

## THE STUDENTS' FACTOR DIFFICULTY IN READING ARTICLES IN THE JAKARTA POST NEWSPAPER

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### ABSTRACT

This study examines the factors contributing to the learning difficulties encountered by second-semester English students after reading an article in the Jakarta Post. This study took a qualitative approach by employing questionnaires to collect data. The subject study was performed on 30 second-semester students. The study's findings indicate that factor difficulties were the difficulty in reading 35,9 %, 24,4%, not being confident (24.4%), 23,5% difficulty understanding, and 16,2% lack of vocabulary (16.2%). This research result recommends the lecturer of the reading subject as the reference for the material teaching. The lecturer knows this material is too difficult for second-semester students. Then, they will look for another strategy or idea to solve the student's difficulty learning to read.

**Keywords:** *Difficulty Factor, Reading Article, Jakarta Post Newspaper.*

### INTRODUCTION

Reading is one of the four skills needed to study English. Reading is the process or way to get information from language. Johnson (2008:3) states that reading is using text to create meaning. It means that readers will create meaning for what they have read. They also read the text to comprehend it and draw conclusions from it. Reading will develop our language skills. Reading can also connect the reader to others. However, reading is the act of opening the world. We can know everything in this world by reading. We can also interact with other people in this world. So, reading is essential for all of us to know about this world.

Reading is more complicated than the other four skills of language. This is also the experience of the researchers as well as the students. The most considerable difficulty in reading English is that it is a foreign language, so there are many things that one must learn to be able to become a good reader. On the other hand, readers must be experts in pronunciation, words, phrases, and sentences. Tarigan (2008: 7) stated that reading is a process of deciphering and decoding. The element of decoding that involves

converting written or printed words into meaningful sounds is connecting written words with the meaning of spoken language. Early reading begins when a child joins formal education (Rahim, 2008: 2). It is called the beginning because it is a transitional stage from the home to the school environment.

The explanation of the reading problems above shows that some factors influence them. A factor can be described as the reason for reading problems. It means that problems arise naturally because of the influence of certain factors. The factor is the thing that contributed to the occurrence of something, KBBI online (2017). Umar (2021: 22) states that there are factors that contribute to learning difficulties, namely: (1) learning motivation; (2) English intake; (3) the role of educators and pupils in learning; (4) infrastructure; (5) learning resources; and (6) the learning environment. Variables for inquiry are variables for the study.

On the other hand, students had some problems reading the book. They understood the difficulties when they read. Difficulties in learning English are still experienced by many students in the second semester (Manullang et al.; G., 2022). Learning difficulty is a distance between the expected and obtained academic achievement". It further states that individuals who experience learning difficulties are normal in intelligence but show one or several essential deficiencies in the learning process, both in perception, memory, attention, and motor function.

Learning difficulties occur when students cannot meet the demands of the learning process, resulting in a learning process and results that could be more satisfactory and optimal. There are differences between student learning expectations and actuality; learning difficulties must be defined. Diswantika (2019:923) states that learning difficulty is a disorder that is present in children related to tasks or particular tasks, and it is thought to be caused by factors of neurological dysfunction, psychological processes, and other causes so that children who have learning difficulties in a class show learning achievement. Learning difficulties, according to Djamarah (2011: 235), are a condition in which pupils are unable to learn regularly due to threats, obstacles, or distractions.

Hakim (2005: 1) defines learning difficulties as a condition that causes barriers to one's learning process. Abdurahman (2009 in Yulianto, 2015) defines learning difficulties in students as being caused by hereditary factors, brain abnormalities,

nutrition, and student health. The causes of learning difficulties are poor memory, material being taught far removed from students' daily thinking, procedural abilities, and less factual knowledge. (Mabunga et al., 2019) Stated that the beginning of reading causes students' cognitive processes to take place so they can find out every word written in it. Furthermore, mastery of the subject and practice must be provided in a balanced manner. Creating an ideal language lesson, on the other hand, is a difficult task. A language teacher should know the level of mastery of each student's language in addition to having adequate material confirmation. It will not be easy to accomplish the expected learning goals if all conditions are generalized.

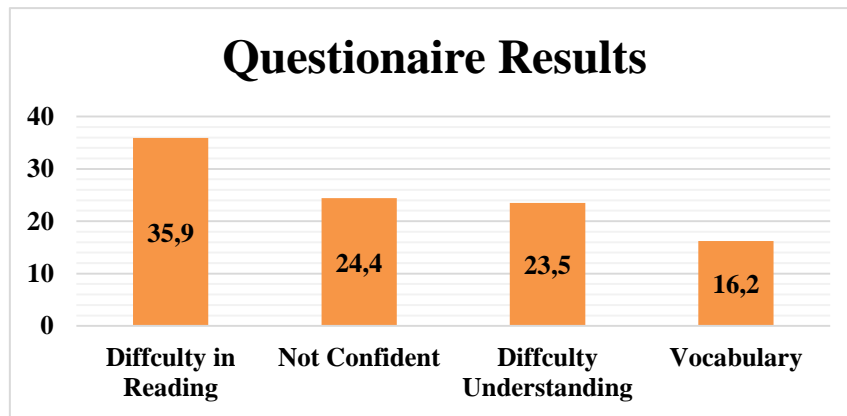
This research applies to second-semester students in reading subjects. As preliminary data, the researcher interviewed some students in the second semester. They argue that reading English is a complex topic, so they need to be more active in taking reading classes. Understanding the meaning of vocabulary in English is regarded as one of the reasons preventing him from learning the language. This problem is shared by almost all second-semester students, resulting in poor student learning outcomes because students need help with learning English reading material for Jakarta Post articles. They learn the reading text from the Jakarta Post newspaper. The Jakarta Post Newspaper is an English-language daily published in Indonesia. Jakarta Post publishes online newspapers as well as weekend newspapers. Researchers gathered information from the newspaper's online edition due to its ease of use and open access.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The study employs a qualitative descriptive approach with an interactive model. Sugiono (2019) says qualitative research is done in natural conditions, going straight to data sources, and researchers are vital instruments. Qualitative research is more descriptive. The subject of this study is the second-semester students. The collection of data uses questionnaires and interviews. The analysis of the data uses the interactive model. There are three steps for analyzing: data condensation, data display, and data conclusion or verification.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the method of collecting data, the result of this research will be shown in this graphic.



**Graphic 1. The Data from Research Result**

The data show that there are four factors causing difficulties for students in reading articles in the Jakarta Post Newspaper, namely: difficulty in reading 35,9 %, 24 4 % not confident, 23 5% difficulty understanding, and 16, 2% lack of vocabulary.

The students needed to be more active in reading the article in newspapers, significantly Jakarta Post articles. Most students are uninterested in reading because they have not realized it is essential. They think that reading is a tedious activity. At the same time, reading the article can link the information or idea to other people. Kurtarta (2013) states that reading is an activity in mastering language skills and can be linked to expert opinion. It means that the students can gain more knowledge by reading articles, books, and other sources on the internet. We know that the more we read, the more we will learn. It is because we will recognize more about the meanings of words.

Then, the students need more confidence in themselves while they are reading the article. This has a connection to their background. The English students of the English department at Universitas HKBP Nommensen come from Batakness, which has a connection to their background. The English students of the English department at Universitas HKBP Nommensen come from Batakness. Their mother tongue was Batak, so their ethnicity influenced their pronunciation, intonation, and language style. Sinaga

(2019:267) states that students have different characters, styles, intonations, and gestures because they come from different backgrounds.

Besides that, the English department students are afraid to try reading English text, significantly Jakarta Post articles. Because the Jakarta Post article contains scientific words, it is difficult to comprehend the sentences. Sinaga (2019:266) states that students also made mistakes and lacked confidence while practicing in front of the class. Students find it difficult to express their ideas and are afraid to utter them. In this activity, children carry out activities to voice symbols of language sounds (Rizakian, 2016).

The next factor is the difficulty of understanding, which is about 23.5%. Other factors influence this factor. Students find it challenging to understand the text because they are lazy readers. Students in the second semester need to improve their ability to read the English text. They need to make a commitment within themselves to reading. They must change their reading habits. Besides that, the content of the articles is also high-level. We need to analyze the text profoundly and carefully to understand the topic.

The last factor is a need for more vocabulary. Students in the second semester of the English department need help understanding the text because they lack vocabulary. This factor has an impact on the other factor. To master English, everyone must have enough vocabulary. Vocabulary is the main element of the English language. Vocabulary can be increased by doing various things, namely: reading a story, listening to music or conversation, and communicating in English with friends. In the English department, students must have much vocabulary. It has the essentials of learning English, especially in reading subjects. Alizadeh (2016: 22) states that learning vocabulary is likely one of the biggest challenges students will face in their studies. It means that vocabulary is the most essential thing in studying languages.

## **CONCLUSION**

The difficulty factor for students in reading an article has four components: difficulty in reading, lack of confidence, difficulty in understanding, and lack of vocabulary. These factors are the basis for knowing students' ability to understand the reading of an article in a newspaper. This research contributed to the students, lecturers,

and readers interested in reading newspaper articles. It can be used to evaluate the student's ability in a reading subject. The lecturer will find a new strategy for teaching reading to improve the student's abilities.

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