

## ABSTRACT

### **Fera Pena Millah (2017): Investigating Students' Problems of Finding Main Ideas in English Texts (A Case Study at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Students of MAN 2 Ciamis)**

Nowadays, students got some problems to comprehend an English text. The problems were effected by some factors, one of the factors was identifying main idea. It was found when taught English course to students of senior high school. The students did not want to read the text to identify the main idea, because of time constraint, and finally got confused what the main idea of the text was. Based on that problems, this research was intended to investigate what actually their problems of identifying the main idea, which is the most important element to support students' reading comprehension.

The purposes of the research are to identify students' abilities in finding main ideas in English texts and to find out students' problems in finding main ideas in the English texts.

The methodology of the research employs a qualitative approach. The method uses as its case study research design. The research investigated a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context. The subject of the research is the Excellent Class of 3<sup>rd</sup> MIA Students of MAN 2 Ciamis.

The result of the research, it can be found; first, students' abilities to identify main ideas in English texts are 2 students in good level ability, 15 students in average level ability, 7 students in poor level ability, and 2 students in fail level ability. Those abilities were dominated by knowing types of main ideas (32%), by position of main ideas (29%), by topic and supporting details (25%), and by summarizing (10%). Second, the students' problems to identify main ideas in English texts are lack vocabularies, poor reading strategy of finding main ideas, misunderstanding English reading contents, getting confused with supporting details, existence implicit main idea, getting confused with the topic, incapability of finding the main idea, and the last is the longer text. Those results suggest solve appropriate strategies for teaching main idea with knowing students' common problems in finding main ideas in English texts.

*Keywords: reading, reading comprehension, main ideas.*