

**STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD THEIR READING
COMPREHENSION AT THE NINTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP
LABSCHOOL KEBAYORAN IN THE 2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR**

A PAPER

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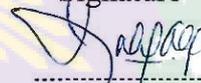
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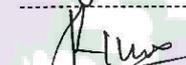
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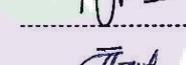
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ABSTRACT

SINTA DEWI PRIMANTI. NIM: 1601055018. Students' Attitudes toward Their Reading Comprehension at the Ninth Grade Students of SMP Labschool Kebayoran in the 2020/2021 Academic Year. A paper, Jakarta: The University of Muhammadiyah Prof. Dr. Hamka, 2020.

During learning process, students are required to master reading skill. To cope with the reading skill, students need other aspects to support their efforts to reach a success in reading. Attitude as one of the important aspects in achieving reading comprehension supports students' intention to read and it seems very essential to own by students. This research is carried out to investigate the students' attitudes toward their reading comprehension. Qualitative study was applied as the research method with questionnaires and interviews as the instruments in collecting the data. The research involved sixty-two students from secondary school in Indonesia who have learned reading comprehension. Out of the total number of respondents, eight students were involved in a semi-structured interview. The result of the data analysis revealed that students showed positive attitude in attitude components on cognitive and affective aspects. Meanwhile in reading comprehension components, the students indicated positive attitudes on vocabulary and inference aspects. In brief, positive attitude were dominant in students' attitudes toward reading comprehension.

Keywords: *attitudes, reading, reading comprehension, EFL learners*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Reading is one of language skills that must be mastered by English students. It is a skill in which English students can understand the message or the information from what they have read. Pennington and Waxler (2018) stated that reading is a basic competence of people to interpret, decipher, and understand the meaning of the text. This basic skill must be possessed by English students in order they can get the information and knowledge from the text easily.

According to the curriculum for Junior High Schools, students are required to master reading skill as stated in the Basic Competency in the syllabus of Curriculum 2013. One of the basic competence of reading is that the students have to be able to comprehend the social function, text structure, and language features and to catch the idea of several texts such as narrative text, descriptive text, report text, and others in written and orally. It is said, when reading, the students should be able to understand and catch the idea of the text through understanding the social function, text structure and language feature.

When reading, there are several aspects that the students have to know in order to comprehend the text. They have to be able to find out the main idea or any information from the text. Nuttal (1982) on Irwanto (2017) said that the

aspects of reading are determining main idea, finding specific information, reference, inference, and vocabulary.

From the description above, it can be concluded that there are some aspects that the students must concern namely social function, text structure, and language features to grasp the idea of text. So, it is not easy for students to have a reading ability. It seems that the students need other aspects to support their efforts to reach a success in reading. Harley (2014, p. 214) stated that reading is a difficult skill for second and foreign language learners to master. To cope with the difficulty, Khasinah (2014) stated that there are some factors that may support students' reading comprehension. The factors are motivation, attitudes, anxiety, learning achievements, aptitudes, intelligences, ages, and personalities.

Attitude as one of the important aspects in achieving reading comprehension seems very essential to own by students. Attitudes are defined as: "a learned, global evaluation of an object (person, place, or issue) that influences thought and action" (Perloff, 2017, p. 87). This is also supported by Petscher (2010), "Attitudes play an important role in moderating students' intention to read, as well as mediating the relationship between their beliefs and reading activities". It means that attitudes can support students' intention in reading comprehension that implicate their actions and thoughts.

Related to importance of attitudes for students to have, it triggers the writer's intention to do a research about students' attitudes toward reading comprehension. Based on the writer's experience when the writer doing

Magang 3 at Junior High School in Jakarta, she had experiences for teaching reading comprehension. At that time, the students seemed quite slow and not interested in reading; their score were also below Minimum Mastery Criterion – *Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimal (KKM)*. It is assumed that the students do not have positive attitude toward reading comprehension. According to Grabe and Stoller (2013, p. 214), students' attitudes influence students' motivation to implicate themselves in reading activity. It means that good attitudes will encourage students to have good reading comprehension. Therefore, in this research, the writer wants to know about the students' attitudes toward reading comprehension.

In some previous researches, there have been a lot of studies about reading and students' attitudes. Maio et al., (2019, p. 71) stated that many studies have shown that students' attitudes influence the information they process, how the information is interpreted, and know the extent they remember about various types of information. Many studies have only focused on exploring students' attitudes in reading English generally, not focusing on reading comprehension. Finally, the writer wants to conduct a research about students' attitudes toward their reading comprehension at the ninth grade students of SMP Labschool Kebayoran in the 2020/2021 academic year.

B. The Scope of the Research

Based on the background, the writer focussed on students' attitudes toward their reading comprehension at the ninth grade students of SMP Labschool Kebayoran in the 2020/2021 academic year.

C. The Problem of The Research

This study is related to the students' attitudes toward reading comprehension at the ninth grade students of SMP Labschool Kebayoran in the 2020/2021 academic year. The writer would like to state the problem: *How are the students' attitudes toward their reading comprehension?*

D. The Purpose of the Research

Based on the problem of the study which has been explicated previously, the writer wants to investigate the students' attitudes toward their reading comprehension at the ninth grade students of SMP Labschool Kebayoran in the 2020/2021 academic year.

E. The Significant of the Research

This study provides some useful information about students' attitudes toward their reading comprehension. For English teachers, this study can help them to evaluate their teaching and learning process and to give feedback of students' attitudes individually. Thus, it will also be an evaluation for students to be better. For other researchers, this study can give information or reference to be developed for further studies in other levels and objectives.

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