

ABSTRACT

ASRI NURASYAH. 2011. **“The Comparison Between Male and Female’s Reading Comprehension Ability”** (A Case Study at the Second Year Students of English Education Department of the State Islam University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung).

The purpose of this research is to investigate students’ - male and female - reading comprehension ability. Particularly, this study has several purposes: to know males’ reading comprehension skills, to find out females’ reading comprehension skills, and to discuss gender differences in reading comprehension skills.

In this research, I use descriptive – comparative method. The comparative method aims to find differences between males and females’ reading comprehension ability. To obtain the data, I collected the score from reading comprehension test with gender-neutral text and use *mean, standard deviation, t-test, and hypothesis testing* for analysis the data.

The result of this research shows that male and female’s reading comprehension ability is not significantly different. It can be seen on the males’ *mean* score 2.47 and the females’ *mean* score 2.53. Those scores indicate that both male and female’s reading comprehension ability is enough; it is in the interval 2.5 – 3.5. According to hypothesis testing, the result shows that the t_{table} (1.701) is greater than t_{count} (1.39). It means that $H_0 = -t_{table} < t_{count} < t_{table}$ is accepted and the hypothesis says that there is no significant difference between males and females reading comprehension. In conclusion, male and female at the Second Years of English Education Department of the State Islam University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung have the same ability in reading comprehension. The result of this research is different from the researchers which showed that there is gender difference in foreign language reading comprehension. This may be caused by the different reading text that is used in this research. Those researchers used gender-oriented text while this research uses gender-neutral text. Gender-oriented text is the text that both male and female maybe familiar with the topic of the text, while Gender-neutral text is the text that both male and female maybe unfamiliar with the topic of the text.