

ABSTRACT

IMPROVING STUDENTS' READING COMPREHENSION USING MAKE A MATCH TECHNIQUE AT THE VIII 3 GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP NEGERI 3 PRINGSEWU

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Reading is one of important skills in English. Reading is a complex cognitive process of decoding symbols in order to construct or derive meaning (reading comprehension). The problem of this research was that the students still had difficulties to understand the reading text. And the objectives of this research were (1) to describe how the *make a match technique* improves the students' reading comprehension achievement (2) to describe the students' opinion of *make a match technique* in learning reading comprehension (3) to describe how *make a match technique* makes the students active in learning reading comprehension. The *Make a Match technique* was implemented as alternative technique to improve the students' reading comprehension skill.

The subject of this research was the VIII3 grade students of SMPN 3 Pringsewu. This research was conducted in two cycles. An action research was carried out in order to improve the students' reading comprehension by using *Make a Match Technique* in the class.

The result of this research showed that *Make a Match Technique* improved the students' reading comprehension. There were two indicators that were used in this research, i.e. learning process and learning product. Learning process showed that more of the students were lack of vocabulary. Giving good strategy in learning vocabulary was done to overcome the problem of learning process. In learning product, there was improvement of students' reading comprehension achievement in group discussion about 31,14% and 34,61% in individual test.

The conclusion were drawn that there were an improvement of the students' reading comprehension after the *Make a Match Technique* implemented. The students also believed that *Make a Match Technique* made them easier to comprehend the reading text faster. Therefore, the *Make a Match Technique* could be recommended to be used to English teachers to improve the students' reading comprehension.