

Incidental vocabulary acquisition through reading online newspapers by the third-semester students at the English Education Study Program of IAIN Palangka Raya

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Abstract

The objectives of the study are (a) To measure the effect of reading online newspapers toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally by the third semester students at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya and (b) To describe the third semester students' attitudes at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya towards learning words incidentally to acquire vocabulary through reading English texts and online newspapers. In this study, The researcher used quantitative method with quasi-experimental design. The population of the study were the third semester students at the English Education Study Program of IAIN Palangka Raya which consist of 45 students. The researcher used clustering sampling in this study and took two classes as control class and experiment class. Then, the result of this study showed that (a) there was significant effect of reading online newspapers toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally with t_{value} was higher than t_{table} ($-(2.179) \leq -6.150 \geq -(3.055)$). (b) The third semester students had positive attitudes at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya towards learning words incidentally to acquire vocabulary through reading English texts and online newspapers. Because of the mean score were for reading English texts was 3.62-4.00 and for reading online newspapers was 3.46-4.15 classified into *moderately agree* to *agree*. Beside that, the students give positive attitudes while reading process.

Keywords: Incidental Vocabulary, Vocabulary Acquisition, Incidental Vocabulary Acquisition, Reading, Online newspaper.

INTRODUCTION

Vocabulary is a central of the language, without any vocabulary nothing can be understood. According to Wilkins puts that without grammar very little can be conveyed, but without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed (Scott Thornbury, 2007).

In the field of vocabulary acquisition, according to Hasbun stated that reading is a strategy recommended for the learning of vocabulary. Reading is a main source of input for learners in the foreign language classroom (Wilaiwan Lebkatem, 2012).

Referring to reading, Erliana (2011, p. 49) states that reading activity begins when a reader tries to understand the meaning of the transferred message in the forms of literary and informational texts. Also, to understand all types of information in the whole texts, it requires either reading activity or ability to understand the content. Without the ability to understand it, the students are not able to absorb or comprehend a lot of information quickly, accurately and easily (Miftah, 2013, p. 21).

Based on the researcher's experience in reading class, students encounter new vocabulary in the reading material which given by lecturer. The lecturer gave the students text from her textbooks and asked them to found out the information which she wants the students found. She not gave the instruction to them to found out the new vocabulary, but naturally, the students encounter new vocabulary inside the text which given by her. Normally, to comprehend the text, the students guessed the new word in each sentences. But, any some of the students did not guessing it and only focused on the information which asked by lecturer without attention its vocabulary.

Besides, the students seem bored and uninterested to read it. So, to attract and help students to learn English is, by using authentic material such as newspaper, magazine or others authentic materials to improve their vocabulary acquisition incidentally. Afterwards, many researchers have agreed that the English newspaper has a variety of subject matter compared to textbook. This is because they reflect events of life in the world and this makes them real to students which textbooks are not (Juhari Sham bin Jusoh, 2016).

In this study, the researcher want to know is there any effect of reading online newspapers toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally and what are the students' attitudes towards learning words incidentally to acquire vocabulary through reading English texts and online newspapers. This study supports the theories of incidental vocabulary acquisition. Also, it could help

encourage teachers or lecturers to select the material and tasks that could improve students' vocabulary size.

METHOD

The type of this research was quantitative research using experimental research. The research design of this study was quasi-experimental design to measure the effect of one manipulated and controlled (independent) variable to another (dependent) variable. The population in this study is all of the students on the fifth semester of English students of English Study Program of Palangka Raya in the Academic year 2016/2017. Which is consist of 45 students. For determining the sample, the researcher used cluster random sampling. In this study, the researcher used two classes as sample which is consist about 27 students.

In collected the data, test and questionnaire were used in this research to answer the problem of the study. First, to measure the students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally through reading online newspapers, the researcher used vocabulary level test which suitable with this study. Second, to describe the students' attitudes towards learning words incidentally to acquire vocabulary through reading English texts and online newspapers, the researcher adapted Wilaiwan Lebkatem's questionnaire of incidental vocabulary acquisition. Rating scale that was used in this study is Likert Scale. For the first questionnaire, the scales ranges from 'Strongly agree' to ' Strongly Disagree' and they were code as (Strongly Agree=5, Agree=4, Moderately Agree=3, Disagree=2, Strongly Disagree=1). Total of the statements are 29 items, consist of 15 items about reading English texts and 14 items about reading online newspapers.

The researcher was conducted a tryout and then analyzed it to get its validity and reliability. The test and questionnaire were used as an instrument to collect the data. To analyze the data, the researcher was used used SPSS program to make it easier. Then the researcher used the distribution (r table) for $\alpha = 0,05$ (significance of 5% or 0.05 is a standard measure that is commonly used in research). To measure the effect of independent variable toward dependent variable, the researcher was used the paired sample t test.

FINDINGS

This section presents a discussion of the study findings. For ease of reference, the findings are discussed based on the research objectives and research questions. First, the result of the students' vocabulary acquisition

incidentally through reading based on vocabulary level test. Based on the SPSS 18.0, the result shown below:

Paired Samples Statistics

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1 Before Reading Online Newspapers	11,54	13	4,034	1,119
After Reading Online Newspapers	22,31	13	6,074	1,685

Based on the calculation above showed that the mean score before reading online newspapers and after reading newspapers was increased (11.54 to 22.31). it meant that any improvement of the students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally.

Paired Samples Correlations

	N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1 Before Reading Online Newspapers & After Reading Online Newspapers	13	,272	,369

Based on the calculation above showed that significant value was higher than alpha ($0.369 \geq 0.05$) or t_{table} was lower than t_{value} ($0.272 \leq 0.602$) which is $(db) = 13-2 = 11$. Thus, there is no significant correlation between before reading online newspapers and after reading newspapers. It meant that any influence or effect each other.

Paired Samples Test

	Paired Differences				T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower				Upper

Paired Samples Test

	Paired Differences					T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Pair 1 Before Reading Online Newspapers - After Reading Online Newspapers	-10,769	6,313	1,751	-14,584	-6,954	-6,150	12	,000

Based on the calculation above showed that significant score was (.000), so it meant that the data were significant. Because of the score of $t_{table} \leq t_{value}$ in 5% and 1% significant value ($-(2.179) \leq -6.150 \geq -(3.055)$) with degree of freedom (df) is 12 (13-1).

Beside that, the researcher also used mean formula to know the students' attitudes. The mean score of the students attitude showed that the students' respond in reading English texts and reading online newspaper were *moderately agree* to *agree* respectively. The mean score for reading English texts was 3.62-4.00 and for reading online newspapers was 3.46-4.15. Beside that, the students gave positive attitudes while in teaching learning process also.

DISCUSSION

The result of analysis showed that there was significant effect of reading online newspapers toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally by the third semester students of the English Education Department at IAIN Palangka Raya. It was shown that reading online newspapers gave significant effect toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally. With the significant value was higher than alpha ($-(2.179) \leq -6.150 \geq -(3.055)$).

There were several reasons why reading online newspaper can effect to students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally, those are:

First, by reading, the students can improve their knowledge and ability about every thing what they want. They can find the important information, the unknown words, they also can interpret what they read using their prior

knowledge. The finding was suitable with K. Michael Hibbard & Elizabeth A. Wagner state in *Assessing and Teaching Reading Comprehension and Writing* in the chapter one page one *Reading* is a complex behavior decoding words, developing fluency, and improving comprehension. Beside that, students can gain the unknown words incidentally. The finding suitable with Huckin and Coady state in Wilaiwan that incidental vocabulary acquisition through reading refers to the acquisition of unknown vocabulary as a by-product of reading.

Second, by reading online newspapers, the students can guess the unknown words from the context, because of the contain of newspaper related with their life. Thus, the students can improve their vocabulary acquisition easily. The finding appropriate with the finding of Juhari Sham's study which used newspapers as an authentic reading material indicated that authentic reading materials were effective in helping the students to enhance and enrich their vocabulary acquisition.

So, by reading online newspapers can improve their vocabulary size because of the students can acquire new vocabulary while they reading it, incidentally.

The last, from this finding, students showed the positive attitude while or after reading, not only reading English texts but also online newspapers. However, not over all the learning process had positive attitude especially in the term of how to guess the unknown words itself. This finding support the previous study from Wilaiwan' finding on her study that the result obtained on the 29-item questionnaire reveal that the subjects had positive attitudes towards learning words through reading both type of the texts. However they showed some concerns about this vocabulary learning process and found it disconcerting especially when they did not know the word surrounding the target words and the content of the text. Beside that, the students gave positive attitude when they followed the teaching learning process. Because, to measure the students attitudes which used questionnaire is not enough, but the process is important one.

CONSLUSION

1. Based on the calculation using Paired Sample T Test and mean formula the result showed that there was significant effect of reading online newspapers of the third semester students of The English Education Study Program of IAIN Palangka Raya. It was shown that the result showed that t_{value} was higher than t_{table} $(-2.179) \leq -6.150 \geq -(3.055)$). It meant that reading online newspapers is effective toward the students'

- vocabulary acquisition incidentally of the third semester students at the English Education Study Program at IAIN Palangka Raya.
2. The students had positive attitude toward incidental vocabulary learning to acquire vocabulary. However, any some concerns about it. Because of the students respond of questionnaire based on mean score was *moderately agree* to *agree*. The mean score for reading English texts was 3.62-4.00 and for reading online newspapers was 3.46-4.15. Not only from the responds of students to each items of questionnaire but also when the students followed the learning process they also gave positive attitude.

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