

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

In teaching English to SMU students most teachers agree with the fact that, in order to master the language, the students should develop the four skills, namely : listening, speaking, reading, and writing. According to the SMU curriculum of 1994, the main purpose of English teaching is to enable the students to read, comprehend, speak, and write (Depdikbud, 1994). Therefore, the writer would like to present teaching reading classes.

It is very important to know first, that the definition of reading. According to Finnichiario (1974:77) reading activity to get or comprehend meaning from printed or written material. Therefore, it is the writer's task to get the students into reading and understanding the written English language. However, most SMU students are terrified by the long and difficult passages, so they decide to refuse to understand or even to read the material, which eventually causes their reading session a waste of time and energy. Students, when asked by the teacher to read English books, often respond indifferently : "I don't like reading those topics", "The vocabulary is too difficult, so it will take me too many hours of dictionary consultation". These are all excuses just to manifest their dislike of reading. Even if the language of the passage is easy to read, most students are still reluctant in reading. It is because the topic of the passage is not

interesting enough for them to read. Eventually, the writer is concerned with this problem : how to make the reading session easy and interesting enough to fit the needs of SMU students.

Therefore, in order to make students fun with English, the writer decides to avoid using difficult and uninteresting materials or textbooks newspaper article as an alternative in teaching of reading English because she believes that newspaper contains various updated news about outside world covering politics, business, sports, and even today's fashions, which makes the student are interested to read. The world book Encyclopedia (1992:180) also believes that, "Newspaper can cover more news and in much greater detail than can television and radio news bulletin".

However, even though the newspaper article is interesting enough, it still terrifies the Senior High School students because newspaper articles contain high level of English proficiency which is hard to digest by the students. Secondly, not all the newspaper article are best suited to the students' needs. Even one of the English teaching experts, Antonio R.Roldan Tapia (1993:46) asks the same question, "Didn't we have the feeling, when we were beginners, that reading the newspaper in the target language was always impossible ? Very probably answer was yes".

Therefore, the writer recreates the article to be readable for the SMU students' needs. She selects the most appropriate material based on the curriculum 1994 SMU on reading topic and the students' knowledge and

competence in the language. Furthermore, she will make it easier in grammar and vocabulary as well for SMU students. In this case, the simplified newspaper article can arouse the students' interest, increase the students' ability in reading English, and also decrease the boredom as well.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The SMU students who just learn how to read English find it hard to digest the content of the newspaper, because it is written in advanced English writing level. Therefore, the newspaper should be simplified according to the needs and ability of the SMU students.

Based on the points presented as the background of this study, the main problem to be solved is formulated as follows :

Are the reading scores of the students taught with the simplified articles significantly better than those of the students taught with the original versions ?

1.3 Objective of the study

Being fully conscious of the important role of reading passages in teaching English in context, the writer decides to write the thesis entitled "A Study on the Comparison Between the Result of Teaching Students Reading Comprehension Using Original Passages and That Using the Simplified Ones" with the objective to find out whether the reading scores of the students taught with the simplified articles are significantly better than those of the students taught with the original versions.

1.4 Significance of the Study

In order to improve the method of teaching and learning reading in English, firstly, it needs to break the boredom when the students have reading session so that they will enjoy it. It can be done by giving them interesting topic. Secondly, the method of teaching and learning reading in English will be successful, if the students are helped to comprehend the text. It can be done by using simplified language.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer feels that it is necessary to limit the scope of this study. First of all, she limits the sample to the second year students of SMU St.Hendrikus Surabaya, for in this stage, they have enough vocabulary in order to comprehend the reading text. Also, she prefers to compare two classes, II. and II.3, because these two classes have relatively the same level of intelligence. Furthermore, although reading materials for the SMU students can be taken from many sources, the writer limits the articles to the ones taken from "International Herald Tribune", for this newspaper uses English and is printed in Singapore, whose culture is still asiatic. The topics of the articles used are limited to the sections of politics, medical, sports and business, for the writer thinks that these topics are both up to date and interesting for SMU students.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

In this study, the writer would like to use the theories of simplification that simplified versions always have a source script which has been changed to make information available to the learners other than the ones originally intended. In a further discussion of simplification, Widdowson (1979:192) remarks that “the teacher simplifies by selecting and ordering the linguistic phenomena he is to deal with so as to ease the task of learning, and making the connection between authenticity and simplification direct”. In other words, the principles for simplification take accounts vocabulary control, grammar control and cohesive, sentence structure which are related to the content of the practical . The principles require the simplifier can possibly rewrite the material, making it follow the original as closely as possible (Sutaria 1970:96) and also require the simplifier to assume that certain incidents are important or less important ones (Honeyfield 1977:433).

1.7 Assumption and Hypothesis

In this point, the writer will discuss about assumption and hypothesis.

1.7.1 Assumption

In this thesis, the writer assumes that :

Reading in English is a usual thing for Senior High School students because they have learn it since Junior High School.

1.7.2 Hypothesis

In order to answer the above questions, the following hypothesis is stated: the reading scores of the students taught with the simplified articles are significantly better than the reading scores of the students taught with the original versions.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

This study uses some terms that need to be explained in order to avoid misunderstanding.

The following key terms are :

1. Reading : a process in which the reader picks and chooses from the available information only enough to select and predict a language structure which is decodable. It is not in any sense a precise perceptual process (Goodman 1973:164) or judging the worth, validity and veracity of what is read or a thinking process (Arias:1985). It is simply said that it is an activity to get the meaning from printed or written materials.
2. Reading material : is a written work of a writer to be read by people, which can be taken from various sources such as : textbook, newspaper, magazine, novels, and many more. (Fraida Dubin 1982:14).

3. Newspapers : is a publication devoted chiefly to presenting and commenting on the news. It keeps the reader well informed about the current events, as well as plays a vital role in shaping the public opinion. (The World Book Encyclopedia 1992;180)
4. Simplifieds : is to made less complicated, clearer, or easier. (Collin English Dictionary 1991:1441)
5. Originals : is the first and genuine form of something, from which others are derived a person or thing used as a model in art or literature. (Collin English Dictionary 1991:1021)

1.9 Research Methodology

The research methodology used in this study is the experimental study. Here, the writer will be collecting the data by experiment to prove the statements of the experts to support the idea of the theory of reading, the use of simplified newspaper articles as material in teaching reading.

1.10 Organization of the Thesis

In this thesis, the writer divides into five chapters. In the chapter I, she discusses about introduction, review of the related literature in the chapter II. The third chapter is about research methodology. She will discuss about the analysis teaching reading by using simplified newspaper articles in chapter IV and in the last chapter, the writer will conclude the thesis.