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# A STUDY ON STUDENTS' NEED FOR A READING METHOD TO READ SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL ARTICLES

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## ***Abstract***

*Scientific journal article are necessary for students, especially for the last year students who are in the process of preparing their thesis. Reading scientific journal articles is challenging for them because scientific journal article have different characteristics from other genre of text and sources. Students often have difficulty in understanding and obtaining information they need from the article, especially when they read an English article. Therefore, a reading method is needed to help the students to understand the article and find some information relevant to their thesis. In addition, students are expected to understand the issue contained in a journal article so that they do not just quote what sentences are appropriate for their thesis but they can develop ideas from the article to be written in their thesis or final assignment. This study was conducted to explore the students' need for reading method to read scientific journal articles. Whereas in this case the last year students of the English Education Department of STKIP PGRI Nganjuk became the object of research so this need analysis could be on target. The data collection techniques used by the researchers are observations and questionnaires which are given to the students then the researchers identified the student needs from questionnaires that have been obtained. The research result shows that the students need an appropriate reading method to understand the information from the journal article. Besides, they also need it to help them construct a new passage based on their understanding. The results of this needs analysis will be used as reference for the next study on development of Jot Spot with Visual Note Taking methods to improve students' reading skill in understanding scientific journal articles.*

***Keywords: students' need analysis, scientific journal article, reading skill***

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Reading scientific journal articles is an activity which should be done by those who want to get more information from any scope to upgrade their knowledge. Scientific journal article is kind of publication which contains findings of research and it usually states different academic disciplines. It may consists of original research, re-analyses of research, reviews of literature in a specific area, proposals of untested theories, or just opinion pieces (American Psychological Association, 2019). Hadju (2014) explains that a scientific article is kind of written scientific information which can be research results, thesis, or it can be a popular written article in a newspaper and magazine but the highest scientific level is those which are published in a scientific journal. There are also some processes of getting opportunity to publish a journal article as the quality control of the article that will be published. It means that all the published articles have been reviewed by some experts because as a scientific article they may become sources for the further research.

Reading itself is an activity of absorbing some information from visual media which provide written language. Snow et al (2002) defines reading as an activity of constructing meaning through written language between reader and writer. Relating to the definition of reading, it can be concluded that the main purpose of reading activity is about understanding a text. In other words, reading is related to the skill which must be improved by a method or strategies. A reading method is needed to help the students obtain the simple way to understand a text including scientific journal articles which have specific purpose and term.

Reading scientific journal article is also crucial for the university students especially for the last year students. The last year students need to find more information about their academic discipline to conduct their thesis. In conducting their thesis students must analyse the newest phenomenon because basically a research is conducted based on the problems faced by the research subject. It means that a problem comes in the present which requires students to get an up to date information and knowledge so they are able to find an appropriate solution for the problems. Beside, the last year students are expected to write a qualified research which accomplishes the ideal scientific journal article. In learning about how to write a good journal article, once the students need to figure out how a journal article can state the research finding and the theory clearly. It is practicable for the students because they have an opportunity to grab the experience about how to deliver ideas in a scientific journal article. The other reasons why students need to read a scientific journal article is that they have to be able to analyze a phenomenon or some research findings correctly. Since reading a scientific journal article provides the students a pressure to analyze the content, it will train their critical thinking of finding a problem to be analyzed in their research. Reading a scientific journal article also affect the students to learn more about the use of scientific language. Although most of university students are accustomed to join in a scientific activity especially for the English Education students, but they have to notice that the language used in a scientific journal article are different from other genres of text. There are many terms should be understood both by the reader and the writer to get the information from the article.

In this study, the researcher explains the phenomenon of the last year students in reading scientific journal articles which always become a crucial problem for the students of English Education Department of STKIP PGRI Nganjuk. This research aims to describe the students' need for a method to read scientific journal article since reading scientific journal have different characteristic and features from other sources like background knowledge of the reader about the term, vocabulary, purpose, focus to research, highly specific topic or perspective, presented in standardized form, and lack of visual.

There are some reasons why the researcher conduct this study, they are; the last year students of English Education Department of STKIP PGRI Nganjuk get lack of references from journal article because they are stuck in problem of understanding the article. The impact is that the references used by the students are from the 80's, 90's, and some 2000's. They just follow the references used by their senior to conduct their thesis. It affects the quality of English Department students' thesis because the information and knowledge cannot be improved. When students reading the journal article actually they can predict what the article about, but the problem comes when they have to read the whole article and find the information which they need in their thesis. It indicates that the students have low vocabulary mastery so they cannot understand the essential information from the article. Perfetti and Staffura (2014) argue that knowing word meaning is instrumental in reading activity. This statement shows that without knowledge of word meaning, the students will get difficulties to understand the article. In addition, scientific journal articles are written using scientific language which is rarely used by students in their daily activity.

Those problems above show that there is a missing component in teaching learning process of reading which affect the students' skill especially in reading scientific journal article. The most significant affect from those problems are that the students finally are not able to retell and construct a new idea for their thesis based on the information from the article they read. In addition, students get difficulties to understand the issue contained in a journal article so that they just quote sentences which are appropriate for their thesis but they cannot develop the ideas. Reed & Vaughn (2012) argues that retell is an activity which is related to the reading skill result. This activity can be used as an indicator to measure the students' reading skill. Retell is not just about telling something orally but also written. In the other words, when students can understand the information from the article, they also can retell or construct it to be a new passage by adding their own opinion.

The previous research by Antoni (2010) explains the importance of reading strategies to guide the students' reading activity. It is explained that the most important reading purpose is to get the meaning from the text, in other words reading activity is an activity with the goal of getting information, both explicit and implicit information. The finding of the research reports that the students have good responses to the reading strategies used by their teachers. The teachers are also suggested to give guidance for the students who have low skill to help them prepare the reading activity. From the research findings it can be concluded that teacher and lecturer must increase their knowledge and experiences about reading strategies or method to reveal the students' reading problems.

## 2. METHOD

This study is the beginning part of R&D research which is included to the pre-developing step (Sugiyono, 2010). This study is a qualitative descriptive research which explains about some phenomenon by analyzing data from observations and questionnaires then concluding the result based on the research purpose. The research was conducted in English Education Department of STKIP PGRI Nganjuk in the academic year of 2018/2019. The subject of this research was the students of eight semester of English Education Department of STKIP PGRI Nganjuk while the object was the students' need of a reading method to read scientific journal article. The researcher used observation and questionnaires as the instruments of collecting the data. The observation sheet was used to know the real condition of the students when they were in process of reading scientific journal article. After observing the condition, the researcher distributed the questionnaires to the students and lecturer. Questionnaire is an instrument which is used to know the respondents' respond about some statements related to the research. The use of questionnaire is effective to keep the objectivity of the students' respond which means the data can be more valid.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the observation which was done by the researcher to the situation when the students read scientific journal article, it was got that most of them got difficulties in understanding the article. They chose to find other sources or reading the theory that had been written in the previous research. The students did not want to waste their time to read many scientific journal articles just for finding a newest theory about the topic they write. In this case they argued that reading the theory from the previous research was a simple solution for them, they just cheat the theory then copy the reference from the references list. In addition, researcher found that the reference used by the students are from old book, journal article or just copy the other theories from thesis in the library. There were few students who tried to read and find the theory from the newest journal article but they also had problem in understanding some strange terms. One of the scientific journal article's characteristic is having special terms and use scientific language which cannot be understood easily by those who read the article rarely. Besides, the students also found that scientific journal article also had different structure with thesis. They often read thesis to get other references and idea for their own thesis but when they read journal article they had just known that a scientific journal article was simpler than a thesis but it was more complicated to be understood.

The researcher also found that most of the students did not make a note for the information they got from the article. The students just read the article without knowing what they had read, what they got from the text, and what they would with the information. In fact, making a note while they are reading a scientific journal article is very important for them. By making a note they can notice the important part of the article or they just write what information they need for the thesis. From the observation result, it can be concluded that the students do not have a rule for their reading activity, it can be seen from the way they read the article and how they take the important information from the article.

The questionnaires for students are divided into four main indicators, they are; the students' need for reading scientific journal articles, the students' need for understanding the structure of scientific journal article, the students' need for a method to reading scientific journal article, and the students' need for visual note taking to record their information from the article. The students answer the questionnaires by ticking the columns of SS if they completely agree with the statement, S if they just agree, KS if they less agree, and TS if they do not agree with the statements. Here the result of questionnaires for the students:

Table 1 The Result of students' need analysis

	Need for understanding the structure	Need for reading scientific journal article	Need for a method to read	Need for visual note taking
<b>SS</b>	71.4%	76.2%	100%	90.5%
<b>S</b>	14.3%	23.8%	0%	9.5%
<b>KS</b>	14.3%	0%	0%	0%
<b>TS</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%

1

Note :	
SS	: Sangat setuju (completely agree)
S	: Setuju (agree)
KS	: Kurang setuju (less agree)
TS	: Tidak setuju (disagree)

From the table above, it can be seen that most of the students of English Education Department of STKIP PGRI Nganjuk actually need to read scientific journal article. They want to have other references for their thesis which come from the newest sources. The lecturer had stated that for preparing the students' need for finding sources for their thesis they had been taught how to discover an appropriate theory from journal article. It was told by lecturer of Reading Comprehension V when she was interviewed by the researcher. She said that there was no a specific method to guide the students in reading scientific journal articles. In teaching and learning process, the lecturer provided a material about the characteristic of journal article then asked them to find one. The lecturer asked the students to analyze the characteristic of the article by knowing the structure of it. But actually the students' need was more than just knowing the structure but also understanding the article. So that is why the students' need for reading scientific journal article is higher than their need for understanding the structure. Even understanding the article structure is also important for them but the most essential part is about understanding the information which comes from the article.

In addition, students also need for a method to guide them reading and understanding the scientific journal article. It can be seen from the table that all students of English Education Department of STKIP PGRI Nganjuk completely agree about the developing a method to read scientific journal article. Based on the questionnaires, they need a method to read an article because most of the articles they read as sources for their thesis were written in English. It means that when they read the article they will find some strange terms and also scientific language in English which are little bit difficult for them to be understood. Besides, the method that they used before cannot handle their problem because the method did not have directed steps which can build the students' understanding of a scientific concept. This is crucial for them because when students have found the concept of the theory they are able to develop the information for their thesis. So, they do not need to cheat the statements from the article which means that it will reduce the plagiarism case in conducting a thesis or writing an article.

The students also need a guidance of how to predict and infer from information of an article. It is related to the citing activity which most of the students still copy and paste a statement from the other articles or at least they can paraphrase what information they got from other articles. In this case, the students' vocabulary mastery is tested. They need to clarify the some strange terms that are used in the article and also when they find a complicated concept. Clarifying the problems with partner and experts is useful to help students develop and understand the concept clearly. The students also agree about a statement from the questionnaires which states that the method they used before cannot guide them finding important thing from the article and help them developing their opinion.

The most crucial problem of reading a scientific journal article is about taking note. One of the researcher question was how the students could remember what they have just read if they did not make any notes, and how they can construct the information from the article if they did not write any notes. Making note is a simple thing to do but it brings a crucial impact. Most of the students did not realize that when they read something they need to remember the important thing of it. It is not enough to remember all the important information without note them on a paper. Visual note taking is a process of drawing ideas by using doodle or the other sketches to make the students memorize the information easily (Smith, 2018). Making note with illustration is effective for the students who are unfocused about the material they read because by drawing something or getting stimulation from the visual note, they will know what they should write. Below is a figure which explains how the students need for getting an appropriate method to read scientific journal article due theory and information from the article are useful for the students' thesis or other assessments.

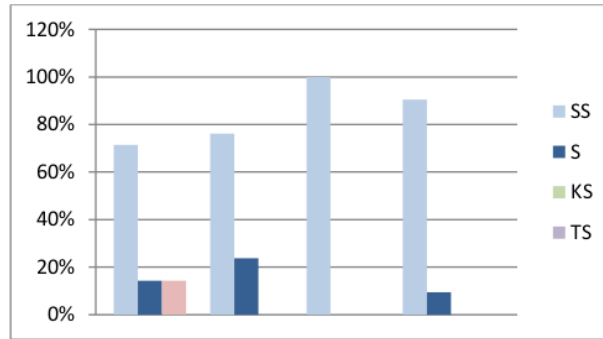


Figure 1 the result of students' need analysis

From the figure, it can be concluded that developing a new method is necessary to improve students' reading skill of scientific journal article. The method is used to discover the essential part of the theory in the article. Providing the newest references must be done by the students to enhance their research quality. This research results will be used as reference for the next study on development of Jot Spot with Visual Note Taking methods to improve students' reading skill in understanding scientific journal articles.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The last year students of English Education Department faced some problems of finding and understanding theory from scientific journal article even they realized that conducting a research needed the up to date information. These problems forced the researcher to conduct a study about the students' need analysis for a method to read scientific journal article by doing an observation and distributing questionnaires to the students. The results show that the students of English Education Department STKIP PGRI Nganjuk thought that reading scientific journal article was crucial to improve their knowledge. Besides, reading scientific journal article is necessary to be sources in conducting their thesis. They also need to get a method which can guide them to reach appropriate theory for their thesis. From the questionnaires it can be concluded that most of the students completely agree about a development of a method to read scientific journal article which also provide a visual note taking to help them remember the information or theory from the article.

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