

**THE USE OF AUTHENTIC TEACHING MATERIALS TO
IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION**
(A Classroom Action Research in SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta of the
Academic Year 2008/2009)



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THESIS

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APPROVAL

This thesis has been approved to be examined by the Board
of the Thesis Examiners of the Teacher Training and Education Faculty
of Sebelas Maret University as a partial fulfillment of the requirement
for the Undergraduate Degree of Education in English

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ABSTRACT

Salman Alfarisi K2202046: **THE USE OF AUTHENTIC TEACHING MATERIALS TO IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION** (A Classroom Action Research in SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta of the Academic Year 2008/2009). Teacher Training and Education Faculty. Sebelas Maret University. 2010.

This study is based on the problem that was the low reading comprehension of the 8th grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta of the Academic Year 2008/2009. It is focused on improving students' reading comprehension through the use of authentic teaching materials. The researcher conducted classroom action research from July to September 2009. The subject of this research is the students of class VIII A of SMP Muhammadiyah 8 Surakarta of the Academic Year 2008/2009.

The researcher conducted the teaching learning activities in two cycles. Each cycle consisted of four steps: planning, implementation, observation, and reflection. In cycle one, the researcher applied authentic materials in order to drag the students interested in reading so that they enjoyed in their reading class. By enjoying the reading, their reading comprehension might increase. In this cycle, the students' reading comprehension increased but not optimally yet. Moreover, there were still problems that arose in this cycle. For example: some students still got difficulties in finding the main idea, they got difficulties to find out the appropriate meaning of words, and they still failed to find any informations from the text. In cycle two, the researcher tried to solve the previous problems by focusing on the teaching materials given and adding the medium in the teaching learning process, which was group discussion. In this cycle, the researcher was able to solve the problems.

From the explanation above the researcher concluded that after he conducted the actions the students' reading comprehension increased optimally. Before he conducted the actions the mean score of the pre-test was 55.5, and after doing the actions the mean score of the post-test was 77.6.

The result of the research showed that after implementing the authentic teaching materials, the students' level of interest in the reading class increased. Finally, their reading comprehension improved well.

MOTTO

Focus, focus, and focus.
(the writer)

DEDICATION

This thesis is whole-heartedly dedicated to those who support him to keep struggling to get

a better future:

- *His beloved mother and father*
 - *His beloved brother*
 - *His beloved wife*
 - *His beloved friends*

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The writer is also fully aware that his thesis can never be finished without the help of others during the process of writing. Therefore, in this occasion he would like to express his deepest gratitude and appreciation to the following:

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The researcher realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect. He hopes and accepts gratefully every comment and suggestion. Hopefully, this thesis will be useful for the readers.

Surakarta, Juli 2010

Salman A

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