

ABSTRACT

Maretnowati Dwi, Pipin.2012. *Improving Students' Reading Comprehension Using Word Recognition at the Fifth Grade Students of SDN Banjaragung Balongpanggang Gresik*. The Sarjana's Thesis, English Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muhammadiyah Gresik. Advisors: (I) Slamet Asari, M.Pd, (II) Candra Hadi Asmara, M.Pd

Key Words: Reading, Word Recognition.

This study was conducted based on the consideration of the problems that the students had especially on the low of reading ability. Based on research findings of study, the fact that the average score obtained from the pre test was 59 and the passing grade (SKM) for English lesson was 65. It means that, the students could not achieve the minimum standard of the school target. It was also found that the students still got difficult to generate their ideas into sentences.

Based on the problems that the researcher faced in the classroom, this study was focused on solving the problem related to how the students can generate their ideas into sentences. This study proposed Word Recognition to improve the students' reading comprehension. The research problem here is, "Word recognition improves students' reading comprehension at fifth grade of SDN Banjaragung Balongpanggang Gresik?"

The design of the study is classroom action research. The researcher played two roles in this research; as a teacher and researcher. During implementing Word Recognition in the classroom, the researcher was accompanied by a teacher partner. This research was conducted in one cycle, which was divided into four main activities; planning, acting, observing, and reflecting. The reflection based on the findings during the observation and compared with the criteria of success including; (1) students' average score is 65 (passing grade for English lesson), and (2) students can participate actively in the class.

The research findings showed that this strategy was effective to teach reading at the fifth grade of SDN Banjaragung Balongpanggang Gresik. It was indicated on the students' average score of post test in cycle 1. The students' average score in pre test from the teacher and teacher partner was 59. The scores improved in post test. The students' average score in post test from the teacher and teacher partner was 75. The improvement was also shown in the students' performances in the class. In the first meeting, the percentage of the students' performances was 70%. It increased in the second meeting, 75%. And increased significantly in the third meeting was 82%.

Based on the research findings, two suggestions are provided. The first, the English teachers are recommended that Word Recognition was a good strategy to teach reading to the students. The second, the next researchers who want to conduct a research using Word Recognition are recommended to conduct this research in different areas, levels, and skills.