

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING PARTNER READING
STRATEGY IN TEACHING READING COMPREHENSION TO THE
ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMK
NEGERI 1 PALEMBANG**

THESIS

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**ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF TEACHING TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH PALEMBANG**

2026

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PALEMBANG**

THESIS

Presented to

Universitas Muhammadiyah

**Palembang To Partial Fulfilment of the
Requirements**

For degree of Sarjana in English Language Education

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FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND
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Beserta seluruh isinya adalah benar merupakan hasil karya sendiri dan saya tidak melakukan penjiplakan atau pengutipan dengan cara-cara yang tidak sesuai dengan etika keilmuan dalam masyarakat ilmiah.

Atas pernyataan ini, saya siap menerima segala sanksi yang berlaku atau yang ditetapkan untuk itu, apabila di kemudian hari ternyata pernyataan saya tidak benar atau ada klaim dari pihak lain terhadap keaslian skripsi saya.

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Motto:

"Khoirunnas anfa'uhum linnas" Dedication:

The Dedicated to:

- **My beloved parents, Mr. Ali Baba and Mrs. Dahniar who have tirelessly provide me with endless love, prayers, support, motivation, and sacrifice. Thank you for being the greatest source of strength in my life and for teaching me the meaning of hard work, patience, and sincerity. None of this would be have been possible without your blessings and prayers.**
- **My greatest advisors Hj. Asti Gumartifa, S.Pd., M.Pd and Dian Septarini .S.Pd.,M.Pd. who always helped in writing this thesis with a lot of advices and inputs. Thanks for your patience in guidance for me All my lectures especially in English Study Program**
- **I am grateful to my friend, named Nadia Prawita, I met her when I was doing a real work study (KKN). At first, we met quite awkwardly, but over time we became friends side by side, and in the end we became close friends.**
- **I also thank my Sister named Syakira Inayah Nayra, who has helped a lot in carrying out my final assignment and has supported me until now.**
- **And finally, I thank myself for surviving this far, even though many storms came one by one, in the end it was over, my struggle, whatever happened, hopefully it will be made easy.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All praises to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, who has given mersy and ability to the researcher to fulfill and complete this thesis entitled "Teaching Speaking Skill by Using Drill Strategy to the Eighth Grade students of SMP Negeri 7 Gelumbang" which is one of the requirements for the Sarjana degree Examination at the English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Palembang 2025.

The researcher would like to express her grateful to the Rector of Universitas Muhammadiyah Palembang, Prof. Dr. Abid Djazuli, S.E., M.M., the dean of teacher training and education faculty Prof. Dr. Indawan Syahri, M.Pd., the head of English Education Study Program Hj. Asti Gumartifa, S.Pd., M.Pd., and thanks to all lectures of the English Department in Universitas Muhammadiyah Palembang who have taught and helped the researcher during this time. The researcher give the highest appereciation to her thesis Advisors Hj. Asti Gumartifa, S.Pd., M.Pd., and Dian Septarini .S.Pd.,M.Pd. who have guided me, advised me, give the suggestions and comments for her to settle this thesis on time.

The researcher realizes that this thesis is really far from being perfect. There are still many mistake and lack that need to be improved in this thesis. The researcher accepts any kind of criticism, somments, suggestion, and advice. The researcher hopes that thesis will be useful for the university the other researcher in the future.

Palembang, 28 April 2026

The Researcher,

SNN

ABSTRACT

Nadhra, Naflyzah, Syakira 2026 The Effectiveness of Using Partner Reading Strategy in Teaching Reading Comprehension to the Eleventh Grade Students of SMK 1 Negeri Palembang Undergraduate Degree (S1), Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Palembang. Advisors: (1) Hj. Asti Gumartifa, S.Pd., M.Pd. (2) Dian Septarini, S.Pd., M.Pd.

Keywords: Partner Reading Strategy, Reading Comprehension, Quasi-Experimental Design, EFL Students.

This study aimed to determine the effectiveness of the Partner Reading Strategy in improving the reading comprehension of eleventh grade students at SMK Negeri 1 Palembang. This research employed a quantitative approach with a quasi-experimental design. The population consisted of all eleventh grade students, and the sample was selected through purposive sampling, comprising an experimental group and a control group. The data were collected using pre-test and post-test instruments to measure students' reading comprehension achievement. The experimental group was taught by using the Partner Reading Strategy, while the control group was taught through conventional methods. The results of the study showed that the students in the experimental group achieved better improvement compared to those in the control group. The statistical analysis also indicated a significant difference between the two groups. In conclusion, the use of the Partner Reading Strategy was effective in improving students' reading comprehension. Therefore, it is recommended that English teachers apply this strategy in teaching reading.

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----------|
| COVER..... | i |
| TITLE | ii |
| APPROVAL | iii |
| LETTER OF RESPONSIBILITY..... | iv |
| MOTTO AND DEDICATION..... | v |
| ABSTRACT | vi |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... | vii |
| CONTENTS..... | viii |
| LIST OF TABLES..... | ix |
| LIST OF FIGURES..... | x |
| LIST OF APPENDICES..... | xi |
| INTRODUCTION..... | xii |
| BAB I. INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| A. Background of the Study..... | 1 |
| B. Formulation of the Problem | 3 |
| C. Objective of the Study | 3 |
| D. Significance of the Study..... | 3 |
| E. Hypotheses of the Study..... | 4 |
| BAB II. LITERATURE..... | 6 |
| A. The Concept of Reading..... | 6 |
| B. Types of Reading..... | 8 |
| C. Definition of Descriptive Text..... | 8 |
| D. Purpose of Reading..... | 9 |
| E. Reading Strategies..... | 10 |
| F. Reading Comprehension..... | 12 |
| G. Levels of Reading Comprehension..... | 14 |
| H. Concept of Partner Reading Strategy..... | 15 |
| I. Procedures of Applying Partner Reading Strategy in Teaching Reading | 17 |
| J. Procedures of Applying Partner Reading Strategy in Teaching Reading Skill in Experimental Class..... | 17 |
| K. Previous Related Studies | 18 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| BAB III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY | 22 |
| A. Variable | 22 |
| B. Population and Sample..... | 23 |
| C. Techniques for Collecting the Data..... | 25 |
| D. Research Instrument Analysis..... | 26 |
| E. Techniques for Analysis The Data..... | 28 |
| BAB IV. FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION | 30 |
| A. Finding of the study..... | 30 |
| B. INTERPRETATION | 39 |
| BAB V. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION | 42 |
| A. Conclusion..... | 42 |
| B. Suggestions | 42 |
| REFERENCES..... | |
| APPENDICES | |
| BIOGRAPHY | |

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents (A) the study's history, (B) its issues, (C) its goal, (D) its significance, and (E) its hypotheses.

A. Background of Study

To improve their ability to understand language, students in the field of education should read more. Students develop their critical thinking skills through reading. They can learn some new concepts, information, and experiences by doing this. Due to varying reading habits, students will therefore have varying levels of comprehension (Pebriantika, 2024).

Strong reading comprehension abilities are crucial for comprehending written texts, so students must acquire them in reading classes. Students who are proficient in reading comprehension are able to understand a variety of features of a text, such as basic concepts and word meanings. Students are better equipped to comprehend the text's content when they grasp the subject. Reading comprehension plays a major role in the process of drawing meaning from written language, including books and other written sources (Sinaga, Herman, & Siahaan, 2020; Ubaydillah, 2024). However, many children still struggle with reading comprehension even after much practice. They frequently lack the comprehension needed to properly evaluate materials and come to the right conclusions.

Nonetheless, a lot of Indonesian students continue to struggle with reading comprehension. According to the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Indonesia's reading proficiency was comparatively poor when compared to other participating nations (Kemendikbudristek, 2023). Indonesia's ranking has slightly improved, although the country's average reading score is still below the OECD average. This suggests that many pupils still have difficulty critically and successfully comprehending written texts.

Low reading interest and low reading proficiency are problems at the local level in addition to those at the national level. According to a 2022 Palembang City Library and Archives Service survey, 41.8% of participants read fewer than two books each week, while the majority of participants read for less than an hour each week (Rhama Purna Jati, 2023). Students' comprehension of English texts in the classroom may suffer as a result of these poor reading habits.

A state of difficulty is when something is difficult to comprehend. Students frequently struggle with vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and pronunciation when learning English. Understanding English reading texts is one of the biggest challenges, which can impact students of all ages, particularly those who struggle with reading comprehension (Septia et al., 2022).

Students struggle to read proficiently due to challenging vocabulary and pronunciation. However, students frequently struggle to comprehend reading texts due to limited background knowledge, low motivation, limited vocabulary, and difficulties understanding the content (Izzat, 2023). This is because many students are afraid of making mistakes, which makes them feel less confident when reading, especially when they find new words, difficult sentences, and have low motivation and focus (Nerry, 2020).

According to preliminary interviews with English teachers at SMK Negeri 1 Palembang, students in the eleventh grade had various difficulties with reading comprehension. These challenges include poor motivation, a small vocabulary, and pronunciation issues. Because they are uncertain about how to pronounce words correctly, many pupils lack confidence when reading and frequently read slowly. Additionally, children often struggle to understand descriptive writings, especially when it comes to understanding text organization, identifying primary concepts, and comprehending detailed information.

Individual reading exercises that are teacher-centered frequently cause pupils to become less engaged and motivated during the learning process. As

a result, the Partner Reading Strategy is regarded as a potentially successful teaching method since it gives students the chance to read, debate, and help one another comprehend literature. Students can actively participate in the understanding process and provide mutual assistance through paired reading, which may enhance their reading comprehension abilities. Previous studies have shown that partner reading has a good effect on students' reading development (Zulmaidah et al., 2020; Zulvani, 2022).

Although this approach has demonstrated encouraging outcomes in other settings, its efficacy has not been thoroughly examined in Palembang's vocational high schools. As a result, the researcher intends to conduct a study titled "The Effectiveness of Using Partner Reading Strategy in Teaching Reading Comprehension to the Eleventh Grade Students of SMK 1 Negeri Palembang." The Partner Reading Strategy can greatly improve students' reading comprehension in English lessons.

A. Formulation of the Problem

Does the Partner Reading Strategy considerably enhance the reading comprehension skills of the eleventh-grade students at SMK Negeri 1 Palembang?

B. Objective of the study

to ascertain whether the Partner Reading Strategy may help eleventh grade students at SMK Negeri 1 Palembang enhance their reading comprehension.

C. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to have several advantages for the researcher, students, teachers, and future researchers.

1. For the Researcher

The applicability of the Partner Reading Strategy in reading comprehension instruction is better understood thanks to this study. The researcher obtains hands-on experience in implementing instructional practices, conducting

classroom research, and evaluating students' progress in reading comprehension through this project. Additionally, this research advances the researcher's career, especially in terms of choosing successful teaching methods.

2. For Students

The results of this study are expected to help students improve their reading comprehension skills. Using the Partner Reading Strategy may make it easier for students to understand literature, increasing their confidence in their ability to understand written materials and improving their participation in reading activities.

3. For Teachers

This study is expected to provide educators with useful information, especially with teaching reading comprehension. Teachers can use the findings of this study as a guide for putting the Partner Reading Strategy or other collaborative learning strategies into practice to create a more stimulating and effective learning environment.

4. For Other Researchers

This study may be helpful as a reference for future researchers that are interested in partner reading strategies, instructional strategies, or reading comprehension. The study's findings can be compared and utilized as supporting information for further research in relevant fields.

E. Hypotheses of the Study

Ho (Null Hypothesis): The eleventh-grade students at SMK Negeri 1 Palembang's reading comprehension is not significantly impacted by the Partner Reading Strategy.

Ha (Alternative Hypothesis): The eleventh-grade students at SMK Negeri 1 Palembang's reading comprehension is significantly impacted by the Partner Reading Strategy.

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