THE EFFECTIVENESS WAY FOR IMPROVING THE USING OF VOCABULARIES FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is; (1) to determine whether it is effective to improve understanding of English vocabulary by reading English novels; (2) to find out the general public's preferences in choosing the language of the novel. The research uses a description method and an online questionnaire survey to find out the clear number of respondents' answers. Based on data collected through a Google form questionnaire distributed to social media. Based on the research that has been done, it can be concluded that: (1) reading English texts continuously causes respondents to get used to English vocabulary; (2) respondents prefer English novels to Indonesian ones.

Keywords: *Vocabulary, reading novels, improvement.*

1. Introduction

According to one of TV station, English is the most widely spoken language in all countries with a total of 1.13 billion speakers, followed by Mandarin with 1.12 billion speakers. From this data, it is known that English plays a very important role, especially in interacting internationally in this digital era.

Indonesia has now entered into globalization so that interacting internationally is very easy to find. For example, foreigners who can be easily found around and also through the internet. Not only in interacting, but understanding English is also very necessary in various ways, for example: understanding the story of a game; reading how to use an item, sometimes the entire text is in English; and fully English website.

English was as an international language used as a tool for communication in daily life and in academic activities. In Indonesia, English as a foreign language was formally taught in schools from junior high school until university. It had become a majority for the subject and as one of the subjects that is examined in the National Examination. Furthermore, there were so many elements in English such as vocabulary. Vocabulary was a smallest element in English that had to be mastered by learners because without it we could not understand each other's and we could not express our opinion, feeling and ideas. On the other hand, teaching vocabulary was very hard, because the teachers had to choose an appropriate ways in order to make the learning process effectively. So, people enjoyed and relaxed learning vocabulary and they could master it when they're in school. There were many factors that made the people difficult in mastering vocabulary. Allen (1999) stated that lack of interest, self-

confidence, motivation, teacher and environment are factors that hamper Indonesian people to master English vocabulary.

Having good English skills is a skill that is needed in today's market. The ability to speak English provides many benefits for life today. The reason why English language skills are needed in the current era is that learning English can make it easier to find work, facilitate social interactions, improve career, make it easier in learning or add reading material outside the national scope so as to open up insight into science and technology, and many other benefits.

Language skills cover five aspects, namely listening skills, speaking skills, reading skills, writing skills, and grammar. These skills serve as the basis for self-development and as a bridge in further understanding English.

1) Reading is a key skill that can make a person master English and have good speaking, listening and writing skills.
2) Writing, writing in English will be easier and more fun if you are used to writing, making writing based on what you have read.
3) Listening is a very important basic skill in learning English. By having good listening skills, a person actually already has the ability to speak English passively and will be able to respond to a command or message based on what he hears.
4) Speaking is a difficult skill, because many said that they understand what someone is saying or what is read, but have difficulty trying to express or respond to what has been heard and read.
5) Grammar, is a more advanced level of writing. This is because writing vocabulary alone is not enough without the right language structure. Without grammar, reading the written text will be quite difficult.

Of the five aspects described above, the author himself wants to discuss only one aspect of this mini research, namely reading. In particular, it is increasing understanding of vocabulary during reading the novel. The novel referred to here is a novel from the original language translated into English.

Scientific research says that reading in learning English is one of 4 skills that must be mastered by people, although reading only reads text, people must also be able to understand, skim, and even filter the essence of the readings they have read. They are also expected to really understand the vocabulary they just know, so that people can really master reading in English even though they are not from an English education study program. So far, there is no complete and satisfactory definition of 'reading'. For some people, reading means something, while for others it means something else. However, among the many notions of reading, the following general characteristics can be found:

"Reading is interacting with language that has been coded into print. The product of interacting with the printed language should be comprehension. Heading ability is closely related to oral language ability. Reading is an active and ongoing process that is affected directly by an individual's interaction with his environment. (Heillman, 1981)

Reading is a form of interaction with language, and therefore reading is a language activity. Readers are faced with words, phrases and sentences as well as visual media that complement them, which form a whole manuscript with the scripting system adopted. As an act of receptive language, reading can be equated with listening. However, reading has at least one main characteristic that distinguishes it from listening. The feature is that reading is solitary, not social, in the sense that the listener's dependence on the speaker does not lie with

the reader on the scriptwriter. Thus, the reader is freer to interpret and can adjust the speed and repeat parts that are difficult to understand.

The results obtained from reading must be understanding, namely the ability of the reader to understand the contents of the text or the implied information conveyed in the text he reads. So basically, there are two types of reading, namely reading for understanding and reading for pleasure, although both produce understanding as a result of these activities. But, in this mini research, the main focus is reading for pleasure or something like for hobby.

According to how much the reader wants to get, there are four reading techniques, namely skimming, scanning, intensive reading, and extensive reading. Skimming is a way of reading quickly to find the essence of reading. Scanning is reading quickly to find certain information from the target script. Extensive reading directed at long texts, and usually for pleasure, is an activity that requires fluency, and includes understanding globally. On the other hand, intensive reading is directed at short texts, to capture specific information, is more an activity that requires accuracy and includes detailed understanding.

According to Scott Thornbury: "How important is vocabulary? Without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed".

Mastery of vocabulary plays an important role in learning English. When you first learn English, the pronunciation and meaning of words become the main activities in the teaching and learning process. In learning English vocabulary, media is used to bridge the understanding of students so that vocabulary learning activities become more interesting and students become more active in classroom activities.

Learning English vocabulary experiences obstacles and even fails because they do not use media, or use inappropriate media. Sadiman quoted Professor Ely's opinion as saying that the selection of media should not be separated from the context that the media is a component of the overall instructional system.

In general, learning vocabulary formally at school or university sometimes feels monotonous and boring, making it a little difficult for someone to learn. Therefore, an alternative way to deepen the understanding of the vocabulary being studied by the author is to read English novels. Learning while channeling hobbies/enjoying activities or as the saying goes 'kill two birds with one stone'.

2. Research Method

Researcher collected respondents from January 03, 2022 –September 05, 2022. Researcher collected data online through Google form which was then shared on social media such as Facebook groups. The reason for using Google forms as a data collection medium is that the data can be obtained easily, easily accessed by prospective respondents, and does not take a long time. In this study, the object of research is the general public such as students, employees, etc. In this study, the population are 135 respondents.

The data analysed is quantitative data. Quantitative data is data or information obtained in the form of numbers. In the form of this number, quantitative data can be processed using mathematical formulas or can also be analyzed with a statistical system.

Questionnaire is a method of collecting data by giving a set of questions or written statements to respondents to answer. Questionnaires are suitable for use when the number of respondents is large enough and spread over a wide area. The type of questionnaire used is a closed questionnaire. Closed questionnaire is a questionnaire that has provided answer choices to be chosen by the object of research. The questionnaire was created using the Google Form application.

3.   Results and Discussion
3.1. Results
3.1.1. General Data

Below are the details of general data that researcher collected, such as age and educational background. This data aims to determine the basic information of the entire population.
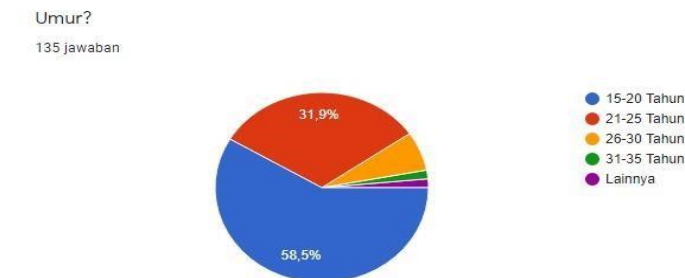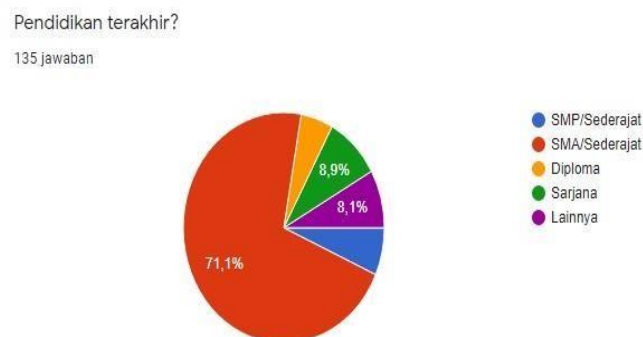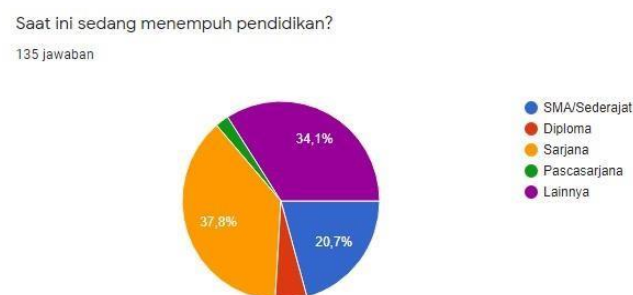

Figure 4.1

Figure 4.2

Figure 4.3

From the data above, the writer can conclude that the total population is dominated by youth with the last education being Senior High Schoolers and currently pursuing Bachelor education.

3.1.2. Research Data

Below are data from related research that the writer is currently do to find out the improvement in improving English vocabulary skill when reading English novels as a hobby in the general public.
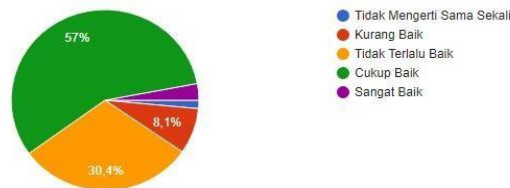
Figure 4.4

From figure 4.4, the writer can conclude that the majority of the population is quite good in English vocabulary skills with a percentage of 57% (77 respondents), followed by 30.4% (41 respondents) who say that they are not too good in vocabulary.
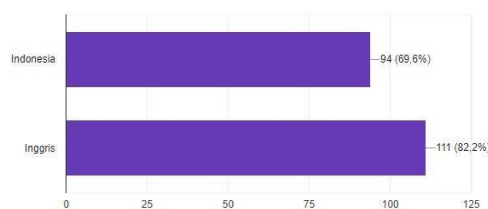

Figure 4.5

From the figure above, it can be concluded that respondents read English novels more often than the national language, namely Indonesian. Quite curious why this is can happened.
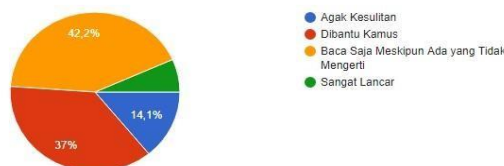
Figure 4.6

From figure 4.6, it is found that 42% (57 respondents) choose to keep reading regardless of understanding or not. Maybe they think that by reading the whole chapter in novel they can still understand the storyline. While 37% (50 respondents) have some problem when first read the English novels which need help with dictionary to understand it.
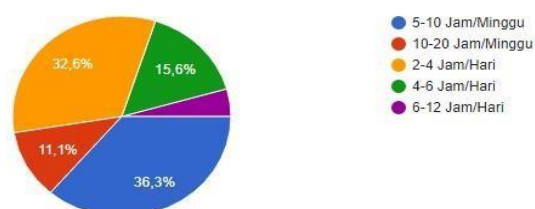
Figure 4.7

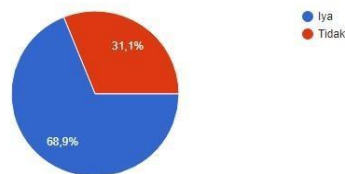In figure 4.7, there are two most answers with the same percentage of respondents.

Figure 4.8

On this question, quite a lot of people answered that they preferred to read English novels compared to Indonesian ones with a percentage of 68.9% (93 respondents). It is still a question why English novels are more popular than those translated or in original Indonesian.
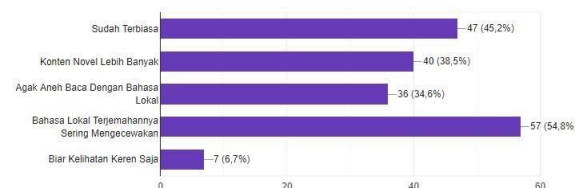

Figure 4.9

Finally, the questions in figures 4.5 and 4.8 are answered. It turned out that 54.8% (57 respondents) chose that local translations often disappoint so that it is quite disruptive to the reading experience. And 45.2% (47 respondents) answered that they are used to reading English novels so they feel awkward when reading Indonesian ones
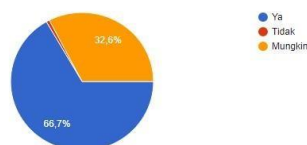

Figure 4.10

In figure 4.10, 66.7% (90 respondents) answered that they are quite familiar with English vocabulary so that they passively understand what is meant without knowing the Indonesian literal meaning.
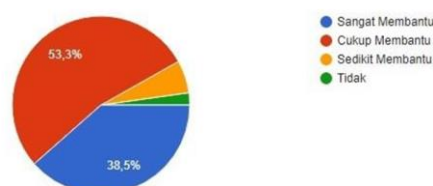

Figure 4.11

In figure 4.11, 53.3% (72 respondents) answered that it was quite helpful in improving understanding of English vocabulary while reading novels and 38.5% (52 respondents) answered that it was very helpful.

3.2. Discussion

In this mini research, the author has obtained and described in 4A the results of the research that has been carried out using a questionnaire. From this analysis, it can be seen that the community already has a fairly good vocabulary ability and to get a significant increase seems quite difficult. However, in the question of how much improvement occurred in improving vocabulary understanding by reading English novels, more than half of the respondent's population answered that it was quite helpful. So with these results, the author can conclude that reading novels as a hobby is quite effective in improving vocabulary understanding, with the notes being read in English text.

For someone who already has and mastered the skills in English, it will provide added value for them. The added value obtained will certainly make it easier for them to prepare for the future and pursue a career. The author conveys that in the current era of globalization, competition or competition that occurs in the fields of education and work is no longer only on a local or national scale, but the competition that is built in this era of globalization is an international scale competition.

4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis conducted in the previous chapter, it can be seen that it is indeed quite effective in increasing the understanding of English vocabulary in reading English novels. This is also based on the experience of the writer himself who has a hobby of reading English novels and this time it is strengthened by the results of the analysis above. By reading continuously, over time you will get used to English vocabulary, even though at the beginning it was quite difficult to understand it.

In the analysis above, it is also concluded that the public, especially young people, prefer English novels compared to Indonesian translations or originals. What a surprising and interesting discovery according to the writer personally.

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