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by Nostalgianti Citra Prystiananta

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THE EFFECT OF SCAVENGER HUNT GAME ON STUDENTS' READING COMPREHENSION OF DESCRIPTIVE TEXT

Mike Amelia
Universitas Bina Sarana Informatika
ameliamike@yahoo.co.id
Nostalgianti Citra Prystiananta
IKIP PGRI JEMBER
Prystiananta@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research had purpose to find out whether there was a positive effect of scavenger hunt technique on students' reading comprehension of descriptive text. Scavenger Hunt is a fact-finding and information-processing activity, where the students work in group to search for hidden items and perform task by using some clues. The method used in this research was quasi-experimental research. This research was conducted at the eighth grade students of SMP N 2 Kota Solok. The samples of this research were two homogeneous classes that chosen by using purposive sampling technique. The experimental class was taught by using scavenger hunt technique, meanwhile the control class was taught by using three phase technique. The technique of gathering the data of this research was by using reading test. The result of this research showed that there was a positive effect of implementation scavenger hunt technique, where the mean score at experimental class was 77,14 and control class was 72,94. Thus, the experimental students outcomes were higher than the control class. It means that students' reading comprehension of descriptive text taught by using Scavenger Hunt game technique was better than taught by using three phase technique.

Keywords: Scavenger hunt, Reading Comprehension, Descriptive text

INTRODUCTION

Reading comprehension refers to reading for meaning, understanding, and entertaining. Reading comprehension is a complex process of understanding the meaning of printed words and also to get the meaning of the material in analyzing sentences based on the reader ability to find the meaning and main information from what the reader read before. It involves higher-order thinking skills that more complex than merely decoding specific words. Therefore, it is not an easy task for the teacher to teach reading comprehension.

Nunan (2005: 69) says that reading comprehension refers to reading for meaning, understanding, and entertaining. It involves higher-order thinking skills and is much more complex than merely decoding specific words. The essential part of the reading process is deriving meaning, analyzing and synthesizing what we have read. It means

that reading comprehension is a complex steps of reading for meaning, understanding, and entertaining.

According to Zainil in Aulia (2013:9) divides that there are three essential parts in understanding paragraph in reading comprehension. The first is identifying the topic. The topic is the one thing a paragraph tells about. Every sentence in a paragraph in some way discusses or explains the topic. The second is finding the main idea. The main idea of a paragraph is all about what the author wants tells about the topic. The third is recognizing supporting details. Supporting details as the facts and ideas that prove or explain the main idea of paragraph. Supporting details in a paragraph do support the main idea, not all details are equally important.

In recent curriculum, reading competency at Junior High School, there are some expectation to be achieved by the students. The students are expected to comprehend or understand the information, social function, structure, and grammar of the texts. Based on syllabus of eighth grade at Junior High School, the students are taught several kind of texts. They are recount, descriptive, and narrative text. Among the texts that should be learned by Junior High School students is descriptive text. Descriptive text is a text that describes detail characteristic of something.

Suryana (2008: 18) explains that descriptive text is a text that has function to describe characteristic of person, noun and place. It means that descriptive text is a text that describes information about characteristic of person, noun, place and so on. In this text, the writer tries to express his/her idea by giving clear explanation about something for the reader. In addition, Kurniawati (2008: 33) states that the generic structure of descriptive text consists of description and identification part. The writer introduces the subject in identification part generally. In the description part, the writer mentions or clarify characteristic of subject, for example physical appearance, qualities and general attitude.

Based on the researcher's observations, the researcher found some problems in the process of teaching and learning reading comprehension of descriptive text. The problems might came from the students' and teacher's side. The first problem came from the students' side. First, the students faced difficulties to determine the generic structure of descriptive text. When they were asked to read and answer the comprehension questions about generic structure of descriptive text that consists of identification and description, only smart students who dominantly answered correctly. In the other hand, the other students were confused to comprehend the text. Many students cheated by copying the answers from their friends. This happened because the students did not pay enough attention when the teacher explain the material.

Second, the students had limited vocabulary. Vocabulary is one component of reading that should be mastered by the students which determine their reading proficiency. However, when the students read descriptive text, they found a lot of difficult words. There are many unfamiliar words in adjective. Whereas, adjective is one of language feature of descriptive text that should be known and mastered by the students in order to understand the text. Adjective uses to describe animal, someone, or

thing. Furthermore, their limitation of adjective word was forcing them to search the unfamiliar adjectives in dictionary. However, it only made the students have less motivation to read the text. The aftermath was the students might considered reading comprehension activity as uninteresting and unchallenging because they can not shared their ideas or competed with their friends.

The second problem came from the teacher's side. First, the teacher did not has a good classroom management. The teacher did not pay enough attention to what her students doing, while she instructed them to take a note and read about descriptive text on their textbook. It made the students did not do the reading activity or answer the given questions. Instead, most of them were chatting or playing with their friends. Also, the activity was dominated by writing instead of the supposedly reading comprehension activity.¹ Next, the teacher's technique was not appropriate. The teacher used Three Phase technique in teaching reading comprehension of descriptive text. Three Phase technique is a technique which consists of pre-reading, whilst-reading, and post-reading activity. In this technique, the students are required to prepare themselves from pre-reading to post-reading. In pre-reading activity, the teacher explained briefly⁷ about descriptive text and its components. Then, she selected several words from a descriptive text and asked the students to guess the topic of the text based on the selected words. In whilst-reading activity, the teacher asked her students to scan the text to locate the selected words and have them wrote the meaning in their notebook. In post-reading activity, the students answered the comprehension questions of the text. After that, she and her students discussed the answers together. Unfortunately, some students were pretending to find the selected words and only answering the comprehension questions when being discussed together. Therefore, this activity did not assure that the students really understand the generic structure or language feature of descriptive text. In order to solve the problems above, the researcher assumed there was an interesting technique is in teaching reading comprehension of descriptive text. in this case, the researcher is interested in using Scavenger Hunt game technique.

LITERATUR REVIEW⁹

Scavenger hunt is one of many different types of game which can have one or more players who try to find hidden articles, locations or places by using a series of clues. The implementation of Scavenger Hunt would help the students in understanding descriptive text. In fact, the given clues are in the form of descriptive text. Whether it describes the hidden items or where its located. For further understanding, some experts define the concept of Scavenger Hunt as follow:

According to Barkley (2010:345), scavenger hunt is an activity that engaged learners in fact-finding and information-processing exercises using instructor-specified clues. This activity challenges learners to locate and think about the location of the items. The learners' knowledge expand by processing the information from the clues and the engaging task.

Moreover, Sigridur (2010:13) views that scavenger hunt as a game where the students would have to solve such as puzzles or questions in order to search for hidden articles. Also, the clues in scavenger hunt game were written in the target language, which forces the participants to read and fellow team members to listen and test their understanding. This idea supported by WRO (2013: 3) who says that scavenger hunt is when explorers may wander around while attempting to find what they are looking for. Clues are available regarding the environment and the location of each of the artifacts to collect. The explorers might work together in order to find the hidden artifacts.

Furthermore, Lu et al (2015: 23) say that scavenger hunt is a popular game where the organizers define a list of objects or tasks for players to find or perform. However, the players have to find or perform task within a set time limit. When the individual or team participants find objects and perform tasks, they collect the found objects. In the line with Lu, Starr in Lu et al (2015: 32) states that scavenger hunt is a tool for teaching where the students use available sources or information to face problem. It has become one of the most popular tools for teaching students how to use available resources and information. It teaches students how to face or solve problems by using the information (clues) that given to them.

The teacher can apply different steps in the application based on the goal of the lesson itself. The steps and rules that can be applied by the teacher will be shown as the explanation based on the experts' theories as follows:

Jane (2005: 10) mentions that there are some simple steps in applying Scavenger Hunt game, whether the classic ways or using maps. The first is in the classic ways. First, students are in small groups, each group gets a list of items in the target language. Then, they try to find every item on the list. Last, the first team to collect all the items and return, wins. Or at a set time, all groups return and whoever has the most items on their list wins. The second is using maps. First, place target vocabulary –objects or flashcards with pictures– around playground or classroom. Next, students get a map. Then, write the words (in target language) on the map wherever the item is located. The last variation, students get a limited list and only mark the location of those items.

In addition, Sigridur (2010: 22) illustrates that the steps and rules of mini Scavenger Hunt game in the classroom. First, each team is named after a certain color and at each station there are envelopes, one for each team. Each envelope is labeled with the color of a team. Then, within each envelope there are instructions for what the team has to do in order to find the next envelope. When they do, they will have to solve some other assignment in order to get the next one. Next, in order to finish, teams must find all the envelopes and finish all the assignments. The team that is first to complete everything wins.

Furthermore, Philip and Linda in Widya (2014: 9) explain that there are several steps of scavenger hunt game. First, the teacher cleverly places 25 different items throughout the classroom prior to class. Second, the teacher gives a quick explanation of what is expected of the students. Third, the teacher hands each team a list of ten items to seek. However, each team receives a list that is slightly different from the other teams.

Fourth, the teams seek to locate these items quickly. Fifth, located items are collected by the teams and brought to their home base (desk). Last, the students briefly describe the item and where it is located (example, the pencil is yellow or the paper clip is near the blackboard) on a piece of paper.

In conclusion, the researcher applied the procedure and rule of Scavenger Hunt as follow: first, the teacher hid flashcards throughout classroom. Second, the teacher explain briefly about descriptive text and the components. Third, the teacher divided the class in 5 groups based on colors. Fourth, the teacher explain the procedure and rule of the game. Fifth, the teacher placed the worksheet about “My Favorite Mug” text and the first clue that described the first hidden flashcard (book) on each group home base. Sixth, the groups searched for the book and when they found it, they asked the teacher for the first instruction handout that consisted of explanation and example about topic and main idea. Seventh, when they were done identifying the topic and main idea of the text, they showed it to the teacher. Eighth, the group searched for the second hidden flashcard (apple) and when they found it, asked the teacher for the second instruction handout that consisted of explanation and example about supporting detail. Ninth, it continued until they found all of the hidden flashcards and done the task. Tenth, the teacher and the groups discussed the answers together. Last, the teacher decided the winner who collected the right items, has a good teamwork and finished the task.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted by using quasi experimental design. The population in this research was the eighth grade students of SMP N 2 Kota Solok. There were 384 students. The researcher used purposive sampling to determine the samples of the research. In this research, the sample was two homogeneous classes that selected as experimental and control class after analyzing the result of English final examination.

1. Preparation

The researcher did some preparations before doing the research. These preparations included: first, preparing the syllabus of the eighth grade, lesson plan for experimental and control class, and instrument (reading test) that were used in the research. Second, preparing the teaching material about descriptive text that was taught. Third, preparing the supporting media such as flashcards/clucards, and instruction handouts that was appropriate with the material chosen. The flashcards were consisted of pictures of hidden items at the front and clues for the next hidden items at the back. Meanwhile, instruction handouts were consisted of explanation and example of the eight indicators of reading comprehension of descriptive text in a text entitled “My Sphynx Cat”. These all set of learning were corrected firstly by the advisors for its validation.

2. Pre-test

The researcher conducted pre-test the both of experimental class that was VIII 8 and control class that was VIII 9. The instruments and items in the experimental class were the same with control class. The purpose of pre-test was to find out the students' reading comprehension before the treatment

3. Implementation

The implementation of this research was done in two classes. They were experimental class and control class. Both of experimental class and control class were given the same material, but each of class got different treatment. The experimental class was taught by using Scavenger Hunt Game technique and control class was taught by using Three Phase technique. In this research, there were 4 meetings and the time allocation was 40 minutes for each meeting.

Experimental Class (Scavenger Hunt technique)

1. Pre-teaching activities

- a. The teacher greet the students and leads to pray
- b. The teacher checked students' attendance
- c. The teacher gave motivation
- d. The teacher introduced the competence that students should achieve in the end of lesson that is students were required.

2. Whilst-teaching activities

- a. The teacher hid the cluecards (flashcards with the pictures of books, apples, hats, bags, and pencil cases at the front and the clues for the next flashcards at the back) throughout the classroom.
- b. The teacher explained briefly about descriptive text & it's components (topic, main idea, supporting detail, purpose, generic structure, and language feature).
- c. The teacher divided the class in several groups based on colors, 5 until 6 students for each group.
- d. The teacher explained the procedures & rules of Scavenger Hunt game (the groups should identified the component of a descriptive text called "My Favorite Mug" by looking through the instruction handouts that consisted of the meaning of each component & example of it in the text called "My Sphynx Cat"; which given by the teacher if only the group had found the hidden flashcards by the help of the given clues).
- e. The teacher placed the worksheet & the 1st clue that described the 1st hidden flashcard (book) on each group home base. (The teacher role as controler here who kept a watch on the students' activities and provider who handed the instruction handouts. It means the teacher has a good classroom management and and this technique was appropriate).

- f. The groups searched for the book & when they found it, they asked the teacher for the 1st instruction handout that consisted of explanation & example about topic & main idea. (These handouts helped the students to comprehend the components of descriptive text. It also helped them to determine the generic structure of descriptive text and increased their knowledge of adjective words).
- g. The group identified the topic & main idea of “My Favorite Mug” text, then they showed it to the teacher. (Sharing ideas or discussing in group, also help the students in determining the generic structure of descriptive text and increasing their lack knowledge of adjective words).
- h. The group search for the 2nd hidden flashcard (apple) & when they found it, they asked the teacher for the 2nd instruction handout (consisted of explanation & example about supporting detail).
- i. It continued until they found all of the 5 hidden flashcards and identified the 8 components of the text called “My Favorite Mug”.
- j. The teacher & the group discussed the answers together.
- k. The teacher decided the winner who collected the right items, has a good teamwork and finished the task.

3. Post teaching activities

- a. The teacher asked difficulty in learning process
- b. The teacher and the students concluded the lesson together
- c. Teacher gave the students homework.

Control Class (Three Phase technique)

1. Pre-teaching activities

- a. The teacher greet the students and leads to pray
- b. The teacher checked students’ attendance
- c. The teacher gave motivation
- d. The teacher introduced the competence that students should achieve in the end of lesson that is students were required.

2. Whilst-teaching activities

- a. *Pre-reading*
 - a) The teacher explained briefly about descriptive text and it’s components (topic, main idea, supporting detail, purpose, generic structure, and language feature).
 - b) The teacher selected several words from a descriptive text entitled “My Sphynx Cat” and wrote the selected words on the board. (selected words: pet, funny, tail, and fur).
 - c) The teacher asked the students to guess the topic of the material (descriptive text) that they going to learn today based on the selected words. (topic: the writer’s

Sphynx Cat), then the students tried to guess the words until they finally guessed the topic.

d) The teacher distributed the text called “My Sphynx Cat” to the students.

b. Whilst-reading

a) The teacher asked the students to read the text. While the students were reading, the teacher asked them to scan for the selected words in the text.

b) The students mentioned the words and discussed what their meaning with the teacher. (pet means peliharaan, funny means lucu, tail means ekor, and fur means bulu).

c) The teacher asked some of the students to read the text aloud, after that the teacher read the text aloud and the students repeated after her.

d) The teacher asked the students if there was any difficult words that they did not get its meaning. If there was a difficult words, the class discussed what the word means together and if there was not, the teacher continued the learning process to checking the students understanding.

c. Post-reading

a) The teacher distributed the worksheet that consisted of comprehension questions of the text entitled “My Sphynx Cat” (total: eight multiple-choice questions).

b) Each student answered the questions by them selves and they were allowed to use dictionary if necessarily needed.

c) After they finished it, the teacher & the students discussed the answers together.

3. Post teaching activities

- a. The teacher and students concluded the lesson together
- b. Gave feedback to the process and result of learning activity
- c. Teacher gave the students homework.

4. Post-test

After the researcher taught the material for both experimental and control class, the researcher examined those classes using test called post-test. The instrument and them in experimental class were the same with control class. Then, the researcher compared the score of the sample classes. At the end, researcher tested hypothesis to find out the effect of Scavenger Hunt Game to experimental class.

FINDING

The data of this research were the students’ score in reading test, they were pre test and post test. The researcher chose the samples through purposive sampling technique by using the result of english final examination. The researcher got VIII 8 as

experimental class and VIII 9 as control class. The researcher conducted try out at the other class that was VIII 10. Then, the items that too easy or poor were revised.

Before doing treatment at the experimental class, the researcher had done pre-test to both of classes to know the basic knowledge of the students' reading comprehension of descriptive text and also to determine if the samples had the same ability in reading comprehension and were homogenous.

Table 1: The Result of Homogeneity Testing of the Samples

Class	N	X	S	S ²	Fcal	Ftab	Variance
Experimental (VIII.8)	36	72,56	12,14	147,36	1,02	1,84	Homogeneous
Contol (VIII.9)		71,56	12,27	150,63			

Table 2: The Data of Students' Pre-test Score

Class	N	\bar{x}	S	S ²	Total % (Percentage)
VIII 8 Experimental	36	69,75	5,95	35,45	69,75%
VIII 9 Control		69,03	6,93	48,03	69,03%
Difference					0,72%

Based on table above, it shown the difference score of pre-test on reading test between experimental class and control class was **0,72 %**. It means that the ability on reading comprehension of descriptive text of both classes were homogenous.

According to the result of the post-test in reading test, the researcher analyzed the mean score, standard deviation, and the variance of the data. The data of students' post-test score could be seen in the following table:

Table 3: The Data of Students' Post-test Score.

Class	N	\bar{x}	S	S ²	Total % (percentage)
VIII 8 Experimental	36	77,14	5,14	26,47	77,14%
VIII 9 Control		72,94	6,32	39,88	72,94%

Difference					4,20%

Based on the data above, the mean score of experimental class that was taught by using scavenger hunt game technique was higher than the mean score of the control class taught by using three phase technique. It could be seen that the difference post-test score of experimental class from control class was about 4,20%.

I. Data Analysis

In order to get the conclusion of the result of this research, the researcher used t-test statistical analysis. The data could be distributed normally and homogenously. In order to get the normality and homogeneity of the data, the researcher analyzed it by using some statistical analysis formulas.

1. Normality Testing

In order to analyze the normality of the data on students' reading comprehension of descriptive text on experimental and control class, the researcher got the data from both of the classes. The normality testing could be seen on the following table.

Table 4. Result of Normality Testing of the Sample

Class	Test	n	α	Critical value of accounting (do)	Critical value of table (It)	Distribution
Experimental VIII 8	Pre	36	0,05	0,1185	0,1477	Normal
	Post			0,1271		
Control VIII 9	Pre			0,1411		
	Post			0,0939		

In pre-test and post-test, from the experimental class it was gotten that the calculated normality coefficient were $L_0 = 0,1185$ and $0,1271$ respectively; the table normality coefficient was $L_t = 0,1477$ it means that $L_0 < L_t$. The data from the control class were $L_0 = 0,1411$ and $0,0939$; and $L_t = 0,1477$. It means that $L_0 < L_t$. According to the data analysis above the researcher concluded that the data from both experimental and control class were distributed normally.

2. Homogeneity Testing

In order to know variance of the data of students' reading comprehension of descriptive text were same or not, the researcher analyzed it by using homogeneity test. The result of homogeneity testing could be seen on the following table.

Table 5. Result of Homogeneity Testing of the Samples

Classes	Test	N	X	S	S ²	F _{cal}				F _{table}	Variance
						F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₄		
Experimental	Pre	3	69,75	5,95	35,45	1,35	1,51	1,34	1,20	1,84	Homogeneous
	Post		77,14	5,14	26,47						
Control	Pre	6	69,03	6,93	48,03						
	Post		72,94	6,32	39,88						

From the data the researcher found that, $F_{calculated}$ in pre-test at both samples was 1,35, $F_{calculated}$ in post-test at both samples was 1,51, $F_{calculated}$ in pre-post test at experimental class was 1,34, and $F_{calculated}$ in pre-post test at control class was 1,20. Meanwhile, the F_{table} (35: 35) was 1,84 with $\alpha = 0,05$. The researcher concluded all of $F_{calculated} \leq F_{table}$, it means that the variance of experimental and control class were **homogenous**.

3. Hypothesis Testing

In order to know whether there was any differentiation on students' reading comprehension of descriptive text at both in experimental and control class, the researcher did t-test statistical analysis. It could be seen on the following table:

Table 6. Result of t-Test

Class	n	\bar{x}	S ²	α	t _c	t _t	Reference
VIII 8 Experiment	36	77,14	26,47	0,05	3,04	2,00	Ho was rejected and Ha was received
VIII 9 Control		72,94	39,88				

The researcher got the data $t_{calculated} = 3,04$ and $t_{table} (70) = 2,00$, $T_{cal} > T_{table}$. In conclusion, Ho was rejected and Ha was received. It means that students' reading comprehension of descriptive text taught by using scavenger hunt game technique was better than taught by using three phase technique. In other words there was a positive effect on students' reading comprehension of descriptive text taught by using scavenger hunt game technique.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this research showed that using scavenger hunt technique could improve students' reading comprehension of descriptive text. This is proven by the three main findings that were discussed in this research. The first finding is based on the mean score of students' reading comprehension of descriptive text taught by using Scavenger Hunt technique at experimental class. From the result showed that the difference of the students' mean score was improved from 69,75 at pre-test to 77,14 at post-test, with 7,39 improvement.

The second finding is based on the mean score of students' reading comprehension of descriptive text taught by using Three Phase technique at control class. From the result showed that the difference of the students' mean score was improved from 69,03 at pre-test to 72,94 at post-test, with 3,91 improvement. But, it lesser than the improvement at experimental class.

The third finding is based on whether Scavenger Hunt technique gave a better effect on students' reading comprehension of descriptive text than Three Phase technique. From the result showed that the difference improvement of the students' mean score was about 7,93 improvement in experimental class and 3,91 improvement in control class. It showed that, the students' reading comprehension of descriptive text taught by using Scavenger Hunt technique gave a better effect about 3,48 higher than Three Phase technique.

Moreover, after conducting this research, the researcher found that the students at experimental class were so excited when the researcher explained that they would play a game and would compete with the other group in order to win the game and get a reward. They followed the teaching and learning process enthusiastically that the members of each group had cheers for their member who one by one searched for the flashcards. The students also have a fair competitive spirit that they competed to be the first group who successfully found the flashcards and answered all of the questions. This technique made the students got information from each others by exchanging their ideas in the group while completing the answersheet about the text entitled "My Favorite Mug", because of that their reading comprehension was improved.

Furthermore, Scavenger Hunt technique had created an entertaining learning process for the students that when the members searched for flashcards, they tend to running to their other friends which made them laugh. This technique had gave opportunity for students to interact with each other, that they answered the worksheet by discussing it in group. This finding supported the theory that proposed by Moore in Brown (1999: 8) explains that, scavenger hunt is an entertaining and effective technique as well as to more traditional reading outcomes that when conducted in cooperative learning situations have the additional benefit of communicative learning.

In addition, the existence of scavenger hunt technique in learning, especially in learning reading comprehension can give the students opportunity in sharing their ideas. In this case, when the students gave opinion or shared their ideas in group in completing the worksheet. This finding supported the theory that is proposed by Barkley (2010:

345) says that, scavenger hunt is activity to demonstrate the key elements of performing in an effective team by utilizing team work, communication, creative thinking, and instilling a spirit of cooperation and trust among team member.

Furthermore, based on the finding above, the researcher assumed that applying scavenger hunt technique gave positive effect toward students' reading comprehension of descriptive text. There was a significant improvement of scavenger hunt technique toward students' reading comprehension.

In conclusion, scavenger hunt game technique is suggested to be used at school especially for the teachers at SMP N 2 Kota Solok in teaching reading comprehension of descriptive text. This technique can be used to create a lively classroom situation. It can make the students have fun and enjoy learning.

CONCLUSION

Based on the finding and discussion on the above, it could be concluded that using scavenger hunt game technique gave a positive effect on the students' reading comprehension of descriptive text. Moreover, it could be concluded that scavenger hunt game technique could also improve students' reading comprehension. Using scavenger hunt game technique could also improve students' motivation and students' participation during learning activity.

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