

ABSTRACT

Markus. 2013. IMPROVING THE STUDENT'S ABILITY IN READING NARRATIVE TEXT BY USING FOLK TALE (LOCAL LEGEND) (A Classroom Action Research at the Eighth Grade A Class Students of SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu in Academic Year 2012/2013). Supervisors: 1. Urai Salam, M.CALL., PhD; 2. Drs. Luwandi Suhartono, M.Hum

This research was conducted based on the problems which were found in the process of teaching and learning narrative text by the eighth grade class A students of SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu. The problems were that they were uninterested in reading lesson and they got low motivation in learning English especially in reading class. Consequently, the students got difficulty to understand the grammatical construction in the text they read; they did not know the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary. Besides, the reading materials in the text book were not interesting to them because the stories often came from other countries and the reading texts were not appropriate to the student's background knowledge. With regard to this, the researcher did a classroom action research to solve those problems in the classroom.

For this purpose, the writer used local legends as teaching materials to improve students' reading comprehension of narrative text at the eighth grade class A students of SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to improve students' reading comprehension of narrative text at the eighth grade class A students of SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu by using local legends as teaching materials.

To collect the data, the writer together with the English Teacher as him collaborator conducted a Classroom Action Research at the eighth grade students of SMP Yos Sudarso Parindu, especially A class, to solve the students' problems in comprehending narrative text. The total number of students at the eighth grade class A is 33 students. Then, the data of this research were taken from the students' score in three cycles and they were collected by using students' worksheet, observation checklist table, and field notes.

Based on the research findings, the materials which were used to the subjects of research showed improvement to students' reading comprehension of local legends. The mean score increased from 50.12, 62.5 to 78.87. What was recorded in observation checklist table and field notes also showed that there was improvement to students' participation during teaching-learning process.

The reading materials of local legends were suitable for the students because the stories were familiar to the students and appropriate to the student's background knowledge. Furthermore, they also would appreciate their local stories. Nevertheless, they were still curious to finish reading the story to answer the questions about the complication in a specified way. The students were also helped by the highlighted grammatical features of narrative text in the stories. Moreover, the use of local legends made the students enjoyable and interested in reading narrative text.