AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENT STRATEGY IN COMPLETING TOEFL READING COMPREHENSION TEST

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Abstract

This research aimed to find out the strategies used by students in completing TOEFL reading comprehension test, types of reading comprehension in TOEFL test that was difficult to be answered by students, the greatest challenges factor for students in completing reading comprehension in TOEFL test, and the score of the 2nd semester students of STTIKOM Insan Unggul Cilegon-Banten. This is a descriptive qualitative study based on observation, interview, questionnaire and test as the instruments of collecting data.The sample is 20 advanced STTIKOM undergraduate students at Cilegon-Banten in Academic year 2018/2019 who were asked to do a PBT TOEFL reading comprehension test.The result showed that inference (33%), vocabulary (40%) and unstated details (50%) questions are the most difficult types to be answered by students. Related to the strategy, three of the strategies (skimming and scanning, top down and guess meaning) are used by students in answering reading comprehension in TOEFL test. The greatest challenges for students in answering TOEFL reading comprehension in TOEFL test are less motivation in reading a text, less practice and they did not mastering vocabulary well. In addition, the TOEFL score of STTIKOM Insan Unggul Cilegon-Banten was insufficient to achieve standardize test or low.

Key words : strategy, reading comprehension, TOEFL test.

INTRODUCTION

The capability of mastering English language in globalization era is an important thing because it is an international language that mostly used in many countries of various field .However students at every level of education should be able to learn and master four skills of languange; listening, speaking, reading, writing. Among those four skills, reading skills remain a big problem for them since it is not only a skill of pronouncing the words, clauses or sentences correctly but also a skill of understanding what is read. As Kusuma (2016 : 3) stated that TOEFL test is proficiency test, In this research, the researcher will use TOEFL ITP test. TOEFL ITP stands for " Institutional Testing Program ". Among three language skills tested in TOEFL, reading comprehension is the most important section (Anjomshoa & Zamanian, 2014) cited in Putra et al., (2017). Strategies to answer questions in reading section of a TOEFL test is recommended. Based on the writer's experience, it was discovered that the Second semester students of STTIKOM (an information and technology Institute) considered that reading section at a TOEFL test is extremely difficult. Students claim that

they faced some problems regarding the unfamiliarity of the topic discussed in the texts. Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that reading comprehension can be something difficult and challlenging when the student lack of knowledge and unfamiliar with the strategies in reading section. Therefore, the researcher is interested to conduct a research about " *An analysis of students strategy in completing TOEFL reading comprehension test ".* What is strategy used by students in completing Toefl reading comprehension test?, Which Types of reading comprehension in Toefl test are difficult to be answered by students? What is the greatest challenges for students in completing reading comprehension in TOEFL test ? How is the TOEFL score of 2nd Semester students at STTIKOM Insan Unggul Cilegon, Banten Province in Academic Year 2018/2019?

Reading comprehension has turned out as a topic that the discussions seems endles. Some experts contributed to the definition of it. According to McNamara (2007a : 3) Reading is an extraordinary achievement when one considers the number of levels and components that must be mastered. Brown (2001: 306),

pointed out that " reading comprehension is a matter of developing appropriate, efficient comprehension strategies". He goes on to enumerate ten such strategies : Identify the purpose in reading, Use graphemic rules and patterns to aidd in bottom-up reading, Use different silent reading techniques for relatively rapid reading etc.

Some researcher have conducted to the students reading comprehension In TOEFL test there are : Samad et al., (2016) in his research about " EFL students' strategies dealing common difficulties in TOEFL reading comprehension section". They investigated the undergraduate students' difficulties and their strategies in completing TOEFL reading comprehension test. Mahmud (2014) In his research " The EFL Student's problems in answering the test of English as foreign language (TOEFL). A study in Indonesian context". His studies focus in explore the student's problems in answering the TOEFL. My research expands the finding of previous research, in this study The writer only focuses on reading comprehension in TOEFL test and try to discuss more completely about the students strategies in completing TOEFL reading comprehension test, the most difficult types question in answering TOEFL reading comprehension test, the

greatest challenges in TOEFL reading comprehension test and the students score in TOEFL test.

METHODS

This research is aimed to analyze the strategies used by students in completing reading comprehension in TOEFL test. Therefore the researcher applied descriptive qualitative as the research design. This research conducted at STTIKOM Insan Unggul Cilegon in Banten Province, Indonesia. The researcher conducted this research on 7th May around 14th May 2018. The subject of this research is the 2nd semester students of STTIKOM Insan Unggul Cilegon who had studied the

Results of the test

The following table presents the result of data from the test that had been

material of reading comprehension for the test of English as a foreign language or TOEFL. In collecting data The researcher conducted in five steps as follows: Observation, test, questionnaire and documentation.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In order to analyze the research result the researcher converted the data into percentages. The percentages were gained by using the following formula.

$$P\ /F x\ 100\%$$
P = Percentage
F = Frequency (Number of questions respondent correctly)
N= Total number of question

done by students in TOEFL reading comprehension test.

Table 2.1

Test results

No	Reading skill	Total Questions	Correct answer	Percentage (%)
1.	Answering Main idea	7	6	85%
2.	Answering Stated detail	7	5	71%
3	Finding Unstated details	6	3	50%
4.	The ability to find specific information	7	5	71%
5	Inference question	6	2	33%
6	Pronoun reference question	7	6	71%
7	Vocabulary question	10	4	40%
	Total	50	30	%

The table 2.1 shows the types of questions that are considered to be the most difficult ones in TOEFL reading comprehension test. The first question that showed the lowest percentage (33%) is inference question.   This question is about deducing information from the passage. Almost students at Insan Unggul Cilegon-Banten were difficult to answer inference questions. The second is vocabulary question (40%). It is the

question about closest meaning and determining meanings of difficult word.Next, it was the question about unstated detail (50%). It is the question to find information that is not explicit in the passage. Reading carefully is essential to answer correctly to the questions.

Results of questionnaire

The following table presents the strategies that students used dealing with the reading comprehension. This results are gained from the questionnaire fullfiled by subjects of the research.

Table 2.1
Questionaire

NO	Statement of reading comprehension in TOEFl test	Strongly agree	Percent (%)	Very agree	Percent (%)	Dis agree	Percent (%)	Strongly disagree	Percent (%)	Total Sum (%)
1	I used skimming and scanning to find main idea in TOEFL test	9	45%	5	25%	4	20%	2	10%	100%
2	Inferring the unfamiliar word is easy to find out	1	5%	6	30%	9	45%	4	20%	100%
3	Scanning is the easiest way in comprehending the reading in TOEFL test	2	10%	5	25%	13	65%		-	100%
4	If I get difficulty in getting main idea, I usually used smart guessing in particular word.	7	35%	8	40%	4	20%	1	5%	100%
5	Reading comprehension is the TOEFL is very easy when I know already the word wizard.	9	45%	5	25%	3	15%	3	15%	100%
6	I like Reading Comprehension due to the ability in	4	20%	10	50%	4	20%	2	10%	100%

No	Statement									
7	finding Pronoun reference question in TOEFL. In particular word, I usually used a contextual word based on the text about.	5	25%	15	75%	-	-	-	-	100%
8	Comprehending in reading TOEFL is easy for me.	5	25%	2	10%	12	60%	1	5%	100%
9	Reading on TOEFL make me fun to answer because I have studied it since I studied in University.	1	5%	4	20%	15	75%	-	-	100%
10	To find the meaning of word is difficult fo me because I lack of vocabulary mastery	9	45%	9	45%	2	10%	-	-	100%
11	In my campus, TOEFL is a requirement test for graduation	2	10%	10	50%	8	40%	-	-	100%
12	I sometimes feel hard to comprehend reading on TOEFL due to the unlimited time.	13	65%	6	30%	1	5%	-	-	100%
13	Focusing on the main idea in comprehending the TOFL test is not easy	4	20%	13	65%	3	15%	-	-	100%
14	The Strategy that I used in comprehending the TOEFL test make me fun to answer the reading section.	2	10%	9	45%	8	40%	1	5%	100%
15	Scanning in the TOEFL test sometimes have not any correlation with the strategy in answering TOEFL due to the time.	4	20%	15	75%	1	5%	-	-	100%
16	Skimming sometimes hard to be identified in comprehending the particularly in reading.	6	30%	12	60%	2	10%	-	-	100%

No										
17	I always use a number of TOEFL strategies in comprehending TOEFL, particularly in reading section.	5	25%	8	40%	2	10%	5	25%	100%
18	The Strategies I used in completing the TOEFL test really boost up my score on TOEFL.	7	35%	13	65%	-	-	-	-	100%
19	I look forward to finding out my reading grade in TOEFL	6	30%	14	70%	-	-	-	-	100%
20	I sometime guessing in answering the unfamiliar word in TOEFL	11	55%	6	30%	2	10%	1	5%	100%
	Total respondents	20		20		20		20		100%

The most difficult types of question in TOEFL reading comprehension test				
No	Reading skill	Total Questions	Correctly answer	Percentage (%)
5	Inference question	6	2	33%
7	Vocabulary question	10	4	40%
3	Finding Unstated detail	6	3	50%

From the table it is definitely seen that the most difficult types of question to be answered in TOEFL are number questions number 5. Inference question (33%). Next, question number 7. Vocabulary question (40%) This type of question covers 20% of the total questions in the TOEFL test, which suggests that vocabulary load and knowledge in reading are crucial (Pyle, 2001: 50). Lastly, followed by question number 3. Unstated detail (50%) The examinees have to find information that is not explicit in the passage (Philips, 2001:385).

CONCLUSION

In this chapter the researcher would like to draw some conclusions of what have been discussed in previous chapter. For achieve these expectation, students need to know the strategies and difficulties they might faced in this test. So, they should be aware of some strategies that can help them to reduce their problem and difficulties. Besides of the strategies, mastery vocabulary well was very crucial things for achieving a better score Based on research findings and discussions presented in the previous chapter several conclusions can be drawn. First, the students used simming and scanning to find main idea and specific information, top down for implied information and guess meaning for vocabulary question. The most difficult types of questions are inference question (33%), vocabulary question (40%), and unstead detail question (50%). The greatest challenges for students in reading comprehension in TOEFL are lac of strategy, less motivation, and less practice. Third, the TOEFL score of STTIKOM Insan Unggul Cilegon-Banten was low. It could be seen from the result of test most of students got the score 320.

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