

ABSTRACT

MENTARI DWI SAPUTRI. 2018. Improving Students' Reading Comprehension through Semantic Mapping Strategy at the First Grade of SMAN 4 Pekanbaru. Thesis

Key words: Reading Comprehension, Semantic Mapping

Semantic mapping is a strategy that can be applied by the teacher in the classroom to help students to comprehend the text by drawing their mind into patterns that connected each other. The objective of this research were to know whether the semantic mapping strategy can improve the students' reading comprehension of the descriptive text and to find out the factors that can influence the students' reading comprehension at the first grade students of SMAN 4 Pekanbaru.

This research was categorized as action research. The actions were implemented in two cycles based on the class schedule with the process of planning, action, observation and reflection for each cycle. The reseracher worked collaboratively with the English teacher and 36 students, consisted of 20 females and 16 males of X scince 4 class at SMAN 4 Pekanbaru in the academic year of 2017/2018. The data of this research were in the form of qualitative and quantitative data.

The research findings showed that the mean of the students' score in base score test was 59,17 (Fair) while in cycle 1's test was 75.14 (Good) and in cycle 2's test was 84.72 (Very Good). From these data, the students achieve their improvements in comprehending the descriptive text from base score to cycle 2. Meanwhile, the factors that influenced the students' improvements in reading comprehension of descriptive text were the selection materials that given by the researcher, the ways of the researcher teach and manage the class, and the students' motivation in learning reading.