Improving Students' Speaking Ability in the Second Year Students at VIII.1 Class of SMP PGRI II Ciputat.* Unpublished Skripsi

Lusiana, M. 2007. "*Some Problems in Teaching Reading Comprehension entitled "Helicopter" to the Eight Year Students of SMP Negeri 35Palembang* Thesis. Palembang: Universitas of PGRI Palembang.

Mikulecky, B. S, & Jeffries, L. (2007). *Reading Power*. United States: Pearson Education.

Nuttal,C (1996). *Teaching Reading Skill in a Foreign Language*. Great Britain: Heineman.

Sudjiono (2008).*Metode penelitian kuantitatif dan kualitatif R& D*, Bandung: Alfe Beta.

Weaver (2009). *Reading Process: Brief Edition of Reading Process and Practice*. Ohio: Miami University, Oxford.

Williams (2005). *The TKT (Teaching Knowledge Test) Course*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

http://www.arlingsapri.blogspot.com , asseced on December 10th 2018 at 20.50 p.m