

The Effect of Small Group Discussion in Teaching Reading at SMAS Imelda

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ABSTRACT

This study, entitled “The Effect of Small Group Discussion in Teaching Reading at SMA S IMELDA” aimed to investigate the effect of the use small group discussion in improving students’ reading skill and students’ responses towards the implementation of it. Small group discussion is a group discussion which consists of six or fewer students. The study employed a quasi-experimental design. The study involved the grade XI students as the participants, which were divided into two groups; experimental group and control group. The data of the study were obtained through pre-test, treatment and post-test questionnaire. Then, data obtained from treatment were classified and analyzed in order to find out students’ responses towards the use of small group discussion method in teaching reading. The quantitative finding of the study reveals that significance value is lower than 0.05, ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$), which indicates that small group discussion method effectively improved students’ reading skill. In addition, data obtained from questionnaire shows that most students agreed that small group discussion can improve their motivation in learning reading, increase their participation in the class, and build up their responsibility to finish the tasks given by teacher. Meanwhile, students stated also that most of them prefer to use their mother language (L1) than English to interact each other. Some of them argued that they prefer work individually in accomplishing the tasks. Furthermore, it is highly recommended for some researchers or teacher to put more attention to their students during discussion.

Key word: *Small Group, Discussion, Reading*

INTRODUCTION

English as an international language is used in most international events and also used as a medium for the flow of information science, technology and culture. As we understand that learning a foreign language is more difficult than learning the national language or mother tongue. This is because the foreign language has a completely different aspects and the system that must be understood by the students or learners, such as pronunciation, spelling, and cultural background of the language.

There are four skills in English language: Speaking skill, Listening skill, Reading skill and Writing skill. Especially for reading skill, it is so important in english learning, because it develops the mind. The mind is a muscle. It needs exercise. Understanding the written word is one way the mind grows in its ability.

Reading is one of the basic skills of the students should master them at the end of their learning process is educational levels. Azis : 2012 Defined reading as an interactive process between readers and texts that result in reading fluency. By reading we can communicate with other people through written because reading is an interactive process between language and mind as interactive process, successful reading will be influenced by reading strategy. Another definition of reading proposed by Nengsih, Hartati: 2012 “reading is result of the interaction between the perception of graphic symbols that represent language and reader’s language skill and knowledge of the word. In addition, Grabe and Stoller: 2011 explain reading is the ability to draw meaning from the printed page and interpret the information appropriately.

Reading

There many linguists that heve defined reading. Here will be delivered some of them. Umiyati: 2011 “Reading is an active and interactive activity to reproduce the word mentally and vocally and tries to understand the content of reading text. It is important to bear in mind that reading is not an invariant skill, that there are different types of reading skills, which correspond to the many different purposes we have for reading”. Based on definition above, the researcher concludes that reading is the combination of some components that result one action that is known as reading. In addition, reading involves the internal factor of the reader. The internal factor mean everything which come from the reader that can result an interaction in the reading process.

The external factor mean everything, which has relationship with reading material and the environment where the reading is taking place. According to Isnawati: 2010 “Reading is the process of creating meaning that involves: (a) the reader's existing knowledge; (b) the text information; and (c) the reading context”. The uderstanding of reading comes from the intraction between the words that are written and how they get the knowledge outside the text. Another definition of reading proposed by According to Nengsih: 2012 “Reading is essential because trough reading activity, the students can improve knowledge, information, news, attitudes, and wise in thinking”.

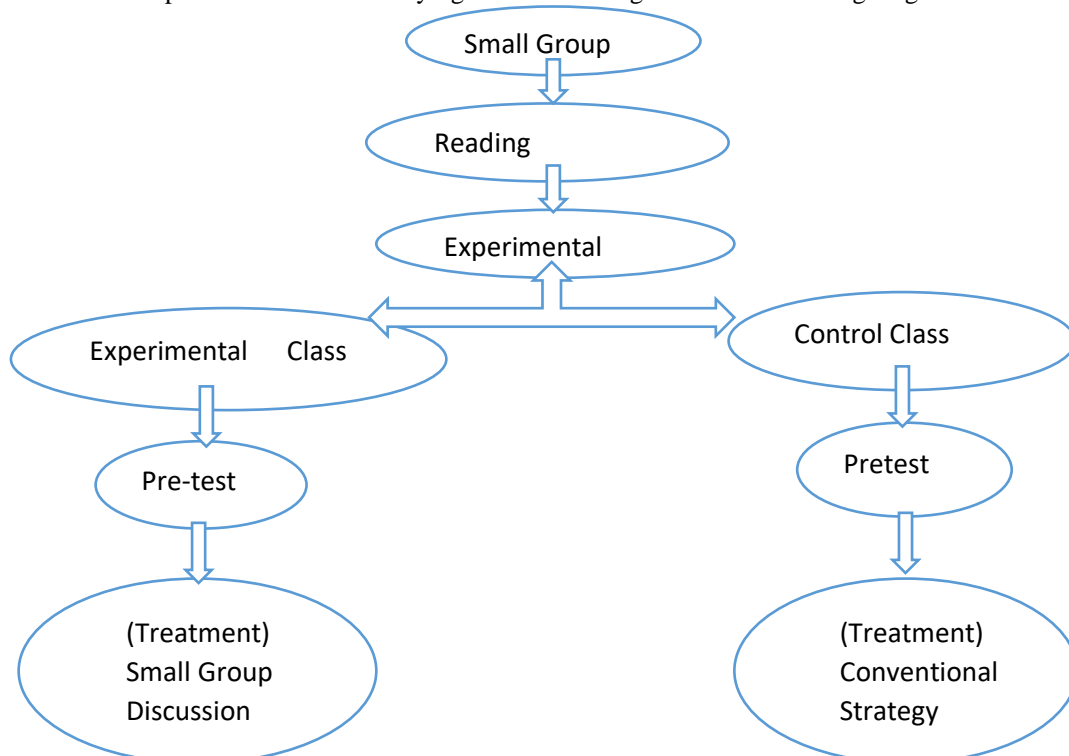
Small Group Discussion

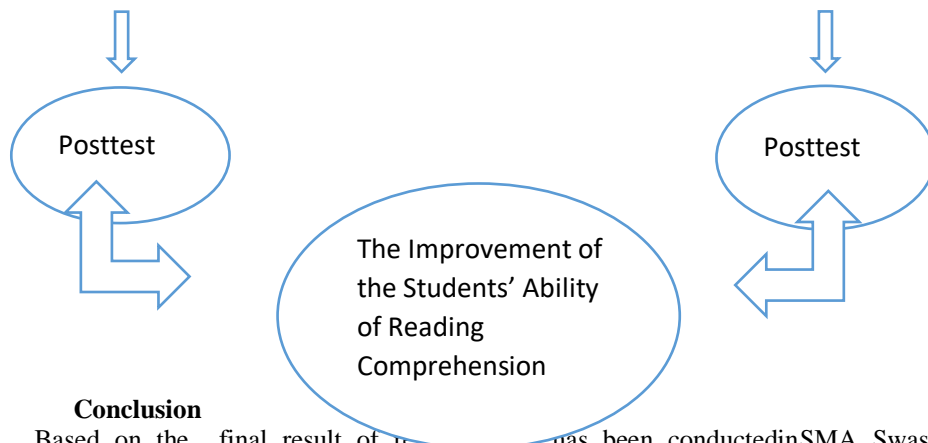
Small Group Discussion is one of the cooperative learning techniques in which students work in groups of three or four. A small group is a small member of human, work together through interaction whose interdependent relationship allows them to achieve a mutual goal.

According to Ness (2010). In Small Group Discussion there are three or more people interacting face to face, with or without an assigned leader in such a way that each person influences, and is influenced by another person in the group. Kamran (AgusRahmat: 2017) gives solution that students should be arranged so that each student can see all other members of his group and can be heard without shouting and disturbing the other groups. Two opposite tendencies exist with regard to the number of people in a group. The larger the group, the greater is the pool of talent and experience available for solving problems or sharing the effort.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework underlying the research is given in the following diagram :





Conclusion

Based on the final result of research that has been conducted in SMA Swasta Imelda Tanjung Medan especially to the student on eleventh grade the summary mean of score in the experimental group was 85.73 from a maximum score of 96 and a minimum score of 80 and an average score of the control group of 71.66 from a maximum score of 78 and a minimum score of 64. After that, in this research hypothesis test is accepted (H_a), from the statistical calculation process obtained the value of $t_{count} = 25.1$ then the price of $t_{arithmetic}$ compared with the price of t_{table} with a significant level $\alpha = 0.05$ obtained $t_{table} = 1.16$, so $t_{count} > t_{table}$ ($25.1 > 1.16$) so that it can be concluded that H_a accepted.

Suggestion

Based on this research, the researcher can provide useful advice:

1. Through this research, it is expected that school's Committee will develop method in learning process to improve students' in English lesson especially on reading comprehension
2. The teacher is expected to be able to choose the right model in the ongoing teaching and learning process.
3. It is hoped that this research can be a reference source for future researchers.

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