

## ABSTRACT

**Zulaifa. 2015. The Effect of Think-Aloud Strategy on Junior High School Students' Achievement in Reading Comprehension. A Thesis. Medan: English Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts, State University of Medan.**

This study deals with the second year junior high school students' achievement in reading comprehension. The objective of the study was the investigation of the effect of Think-Aloud Strategy on students' achievement in reading comprehension. The study was designed in experimental research. The population of this study was the 2014/2015 grade VIII students of SMP Swasta Sabilina Tembung, Kecamatan Percut Sei Tuan, Kabupaten Deli Serdang. The total number of population of the study was 389 students which consist of 12 classes. The sample of the research was 64 students. The technique used for obtaining the sample was the cluster sampling technique. The sample classes were divided into two groups, namely the experimental group that was taught by applying Think-Aloud Strategy, and the control group that was taught by applying classical method. The instrument for collecting data used objective test. The data were taken by administering the pre-test and post-test to both of experimental and control groups. The test was taken and selected from the National Examination test items that were related to the kind of descriptive text. So, the validity and reliability of the test items were considered valid and reliable. The data were statistically analyzed by using t-test formula at the level of significance  $\alpha (0.05) = 1.669$  with the degree of freedom ( $d_f$ ) = 65. It was found that the t-observed was higher than t-table (t-observed = 4.93 > t-table = 1.669;  $\alpha = 0.05$ ). It means that Think-Aloud Strategy significantly affect the students' achievement in reading comprehension.

*Keywords: Reading Comprehension, National Examination, Cluster Sampling, Think-Aloud Strategy.*

