

The Correlation Between Reading Habit and Students' Vocabulary Mastery at XII Grade in SMAN 5 Bukittinggi

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Abstract :

Reading is very important for students. Anyone who read a lot she/he will get many vocabularies. It is a kind of habit can improve vocabulary. Theoretically, reading habits can improve vocabulary, because the students often encounter certain vocabularies. The design of this research was correlational research. The population was 12th Social Students in SMAN 5 Bukittinggi they were 154 students. 25% of them as the sample. The total sample was 38 students. The researcher used cluster random sampling. The instruments used in this research were test and questionnaire. The finding, showed that there was a significance correlation between reading habit and students' vocabulary mastery since r -measured bigger than the r -table ($0,801 > 0,3202$). There was positive correlation between reading habit and vocabulary mastery. Correlation between reading habit and vocabulary mastery has high correlation because $0,801$ was between $0,71-0,90$ which mean it has high correlation. This means that frequent reading can improve vocabulary mastery. The more often students read, the higher the students' of vocabulary mastery.

Keywords : reading habit, vocabulary mastery

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Introduction

Vocabulary is the basic knowledge that someone needs to learn in order to learn new language. Vocabulary is the first things that people learn in learning language. For example, the first time someone learning English, he/she will be taught several vocabularies about things around them. It would be difficult for someone to learn speaking, listening, reading, and writing of the language before he knows vocabularies related to that language. Relate to this Renandya & Richards say, vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis for how well learners speak, listen, read, and write (Richards, J.C and Renandya, W.A. 2002). In short that in order to learn any other skill in a language, someone needs to learn the vocabulary before other skills. Vocabulary is an important component in mastering the four skills in English.

Basically, vocabulary is a set of words in a language. According to Brown, the term vocabulary refers to a list or a set of words for particular language or a list of words that individual speakers of language use (Brown, H. Douglas. 2001). As the conclusion, vocabulary is a set or a list of word or particular language, which in this case is English. Learning vocabulary is not easy. According to Rohmatillah in her research, there were 6 factors that caused students' difficulties in learning vocabulary (1) the written form is different from the spoken form in English, (2) the number of words that students need to learn is exceedingly large, (3) the limitations of sources of information about words, (4) the complexity of word knowledge, (5) lack of understanding in grammatical words, (6) lack of sound similarity between English and student's native language (incorrect pronunciation) (Rohmatillah). In other word, learning vocabulary is not an easy thing to do.

One of the ways to improve someone vocabulary is through reading. The more a students read, the more they encounter many unfamiliar words, and the more they will look to dictionary in order to find the meaning of that unfamiliar words in order to understand of what he currently read. Lee and Krashes said "those who read more write better, read better, spell better, have larger vocabularies, and have superior grammatical competence" (Lee, Ying and Stephen Krashen 1996). It can be infere, whoever reads a lot will have many ideas and have good writing, reading, spelling will be better, have a lot of vocabulary and have superior grammatical competence.

Therefore, if students have good reading habit, they will be better in writing, reading, spelling, will have a lot of vocabulary, and have superior grammatical competence. Habit is an activity that is done repeteady by someone. According to Chettri and Rout, the activity of reading is regarded as habit when it is repeatedly carried out (Chettri, Kushmeeta 2013). This means that reading habit is activity of reading that someone do repeatedly. In other word, reading habit is doing the reading activity as the routine activity.

Reading habit has many advantages. First is to improve intelectual growth out (Chettri, Kushmeeta 2013). It makes someone to be able to think more since he reads more. The second is it improves the reading comprehension and vocabulary mastery (Nana

Lusianah). Then it is clear that the more someone read, the more he will find unfamiliar word, and the more he will open up the dictionary in order to understand what he reads.

Based on the preliminary research at SMAN 5 Bukittinggi in the XII grade, researcher found several conditions. Based on the interview with the students, some of the students had a habit of reading English book and some did not. They read in spare time when the teacher didn't enter the class and in the library. The school provided English reading material in the library, such as textbooks, novels, etc. The teacher also instructs students to read English texts related to the lesson, and this is also the reading habit given by the teacher to students.

The first problem, vocabulary of the some students were not good. For example, when the students asked by the teacher about some vocabularies that they just learned or the easy word the students seem to be confused to answer the question. Some of the students lazy to read because the limitations of vocabulary that they have, when they find new vocabulary that is difficult it makes them not continue reading. This means that only few of the students that have reading habit.

The last problem, not all of the students had reading habit, whereas the teacher asked them to read. Some of them only read English reading material in the class, moreover in just English subject class. Some of the students who had interest in reading. When the researcher asked them about how many texts that they read in a week, some of them said that already read text in the students' handbook. Some of them also said that sometimes they found text in google to read. However many of the students that read only when the teachers asked them to read.

Based on the problem above, the researcher is interested to find out the correlation between the reading habit and the students' vocabulary mastery. The research is entitled *"The Correlation Between Reading Habit and Students' Vocabulary Mastery at XII Grade in SMAN 5 Bukittinggi"*

Method

The researcher used quantitative approach. The design of this research was correlational because it had the purpose to find out the correlation between reading habit and students' vocabulary mastery. The participants of this study were XII in SMAN 5 Bukittinggi. The data were collected from questionnaires and test that were given to the participants. Then, the researcher used product moment correlation to found out the correlation between extensive reading and students's vocabulary mastery.

Results

Based on the finding above, the 3 questions of the research problem were answered. There was a significance correlation between reading habit and students' vocabulary mastery since r -measured bigger than the r -table. There was positive correlation between reading habit and vocabulary mastery. In other word, if the reading habit improves the students' vocabulary mastery would be improved too. Correlation between reading habit and vocabulary mastery has high correlation. The more students' read, the more vocabulary the students' had because these two variables were highly correlated.

Discussion

Based on the theories and find of this research, it is clear that there is strong correlation between reading habit and vocabularies. The better the students reading habit, the better their vocabulary. It is because “those who read more, write better, read better, spell better, have larger vocabularies, and have superior grammatical competence. The reason is when reading read, they encounter many unfamiliar words, and the more they will look to dictionary or asking the meaning of those unfamiliar word in order to understand them.

Conclusion

Based on the result of the research that had been discussed in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that There was a significance correlation between reading habit and students’ vocabulary mastery since r -measured bigger than the r -table ($0,801 > 0,3202$). There was positive correlation between reading habit and vocabulary mastery. In other word, if the reading habit improves the students’ vocabulary mastery would be improved too. So the higher the students’ reading habits, the higher the vocabulary, because both of variables are strongly related. Correlation between reading habit and vocabulary mastery has high correlation because $0,801$ was between $0,71$ - $0,90$ which means it has high correlation.

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