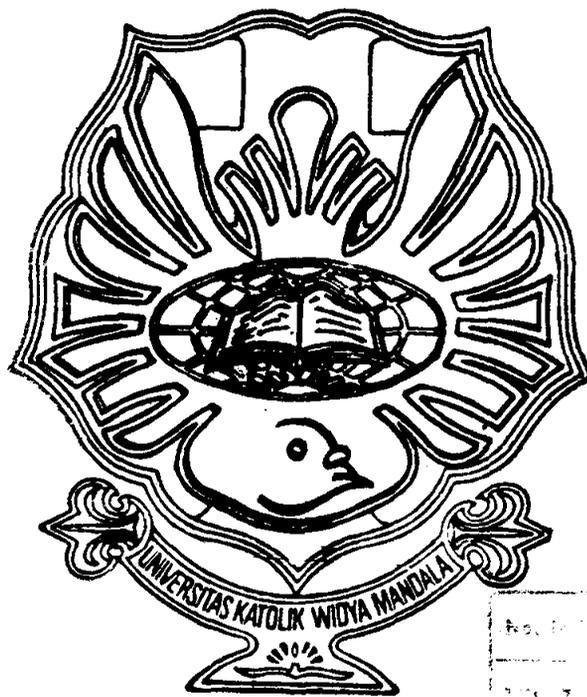


TEACHING READING COMPREHENSION THROUGH " HEAD AND TAIL " RECOGNITION

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for
the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in
English Language Teaching



by

Fatimah Dikan
IG. 1213082050

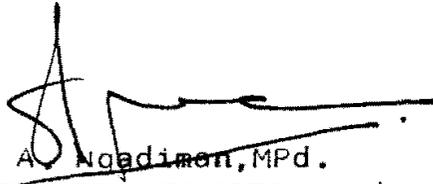
No. Pendaftaran	1768/91
Tgl. Pengantar	14-9-1991
Nama	Fatimah Dikan
No. Roll	FK-ig Dik E-1
KOPi KE	1(satu)

Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya
Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan
Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni
Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris
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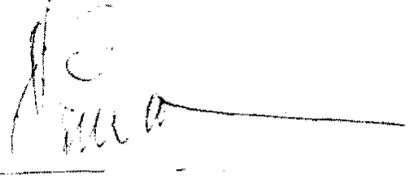
This thesis has been examined by the Committee
on oral Examination with a grade of B
on August 2, 1991


Drs. A. Ngadiman, MPd.

Chairman


Dra. Maria Francisca H, MPd.

Member


Drs. Hendra Tedjasuksmana

Member


Dr. Wuri Soedjatmiko

Member


Drs. Bartolomeus Budiyo

Member


Dra. A. Gurito

Dean of
The Teacher Training
College


S. Stefanus Laga T., MPd.

Head of
The English Department

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ABSTRACT

Since the teaching of English in Indonesia emphasizes on reading comprehension, it is important for students to have the skill of comprehending English reading materials. This thesis is expected to give some contributions to the teaching of reading comprehension. In other words, it is a suggestion on how to teach reading comprehension through head and tail recognition.

One way to help students become good comprehenders is to train them to recognize which sentences express primary information and which sentences express secondary and tertiary information. In this thesis the primary information is termed as the head of the information, and the secondary and the tertiary information are the details or tails.

In order to comprehend English reading materials well, students should know how to recognize these heads and tails, i.e. recognize head and tail in phrases, recognize head and tail in sentences, recognize head and tail in paragraphs, and recognize head and tail in passages. In recognizing head and tail in a phrase, students should find head and tail in that phrase. To know the meaning of the phrase, students should interpret the meaning of the head first, then the meaning of the tail. In this case, the teacher should help them find the meanings of the words by using four helpful techniques from Nuttall, i.e. identifying of words; understanding the meanings of affixes, inferring the meanings of words from context, and checking the meanings of words in a dictionary. In recognizing head and tail in a sentence, students should recognize the head and tail in that sentence. Besides, they should know the discourse markers used to connect words within sentences and the cohesives devices used in the sentence, i.e. reference, substitution, ellipsis, and lexical cohesion. In recognizing head and tail in a paragraph, students should find the head sentence and the tail sentences of the paragraph. Then, students have to recognize head and tail in the whole passage. The head in the passage is the thesis sentence and the tails are the head sentences of the paragraphs in the passage. Besides, students should

also know the discourse markers used to connect the paragraphs in the passage. Finally, students should know how to make the outline and the summary of the whole passage.

In the application, these reading activities are divided into three parts, namely, pre-reading activities, while-reading activities, and post-reading activities. After doing these three kinds of activities, students are expected to be able to comprehend English reading materials well. The procedure for applying these activities is described in details through an example.