Thinking Skills in the English Textbook for Grade X

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL SHEET(1)	i
APPROVAL SHEET(2)	ii
SURAT PERNYATAAN PLAGIARISME	iii
SURAT PERNYATAAN PUBLIKASI	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	V
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES.	X
LIST OF FIGURES.	xi
ABSTRACT	xii
Chapter I: Introduction	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Research Questions	4
1.3 Objective of the Study	4
1.4 Theoretical Framework	5
1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study	5
1.6 Significance of the Study	6
1.7 Definitions of Key Terms	6
1.8. Organization of the study	7
Chapter II: Review of Related Literature	8
2.1 Related Literature	8
2.1.1 2013 Curriculum	9
2.1.2 The Nature of Reading.	9
2.1.3 Thinking Skills	10
2.1.4 Comprehension Taxonomies	1

2.1.5 Barrett's Reading Comprehension Taxonomy	13
2.2 Previous Study	19
Chapter III: Research Method	22
3.1 Research Design	22
3.2 Subjects	22
3.3 The Instruments of the Research	24
3.4 The Procedure of Data Collection	25
3.5 The Procedure of Categorizing the Data	25
3.6 Triangulation	28
Chapter IV: Findings and Discussions	29
4.1 Findings	29
4.1.1 The Percentage of The Reading Comprehension Questions' Level Based on Barrett's Taxonomy	29
4.1.1.1 The Reading Comprehension Questions' Level in Chapter 1	29
4.1.1.2 The Reading Comprehension Questions' Level in Chapter 4	31
4.1.1.3 The Reading Comprehension Questions' Level in Chapter 5	33
4.1.1.4 The Reading Comprehension Questions' Level in Chapter 6	34
4.1.1.5 The Reading Comprehension Questions' Level in Chapter 7	35
4.1.1.6 The Reading Comprehension Questions' Level in Chapter 9	37
4.1.2 The Thinking Skills Measured in the Reading Comprehension Questions	39
1.2 Discussions of the Findings	40

Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestions	49
5.1 Conclusion	49
5.2 Suggestions	50
5.2.1 Suggestion for the Textbook's Writer	50
5.2.2 Suggestion for English Teacher	51
5.2.3 Suggestion for Further Researchers	51
Bibiliography	52
Appendices	55
Appendix 1.1 Needing A Friend	55
Appendix 1.2 Reading Comprehension Questions Chapter 1	57
Appendix 1.3 Reading Comprehension Questions Chapter 4	58
Appendix 1.4 Reading Comprehension Questions Chapter 5	59
Appendix 1.5 Reading Comprehension Questions Chapter 6	60
Appendix 1.6 Reading Comprehension Questions Chapter 7	61
Appendix 1.7 Reading Comprehension Questions Chapter 9	62
Appendix 1.8 Reading Text 1	63
Appendix 1.9 Reading Text 2	64
Appendix 1.10 Reading Text 3	65
Appendix 1.11 Reading Text 4	66
Appendix 1.12 Reading Text 5	67
Appendix 1.13 Reading Text 6	68
Appendix 1.14 Reading Text 7	69
Appendix 1.15 Reading Text 8	70

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 The Cognitive Taxonomy and Comprehension Levels	12
Table 2.2 Barrett's Comprehension Taxonomy	19
Table 2.3 The Study Differences	21
Table 3.1 The Number of Questions	23
Table 3.2 Checklist Based on Barrett's Taxonomy	24
Table 3.3 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta Question's Level for Each reading text	•
Table 3.4 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta Comprehension Question's Level	•
Table 3.5 The Percentage of Thinking Skills Measured in the Textbook	27
Table 4.1 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta Question's Level in Chapter One, Reading One	-
Table 4.2 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta Question's Level in Chapter One, Reading Two	
Table 4.3 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta Question's Level in Chapter four	-
Table 4.4 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta Question's Level in Chapter five	
Table 4.5 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta Question's Level in Chapter six	-
Table 4.6 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta Question's Level in Chapter seven	-
Table 4.7 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta Question's Level in Chapter Nine, Reading One	-
Table 4.8 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta Question's Level in Chapter Nine, Reading Two	
Table 4.9 The Percentage of Reading Comprehension Questions of Each Barrett's Ta	
Table 4.10 The Thinking Skills Measured in the Reading Comprehension Questions.	39

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 The Comprehension Levels	12
Chart 4.1 The Recapitulation Of The Thinking Skills Levels Measured	.40

ABSTRACT

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Keywords: thinking skills, Barrett's taxonomy, reading comprehension, reading comprehension questions.

In learning English there are four basic skills that need to be mastered. They are speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Each skill has its role in the use of English. One way to learn English is through reading a lot. Longan (2001) says that reading is like any other skills; in which the more the students practice, the better they get. When the students want to improve their English, they need to read a lot. In addition, a frequent reading improves vocabulary, spelling, reading speed, reading comprehension, as well as grammar and writing. In reading process students are expected to practice a high level of thinking skills.

To master thinking skills, the students will need a suitable reading materials which organized by a comprehension taxonomy. In the reading materials there will be reading text with various themes and some comprehension questions that can be used to foster deeper thinking skills. According to Dupuis and Askov, students should be given all level of Barrett's level of questions.

In this study, it is found out that there are 47 questions (55%) measuring the literal level, 31 (31%) questions measuring the inference level which are the low levels of thinking skills, 8 (9%) questions measuring the appreciation level and there is no questions measuring the evaluation level which are the high levels of thinking skills.

In conclusion the reading comprehension question in "Bahasa Inggris" do not cover all the four questions' level in Barrett's Taxonomy. The biggest proportion of the thinking skills levels measured in this textbook are mainly on the lower order thinking skills with the total 91% which are found in 78 questions. In the other words, the reading comprehension questions found in this textbook are relatively easy, because mostly the questions only facilitate the student to practice their convergent thinking or their lower thinking skill where the students are recalling information and finding facts. In conclusion, the reading comprehension found in this textbook are not in accordance with the demand of the Curriculum 2013 and the reading comprehension questions are not suitable for X grade students. There should be addition in questions which measured the high thinking skills levels in this textbook so that the students can experience and practice both the divergent and convergent thinking skills.