

## ABSTRACT

Mashulah. 2013. *An Analysis of Students' Difficulties in understanding English Reading text (case study of descriptive text among the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students at MTs Miftahul Ulum, Duriwetan Maduran, Lamongan*. A thesis. English Education Departement, Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: Dra. Arba'iyah,YS, MA and Ana Nurul Laila, S.Pd.

Key terms: students' difficulties, understanding text, reading

This research was conducted to know the students' difficulties and also the factors causing the difficulties in understanding English reading descriptive text.

This research is a case study and it uses descriptive quantitative method. The subjects of the research are fifteen students of the eighth grade students at MTs Miftahul Ulum, Duriwetan Maduran, Lamongan who are detected as having difficulties in understanding English reading descriptive text and an English teacher who handles the classes. The test, questionnaire and interview were used as the instruments of this study. The test was used to obtain the data about the students' difficulties in understanding English reading descriptive text. Furthermore, the questionnaire and interview were used to obtain the data about the causes of the students' difficulties in understanding English reading descriptive text.

The finding shows that the majority of the students find difficulties in identifying main idea of the text, more than half of students made mistake in identifying specific word in the text and many students cannot understand the structure of the text. Whereas, the factors causing the students' difficulties in understanding English reading descriptive text are learners' background, teaching technique, and the learners' environment.

Based on the data finding in this research, some suggestions are given to English teacher that the teacher should emphasize to solve the students' problem and also he should learn better to apply the techniques of teaching reading skill. It is also suggested future researcher that he or she should analyze with different aspects of this research. For example: students' difficulties in other skill, object and level of school.