

THE EFFECTIVENES OF APPLYING MINI CLUSTER FORUM TOWARD STUDENT'S READING COMPREHENSION

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Abstract

This investigation goal is to investigate and to answer of applying mini cluster forum in the classroom against student's reading understanding. This enquiry was administered at Eleventh grade of SMK Darussalam Blokagung Banyuwangi. In this case, the researcher used quantitative research namely Quasi-Experiment so that it's needed a sample of population at this school namely XI AK 1 as control class and XI AK 2 as treatment class. In treatment class, the researcher utilized mini cluster forum strategy to understand a literature or written text and used big cluster forum in control class. Besides that, there were two steps in this study to obtain data namely by holding pretest and posttest. The yield showed that the students instructed by exercising mini cluster forum got enhancement in comprehending of a written text. It meant that mini cluster forum was significant.

Keywords: mini cluster forum, reading comprehension

INTRODUCTION

English is one of the international languages in this world. It is almost used by every nation to interact each other and every nation has certain characteristic the use of English especially in accent. It happened because it's influenced from some aspects; culture and local wisdom. According to Brown and Lee (2015:157) proposed that Culture is highly important in the learning of second language or foreign language. In Indonesia, learning English is harder than the first language; Bahasa. Because it has some items that have to be comprehend and learnt first before mastering it.

The use of English in Indonesia become a concern by government to enhance and to improve ability in using English as international language. The government' efforts are to take it into national examination beginning junior high school until senior high school or vocational high school especially in the last grade or the third grade of junior or senior high school and to improve the teacher's quality. Many students acquire difficulty to answer or to understand English reading especially in national examination because some factors which come to them. Based on Hamra's explanation (2010) stated that the government has owned and held some programs through the education ministry to upgrade teachers' skill. Some of program are to grant a good chance to teachers to obtain the higher education. Moreover, the use or the implementation of English that is common, has limited time and place. It happens only in certain place like in the school, university, college, course and others and the time of using English also in certain time. This becomes government's assignment which is not easy to improve the implementation of English toward people' ability. So, the role of people is expected to escort the use of it.

In English, there are four skills which must be understood and learnt. Those are Listening, speaking, reading and writing. Every skill has different some aspects that are to be comprehended. In this case, researcher focuses on reading comprehension that is conducted at vocational high school.

Heriyawati, Saukah & Widiati (2018) Explained that Reading is generally perceived as the process of recognition and comprehension of written or printed materials. Reading is an activity that stores a meaning and information through a text. Based on this definition, reading is an activity that not only involves the eyes but also demands to absorb a written text meaning and its objective. And a reader has to comprehend a fundamental of reading like understanding word, letter, punctuation and others to prevent a misunderstanding.

The culture of reading in Indonesia has different toward developed country. And in Indonesia is classified as developing country. According to Iskandarwassid and Sunendar (2009) expressed the people in developing country are designated by the low reading ability and the reading culture have not been well embedded. This case as a problem which appears in this nation becomes the joint assignment to improve this. To solve this problem, the ministry of education and culture carries out GLN (gerakan literasi nasional / national literacy movement) in some aspects namely school literacy, family literacy, and society literacy movement. Through this program, the culture of literacy in this nation is going to arise and grow from some sectors: family, society and school. All components must be involved to encourage it so that the expectation in improving literacy (reading) can increase.

In this case, the researcher holds a study through Pre-test that is held to obtain the data before conducting a study. Then, the data is analyzed to find a comparison result of value between two classrooms to decide control and treatment class. After that, the researcher decides classes; XI AK1 as control class and XI AK 2 as treatment class of SMK Darussalam.

After conducting an enquiry, the researcher also made interview with English teacher and some students to match and to fit the results that have been obtained from the result of Pretest. This is the reason why a researcher conducts this study. The weakness or difficulty always appear to students. There are two kinds of their problem. Those are internal and external. From internal it can be caused by students themselves and the external comes from their surroundings like media, method of teaching and others.

One of the ways to solve this problem, teachers can use some teaching method models which can help them to deliver a reading material in classroom. They can find method model from some incredible sources. And one of the method models or strategies to train reading text is mini cluster forum.

Mini cluster forum is one of simple ways to teach reading in the class. Because it will share and exchange some ideas one another in the group. And some new ideas will also come and appear in this discussion. According to Exley and Dennick (2004) stated that mini cluster forum is better than big group, the members of group own a good opportunity to discuss together. They are more intensive in their responsibility of task in a group. Through this method, it is expected all members are able to share, exchange idea together so that the activity teaching and learning process will be easy and effective even though this method needs a detail preparation for teacher, the domination of certain member and the student's burden that will be increased.

Trough the mini cluster forum strategy is expected to be able to contribute and to interest students' motivation in reading learning process. Besides that, it's also expected to share and exchange each idea that comes out from member of group discussion so that students can be well team work to accomplish every problem.

METHOD

The researcher utilizes a Quasi-experiment. In this case, there are two classrooms that are dived to become control class and treatment class. Besides that, there are some steps to conduct it namely pre-test and post-test and in middle among pretest and pos-test, in the treatment class there is a process of applying or Implementing researcher' method. The quasi-experiment is different from true experiment because it has certain characteristic. And the objective of this design is to comprehend and to find the impact of treatment.

<u>E</u>	<u>Pre</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Post</u>
C	Pre	-	Post

Explanation:

- E : treatment class
C : non-treatment class

Pre : Pretest of treatment and non-treatment class
T : Treatment Process
Post : Posttest of treatment and non-treatment class

The independent variable in this study is mini cluster forum Strategy that is influenced by dependent variable. This Strategy is expected to be useful for teacher in teaching and learning reading process. So, it will support teacher to control and to organize the class and the dependent variable is reading comprehension.

Meanwhile the researcher took the population, Population is a large group or collection of all research objects that will be met by researchers before sampling. In this case, all students of XI class at SMK Darussalam Blokagung Banyuwangi.

In this case, the researcher uses a purposive sampling to conduct a research because the official of School has determined some classes to be researched by the research. This decision makes easy for the research to continue a study. And the official of school gives two classes for the research to undergo a study. Those are XI AK (Akuntansi) 1 which contains 23 students, two students get sick and one student is absent so that the students that join in this moment are twenty students, and XI AK (Akuntansi) 2 which contains twenty two students, one is permit and one is sick so that the students who join in this moment are twenty students. From this case, the researcher chooses and divides the class for experimental and control class. And the XI AK 2 as the treatment classroom while the XI AK 1 is as the control class.

Table.The Experimental and Control Class

NO	Class	Group	Dependent Variable	Total
1	XI AK 1	Control	Big Cluster Forum	20
2	XI AK 2	Experiment	Mini Cluster forum	20
Total				40

For the instrument data in this study, the researcher' instrument data is test. Test is a series of statements or exercises and other tools used to measure skills, intelligence, abilities or talents possessed by individuals or groups (Arikunto,2013:193). There are five passages that consist 25 items of multiple choice which belong 50 minutes of time. And there are two tests that are conducted by the researcher. Those are pre-test and post-test. The pretest is held before the treatment begins and it has the certain objective to know the result and condition class before treatment is applied. And the post-test is taken place after finishing treatment that has the purpose to know the result of treatment so that the researcher obtains the result of research.

For the data analysis, the researcher uses independent T-test to measure and to calculate the data that has been acquired from the final research. But to make easy in calculate data and to make easy for researcher, the researcher uses SPSS 21 to support all data.

RESULTS

In this study, the researcher explained average. The data below:

The average of Pretest

	Kelompok	The number of students	Average
Hasil belajar	Kelompok A	20	66.000
	Kelompok B	20	63.400

Note :
Kelompok A = Experiment Group
Kelompok B = Control Group

Based on the table above, the researcher found data from Group Statistic of Pre-Test by using SPSS 21 that N is the number of students. In Kelompok A (Experiment Group) is 20 students and kelompok B (Control Group) is 20 students. The mean in pretest of experiment group is 66.000 and the mean of control group in pretest is 63.400.

The average of Posttest

	Kelompok	The number of students	Average
hasil belajar	Kelompok A	20	75.800
	Kelompok B	20	71.400

Note :
Kelompok A = Experiment Group
Kelompok B = Control Group

Based on the table above, the researcher found data from Group Statistic of Pretest by using SPSS 21 that N is the number of students. In Kelompok A (Experiment Group) is 20 students and Kelompok B (Control Group) is 20 students. The mean in pretest of experiment group is 75.800 and the mean of control group in Posttest is 71.400.

Hypothesis Finding

The Hypothesis formulation

Before deciding the result of the hypothesis, the researcher creates hypothesis formulation:

Ho (Null Hypothesis) : Nothing distinct between treatment class and control class. It showed that applying mini cluster forum strategy is more efficient in teaching reading than applying big cluster forum

Ha (Hypothesis Alternative) : Both treatment class and control class produce the distinct outcome. It showed that applying mini cluster forum strategy is more efficient in teaching reading that applying big cluster forum

The rule of the independent sample T test

Basic decision-making test for the independent sample T test as follows:

1. If the score of Sig. (2-tailed) > 0.05, it showed that Ho is honored and Ha is dishonored. In other words, nothing the distinct outcome between treatment class and control class.
2. If the score of Sig. (2-tailed) < 0.05, it means that Ho is dishonored and Ha is honored in other words, both treatment class and control class produce the distinct outcome.

The Pretest outcome

Table. Independent Samples Test of Pretest

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	T	Df	Sig. (2- tailed)	Mean Differe nce	Std. Error Differe nce	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference Lower Upper	
The produ ct of learn ing	Equal variances assumed	.930	.341	1.17 9	38	.246	2.6000	2.2057	- 1.8653	7.0653
	Equal variances not assumed			1.17 9	36.1 08	.246	2.6000	2.2057	- 1.8730	7.0730

Based on the table above, the Sig. Levene's Test for Equality of Variance is 0.341 > 0.05 So that it means that the Variance of data between experiment group and control group is homogeneous. So, the interpretation of table is found in Equal Variances Assumed.

And in the Equal Variance Assumed of Sig. (2-tailed), it showed 0.246 > 0.05. So, it can be drawn that H_0 is accepted and H_a is rejected. It matters that there is no different between Experiment group and non-treatment group or using mini cluster forum strategy is not more efficient in teaching reading than using big cluster forum and it is supported by the Mean Difference which is same. Those are 2.6000.

The next step is to compare t_0 toward t table. the rule of the comparison between t_0 in the independent sample test:

1. if the $t_0 < t$ table then H_0 is honored and H_a is dishonored. It means that there is no distinct outcome between the experiment group and the control group
2. if the $t_0 > t$ table then H_0 is dishonored and H_a is honored, It means that there is a distinct outcome between the treatment class and the control class.

In this research of pretest based on table. The t_0 is 1.179 and then it needs to match toward t table and refers to formulation ($\alpha/2$); (df) same as (0.05/2); (38) and the result is 0.025;9. Afterward it is matched by table and the result is 2.024.

Based on the data above t_0 is 1.179 < 2.024. It can be concluded that H_0 is accepted and H_a is rejected. It means that applying mini cluster forum strategy is not more efficient in teaching reading than utilizing big cluster forum.

The Posttest outcome

Table 4.4 Independent Samples Test of Posttest

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	T	Df	Sig. (2- tailed)	Mean Differen- ce	Std. Error Differen- ce	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference Lower Upper	
The Produ- ct of learn- ing	Equal variances assumed	1.372	.249	2.10	38	.042	4.4000	2.0876	.1740	8.6260
	Equal variances not assumed			2.10	36.3	.042	4.4000	2.0876	.1675	8.6325

Based on the table above, the Sig. Levene's Test for Equality of Variance is $0.249 > 0.05$. So that it means that the Variance of data between experiment group and control group is homogeneous. So, the comprehension of table is found in Equal Variances Assumed.

And in the Equal Variance Assumed of Sig. (2-tailed), it showed $0.042 < 0.05$. So, it can be drawn that H_0 is dishonored and H_a is honored. It means that applying mini cluster forum strategy is more efficient in teaching reading comprehension than big cluster forum.

The next step is to compare t_0 toward t table. the rule of the comparison between t_0 in the independent sample test:

1. if the $t_0 < t$ table then H_0 is honored and H_a is dishonored. It means that there is no distinct outcome between the experiment group and the control group
2. if the $t_0 > t$ table then H_0 is dishonored and H_a is honored. It means that there is a distinct outcome between the treatment class and the control class.

In this research of pretest based on table. The t_0 is 2.108 and then it needs to match toward t table and refers to formulation $(\alpha/2)$; (df) same as $(0.05/2)$; (38) and the result is 0.025;9. Afterward it is matched by table and the result is 2.024.

Based on the data above t_0 is $2.108 > 2.024$. It can be concluded that H_0 is dishonored and H_a is honored. It means that the implementation of mini cluster forum and big cluster forum own a distinct yield or applying mini cluster forum strategy is more efficient in teaching reading than utilizing big cluster.

DISCUSSION

In this research, the researcher has examined a hypothesis that related to research. The hypothesis was whether the students taught by using mini cluster forum have better achievement in reading comprehension than those taught by using big cluster forum. When the hypothesis had come and the next step was to test it. The researcher conducted it at eleventh grade (Akuntansi) of SMK Darussalam Blokagung Banyuwangi. And the classroom was dived by two groups. Those are experiment and control group. Based on the result of research, it was found that the experiment class that used mini cluster forum strategy was significance. It meant that the mini cluster forum strategy that had implemented had the positive result than big cluster forum strategy.

Even it was supported by the data table of SPSS that showed the H_0 was rejected and H_a was accepted. It meant that the student taught by mini cluster forum had a better achievement than student taught by big cluster forum.

Ismail (2008:88) learning by mini cluster forum is learning and studying process by doing mini cluster forum which has a purpose for students so that they have a skill to solve a problem that is related to the main

material and subject which are deal with daily life. It means that a team work in discussion need a compactness to produce something.

Based on the finding in this research, the result showed that the use of mini cluster forum has a better achievement than those used big cluster forum. This strategy has some positive impact toward students' learning process in reading comprehension.

The first, the students are able to solve the problem together in a group. When they get problem, they can discuss with their group. So, some different opinions or arguments will appear in discussion. It is easy to help them to find the solution toward problem.

The second, the students can share and match each other. In the process of learning in group every member has different task, opinion, scope. Through this method, they will be easy and exchange the information.

The third, the opportunity to deliver in group for every member is opened largely. Every member actually has own argument and finding in discussion group. But sometime the limited.

Furthermore, this method can make an interesting learning process in reading comprehension. It will involve teacher and student.

From this discussion, the researcher can draw a conclusion that the implantation of mini cluster forum has a positive impact toward student teaching and learning process of reading comprehension. And it is impacted toward teacher. He/she will be easier to organize the classroom.

CONCLUSION

Based on the yield of this study, the writer can draw a conclusion bellow:

- a. In this case, the researcher has conducted the research that results that students who are instructed by exercising mini cluster forum obtain the enhancement of achievement in reading or a written text.
- b. In the posttest of research, the result showed the mini cluster forum strategy owns distinct result than the use of big cluster forum. It means the use of mini cluster forum is significance and it is shown by data in table of SPSS 21 in the result of posttest which is smaller than 0.05.

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