ABSTRACT

Iskandar Hasim, Muhammad. Registration Number 2161121028. The Correlation Between Lexical Density and Validity of Reading Comprehension Test. A Thesis. English Educational Program. Faculty of Languages and Arts, State University of Medan, 2022.

This study is intended to find out if lexical density significantly contributes to reading comprehension difficulty. For this purpose, the study was designed by descriptive quantitative correlational design. Coefficient correlation between its high and low lexical density was taken as the indicator of the contribution of lexical density to reading comprehension difficulty. Reading Comprehension part of the TOEFL test was taken as one of the variables, which is also called a criterion. This test is assumed to be standard in difficulty level because this test has high validity. Two researcher-made tests of Reading Comprehension – one of which is with high lexical density and the other with low lexical density- were taken as the other variables. The level of text density is found by measuring the lexical density percentage of Ure's formula and categorize their level based on Kamahami's lexical density parameter. This study involved thirty students from class XI IPA 1 SMA Dr. Wahidin Sudirohusodo as a sample taken from 263 students as a population of all students in class XI. The data obtained from the three different sets of instruments were analyzed by both simple and multiple correlations using the Pearson product-moment formula.

The results of the study showed that there is a significant correlation between reading comprehension test with low lexical density and reading comprehension test with high lexical density towards TOEFL reading comprehension test ($R = 0.816$) with F-change (26.9) > F-table (3.35) at the significance level of 5%. However, the correlation between the reading comprehension of low lexical density and the reading comprehension section of the TOEFL ($r = 0.772$) is not significantly different from the correlation between the reading comprehension of high lexical density and the reading comprehension section of the TOEFL ($r = 0.770$).

Keywords: Lexical Density, Reading Comprehension Test, Validity