

**THE CORRELATIONAL BETWEEN STUDENTS' READING INTEREST
AND STUDENTS' READING ABILITY IN LEARNING ENGLISH
(A STUDY AT EIGHT GRADE OF SMP NEGERI 14 SURAKARTA THE
ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025)**

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Abstract

The aimed of this research was to determine (1) Students' interest in reading English ability of the Eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta, (2) to find out the students' reading ability of the eight grade of SMP N 14 Surakarta, and (3) to find out whether or not there is correlation of study between Students' reading interest and students' reading ability of students in grade Eight SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta in the Academic year 2024/2025. This researcher was conducted at the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta in the academic year 2024/2025. Researcher used quantitative methods with correlation techniques. The researcher give questionnaire to 30 participants in order to gather the data Students' reading interest in learning reading English in a class. The questionnaire used consisted of 30 items. Then, to measure the ability reading students, this research used a reading test for students. In this research was used random sampling technique to collect the data. In data analysis, students' questionnaires were measured using a Likert Scale, and reading tests were measured using Suharsimi Arikunto's categories reading achievement. The findings of this research indicate that there are positive about correlation of research between students' reading interest and students' reading English ability. It is proven by the results of calculation of $(r_{xy} 0.615) > r_{table}$ in the significant table 5% (0.374) and 1% (0.478). Then, it can be concluded that the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is therefore deemed to be accepted and the null hypothesis (H_o) is rejected. Therefore, in this research it can be concluded that there is a positive the correlation of research between students' reading interest and students' reading English ability. This means students' reading interest has higher impact, the better students' reading ability.

Keywords : *Reading Interest, Reading English Ability, Correlational Study*

INTRODUCTION

Interest can be defined by how often students read about things they are passionate about, spend their free time, and what they are interested in. Why and what they read or do not read are also considered when examining their reading interests. For some people may have an assumption that interest has similar meaning, but they have a difference in language.

The students are not disappointed with their English if they are interested in their English reading. If the students have sufficient interest, they will read frequently because they are attracted and forced. Interest is the second factor which determines an attitude in working or studying actively. Learning process will run well, if the students have an interest. The teacher argued that interest is a situation or condition of paying attention and enjoying in some activities and contents.

This definition tells us that an interest is shown by paying attention and enjoyment in any activity. Interest is always followed by feelings of pleasure and from there can be obtained satisfaction. Interest is also a big influence in the learning, because if the learning material is not in accordance with the interest of the students, they will not learn as well as good, because there is no appeal to it.

So that the students have an interest, should be given things that are interesting in the learning process. The level of interest is different in each of children. It depends on how the interest develops in their selves.

Reading ability is one ability that should be a priority for all students because, by reading students can achieve a lot of information for themselves in learning English (Widiowati & Kurniasih, 2018). Moreover, to get new information for many aspects of ideas, reading is the best efficient way. The same statement by Ismail et al., (2017), all the students can be mastered in reading skill, because reading is one of receptive skill that can improve the students' language skill. However, students' challenging in reading, students can be active in learning English process which requires a best deal of skill and practice.

Besides, reading skill has a complex skill in learning English that can be a challenge and problem for a teacher and a student. A Teacher is often confused about choosing the best teaching technique, or media to overcome the students' problems in reading. By all these problem that teachers' face in reading English, thus as a teacher should have clear understanding about how to implementing the best way to interact the students in learning English is the students must be interest first in learning English especially in reading English. Because of that, the students' would be enjoyed and fun while learning English and students can gain more their reading ability in English.

From the descriptions above, interest in reading means a person's desire to read that because of the need to obtain information or knowledge. In other words, interest in reading is a powerful and deep concern accompanied by feelings of pleasure on reading activities that lead one to read on their own accord. As for the aspect of reading interests include reading pleasure, awareness of the benefits of reading, reading frequency and the number of books that have ever read.

In addition, it is the same statement of Ms. X as a teacher of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta, which is that the students of grade VIII have a lack of reading enthusiastic, it means that the students could not improve their English ability especially in reading English. Because of they thought that reading English is difficult and being bored. So, this problem is actually happened in English classroom. So, as a teacher have to influence the students to interest in learning English especially in reading English.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research was held at SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta in the Academic Year of 2024/2025. It is on Jl. W.Z Yohannes No.54, RT 03/ RW 07, Purwodiningratan, Kecamatan Jebres, Kota Surakarta, Central Java. From December 2023 to June 2024, this research was carried out. The researcher presented the correlational

research between students' reading interest and students' reading English ability in the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta in this research. This research is based on quantitative study. Thus, this research was conducted by the process of analyzing and collecting the data in numeric form. In this research was conducted to determine the correlation between two variables, students' reading interest as the independent variable and the students' reading English ability as a dependent variable. Therefore, the used of descriptive quantitative research to described, explained, the situations, or various research variables according to events which could be photographed, observed, and which could be expressed through documentary materials. As the data source, primary and secondary are used. The researcher employed a questionnaire and reading test to the students to collect the data.

The researcher used likert scale to measure the questionnaire especially for students' reading interest variable, and Suharsimi Arikunto's categories reading achievement to measure the students' reading ability for the second variable. To validate the instruments, the researcher used a validity test to know the items of instruments are valid or not. According to Zaenal Arifin (2012) Validity is a degree of accuracy of the instrument used to measure what is to be measured. And this research used SPSS 25 version to help calculated the validity test of questionnaire and reading test. In this research, the researcher measured the reliability test also. The reliability test using The Cronbach's Alpha formula by using SPSS 25 version.

To answer the research hypothesis that has been formulated, if there is a significant correlation between students' reading interest and students reading ability in the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta, then the result data research from questionnaire and reading test were processed by the following steps:

- 1) To answer the firs problem of the research, students' reading interest is using percentage of categories of questionnaire. To
- 2) find out the result, the researcher is using SPSS 25 version to measure the mean, median,

- 3) maximum score, minimum score, and the average percentage score of the students' answer. And the result was analyzed by the percentage formula according to Riduwan (2003):

INTERVAL	CRITERIA
0	Very weak
21 – 40	Weak
41 – 60	Enough
	Strong
81 – 100	Very Strong

- 2) To answer the second problem of the research, students' reading English ability is using Suharsimi Arikunto's formula to measure the students' reading ability in the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta:

$$S = \frac{R}{N} \times 100$$

- 3) To answer the third problem, which means this research is to find out the positive significant correlation between two variables, they are students' reading interest and reading English ability in the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta. Thus, the data was analyzed by using Product Moment formula according to Suharsimi Arikunto's (2015:87):

$$r_{xy} = \frac{N \sum XY - (\sum X)(\sum Y)}{\sqrt{(N \sum X^2 - (\sum X)^2)(N \sum Y^2 - (\sum Y)^2)}}$$

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The discussion based on the research findings is presented in this part. It is concerned about correlation between students' reading interest towards reading ability in the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta. Three problems formulated by the researcher. It is concerned with of how the implementing students' reading interest in a English classroom towards students' reading ability may be used to teach narrative text material and the activity can be done while there was students' interest in reading English.

Result

1. Students' reading interest for Learning English in the Eight Grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta. The research instrument which is used in collecting the data was Students' reading interest (variable X) in teaching learning English questionnaire. The questionnaires based on indicators
2. of using Students' reading interest and reading ability in learning teaching English and they consist of 30 items, and the item has five options on scale from 1 to 5, with 1 (strongly disagree), 2 (disagree), 3 (neutral), 4 (agree), 5 (strongly agree), the researcher adopted the instrument in intrinsic and extrinsic from interview with English teacher, to find out relation students' reading ability and students' reading interest in learning English

Table 4.1 Categories of Questionnaire

(Riduwan, 2003)

INTERVAL	CRITERIA
0	Very weak
21 – 40	Weak
41 – 60	Enough
61 – 80	Strong
81 – 100	Very Strong

Table 4.2 The Result of Questionnaire Students' Reading

Interest

Total Score	107 – 140
Maximum score	150
Average Percentage	84,4

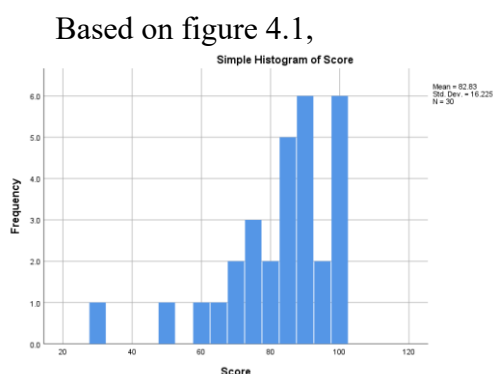
3. Students' Reading Ability of the Eight Grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta.

Measuring the level of students' reading ability (variable Y) 30 students of Eight Grade Students at SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta. This test consists of 20

questions that has been passed by several process in validity test. This process got the result about the data by using Ms. Excel 2019. the questions have been passed reliability process by using SPSS 25 that to find out this test and questions is appropriate to this grade.

After doing several processes, in the end the researcher got the result of reading ability test that have been tested at Eight grade students at SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta. The researcher showed the result by this data below:

Figure 4.1 Graphic of result of reading ability scores



it could be seen that from 30 students, only one student got score 30 and 45, one student got score 60 and 65, two students got score 70, three students got score 75, two students got score 80, five students got score 85, six students got score 90, two students got score 95, and six students got excellent score 100.

For statistic result of reading test in the eight grade, it can be seen:

Table 4.3 The Result of Reading Test in a Class

N	30
Mean	82,83
Median	85
Mode	100
Variance	254,47
StandardDev	15,95
Minimum	30
Maximum	100

Depends on the Table above, it could be shown that N of reading ability test in eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta especially a random sample of class VII A, B, C was 30 students, mean of was 82.83, median was 85, mode was 100, standard deviation was 15.95, variance was 254.47, minimum was 30, and maximum was 100. It showed that students' reading ability while students' reading interest.

4. There is a significant correlation between Students' reading interest towards Reading ability of the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta
- 5.

After the research got the two data and processed them in previous explanation, the next step was taken by the researcher to determined whether the two data Students' reading interest (Variable X) and Reading Ability (Variable Y) there was in relationship or not. Thus, this research was correlated with Pearson's Product Moment Formula.

Discussion

This section discussed about the finding of the research. The research was create at SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta, especially at the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta by distributed questionnaires and reading test to the students. In this research, the researcher formulated 3 problem statements.

1. Students' reading interest for learning English in the Eight Grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta.

The integration of teachers and students becomes a necessity on education yo meet the requirements of 21st century colorful interface, avatars and music provide students a similar experience as a game does. Thus, the discussion above the researcher concluded that Students' reading interest is best way in learning that provides a lot of influence in there that makes learning process more interactive and interesting.

Depends on the questionnaires and reading test, it can be described that the eight grade students, especially the 30 respondents of students SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta that very interesting reading together in learning English during learning and teaching process. And the students more active and more

interacting when learning and teaching process do. And reading interest is very helpful for students and teacher to interact and communicate each other when learning and teaching English in a classroom. Students and teacher are easier in learning English especially to enrich the students interest in reading Ability.

2. Students' Reading Ability of the Eight Grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta.

Reading Ability is priority skill that every students have to be mastered because, by reading students can gain a lot of information by themselves in learning (Widiowati & Kurniasih, 2018). This statement related to the research that concluded by Ismail et al., (2017), reading is receptive skill that students have to be essential in reading mastered because students can improve language skills in English and also in students' English vocabulary. Thus, as the researcher told before that the best way to get new ideas, information and experience that help to enrich the student's insight is reading English skill. However, reading can challenge the students in an active process which requires a great deal of practice and skill.

Depends on the questionnaires' result and reading test, it can be concluded that the students' reading score of the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta especially for 30 respondents, the scores are quite good because when the researcher interviewed on the respondent, the respondents said that the respondent do the reading test seriously. So that, the respondent "D" got the higher score in reading test for narrative text material. And by the result of questionnaire, "D" concluded that very interesting and fun when learning English especially for reading English ability. "D" aware that interest in learning English and increasing reading ability is a must and to be mastered.

3. There is a Significant Correlation between Students' reading interest in Learning English towards Reading Ability of the Eight Grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta.

The previous research, the reading interesting was useful and effective as a method for students that could help them in their English learning especially for Reading English ability. Thus, students' reading interest and students'

reading ability was useful to find out the main idea in a short text and made the students to be focused in learning English.

The main purpose of interesting in reading English was so that students could influence and successful to study easily in learning English. Learning English is funnier and more interesting if you made something new and fresh such as interact the students interest. Means that, students and teacher will understand more about educational problem especially in reading English and interesting students' in learning English and will not be ignorant in the future especially in education case.

Based on the result explanation above, the researcher concluded that interesting in reading English was effective and work in Eight students to increase in Reading English ability at SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta. It could be seen in the mean of English scores of the students. The mean score was 82.83. Based on the mean of questionnaire in implementing quizizz at the Eight grade A, B, and C with percentage 84,4% answering agree.

After the researcher measured the score of students, it was known that 1 student got score 30 and 45, 1 student got score 60 and 65, 2 students got score 70, 3 students got score 75, 2 students got score 80, 5 students got score 85, 6 students got score 90, 2 students got score 95, and 6 students got score 100.

In summary, the researcher indicated that students' mean result of questionnaire of score students' reading interest in learning English at second grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta in academic year 2024/2025 in rating quality of implementation students' reading interest in learning English by average percentage is 84,4%. Over all, the students' result in reading interest on learning English SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta at second grade students' academic year 2024/2025 was very strong implementing during learning English.

Depends on the analyzing the data and testing the hypothesis, Normality test result and the average of Standard Deviation, null hypothesis (H_0) and alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted. Which means that the treatments had

influence of implementing students' reading interest as digital platform in reading English Ability of narrative text material, so that H_a is accepted.

The previous research, the use of students' reading interest was had benefits and effective as a learning English way for students that could help them in learning English especially for Reading English ability.

As a result of the findings, the researcher Concluded that students' reading interest has relation towards reading English ability in learning English and be able to help students better in learning English.

The main goal of interesting in reading English was so that students could continue to study easily in this international era. Learning English is funnier and more interesting if the students interest. Means that, students and teacher will understand and care in education and will not be ignorant in the future especially in education case.

CONCLUSSION

1. Implementing students' reading interest for learning English in the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta with the material "Narrative Text" works in learning and teaching process. Eight grade students at SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta do the exercise in reading interest questionnaire seriously. All the students are interest in reading English when learning English in a classroom. They can more active and fun and also aware during learning and teaching process especially in learning English because they already know that English is important.
2. Students' reading ability of the eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta do the reading test seriously and it can increase the students' interest in reading ability. It can be seen from the mean score of the reading test.
3. Depends on the result in previous chapter, the following conclusion the researcher concluded that the null hypothesis (H_0) rejected and the alternative hypothesis (H_a) accepted. It can be seen from the from the result of r_o is 0.96 with degree of freedom (df) is 28. The result of r_{tabel} of degree of significance 5% = 0.374 and 1% = 0.4.78. Thus, $r_o > r_t$ (0.96 > 0.478 > 0.374. The result means that students' reading interest in learning English on students' reading ability

is positively correlated with their reading comprehension. The researcher infers that this researcher answered the research questions is “Is there any significant correlation between Students’ reading and reading ability in learning English at eight grade of SMP Negeri 14 Surakarta the academic year 2024/2025?” and the answer is there is a positive quite strong correlation between Students’ reading interest towards students’ reading ability in learning English.

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