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THE CORRELATION BETWEEN LEARNING PUNCTUATION AND STUDENTS' FLUENCY IN READING TEXT AT *SMP AL WASHLIYAH SUMBER CIREBON*

A THESIS

Submitted to English Education Department of Tarbiyah Faculty of SyekhNurjati
State Institute for Islamic Studies in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of
Islamic Scholar Degree in English Education



By:

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2012**



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ABSTRACT

NURSIAM AZIZAH, 2012: “THE CORRELATION BETWEEN LEARNING PUNCTUATION AND STUDENTS’ FLUENCY IN READING TEXT AT SMP AL WASHLIYAH SUMBER CIREBON”

The research field reading this thesis is learning punctuation. In this case, it has been found that most of the students although not all the students at the second year of *SMP Al Washliyah Sumber Cirebon* find the difficulties in reading text by using learning punctuation. They consider that learning punctuation not important for reading text. Even though, English is only one kind of learning punctuation for read text. It means that this is such learning condition is becoming the problem in the process of teaching and learning in the class. In reading this thesis, the writer only focuses on solving their difficulties by discussing learning punctuation especially, how to use punctuation which has correlation with the students’ fluency in reading text.

The objectives of the research are to find out the data about learning punctuation, to find out the data about students’ fluency in reading text, and to find out if there is any positive and significant the correlation between learning punctuation and students’ fluency in reading text.

The techniques of collecting the data which have been done are observation, interview, and test. The data which have been collected are analyzed by means of the objective condition of the school for the quantitative data.

The population of the research is all the second year students of *SMP Al Washliyah Sumber Cirebon*. The amount of them comes to 156 students. As a sample of the research the writer has taken the sample of the research is 30 students. The sample has been taken at random from 4 classes.

After calculating the data, the result of t-test value is higher than t-table. The t-test value is 2.3 and $n=30$, test the one hand; $dk=n-2 = 30-2=28$, so that obtained $t_{table}=2.05$. Apparently $t_{hitung}>t_{table}$ or $2.3>2.05$ so H_a is accepted and H_o is refused, it means that there is significant correlation between learning punctuation and students’ fluency in reading text at the second year students of *SMP Al Washliyah Sumber Cirebon*.



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PREFACE

In the name of God, Most Gracious and Most Merciful. All praises and thankfulness be to Allah. Because of His permission the writer has been able to finish this thesis. May invocation and safety always be given to the prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), his family, his colleagues, and followers up to the end of the world. The title of the thesis is **“THE CORRELATION BETWEEN LEARNING PUNCTUATION AND STUDENTS’ FLUENCY IN READING TEXT AT SMP AL WASHLIYAH SUMBER CIREBON”** is submitted to fulfill one of the requirements for achieving the Islamic Scholar Degree at the English Department of the Tarbiyah Faculty of The Institute For Islamic Studies (*IAIN*) *Syekh Nurjati Cirebon*.

In writing this thesis, there are many people who have participated, support, helped, and advised. So on this opportunity, the writer would like to express her sincerity and profound thankfulness to:

1. Prof. Dr. H. Maksum Mukhtar, MA, the Rector of *IAIN Syekh Nurjati Cirebon*.
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4. Dra. Hj. Amroh Umaemah, the second supervisor.



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5. Drs. Iskandar, the Headmaster of SMP Al Washliyah Sumber Cirebon.
6. The English teachers of SMP Al Washliyah Sumber Cirebon.
7. All teachers and school staff of SMP Al Washliyah Sumber Cirebon.
8. All friends that cannot be mentioned one by one for their motivation.

The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect and there are many mistakes both in the arrangement and in the content of this thesis. Accordingly, any comment and suggestion given by the reader would be happily welcome.

Hopefully, this thesis will be useful for the readers especially, for the writer herself and also for the students of Syekh Nurjati State Institute for Islamic Studies.

Cirebon, June, 2012

The Writer



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Problem

English is phenomenal language, because it has official or special status in at least seventy-five countries, whether as a first, second or foreign language. English is spoken as a second language in the world, and people are believed to speak English as foreign language.

English, for globalization era, is one of requirements to compete in much aspect; this means that English is the main language for books, newspapers, international business and academics conferences, science, technology, etc. It is no wonder if many people in the world want to learn it.

In Indonesia, English has been a mandatory subject for more than half centuries, however all of us are still not satisfied with the students' achievement. Alwasilah (2000:69) states that students' achievement is as a result of our last curriculum, which emphasized on the receptive skills such as listening and reading than productive skills such as speaking and writing. Moreover, our students consider English as a difficult subject to be learn, so that is why English still being a luxurious thing, then people who can speak English considered in a high prestige and position in our society.

It is very important for students to be active in teaching learning process. This means that the objective will not be reached successfully, without being

followed by the student actively. It is relevant with Ahmad Tafsir's opinion (1988:73) that teaching learning process will be successful if they are active in the process of teaching and learning. Basically, the students' activity will be depended on their interest, while their interest will arise if the students have good perception on their teacher's method of teaching. So here the teacher including English teachers, have the important role to develop the students' skill.

Dobson (1997:1) says that teacher of English as a foreign or second language still faces a situation aptly described by my professor of linguistics some years ago : "Language teachers lead their students down real of pattern practice, only to find themselves confronted by a great chasm at the end. On the other side lies real communication, but the group is stranded on the side of drills because the teacher sees no strong bridge across". Now they should change their mind.

Reading is one of language skills that should be mastered by students. Tarigan (1986:71) states that reading is a process which is done and used by the reader to obtain information, message, and ideas and so on, that writer express through the words or written language. Halman (2009:39) Reading is fundamental goal that children must master in order to be successful in school life. On the other hand, Lado (1964:132) gives the formulation of definition of reading by the grasp language patterns from their written representation. In a second language, reading is usually taught to students who are already literate in the source language.



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Based on the first observation conducted by the writer at the second year students of *SMP Al Washliyah Sumber Cirebon*, the writer shows that the teacher has tried to develop here effort in teaching English optimally. She has practiced the various methods and techniques when she delivered material to the students. On teaching, reading, for example, writer used learning punctuation to improve students' fluency in reading text. The writer found the problem on the pattern of teaching activities at the school. Most of the students know about period, question mark, comma, and etc. But they cannot understand about reading them. So in learning reading text, the writer improves the fluency of students in understanding the text, especially in the mastery of punctuation. Learning punctuation is good learning to understand of text.

In the *SMP Al Washliyah Sumber Cirebon*, as second-class science teaching, especially English language cannot be said to be successful due to mastery of reading skills in particular. Some students in class teaching, there is still difficult to understand of text. There are several factors that can be problem, such as writing in learning reading text and to master of punctuation have not maximum.

English is not the one of the new school's subject for the students at the junior high school level, but generally, they always find the difficulties in learning, especially speaking and reading. It is understandable because English is very different from the student's mother tongue, not only dealing with the



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language's rules but also with the sound and reading. For example, one of the language's rules is punctuation.

Chuan Aik & Kai Hui (1999:221) explores that punctuation is a system of standard symbols that a person adds to the words, phrases and sentences he/ she writes to make their meaning clear. John Brewton (1958:376) argues that punctuation is the system of marks used to make the meaning of written material clear.

From the explanation above, the writer concluded punctuation is punctuation mark are symbols that indicate the structure and organization of written language, as well as intonation and pauses to be observed when reading also. After mentioning a word, writer sometimes provide its meaning and set it off through the use of punctuation marks, making the definition easy for readers to recognize.

Further, how far the correlation between learning punctuation with students' fluency in reading text? In this case, the writer would like closely at *SMP Al Washliyah Sumber Cirebon* and to write her research the title "*THE CORRELATION BETWEEN LEARNING PUNCTUATION AND STUDENTS' FLUENCY IN READING TEXT AT SMP AL WASHLIYAH SUMBER CIREBON*".



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B. The Identification of the Problem

The problem in this research is classified into the following sections:

1. The field of the research

The field of the research in this thesis is Learning Punctuation.

2. The kinds o the problem

The kind of the problem of this thesis is to know the students' fluency in reading text.

3. The main problem ofthe research

It is a natural thing that in every process of teaching and learning the students will always get difficulties so that resulting in making many mistakes in doing something. The main problem of the research in this thesis is about the correlation between learning punctuation and students' fluency in reading text. Their learning difficulties which cause them make mistakes in read some texts are supposed to be the main problem in the process of teaching and learning English in the class.

C. The Limitation of the Problem

The limitation of the problem is the correlation between learning punctuation and students 'fluency in reading text. So, if learning punctuation and the student' fluency in reading text the researches have to interpreted by using statistical analysis to improve and explore their skill.



D. The Questions of the Research

The questions of the research in reading this thesis are as follows

1. How is the students' mastery of learning punctuation?
2. How is the students' fluency in reading text?
3. Is there any positive and significant correlation between learning punctuation and students' fluency in reading text?

E. The Aims of the Research

The aims of the research in writing this thesis are follows:

1. To know the students' mastery of learning punctuation.
2. To know the students' fluency in reading text.
3. To know any positive and significant correlation with learning punctuation and students' fluency in reading text.

F. The Use of the Research

1. The result of this research hoped to be able to help the students feel easier to learn punctuation in reading text.
2. To give students a lesson that learning punctuation reading application especially in increasing the students' fluency in reading text.





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