

Laporan Penelitian

IMPROVING STUDENTS' READING COMPREHENSION BY USING NATURAL APPROACH

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B	Jenis Kelamin	Perempuan
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is a code whereby ideas about the world are represented through a conventional system of arbitrary signals for communication (Bloom and Lahey 1978). Language is simply a means of communication and that human intelligence is the result of the rapid growth and unusual size of human brains (<http://psycnet.apa.org/psycinfo/1995-98931-000>). Based on the meaning of language above they are concluded that language is a tool for communication. We cant live without language, because to live we are need communication with the other people. Language used as a tool for relationship with others to build communication and help us to understand the world events and arts and science.

There are many languages in the world, one of them is English. English is global language nowadays. English itself is taught as the foreign language in Indonesia. English is one of the subjects that is taught in school and involved in National examination.

There are four language skills in English, they are: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Listening competence is universally 'larger' than speaking competence. It is any wonder, that in recent years the language teaching profession has placed a concerted emphasis on listening comprehension. Speaking and listening skills are closely intertwined. The interaction between these two models of performance is applied especially to conversation, the most popular discourse category in the profession. Reading is one of the most important skills in learning language besides listening, speaking and writing (Kustaryo 1988). It is certainly not easy to present the English reading to Indonesian students whose language system is different.

Reading in their own language is much easier than that of the language learned because they have mastered the vocabulary and the structure of their own. As reading plays an important role in language learning, it would be better that this teaching is wisely done. To understand a text students must have a good command of the vocabulary of the target language. The reader uses knowledge, skills and strategies to determine what the text meaning is. Writing is an act of discovery, of communication, of joy. It connects us to work, to culture, to society, to existing knowledge, and to the meanings of our lives.

Based on the writer's experience during her teaching practice on PPL (Teaching Practice Program) in Junior High School (2010). It was found that students' ability of reading was still low. The students faced many difficulties in reading texts. They often failed in reading texts because of lack of vocabularies and technique in reading. The problem also came from the teacher's technique and strategy in teaching. During the writer's observation, she found that the teacher still applied a traditional method, the teachers asked the students to write things in their exercise books freely, read the texts in their heart and open dictionary anytime they stuck on using words that they didn't know. It caused the students bored and not concentration on learning. So, they are cannot gain the purpose of reading.

To overcome this problem, the teacher should change their strategy in teaching process and should consider the most effective and creative language teaching strategy in teaching reading skill. Teachers is one the most factors influencing the success of learning English. An Approach may be one the solution to improve teaching process. Approach is a correlative assumptions dealing with the nature of language teaching and learning. There are some approach in teaching they are lexical approach, and Natural Approach. Lexical approach in language teaching refers to one derived from the belief that the building blocks of language learning and

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