

**The Correlation between Reading English Novel Habit and English Sentence
Structure Mastery of English Language Education Department Students in a
Private University of Yogyakarta**

A Publication Script

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The Correlation between Reading English Novel Habit and English Sentence Structure Mastery of English Language Education Department Students in a Private University of Yogyakarta

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Abstract

This study aimed to know (1) reading English novel habit among ELED students in a private university of Yogyakarta, (2) English sentence structure mastery among ELED students in a private university of Yogyakarta, and (3) the correlation between reading English novel habit and English sentence structure mastery among ELED students in a private university of Yogyakarta. This study used quantitative research approach and correlational design using the questionnaire to measure the first variable. The second variable was measured from the score of the structure and written expression section of English Proficiency Test in International Language Testing Class. The data were collected from 91 ELED students of batch 2015. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics processed in statistical software. This study used Pearson Product Moment correlation to see the correlation between two variables. The analysis of the data showed that students' reading English novel habit was in the moderate level (mean: 43.33) and students' English sentence structure mastery

was in the moderate level (7.25). The result showed that correlation p-value was 0,202 meaning that there is correlation between reading English novel habit and English sentence structure mastery among ELED students. However, the correlation between reading English novel habit and English sentence structure mastery was $r=0.055$ (at 0,01 level, sig 2-tailed) meaning the correlation was not significant.

Keyword: students' reading habit, English novel, sentence structure mastery

Introduction

Reading is an activity that a person undertakes to obtain an information or message on what the author will convey in a written text. According to Vellaichamy and Jeysankar (2014) reading is an art of interpreting printed and written words, and it is a basic instrument of education. When reading is done repeatedly, it can be a reading habit. Neal (2004) stated that habit is the activity which is a process for repetition stage to tune cognitive processors in individual memory. It is supported by Joko (2008) who stated that habit is a human act that remains done over and over again in the same way. It means that habit is a behavior that is done continuously which creates the character.

There are some books or literatures that can be used as reading materials. One of the materials that can be used is novel. Novel is considered as the best tool for readers of high-intermediate to advanced levels of English to truly enjoy the reading experience (Gareis, Allard, Saindon & Hismanoglu, 2009). From reading English novel, the readers can learn and comprehend the sentence structure of the novel and can improve their grammar through the language used in the novel. According to Lado as cited in Ratna (2014), the structure of sentence (grammatical structure) is a word in the sentence pattern draft and preparation of word elements being said. Thus, it means that sentence structure depends on the language spoken and written. English sentence structures in a novel consist of subject, predicate and have a sense of clarity. The sentence structure in a novel also includes noun and verb that fall within an individual sentence.

Moreover, ideally students have a good reading habit because reading is a necessity for students to add knowledge. There are various reading materials, and

one of them is novel. By reading novel routinely, the students train themselves to comprehend various styles of language in English novel. That way, reading novel habit may contribute to improve students' understanding on English sentence structure. Also, it can help students to get better achievement in mastering the structure of the sentences. However, not all students like reading English novels, and not all students master English structures well.

The students sometimes think that reading will make them feel bored, and it happens when they will start reading. At the same time, they cannot write in correct English sentence structure, or in other words, they are lack of English sentence structure mastery. Based on the researcher observation, the lack of English sentence structure mastery or grammar also happens in ELED. Not all students of ELED have good English sentence structure mastery. It can be seen on their low score of TOEFL especially in the section related to grammar and structure.

Literature Review

Reading is an activity to understand the content of a passage in the form of text. Guthrie, Benneth and McGough (2007) suggested that reading is the act of getting meaning from printed or written words, which is the basis for learning and one of the most important skills in everyday life. According to Palani (2012) effective reading is important avenue of effective learning, and reading is interrelated with the total educational process. Moreover, educational success requires successful reading habit. Palani also believes that reading is the identification of the symbols and the association of appropriate meaning and also requires identification and comprehension. Accordingly, reading is an important activity in the process of learning, and reading habits determine success in education.

Reading activity is regarded as a habit when it is repeatedly carried out. Also, reading habit is one of the activities which is usually done in everytime and everywhere. Reading habit is the behavior from human to get the information from what they have read. Sangkaeo (1999) suggested that reading habit refers to the behaviour which expresses the likeness and tastes of reading. Nurgiyantoro (2010) added that novel is a work of fiction which is built by the elements of the builder, intrinsic elements, and extrinsic elements. It means that novel is a story built the relation between the real life context and fictional events.

Language is everything which is produced by sounds, words, sentences, and it has meaning. Fromkin, Blair, and Collins (2000) suggested that language consists of all sounds, words, and sentences. When people know what language is,

they will exactly know the sounds, the words, and the rules of sentence combination. Miller (2002) stated that traditional definition of sentence comes up as grammatical unit built up from smaller unit. Besides, the smaller units, phrase and clauses are linked to each other by various head-modifier relations. Also, the sentence is a part of grammatical English which has smaller units of modifier relations. From the statement above, the hypothesis (H1) of this study is there is a correlation between reading English novel habit and English sentence structure mastery.

Research Methodology

This study used quantitative research approach and the purpose of this study was to find out the correlation between reading English novel habit and English sentence structure mastery of ELED students of a private university in Yogyakarta batch 2015. Then, The researcher collected the data at ELED of a private university in Yogyakarta batch 2015 from four classes.

Additionally, the researcher modified the questionnaire from Gaona (2010) which consists of seventeen items. Besides, this study utilized descriptive correlation method to analyze the data. The research method answered the independent variable about reading English novel habit using the questionnaire. Besides, the dependent variable was English sentence structure mastery measured by using a document of students' English Proficiency Test score in grammar and structure section. In addition, to know the correlation between two variables, this research adopted Pearson Product Moment correlation using statistic tool 22.0 version.

Results and Discussion

The first research question is “How is reading English novel habit of English Language Education students”? The result of the first research question shows that students reading English novel habit of English Language Education Department is 43,33. The mean of 43,33 of students’ reading English novel habit lies in moderate category based on the interval formula (Supranto, 2000).

The second research question is “How is English sentence structure mastery among English Language Education Department students”? The result of the second research question shows that students students’ English sentence structure mastery of English language Education Department students is 7,25. The mean of 7,25 of students English sentence structure mastery lies in the moderate level based on the interval formula of English sentence structure mastery in grammar.

The third research question in this research is “What is the correlation between reading English novel habit and English sentence structure mastery among English Language Education Department students?”. Statistical software was used for analysis two variables in this research. The H_1 is received when the probability value is $<0,05$.

Additionally, from the analysis, the result shows that the probability value is 0,055. It means that H_1 (alternate hypothesis) is accepted. Therefore, it can be said that there is correlation between reading English novel habit and English sentence structure mastery in English Language Education Department students in a private University of Yogyakarta.

Likewise, the terms of the significance correlation, the result shows that the value of significant correlation between students' reading English novel and students' English sentence structure mastery is 0,202. As mentioned by Sugiyono (2003) the value between 0.200-0,399 is low correlation.

Conclusion

The students of ELED in a private university of Yogyakarta, especially batch 2015 were in the moderate level in reading English novel habit. Besides, the researcher found that most of ELED students batch 2015 in a private university of Yogyakarta did not have good English sentence structure mastery. The students of ELED lied in low level. Hence, the students needed to master in English sentence structure mastery to be able to reflect on how English language works.

Unfortunately, the results of this research showed that there was no significant correlation between reading English novel habit and English sentence structure mastery. From the statements mentioned, it caused the correlation is low. The negative correlation indicated that reading English Novel habit was not the main factor to gain English sentence structure mastery. Therefore, the students with low moderate reading habit could master the English sentence structure in grammar.

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