

ABSTRACT

READING DIFFICULTIES AND STRATEGIES BY THE EIGHT GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP NEGERI 08 TULANG BAWANG BARAT: A THINK ALOUD TECHNIQUE

By
Ahmad Ad Dairaby

Reading is one of language skills the junior high school students need to master. In spite the fact that students have learned reading, they find it difficult to understand English texts. The current research was to explore reading difficulties and strategies particularly encountered by the eighth grade students of SMPN 08 Tulang Bawang Barat: Based on Think Aloud Protocol Analysis.'

The current research is the descriptive qualitative research method. It particularly aimed to explore i) the differences of reading difficulties between male and female students, ii) the differences of reading strategies between male and female students. The subjects of the research were the six students, three male and three female students. The data were collected through Think Aloud Protocol and interviews.

The results showed that male and female students had difficulties in reading in terms of using context to determine word meanings. And in term of subcategories both males and females is to tried to first translate the English texts into *Bahasa Indonesia* to help them understand the texts more easily. Overall, the males and females relied more on global reading strategies than problem-solving or support strategies although they used different strategies in subcategories. However, males tended to confirm their guesses of the text, while females preferred to checking their understanding when encountering new information.

Keywords: Reading Difficulties, Reading Strategies, Think Aloud Protocol