STUDENTS’ READING INTEREST IN ONLINE JAPANESE COMICS AND THEIR ENGLISH TRANSLATION ABILITY

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Article History:
This research is aimed to find out how the students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics is, how their English translation ability is, and if there is a significance correlation between the students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics and their English translation ability. The sample of this research is 27 students who were taken by using purposive sampling technique. The students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics and their English translation ability are analyzed with quantitative approach. To collect data, the researcher used some instruments such as questionnaire and test. All the data are analyzed by using descriptive correlation method, with simple linear regression and Pearson’s product moment. The result of this research showed the students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics is in moderate level with the mean score at 77.2. Meanwhile, students’ translation ability is in good category with the mean score at 74.7. The correlation coefficient between both variables is $r_{xy} = 0.450$, while the result of $r_{t}$ on the degree of significance of 5% is 0.381 which means that $r_{xy}$ is bigger than $r_{t}$ (0.450 $>$ 0.381). From the result of data, it can be concluded there is a positive significance correlation and adequate between students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics and their English translation ability.
INTRODUCTION

Many types of book also affect someone’s reading interest. A person is more interested in reading text if it is not only full of text, but also accompanied by pictures or illustrations. There are many types of book that not only contain of text but also accompanied by pictures, like story books (fairy tales, fables), magazines, comics and many others. Those kinds of reading material are not just for children reading material but even adults can enjoy it. Although the story books, novels, magazines, comics are aimed to entertain the readers but have a very large role to someone’s reading interest. Comic has other components beside text, such as picture, speech balloons and boxes, onomatopoeias and non-pictorial icons. Those components are integrated to create the expectation effect toward the readers. One of popular comics is Japanese comics which present images to the general public that mainly for entertainment and fun.

The content of Japanese comics are not only about fantasy or things that tell about fictional, but also history, culture, economics, politics and instructions on how to cook is made in comic form. In addition, Japanese comics have many various genres, unlike American comics which 80% of American comics’ genre is superhero. This can be evidenced by both of genders and number of children, teenagers, college students and even adults are particularly enjoyed this one kind of reading materials.

In recent years, the Japanese comics (manga) have gained remarkable popularity outside Japan, particularly in the U.S. and Europe (Lee, 2009, p.1011). There might be a variety of driving forces for this phenomenon: Western society’s increasing fascination with contemporary popular culture in Japan; the critical and commercial success of Japanese animation (anime), which is often based on comics; Japanese governmental agencies’ support for manga-related studies and events overseas; and a variety of Japanese comics for girls, which immediately created a new rapidly growing market. Due to there are many of Japanese comics readers among young adults around the world includes Indonesia, Japanese comics are translated into English subtitle so they can enjoy reading them. Japanese comics which are translated into English are not only for entertainment but also can help student

Inayati Fitriyah Asrimawati

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broaden their knowledge, especially in vocabulary mastery. In educational field, comic can be used in the language class to increase the knowledge of students in language usage. The use of comics in instruction has several educational benefits for students, Carol L. Tilley, a professor of library and information science at the University of Illinois, believes that comics improve students reading comprehension, and foster vocabulary and a love of reading. In learning English, students cannot be separated from translation activity. Translation is used to understand what people say and express in their language, what people write in their letter or to communicate with other people. However, students cannot understand completely what they read if they do not understand the language that is used. For example, students are asked to read an English text and if they do not understand or do not even know the meaning of word, phrase or sentence, they will not understand what they read. Therefore, translation is needed to solving the problem.

The ability to translate well is an art. It requires special talent and training (Lado, 1961, p.261). Therefore, the translator should re-express the meaning of source language (SL) as exactly possible into target language (TL) that people can understand the message easily. From the explanation above, students can realize the need of competent translator. The competence can be obtained through formal and informal way, such as formal education, training, life experience, etc. One of formal educations that prepare its students not only be professional teachers but also able to translate many kind of English works, English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin puts translation as one of subjects that be taught to students. In translation subject students learn the theory of translation, such as definition of translation, methods of translation, procedures of translation, kind of translation styles and quality of good translation. According to Nida (as cited in Fitria, 2011, p. 2), the most important factor that determines the process of translation work is broad knowledge of the translator. It means the translator must know about many things that related to social-culture, technology, linguistic structure, etc. of both the country and community which was spoken in the original text as well as from the country where the translation result will be read.

In this study, the researcher decided to investigate the relationship between students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics and their English translation
ability due to the researcher discovered a fact that some students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin who read online Japanese comics have good score in translation subject.

The research about reading interest had been investigated by Adha Asvihand Noor (2015), a student of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin. The result of the research was there is a positive strong correlation between X variable (reading habit) and Y variable (translation ability). Another previous study is written by Lia Nurshohifah (2014) a student of English Department, State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta. The result of this research was there are correlation between three variables; X1 variable (reading interest), X2 (vocabulary mastery), and Y variable (reading ability on descriptive text). Comparing to the two studies above, this research focuses on finding out the relationship between two variables, namely students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics (X variable) and students’ ability in translating English text into Bahasa Indonesia (Y variable).

**METHOD**

The researcher took the sixth semester students as the samples of this research because some of students in this semester have interest in reading online Japanese comics and the location and place is well-known by the researcher and because this university is facilitated of internet access where this research is related to online Japanese comics which need of internet access to read it.

The researcher distributed open-questionnaire to all students of sixth semester of English Department and found 27 students who appropriate with the categories to this research.

There are two types of questionnaire which are constructed in this research, they are open-questionnaire and close-questionnaire. Open-questionnaire consists of 4 questions and is used to select the appropriate samples from the population. There are 24 items of close-questionnaire and each item include the indicators of reading interest such as; a sense of pleasure, satisfaction of doing reading activity, active participation without being forced, and preferably the particular activity. Translation test which given by the researcher is used to collect the data of the students’ ability in translating English reading text into Bahasa Indonesia. There are 3 texts must be translated; a single paragraph of English text and two pages of
English-Japanese comic. The assessment of this test is divided into 4 aspects to simplify the identification of the student’s translation ability; they are accuracy, acceptable, readable, and choice of words.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Student’s Reading Interest in Online Japanese Comics**

From the result score of students’ interest in reading online Japanese comics that have been calculated which the mean score is at 77.4, generally the students show moderate interest in reading online Japanese comics. It can be seen from the students’ tendency in reading online Japanese comics that more than a half of students read online Japanese comic less than an hour and recently they do not read online Japanese comics due to the final examination so that they must be focused on it.

Related to Rahim (2007, p. 28), reading interest is a strong desire accompanied by readers’ effort to read. Then, a person who has a strong reading intention will manifest in his/her willingness to obtain reading material and read it in his/her own consciousness or due to the encouragement from others. Since the students do not have much time (free time) to read online Japanese comics, so that is why their reading interest in online Japanese comics in moderate level. Another reason they read online Japanese comics is only if there is the latest released. Since the released time for a chapter of comic is about a week after published in Japan, so it need a week or two weeks more to read it through internet (online) in English subtitle. The reason why students often read online Japanese comics in English subtitle than Bahasa Indonesia subtitle because to read comics in Bahasa Indonesia need more weeks to translate and edit the comics. Due to the lack of translator from English to Bahasa Indonesia, only the famous comics that are translated into Bahasa Indonesia, for example One Piece, Naruto Shippuden, Detective Conan, Bleach, and the other comics only provided in English subtitle.

**Students’ English Translation Ability**

From the mean score that have been calculated in the findings is at 70.4, it is found that the students’ ability in translating English text into Bahasa Indonesia is in good category. Based on the translation test part I, students can translate the
text accurately even though there some students have mistaken to translate some phrases, for example “short-lived anime” into “kehidupan singkat anime” which should be translated into “karakter anime singkat” and do not translate a phrase into Bahasa Indonesia which can be translated into Bahasa Indonesia, for example “friendship game” into ““permianan pertemanan”.

For the translation part II, there are some students have mistaken in translating the line number 2, “Huh? Did you actually say that?” into “Apa kau benar mengatakan itu?” the translation should be “Hah? Apa yang kau katakan?” Another mistake is they do not translate word “cellphone” even though it has Bahasa Indonesia word “telepon”, but they translate it into “hp” or “handphone”. There some of students translate word “confess to me” into “mengakui kesalahan padaku”, which in that line should be translated into “menyatakan (perasaanmu) padaku”.

Most all of students translate the translation part III accurately without any mistake since the lines do not have difficult word or phrase. So it can be concluded the students’ ability in translating English text into Bahasa Indonesia is good even though there are some students have mistaken in translating some words and phrases.

The Correlation between Students’ Reading Interest in Online Japanese Comics (X) and Their English Translation Ability (Y)

The data which have been obtained from the output of simple linier regression and Pearson’ product moment analysis will be interpreted. In ANOVA table (see table 4.31), the F-test value is 6.341 with significance level or p-value at 0.019. Because the p-value < 0.05, it can be concluded that the regression model is linear. The independent variable (X) is influential against dependent variable (Y). In other words, the linier regression model can be used to predict Y (translation ability).

The next table gives b coefficient (see table 4.32), the value of Y variable will change by if X variable changes by 1 unit. The basic regression equation is:

\[ Y = a + bX \]
Translation ability \( (Y) = 43.064 + 0.410 \) (reading interest). From the equation, translation ability can be estimated if there is value of reading interest. Then because the value of b coefficient in X (reading interest) is positive (0.410), so if variable X goes up by one, variable Y is predicted to go up by 0.410. In sig. T column, p-value is 0.019. It implies that in alpha 5%, Ho is rejected. Thus, with 95% level of confidence, the students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics is convinced to influence translation ability significantly.

Based on the result of the calculation data the actual Pearson’s r correlation coefficient is 0.450. It means there is an adequate correlation between students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics (X variable) and their ability in translating English text into Bahasa Indonesia (Y variable), and as there is no minus sign preceding the coefficient, the correlation is positive. In other words, students who have high reading interest in online Japanese comics will tend to score high in translation. Therefore, the relationship of two variables is linear.

The next step is to test the hypothesis whether there is a significant correlation or not. The researcher consulted to the table of product moment. Based on the result of statistic calculation, it indicates that \( r_{xy} = 0.450 \) with the degree of freedom \( (df=N-nr) \) \( df = 27-2 \) is 25. In the table significance of 5% (see appendix 4) the value for \( df = 27 \) is 0.381. After comparing the value of \( r_{xy} = 0.450 \) and \( r_t = 0.381 \), the researcher eventually made the assumption of the hypothesis that \( r_{xy} \) is bigger than \( r_t \) or 0.450 \( \gt \) 0.381. The test of hypothesis as follows:

If \( r_{xy} \gt r_t \) : there is a significant correlation, \( H_a \) accepted and \( H_0 \) rejected

If \( r_{xy} \lt r_t \) : there is no significant correlation \( H_0 \) accepted and \( H_a \) rejected

The result of the hypothesis is \( r_{xy} \) is bigger than \( r_t \). therefore, the alternative hypothesis (\( H_a \)) is accepted and the null hypothesis (\( H_0 \)) is rejected. It means there is a significant correlation between students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics and their English translation ability. Moreover, the students’ reading interest contributes significantly to their translation ability.

The previous research was conducted by Adha Asvihand Noor (2015) entitled “The Correlation between Students’ Reading Habit and Their Translation Ability showed the result of the research was there is a positive correlation and
strong between two variables. Although the difference of independent variable, which in his research the independent variable was students’ reading habit while in this research the independent variable is students’ reading interest both of research showed there is positive significance correlation between two variables. The different degree of correlation which in previous research was \( r_{xy} = 0.886 \) and in this research the value of \( r_{xy} = 0.450 \) probably because the different of the total number of respondent which is the previous research the total number of respondent was 72 students. In this research, the total number of respondent is 27 because the researcher used purposive sampling technique for taking the sample.

The correlation between reading and translation has been stated by Schulte (2014, p.1) that reading is a continuous process of translation. As reading can reflect the translation of certain data into quite different form like entertainment or information, reading cannot be separated from translation. However, to achieve successful reading, someone should has interest in doing reading activity then s/he can obtain what should be obtained, such as knowledge or sense of pleasure from reading activity. It can be concluded that interest is one of factors of successful reading.

In addition, based on previous researches which conducted by Taylor, Frye, and Maruyama (1990), Anderson, Fielding, and Wilson (1988), and Welberg and Tsai (1984) cited by (Khairuddin, 2013, p. 162) they found that reading interest has a strong positive relationship with the success of students both in school and life. When students read, they will gain more knowledge and will help them to have wider and broader perspective on certain issues. Besides, reading interest has been linked and related to vocabulary development.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

After conducting the research, presenting and analyzing the data that has been conducted to the sixth semester students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin, the researcher concluded that from the 27 students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin, the result of students reading interest strength in online Japanese comics are; 4 students are in low category (14.81%), 18 students are in moderate category (66.67%) and 5 students are in high category
The total score is 2085 of 27 students with the highest score of students’ reading interest is 97, the lowest score is 60, the average score or mean (M) is 77.2 and the standard deviation (SD) is 8.48. The mean score 77.2 shows that the students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics is in moderate level. The result of translation test shows that none of students are in very low and low category, 6 students are in fair category (22.22%), 16 students are in good category (59.26%), and 5 students are in excellent category (18.52%). The calculation of total score is 2017, the highest score is 92, the lowest score is 60 and the average score is 74.7, which is interpreted as good category.

Based on the research findings, the researcher concluded the alternative hypothesis (Ha) is accepted and the null hypothesis (Ho) is rejected. It can be seen from the result of $r_{xy}$ is 0.450 with the degree of freedom (Df) is 25. The result of $r_{t}$ on the degree of significance of 5% is 0.381 which means that $r_{xy}$ is bigger than $r_{t}$ (0.450 > 0.381). The calculation means there is a significance correlation between the students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics and their translation ability. Then, the correlation is positive because there is no minus sign. Moreover, the value of 0.450 indicates adequate relationship between two variables. The regression equation of $Y = 43.064 + 0.410 \times$ (reading interest) shows that the score of translation test can be predicted by score of reading interest questionnaire result. If variable X goes up by one, variable Y is predicted to go up by 0.410. It means the students’ reading interest contributes significantly to the translation ability.

Suggestions

In conclusion, some suggestions are delivered. The suggestions are actually related with the way to improve students’ ability in translating English text into Bahasa Indonesia that should be paid more attention and more serious both by students and lecturers. The sixth semester students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin should read more any English text, whether non-fiction reading material (textbook, journal, science book, etc.) or fiction reading material (novel, short story, magazine, comic, etc.) which can help them to improve their vocabulary and their translation ability in translating English text into Bahasa Indonesia. For the lecturers, should build students’ interest in reading. One of ways
is by practicing extensive reading in which the students are trained to read for
pleasure. They can read what they want to read. By exploring students’ extensive
reading, they will have interest in reading. To build students’ interest in reading,
the lecturers should consider the factors which may affect students’ interest in, such
as topic interest or characteristic of the text. The factors which are interrelated can
be used as the way lecturers elaborate and design the technique in teaching reading.
For the next researcher, in order to obtain deeper and more comprehensive
understanding about students’ reading interest in online Japanese comics or other
extensive reading activity in relation to their translation ability. Therefore, the
researcher hopes there will further research which have more sample and wide area
of population. The researcher also suggest that in doing the next research, further
researcher should be precise and accurate in order to give more complete findings
and information for readers.

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Inayati Fitriyah Asrimawati

LET: Linguistics, Literature and Language Teaching Journal Vol.7 No.2 2017


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Inayati Fitriyah Asrimawati

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