IMPROVING CHARACTER BASED READING BY APPLYING COOPERATIVE INTEGRATED READING AND COMPOSITION (CIRC) METHOD OF THE TENTH YEAR STUDENTS OF SMK MUHAMMADIYAH 2 KLATEN IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2020/2021

S-1 THESIS

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Undergraduate Degree in English Education Study Program

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PRONOUNCEMENT

This is to certify that I, myself, write this thesis entitled "IMPROVING CHARACTER BASED READING BY APPLYING COOPERATIVE INTEGRATED READING AND COMPOSITION (CIRC) METHOD OF THE TENTH YEAR STUDENTS OF SMK MUHAMMADIYAH 2 KLATEN IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2020/2021".

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If then this pronouncement proves incorrect, I am ready to accept academic punishment, including the withdrawal or cancelation of my academic degree.

Klaten, June 2021

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MOTTO

"Pencapaianmu saat ini tidak harus menjadi pencapainku saat ini juga kan? Latar belakang, potensi, dan nasib kita aja berbeda, masa iya pencapaiannya harus sama?"

The Writer

"I've always done whatever I want and always been exactly who I am"

Billie Eilish

"Tidak ada orang yang mau memilih untuk kuat, orang yang kuat itu tidak mau kuat, dia kuat karena keadaan"

Keanu Agl

PRESENTATION

I dedicate this thesis to:

1. *My beloved mother,* ***Ibu Supini***

   "Thank you for always being there for me, love me, care for me, and thank you for your hard work that you gave to me."

2. *My beloved older sister,* ***Mbak Endah***

   "Thank you for being a source of inspiration in my life."

3. *My beloved friends,* ***who can't be mentioned one by one***

   "Thank you for being a part of happiness in my life."

With love,

Dian

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The writer is really aware that this study is far from being perfect because of the writer's limited knowledge and experience. Therefore, the writer will receive criticism and suggestion with thanks for the sake of perfection of this study. The writer hopes that this study will be useful to the writer herself and to the readers.

Klaten, June 2021

The Writer

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TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Explanation
CAR	Classroom Action Research
CIRC	Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition
X AKL 3	The class of tenth year of accounting 3 (Akuntansi 3)
SMK	Vocational High School (Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan)

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ABSTRACT

DIAN FEBRIYANTI, Student's Number: 1711200015, English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Widya Dharma University of Klaten. 2021. Thesis. ***Improving Character Based Reading Comprehension by Applying Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) Method of the Tenth Year Students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the Academic Year of 2020/2021.***

This research aimed to verify whether applying the CIRC method can improve character based reading of the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021.

The study was Classroom Action Research (CAR). The data were analyzed by quantitative and qualitative analysis. The quantitative data was collected from the test, and the qualitative data were collected from observation, interview, questionnaire, and documentation. The technique of analyzing the data was descriptive statistics in the form of the mean.

The result of the study showed that students' reading comprehension and students' character improved gradually. From the pre-cycle before applying the CIRC method, the score of students' reading skill was 58,67 and students' character was 2,62. The result in pre-cycle was supported by the score of teacher's professionalism was 2,91, the students' individual interest was 2,82, and students' group interest was 2,65. In cycle 1, the students' reading skill was 72 and students' character was 2,86. This improvement was supported by the teacher's professionalism and students' interest which is started to improve after applying the CIRC method. The teacher's professionalism score was 2,93, the students' individual interest was 2,84, and students' group interest was 2,67. It means the teacher was able to apply the method, so it made students interested to learn reading. In cycle 2, the students' reading skill was 77 and the students' character was 2,97. The students' reading skill improved and it was higher than the passing grade of 75. The result of teacher's professionalism was 2,95, the students' individual interest was 2,85, and the students' group interest was 2,77. This improvement was also supported by the teacher's ability in applying the method and students' interest began to improve in learning reading by using the CIRC method. So, it can be concluded that the CIRC method can improve the mastery of character based reading of the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021.

Keywords: *CIRC method, reading comprehension, character*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Reading is an influencing process in which the reader actively produces meaning of the text through a set of mental processes. Sabouri (2016: 229) states that reading is an interactive process in which readers construct a meaningful representation of a text using effective reading strategies. An influencing process means an interactive process of what the reader knows about the meaning in the text given by the writer. Effective reading strategies are considered as significant skills that have received the special focus on students' reading comprehension. Shehu (2015: 91) states that reading comprehension is a crucial component of the second language acquisition. As a core part of language learning, it is obviously not an effortless process.

English has four skills of language learning that should be understood by the students. The perspectives of language skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Nunan, 2003: 1). The students also have to understand aspects in English skills. Those aspects are grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. It means the students have to master all those skills and aspects well in order to interact more easily in the society because English becomes the subject which it is taught for students in school.

Peraturan Pemerintah Republik Indonesia Nomor 32 Pasal 19 menyatakan bahwa proses pembelajaran pada satuan pendidikan manapun dituntut harus diselenggarakan secara aktif, inovatif, kreatif, dan dalam suasana yang mengesankan dan bermakna bagi peserta didik (Depdikbud, 2013: 10). It means the students should be active in questioning or expressing ideas, the students should be creative in expressing something, and the students are able to try or do something in reading activity.

In reference to the goals of the 2013 curriculum, reading as one of the language competency functions as the tool of communication to deliver the idea and knowledge. To achieve the final purpose of the 2013 curriculum in making students independent readers, the teachers are supposed to master the conceptual knowledge of curriculum and teaching reading to produce the better quality of teaching and learning process (Nainggolan, 2018: 192).

According to Agboola and Kaun (2012: 168), character has been described as the way we express our inner and outward being; that imbedded value that is within us, and will make some of us go out of our ways to express compassion, caring, integrity, respect, and all other values that go with virtue. In this study, the character is the students' way to express the values in understanding texts that make the students be able to catch the information from the reading texts.

Sulfasyah et al. (2015: 68) state that the teachers' lack of knowledge and understanding about pedagogical practices promoted by the new curriculum and the nature of competencies, together with their narrow interpretation of these, seems to have influenced, if not overly encourage, the retention of traditional approach to pedagogy. This problem affects the students uninterested with the teaching and learning process. So, the teacher should implement a method to make the students more interested in teaching and learning reading.

There are several problems faced by students in reading activities such as they cannot understand what they read because of a lack of vocabulary and they do not understand a text, so they fail in answering questions. Based on those problems, it is needed an appropriate method to help students in solving their problems in learning reading. One of the innovative methods in teaching and learning reading is Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC). This method is used to achieve reading comprehension, understand the vocabulary, imply the message and spelling.

Adri and Acep (2019: 350) state that the students in the class that used the CIRC learning method based on cooperative learning have improved students' reading ability. The implementation of students' learning based CIRC methods is effective towards improving students' reading skills. Slavin (1995: 104) states CIRC method is student work within cooperative teams on these activities, which are coordinated with

reading group instruction, in order to meet objectives such as reading comprehension, vocabulary, decoding and spelling. In the CIRC method, students also work in their teams to master main ideas and other comprehension skills. Based on the explanation above, the writer applies Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) method to improve the students' reading skill of the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021.

B. The Reason for Choosing the Topic

1. Reading skill mastery is used to enrich the students' knowledge and develop the other language skills.
2. Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) method is provable to help students learn reading comprehension skills that can be applied broadly.

C. The Limitation of the Study

This study is focused on improving students' character based reading mastery by applying Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) method to the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021.

D. The Problem of the Study

The problem of this study is formulated as follows: Can Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) method improve the mastery of character based reading of the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021?

E. The Aim of the Study

The aim of the study is to verify whether or not CIRC method can improve character based reading mastery of the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021.

F. The Use of the Study

After achieving the result of the study, it is expected to be useful both theoretically and practically as follows.

1. The Theoretical Use

   It can be used to innovate the model of English teaching and learning process which implements the CIRC method in teaching reading.

2. The Practical Use

   It can be used to overcome the difficulties in improving the students' character based reading mastery.

G. The Clarification of the Key Terms

To clarify the meaning of the title, the writer would like to describe the key terms as follows.

1. Improving

According to Mulyasa (2009: 8), improving in action research means improvement in learning quality, so that it is a continuous improvement of the learning process and continuous quality improvement. Hornby (2015: 767) also states that improvement is to become better than before.

In this study, improvement means the way to increase the quality of teaching and learning process of reading to be better by applying CIRC method to the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021.

2. Reading

Grabe (2009: 15) states that reading is a strategic process in that a number of the skills and processes used in reading call for effort on the part of the reader to anticipate text information, select key information, organize and mentally summarize information, monitor comprehension, repair comprehension breakdowns, and match comprehension output to reader goals. Harmer (2007: 118) also states that reading as an exercise dominated by the eyes and the brain, the eyes receive messages and the brain then has to work out the significance of these messages.

In this study, reading means students' process of receiving information from the text to create meaning by applying the method of CIRC to the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021.

3. Character Based Reading

Hornby (2015: 239) states character is all the qualities and features that make a person, groups of people, and places different from others. Lickona also states that character is a reliable inner disposition to respond to situations in a morally good way (1991: 51). In this study, character based reading is a set of behaviors that is inserted to build the ability of understanding reading text with the qualities which are different from the others.

4. Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC)

CIRC method is one of cooperative learning methods. It is a comprehensive program for teaching reading, so this method is suitable to increase students' reading comprehension. Darmayanti (2014: 115) states that CIRC is defined as a cooperative method that introduces the latest techniques of practical training curriculum on teaching reading. In the CIRC method, the students are taught in reading groups and then return to mixed teams' ability to work on a series of cognitively engaging activities, including partner reading, making predictions, identification of characters, settings, problems, and problem solutions, summarization, vocabulary, and reading comprehension exercises.

Martono et al. (2019: 835) state that the skills of teachers in planning reading comprehension learning using the CIRC method have a positive impact on improving the students' learning outcomes. Students are motivated and more enthusiastic to take part in learning reading comprehension by the CIRC method.

In this study, CIRC method is one of cooperative learning methods as a comprehensive program for improving students' ability in reading skill of the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021.

H. The Organization of the Study

In order to facilitate the thesis arrangement, the writer organizes the report into five chapters as follows.

Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of the background of the study, the reason for choosing the topic, the limitation of the study, the problem of the study, the aim of the study, the use of the study, the clarification of the key terms, and the organization of the study.

Chapter II is Review of Related Literature. It consists of previous studies, position of the study, theory of reading, character based reading, CIRC method, and theoretical framework.

Chapter III is the Method of Study. It deals with the meaning of research method, the strategy of the research, the data and source of data,

the technique of collecting the data, the validity of data, the procedure of the action, and the technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is the Result of the Study. It includes the analysis of the data and the discussion of the findings.

Chapter V is Conclusion. It consists of conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, the writer shows the conclusion as the result of the study and gives the suggestion related to the study by applying Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) method of reading skill to the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021.

A. Conclusion

The CIRC method is successful to implement in reading skill because this method is supported by a professional teacher in implementing it. So, the students are able to understand the teacher's explanation about the material that is delivered by the teacher and they can discuss the material with other students in group. The students can overcome their problems in understanding the text because they learn in group, so they can express their ideas and other students will give feedback about it. As the result, the students get a better score in reading skill and improvement of characters after applying the CIRC method.

After conducting the study, the writer knows that there is students' improvement scores in both reading skill and character. The students' reading skill improves from 58,67 in pre-cycle, 72 in cycle 1, and 77 in cycle 2. In addition, the CIRC method also improves the students' character, the mean score of students' character is 2,62 in pre-cycle, 2,86 in cycle 1, and 2,97 in cycle 2.

The writer would like to conclude the result of the study in answering the problem "Can Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) method improve the mastery of character based reading of the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021?". Based on the result that is obtained, it can be concluded that Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) method can improve the mastery of character based reading skill in teaching and learning process to the tenth year students of SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Klaten in the academic year of 2020/2021.

B. Suggestion

After finishing the study by applying Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) method in improving students' character based reading mastery, the writer presents suggestions to the students and the teacher.

1. To the Students`

The students must be actively involved in teaching and learning process when the English teacher teaches them by applying Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) method in reading skill. In addition, each student in a group also should be active in group discussion session. Since this method helps the students to understand the information related to the text.

2. To the Teacher

The English teacher is expected to use Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (CIRC) method as a possible method which is applied in process of teaching and learning reading. The teacher should observe the students' participation during teaching and learning reading and provide motivation to make students active in the group discussion. Then, the teacher has to prepare several texts to be conveyed to students in each meeting, in order to make students understand the type of text that is learned.

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