



## An Analysis of Students' Perception toward Reading Comprehension Skill Before and After Joining English club

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### Abstract

This study aimed to analyze the students' perception toward reading comprehension skills before and after joining English club. The study was a descriptive qualitative research. The participants in this study were 10 students who had joined the English club for one year. The data were collected through an interview, which included 12 questions. The findings showed that students had a positive perception toward reading comprehension skills after joining the English club. There were changes in the students' reading comprehension skills between before and after joining the English club. It can be concluded that the students agreed that their reading comprehension skills improved after joining the English club.

### Keywords:

Correlation, Growth mindset, English language proficiency test

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## INTRODUCTION

Reading English is one of the important skills that everyone must have. Reading is the process of understanding the meaning contained in a written material. Reading is also an activity carried out by readers to obtain messages through words or written language conveyed by the author. According to Fitria (2019), reading is an activity that helps readers gain more knowledge without waste more money. Through reading, readers obtain new information, acquire new knowledge, and discover new ideas. Another significant of reading is as the provider of input for language learners. As it is stated by Krashen (2003), the language learning will not happen unless they are exposed to abundance of input.

There are several challenges that occur when reading English. According to Thornbury (2007) which cited in Rahayuningsih (2020), claims that there are several challenges in reading that can affect reading success, they are knowledge of vocabulary, punctuation, grammar and linguistics which are other parts of language. In addition, students also experience difficulties in understanding the English text they read. This is due to a lack of mastery of vocabulary and a lack of understanding of grammar. So, those are the challenges that students face in improving their reading comprehension skill.

There are several ways to improve students' reading skills, such as joining the English club extracurricular activities. In improving reading skills it is not enough

only through learning English at school, but additional classes such as English clubs are also important for students to join. Extracurricular is an activity carried out outside school to develop student potential. English club has been proven to improve students' communication skill (Hamadameen & Najim, 2020), English proficiency (Yuliandasari & Kusriandi, 2015), and students' motivation to speak (Bage et al., 2021). Beside that, english club also can improve students English skill in terms of reading. To support this statements, Muslimah (2013) found that there were significant difference between the reading comprehension of students who joined the English club and those who did not.

From the research above, it is clear that English club are able to help students to improve students' English skills. Students who join the English club can improve their English skills, knowledge of English and the English club can improve their English scores (Melviza et al., 2017). In addition, Virgiyanti (2013) also found that English Club provides students with the opportunity to improve their English skills and give them more time to learn English, because regular classes do not have extra time to learn English. English clubs are held by schools to facilitate students in practicing and learning English and English clubs can increase student motivation in learning English outside of regular classes (Virawan et al., 2021).

It can be said that students who join the English club experience an improvement in their English skills. English clubs are able to improve students' English skills, students' English language skills, students' communication skills and also students' reading skills. In addition, the English club is also able to increase students' willingness and motivation to learn English.

## **METHOD**

The research method used is qualitative research. This is because it is based on research objectives. Qualitative research is research that focuses on social phenomena and conveys feelings and perceptions of participation being researched or the subject being researched (Lodico et., al 2010). The research design used is descriptive. Descriptive research is research that aims to accurately describe the events that occur (Atmowardoyo 2018). In a descriptive qualitative research, researchers will look at students' perceptions of reading skills before and after joining English club.

In this study, researcher conducted the research at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang, located at Cendrawasih 7 street, Air Tawar Barat subdistrict, Padang city. In this research, the participants is the student who have joined English club for one year at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang. It consists of eleventh and twelve grade students. In this research, based on the criteria, it was found that 10 students fulfilled the criteria in sample selection.

This research used interviews to find out how students perceive their reading comprehension skills before and after joining the English club. An interview for students' has been develop based on Dennis' theory (2008), several factors influence reading comprehension skills, they are: complexity of reading text, environmental influences, anxiety during reading comprehension, interest and motivation, decoding

or word recognition speed and reading difficulties. This interview consists of 12 questions based on Dennis' theory.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The research findings in the form of research data are further discussed or critically interpreted with particular relevant theoretical approach. Data can also be supported with the presentation of tables, images, etc.

### ***Research Finding (tentative)***

#### ***1. Students' Perception of complexity of the reading text***

The students' had positive perceptions about their reading comprehension skills improving after joining the English club. The result may be viewed the following section.

##### ***a. Students' reading comprehension skills before joining the English club***

The students said that their reading comprehension skills before joining the English club were still lacking because they still did not know much about English vocabulary, the correct pronunciation and were still unsure what they read. It proven by the statements of several students below.

- R1 : My reading comprehension skills before joining the English club was still lacking but after joining my reading comprehension skills have improved.  
R7 : My reading comprehension skills was not good because I did not know much English vocabulary.  
R5 : My reading comprehension skills was quite poor because I hesitate when I want to read it.

Then, it was possible to say that the students' reading comprehension skills before joining the English club were still low.

##### ***b. Students' reading comprehension skill after joining the English club***

They said that their reading comprehension skills after joining the English club had improved and were much better than before, this is because in the English club they knew more vocabulary, knew how to pronounce correctly, became more confident in reading and began to understand reading.

- R5 : My reading comprehension skills are better than before, there is a change.  
R3 : I am getting to know more new vocabulary, which I did not understand before, now I'm starting to understand it and I am starting to read English fluently.  
R9 : I feel more confident in reading.  
R10 : After joining, I know better how to pronounce words in a sentence well.

Therefore, it could be said that in terms of reading comprehension skills, the students have positive perceptions because their reading comprehension skills have improved after joining the English club.

## **2. Students' Perception of environmental influences**

Students had positive perceptions about the reading practice after joining English club provide a comfortable atmosphere.

### **a. Students' reading practice before joining English club**

The students said that the practice of reading before joining the English club was not comfortable because there were still several words that they did not know the meaning and significance of. There were several statement from the students below.

R2 : It's uncomfortable because there are some words that we did not know.

R7 : I was still hesitant because I did not know much about the vocabulary, meaning and usage.

R10 : Uncomfortable.

R4 : Comfortable.

Therefore, it was possible to say that reading practice before joining the English club provides an uncomfortable atmosphere for students. Based on the student statements above, it can be concluded that many students feel uncomfortable in reading practice before joining the English club.

### **b. Students' reading practice after joining English club**

The students said that practicing reading after joining the English club was very comfortable because after joining the English club they had more vocabulary so they were very comfortable in practicing reading.

R7 : Yes, it's very comfortable because joining the English club has a lot of vocabulary that I have not learned before joining the English club.

R4 : Comfortable, especially the people are nice.

R6 : In the English club I feel comfortable because the vocabulary or pronunciations that are not in accordance with English are corrected.

It was possible to say that reading practice after joining English club provide a comfortable atmosphere for students.

## **3. Students' Perception of anxiety during reading comprehension**

Then, all of them had positive perceptions about their feelings when practicing reading become more confident after joining the English club.

### **a. Students' feelings during reading practice before joining English club**

The students said that their feelings when practicing reading before joining the English club were that they felt nervous and lacked confidence because there was vocabulary that they did not know how to pronounce correctly so they felt nervous, doubtful, confused and not confident when practicing reading. As evident in statement below.

R6 : I'm nervous because there are some vocabulary words that I

did not know how to read.

R7 : Still confused because I did not know the meaning and pronounce of English vocabulary.

R5 : Before joining the English club, I was not confident in reading.

Therefore, it could be say that that students' feelings when practicing reading before joining the English club are nervous and lacking self-confidence.

***b. Students' feelings during reading practice after joining English club***

The students said that their feelings after joining the English club are that they feel more confident, happier, and have more freedom in reading practice because in the English club they learn a lot, they are taught how to pronounce words correctly, understand the meaning of words and use words appropriately.

R3 : Feel more confident because I have learned a lot at the English club.

R7 : Very happy because after joining the English club I am able to understand some of the vocabulary and its proper use.

R10 : More confident, happier and easier to read.

So it could be say that the students' feelings when practicing reading after joining the English club are that they feel more confident.

***4. Students' Perception of interest and motivation***

All of the students had positive perceptions about their interest and motivation in reading after joining the English club are increases. It can be seen in the following section.

***a. Students' interest and motivation in reading before joining the English club***

Students had different answers to this question. 3 of 10 students said that they were already interested in reading before joining the English club. Meanwhile, 7 others said that they were less interested in reading before joining the English club. They were less interested because they still do not understand and are also afraid of making mistakes when reading.

R2 : I still did not have enough interest in reading because I still did not understand, so the motivation and interest is still low.

R5 : Before joining the English club, I had little interest in reading because I was afraid of making mistakes.

R10 : Less interested.

So it can be said that students' interest and motivation in reading before joining the English club is still low and they lack interest.

***b. Students' interest and motivation in reading after joining the English club***

The students said that after joining the English club their interest and motivation in reading became more interested because they became more interested and liked learning English more. It proven by the statements of several students below.

R1 : After joining, I prefer to learn English and English novels, I am more interested.

R5 : More interested in reading English.

R10 : I'm more interested, sometimes I like reading English texts.

So it was possible to say that students' interest and motivation to read after joining the English club has increased and they are more interested.

#### **5. *Students' perception of decoding or word recognition speed***

All of the students had positive perceptions about their vocabulary skills increase after joining the English club.

##### ***a. Students' vocabulary before joining the English club***

They said their vocabulary was still lacking because there were still many words that they did not know the meaning of. It proven by the statements of several students below.

R7 : My vocabulary skills are very poor because I did not know many of the meanings.

R2 : There's still a lot of vocabulary that I did not know.

R8 : A few vocabulary before joining the English club.

It can be interpreted that students' vocabulary skills before joining the English club are still lacking because there is still a lot of vocabulary that students do not know.

##### ***b. Students' vocabulary after joining the English club***

The students said that after joining the English club their vocabulary skills became better than before and they knew more vocabulary.

R2 : After joining the English club my vocabulary skills are much better, I know more vocabulary.

R10 : After joining the English club, I know more about the vocabulary used in English.

R5 : Better than before, more is known.

Therefore, it is possible to say that students' vocabulary skills become better after joining the English club.

#### **6. *Students' Perception of reading difficulties***

All of the students had positive perceptions about students' difficulties in reading decreased slightly after joining the English club.

##### ***a. Students' difficulties in reading before joining English club***

Students said that the most frequently experienced difficulty in reading was pronunciation, there were several words that were difficult for them to pronounce when reading.

R6 : Before joining, the difficulty may be in how to read it or pronounce it.

R4 : In vocabulary, how to pronounce it.

R2 : The difficulties were in the pronounce, how to read it and in the grammar.

R9 : There are many difficulties before joining an English club, such as the sentences, language and meaning.

The students said that they had several difficulties in reading, such as pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and sentence meaning. However, the difficulty most students experience is pronunciation.

***b. Students' difficulties in reading after joining English club***

From this question, 2 out of 10 students said that their difficulties in reading no longer existed. Meanwhile, 8 others answered that their difficulties in reading, such as pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar, had been slightly resolved after joining the English club.

R8 : Nothing, it's better.

R10 : It's easier, it's not too difficult to pronounce.

R2 : There are still only a few, for example about verb.

R3 : After joining, the difficulty was still in grammar.

Therefore it can be concluded that students' difficulties in reading can be overcome, students' reading difficulties are slightly reduced.

***Discussion***

Based on the research findings above, it was found that there are changes in students' reading comprehension skills between before and after joining the English club. Before joining the English club, students' reading comprehension skills were still low. However, after joining the English club, students' reading comprehension skills improved.

First, the finding shows that students had positive perceptions about their reading comprehension skills improving after joining the English club. Before joining the English club, students' reading comprehension skills were still lacking, they still did not know a lot of vocabulary, they did not know the correct pronunciation and they were still unsure about understanding what they read. But after joining the English club, students' reading skills improved. It related with the statement from Muslimah (2013) found that the reading comprehension skills of students who join the English club were good, while the reading comprehension skills of students who do not join were adequate.

Second, the finding shows that all of the students had positive perceptions about the reading practice after joining English club provide a comfortable atmosphere. Before joining the English club for reading practice,

students felt the atmosphere was uncomfortable because there were still several words that students did not know the meaning of. However, after joining the English club for reading practice, it gives students a comfortable atmosphere because they already know a lot of vocabulary so the reading practice atmosphere becomes comfortable. This is in accordance with the statement from Zulhelindra (2019) found that English clubs provide students with the opportunity to learn English in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. In addition, Hamademeeen and Najim (2020) also found that English clubs provide students with the opportunity to practice English in a relaxed and informal environment and meet new people.

In addition, all of students also had positive perceptions about their feelings when practicing reading become more confident after joining the English club. Students felt that before joining the English club they lacked confidence in reading practice because there were many vocabulary words that they did not know how to pronounce correctly so they felt nervous and lacked confidence. However, after joining the English club, students feel more confident in practicing reading because they have learned a lot in the English club about how to pronounce words correctly, the meaning of words and how to use words correctly. This is in line with the statement of Hijrah and Umar (2021) stated that after joining the English club students gain a lot of new vocabulary and self-confidence. In addition, Amita et al (2015) also found that the English Club program helps students to increase their self-confidence, not only that, it also improves English knowledge and English grades.

Moreover, it was found that students had positive perceptions of their interest and motivation in reading. It is shows that before joining the English club, the students were less interested in reading because they did not understand and were afraid of making mistakes when reading. And then, students perceive that after joining the English club their interest and motivation to read increases because they become more interested in reading and prefer learning English. The results of this research is related to previous research by Virawan et al (2021) found that English clubs can increase students' motivation in learning English outside of regular classes. Moreover, Bage et al (2021) found that the English club is a place that can develop and increase students' motivation in practicing English.

Next, the findings show that the students had positive perceptions about their vocabulary skills increase after joining the English club. This means that students agree that after joining the English club their vocabulary skills have improved. This is related with the statement of Mustofa and Indah (2023) found that English club activities are able to increase the vocabulary of students who participate in the English club. Although, before joining the English club their vocabulary skills were still lacking because there were many words they did not know the meaning of.

Last, the findings from aspect of reading difficulties show that the students had positive perception of this aspect. Before joining the English club, students experienced several difficulties in reading, such as pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and sentence meaning. However, after joining the



English club, students agreed that this difficulty in reading could be overcome. It shows that students' reading difficulties can be overcome after joining the English club. This is in accordance with the statement from Aina (2020) found that English clubs give students the opportunity to learn English in an informal environment, but students gain the same knowledge during the process of learning activities in English clubs, besides that English clubs also provide benefits to students.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the research, it can be concluded that there are changes in students' reading comprehension skills between before and after joining the English club. All students who have joined the English club for one year have a positive perception of their reading comprehension skills after joining the English club. The students' reading comprehension skills improved after joining the English club. Practicing reading after joining the English club provides a comfortable atmosphere for students. Students feel more confident in reading practice after joining the English club. Then, students' interest and motivation in reading increases after joining the English club. Students' vocabulary also increases after joining the English club. And the last, students' reading difficulties can be overcome and reduced after joining an English club. So it can be concluded that students' reading comprehension skills improve after joining the English club.

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