

The Suitability Of Readability Levels Of Reading Texts In English Textbook For Tenth Grader By Kemendikbud

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Abstract

This research aimed at finding the suitability of the readability levels of reading texts in English textbook entitled Bahasa Inggris Kelas X which is used at the tenth grade students of IBA Senior High School. There are ten reading texts in textbook, they met calculated by using The Dale-Chall Formula and Cloze Procedure Test to know about the suitability and readability levels of reading texts. From this research there are only two reading texts in English textbook Entitled Bahasa Inggris Kelas X by Kemendikbud are suitable for tenth grade students and they were classified into Independent Level, it means that the reading texts considered easy enough for students to read on their own without any help. In conclusion that readability of reading materials in the textbook is found reading materials in the textbook is found reading m suggest that readability of reading materials are suitable with students grade level.

Keywords: *Readability, Suitability, The Dale-Chall*

INTRODUCTION

Reading skill is very important beside three other skills: listening, speaking, and writing because it's to measure whether the students could understand English written forms well. If the students have poor reading skill, they might not understand the text even they get the knowledge. So, as a English teachers who teach reading should pay serious attention to the present. One important thing to be considered in reading activity is that the text. If the text is just too difficult, the students are going to be stressed. In contrast, if it's too easy, they're going to not get an accurate count of their ability due to the rationale the teacher must search for the appropriate reading text for the students in reading activity.

Based on the reason mentioned above we got a line that the teacher must be selective to choose the good English textbook that the texts must suitable for level of the students. Mentions there are three points of view in selecting a texts: (1) Readability, namely the combination of structural and lexical (i.e. vocabulary) difficult, (2) Suitability of content that a text should be able to interest the greatest number of students and will not actually bore them, (3) Exploitability, it means facilitation of learning. When a teacher exploits a text, she/he makes competence as readers [1].

This study attempts to search for the suitability of readability levels of reading texts in the textbook entitled Bahasa Inggris Kelas X by KEMENDIKBUD with the students' reading ability based on The Dale-Chall formula and Cloze Procedure test at IBA Senior High School.

The concept of readability has been defined defines that Readability is what makes some texts easier to read than others [2]. It refers to how easy a written text is to read and understand. In addition, that readability is a measurement of the suitability of a particular reading for readers to rank certain readers [3]. In means that readability is an attempt to match the reading with understanding level of the reader. The purpose of readability itself is to find out the right fit between students reading ability determine the successful of learners to get a good comprehension in reading and it also determines the students' ability to understanding and obtain meaning from the textbooks.

The Dale-Chall Formula

Created The Dale-Chall formula was unique because, unlike other formula that use word-length to assess word difficulty, the Dale-Chall formula uses a count of 'hard' words [4].

the Dale-Chall formula calculates the grade level of a text sample based on sentence length and the number of 'hard' words. These 'hard' words that do not appear on a specially designed list of common words familiar to most 4th grade students. The original Dale-Chall formula had a list of 763 non-hard or familiar words. However, the new Dale-Chall formula, revised by Readability Revisited: The Dale-Chall Readability formula, in 1995 expands the list of familiar words to 3000.

Steps in applying the formula:

- 1) Select 100-word samples throughout the text (for books, every tenth page is recommended)
- 2) Compute the average sentence length words
- 3) Compute the percentage of words outside the Dale list of 3000 words
- 4) Compute this equation

$$\text{Score} = 0.1579\text{PDW} + 0.0496\text{ASL} + 3.6365$$

Where:

Score = reading grade of a reader who can answer one-half of the test questions on a passage

PDW = Percentage of Difficulties Words (word not on the Dale-Chall word list)

ASL = Average Sentence Length in Words

This formula utilizes a number of specific rulers but it is based on just two counts; (1) average sentence length, and (2) percentage of unfamiliar words. The following table to get the adjusted grade level.

Table 1 : The Dale-Chall Score

ADJUSTED SCORE	GRADE LEVEL
4.9 and below	Grade 4 and below
5.0 to 5.9	Grade 5-6
6.0 to 6.9	Grade 7-8
7.0 to 7.9	Grade 9-10
8.0 to 8.9	Grade 11-12
9.0 to 9.9	Grade 13-15 (College)
10 and above	Grade 16 and above (College Graduate)

Cloze Procedure Test

This Cloze Method Test was initially meant to assess the difficulty of reading texts. This, test, was, created, to, determine, if a text is suitable, for, a group, of, students, or not. Hence, to measure, reading, difficulty level of a text by using Cloze Procedure Test is to measure students' understanding, of, the, text [5].

Was typically constructed, by, deleting, every n-th word. The n-th word is, said, to, be, the words, between, every 5th and 12th. Cloze procedure, test, requires, students to restore, the, deleted, words. To, help, students, understand, the text, one, or two sentences, of, the, beginning, and, end, of, the, text, are, usually, left, intact [6].

After, distributing, the, test to students, teachers have to correct the students' answer and find out the percentage. To find out the percentage of the Cloze Procedure Test had formulated a formula as follows: [7]

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

P = percentage

F = frequency of the right answers

N = number of items

Finally, after finding the percentage the writer determines the texts' reading difficulty level by referring to judgment of the Cloze Procedure Test Score:

Table 2: The judgment of the Cloze Procedure Test Score

No	Percentage of the Correct Answer	Score Judgment
1	Over 53%	<i>Independent level</i>
2	44 – 53%	<i>Instructional level</i>
3	Up to 44%	<i>Frustration level</i>

METHOD

This study is a mixed methods research that employed qualitative data and quantitative data. Data from Cloze Procedure test and The Dale-Chall Formula will be obtain to deal with problem of research.

The writer used this research design because the writer will analyzed the suitability readability of the textbook. Thus, based on the problem of study, the researcher also comprehend what the meaning can be learned from the result of the study. Moreover , the textbook itself has stated that it need evaluation to improve the material comprehension quality most up-to-date, the appropriate content to the students' dynamic context and education changes.

The explanation of analysis process covered in mixed methods. Because of that, the result of Dale-Chall Formula and Cloze Procedure will enrich the explanation of readability. From the statements above, it can be concluded that the study is categorized as mixed methods content analysis since the study describes the readability of the textbook published by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia. It means that what is described in this the study is the condition that exists without giving any treatment.

In addition, the writer also conducted a library research to find more references that support the data from the mixed methods.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Suitability of the readability levels of reading texts in the textbook entitled *Bahasa Inggris kelas X by KEMENDIKBUD with IBA Senior High School*

The textbook *BAHASA INGGRIS KELAS X BY KEMENDIKBUD* is compiled by Zuliati Rohmah, Furaidah and Utami Widiati based on curriculum 2013 3rd revision. This textbook consists of 224 pages and 15 chapters for 2 semesters. It contains ten reading texts. The reading texts consist of three kinds of texts namely recount, narrative and descriptive texts. Here are the description of the texts;

Table 3: The Description of Texts

Code of Text	Title of Text	Page
1	Tanjung Putting National Park	53
2	Taj Mahal	58
3	Visiting Niagara	72
4	Meeting My Idol	110
5	The Battle of Surabaya	123
6	B.J. Habibie	134
7	Cut Nyak Dhien	145
8	Issumboshi	157
9	The Legend of Malin Kundang	172
10	Strong Wind	183

By using The New Dale-Chall Formula, the writer first obtains the readability score based on the table above. (1) The writer has to do is to count the number of sentences, the number of words from each text to make the Average Sentence Length in Words (ASL). (2) Counting, the number of difficult words to establish the Percentage of Difficult Words (PDW).

Furthermore, the writer counts the number of words and sentences of each texts in <http://www.countwordsworth.com/>. The procedure in counting them is by typing the text in the

column in the website page. Then, the number of words and sentences of the text are automatically detected. Finally the writer found the calculation result as follows:

Table 4: The Description of Sentences and Words Calculations of Reading Texts

Code of Text	Number of Sentences	Number of Words
1	25	414
2	18	266
3	31	477
4	29	366
5	22	323
6	37	469
7	38	595
8	96	836
9	30	414
10	60	552

After counting the number of sentences and words, the writer then analyzed the data by using The Dale-Chall Formula. Firstly, the writer tried to find out the PDW (Percentage of Difficult Words) and ASL (Average Sentence Length in Words). To know difficult words from reading texts, the writer checked them in The Dale-Chall 3,000 word list. Difficult words are all words that are not on the word list.

Table 5: The Result of PDW and ASL Calculation of Texts

Code of Text	PDW	ASL
1	26,8	16,5
2	39	14,1
3	22,6	15,3
4	14,7	12,6
5	46,1	14,6
6	42,4	12,6
7	40,1	15,6
8	13,5	8,7
9	18,1	13,8
10	7,7	9,2

Furthermore, after counting the PDW and ASL, the writer tries to find out the readability score of each text by using the Dale-Chall Formula.

Table 6: The Result of The Dale-Chall Score of the Ten Reading texts

Code of Text	Adjusted Score	Grade Level
1	8.6	Grade 11-12
2	10.4	Grade 16 and above (Collage Graduate)
3	7.9	Grade 9-10
4	6.5	Grade 7-8
5	11.6	Grade 16 and above (Collage Graduate)
6	10.9	Grade 16 and above (Collage Graduate)
7	10.7	Grade 16 and above (Collage Graduate)
8	6.1	Grade 7-8
9	7.1	Grade 9-10
10	5.3	Grade 5-6

Based on the table above, the description as follows:

1. The text entitled Tanjung Putting National Park. It has 111 difficult words and 25 sentences. This text gains 16,5 ASL (Average Sentence Length) and 26,8 for PDW (Percentage Difficult Word). The readability score using the Dale-Chall Formula is 8,6 and it is a grade 11 – 12 . Basically, this text is suitable for the 11st– 12nd grade students.
2. The text entitled Taj Mahal. It has 104 difficult words and 18 sentences. This text gains 14.1 ASL (Average Sentence Length) and 39 for PDW (Percentage Difficult Word). The readability score using the Dale-Chall Formula is 10.4 and it is a grade 16 and above (college graduate). Basically, this text is suitable for the collage graduate students.
3. The text entitled Visiting Niagara. It has 108 difficult words and 31 sentences. This text gains 15,3 ASL (Average Sentence Length) and 22,6 for PDW (Percentage Difficult Word). The readability score using the Dale-Chall Formula is 7.9 and it is a grade 9– 10. Basically, this text is suitable for grade 9th– 10th students.
4. The text entitled Meeting My Idol. It has 54 difficult words and 29 sentences. This text gains 12,6 ASL (Average Sentence Length) and 14,7 for PDW (Percentage Difficult Word). The readability score using the Dale-Chall Formula is 6.5 and it is a grade 7 – 8. Basically, this text is suitable for grade 7th– 8thst
5. The text entitled The Battle of Surabaya. It has 149 difficult words and 22 sentences. This text gains 14,6 ASL (Average Sentence Length) and 46,1 for PDW (Percentage Difficult Word). The readability score using the Dale-Chall Formula is 11.6 and it is a grade 16 and above (College Graduate). Basically, this text is suitable for college graduate students.
6. The text entitled B.J. Habibie. It has 199 difficult words and 37 sentences. This text gains 12,6 ASL (Average Sentence Length) and 42,4 for PDW (Percentage Difficult Word). The readability score using the Dale-Chall Formula is 10.9 and it is a grade 16 and above (College Graduate). Basically, this text is suitable for college graduate graduate student
7. The text entitled Cut Nyak Dhien. It has 239 difficult words and 38 sentences. This text gains 15,6 ASL (Average Sentence Length) and 40,1 for PDW (Percentage Difficult Word). The readability score using the Dale-Chall Formula is 10.7 and it is a grade 16 and above (College Graduate). Basically, this text is suitable for college graduate students.
8. The text entitled Isumboshi. It has 357 difficult words and 96 sentences. This text gains 8,7 ASL (Average Sentence Length) and 13,5 for PDW (Percentage Difficult Word). The readability score using the Dale-Chall Formula is 6.1 and it is a grade 7 – 8 . Basically, this text is suitable for below 7th – 8th grade students.
9. The text entitled The Legend of Malin Kundang. It has 75 difficult words and 30 sentences. This text gains 13,8 ASL (Average Sentence Length) and 18,1 for PDW (Percentage Difficult Word). The readability score using the Dale-Chall Formula is 7.1 and it is a grade 9 – 10 . Basically, this text is suitable for below 9th– 10thgrade students.
10. The text entitled Strong Wind. It has 43 difficult words and 60 sentences. This text gains 9,2 ASL (Average Sentence Length) and 7,7 for PDW (Percentage Difficult Word). The readability score using the Dale-Chall Formula is 5,3 and it is a grade 5th – 6th below. Basically, this text is suitable for below 5th– 6thgrade students.

Based on the result above, there were 2 texts suitable for the tenth grade of senior high school students. Those texts are text 3th and 9th.

Readability levels of reading texts in the textbook entitled *Bahasa Inggris kelas X* by KEMENDIKBUD at IBA Senior High School

To know the readability levels of reading texts, the writer conducted the Cloze Procedure Test to see 2 texts. The test was given to the 37 students of the tenth grade of IBA Senior High School. The writer deleted every 10th word of each text and asked the students to fill in the blank by using the words that are listed in the box.

The number of words and the deleted words of each text is presented in the Table below:

Table 7 : The number of the Deleted Words of the Texts

Code of Text	The Number of Words	Deleted Words
3	477	46
9	414	37

After distributing the Cloze Procedure Test to the students, the writer checked the students' answers and find out the percentage. Only the words that are listed in box are considered correct, others are wrong. Each correct answer is given score 1, while the wrong answer is scored 0. Furthermore, to find out the percentage of the Cloze Procedure Test, the writer used the following formula:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100$$

Where : P = Percentage

F = frequency of the right answer

N = number of item

After finding the percentage of the Cloze Procedure Test, the writer attempted to find out the Cloze Procedure Test score of each text by dividing the total percentages of the students' right answers of each text and the number of the students. The calculation result of the Cloze Procedure Test score are : Text 3 entitled Visiting Niagara Falls gains Cloze Procedure Test score 60 %, text 9 entitled The Legend of Malin Kundang gains Cloze Procedure Test score 66 %.

After finding the Cloze Procedure Test score of each text, the writer determined the texts' reading difficulty level, and the result is as follow:

Table 14 : The Score of Cloze Procedure Text and the Reading Difficulty Level of the texts

Text	Cloze Score	Level
Text 3	60 %	Independent level
Text 9	66 %	Independent level

Based on the Cloze Procedure Test, it obtains a Cloze Procedure Test score of 60 percent and 66 percent for both reading content. These texts demonstrated that the material can be used by students to learn at the independent stage, the text is deemed simple enough for students to read on their own without any assistance.

CONCLUSIONS

The suitable of readability levels of reading texts in the textbook entitled *Bahasa Inggris Kelas X* by KEMENDIKBUD with tenth grader IBA Senior High School was found in chapter IV using the Dale-Chall Formula is used the text that there were 2 reading texts that were basically suitable for the tenth grade of IBA Senior High School students and match this textbook as this is compiled for the tenth grade of senior high school students. The readability levels of reading texts in the textbook entitled *Bahasa Inggris Kelas X* by KEMENDIKBUD at IBA Senior High School is found in chapter IV using Cloze Test that 2 reading texts were Independent Level. The students read both of reading texts on their own without any help.

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