

THE ATTITUDES OF STUDENTS OF ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM OF JAMBI UNIVERSITY IN USING ENGLISH DICTIONARY

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to investigate students' attitude in using English dictionary by English students of Jambi University. It was designed as descriptive quantitative research. Data of this research was collected by using questionnaires. Data analysis was done by using SPSS. The results indicate that the majority of the students preferred bilingual dictionary to other types of dictionaries that is monolingual dictionary. The students claimed that they were not taught about how to use dictionary properly. Moreover, the students reported that they use online dictionaries and lexical meaning was reported to be the most frequently sought information than others information. The study also revealed that meaning was reported to be the most lexical information sought by the subjects of the current study. Furthermore, the findings showed that the majority of the students refer to their dictionaries for word meaning and spelling but pay little attention to other aspects such as pronunciation, illustrated examples, and parts of speech of the word. The findings revealed that the activity that involves the most frequent use of dictionary is when students work on translation activities. The results of the study suggest that the EFL teachers should incorporate the training of using dictionary effectively to the students in their classes and make the students aware of potentially extensive use of dictionaries for English learning.

Key words: Students' Attitude, Dictionary

Introduction

Dictionary is an important pedagogical tool that plays a vital role in various processes of language learning including reading comprehension and vocabulary learning and acquisition Ali (2012). Additionally, "If we do not teach students how to use the dictionary, it is unlikely that they will demand that they be taught, since, while teachers do not believe that students have adequate dictionary skills, students believe that they do" (Bilash, Gregoret & Loewen, 1999, p.4). Based on previous studies in many SL/FL countries, the problem was tended to focus on the dictionary use of language learners. They found that many students, especially Asian learners were not efficient dictionary user. The study reports that dissimilarity between the role a dictionary can play and the way language learners use dictionary in their learning process. According to Wang (2007) dictionaries for a foreign language learner are just maps in tourist's hand. A language learners have to know how to use a dictionary (as cited in Koca, Pojani and Cicko, 2014). So, because the lack of research on the important of students skills in dictionary use, the researcher is conducted this research in order to find students' attitude towards dictionary use.

Therefore, the researcher chooses this topic to find out students' attitude in using English dictionary for the third and fifth semester students. The finding of this research can be beneficial for the lecturers as the information about students' attitude in using English dictionary on college stage and for the next researchers who interested on conducting similar

topics. Also, it is hoped that the study will contribute to improving the understanding of dictionary training which is an area that is under-investigated in English education department of Jambi University context. Because dictionary skills are not taught in many classrooms instead they have learned individually. The information from this findings are expected to be able to use for the lecturers as the guidance to improve their teaching related students' skill in using English dictionary and to be useful for the next researcher as the reference to similar topics. This study is focused on students' attitudes toward dictionary use for English college among third and fifth semester students in English education department of Jambi University. The researcher is only focusing on students in the thirds and fifth semester.

Method

In this study the researcher used quantitative descriptive approach and survey as the design of this research in order to find out students' attitude toward dictionary use. According to Creswell (2013) "survey research provides a quantitative or numeric description of trends, attitudes, or opinions of a population by studying a sample of that population" (p. 41). Surveys are capable of obtaining information from large samples of the population. They are also well suited to gathering demographic data that describe the composition of the sample (McIntyre, 1999). Survey study aims at surveying respondents from a statistically valid sample of the population of interest in order to infer from the sample statistics the range of likely values in the broader population. The term of quantitative refers to the fact that there is normally a numerical scale behind the quantities that respondents are asked to reveal in the survey. This numerical scale can be as simple as expressing a degree of agreement or disagreement over a scale of ordinal intensities.

This study was conducted at Jambi University, focusing on the students who had already taken reading for professional context. Which means intended for students in the third and fifth semester. In order to find out students' attitudes in dictionary used among third and fifth semester students. To get access doing this study, the researcher used official letter to get permission at Jambi University.

The samples of this study were the third and fifth semester students at University of Jambi. The researchere chose the third and fifth semester students as the sample of this research because of some reason. First, the researcher wanted the third semester students become the sample because they have more experiences about how the lectures teach them in the classroom. Then, the fifth semester students were chosen as the sample of this research because of the possibility in getting students' access. If the researcher used the seventh semester students as the sample of the research they will be so busy preparing their Pre-Service teaching duty.

The researcher used purposive sampling as theoretical framework of this research. According to Etikan, Musa & Alkassim (2016) purposive sampling is the deliberate choice of a participant due to the qualities the participant possesses. Which was the researcher decided what needs to be known and set out to find people who could and were willing to provide the information by virtue of knowledge and experience. The samples were from regular and regular mandiri who had learnt reading for professional context.

Table 1. Third Semester Students

Regular and Regular Mandiri	Total of Students
A	32
B	33
H	18
I	17
TOTAL	100

Table 2. Fifth semester students

Regular and Regular Mandiri	Total of students
A	31
B	31
H	20
I	18
TOTAL	100

A set of questionnaire was constructed to find out the information about students' attitudes in dictionary use among students of English education department of Jambi University. According to Creswell (2012) questionnaire is a form used in a survey design that ask the participants to fill and return it to the researcher. The questionnaires were adapted from Hamouda (2013) in order to fit the researcher needs toward this research. Existing questionnaires were developed for college students in Arabic would need to be adapted for Indonesian students by changing the item concerning to this research. For Hamouda's questionnaire there consist of 9 sub-themes in which consist of 56 statements. The sub-themes are: instruction received in dictionary used (5 items), reason for purchasing dictionary (6 items), the attitude towards dictionary use in general (5 items), types of dictionary in terms of language (4 items), use of types of dictionary in terms of format (3 items), reason for preference of an electronic dictionary to paper dictionary (7 items), frequency of dictionary

use for different language activity (5 items), kind of information Saudi EFL students look up in their dictionary (11 items) and the difficulties in dictionary use (10 items).

From Hamouda's questionnaire the researcher adapted and modified the questionnaire into 7 sub-themes in which consist of 35 items. From this questionnaire the researcher wanted to observe students' training on the use of dictionary (3 items), attitude towards dictionary used (5 items), dictionary language type (1 item), students dictionary own (1 item), dictionary type in terms of format (3 items), dictionary use for different language activities (6 items), information looked up in a dictionary (10 items) and the difficulties while using dictionary (6 items). The questionnaires consisted of 35 items to which students were asked to choose the answer related to dictionary use. The researcher also added Indonesian translation in the researcher's questionnaire toward this study. Then, the participants only need to give a symbol or mark (√) on the column which was provided in the questionnaire. The questionnaire also focused on demographic information, such as name, class and level of grade.

Validity is used to measure valid or non-valid of questionnaires, the questionnaires will be valid if the questionnaire question or statement is able to express something to be measured. According to Johnson & Christensen (2008) validity is the accuracy of the inferences, interpretations, or action made on the basis of tests scores. In this research, the researcher used the face validity because the researcher was adapted the questionnaire from the previous study and the questionnaire has been tested or used in earlier study, so the researcher only needs to use face validity for this research in order to prove that the research instrument is accurate to measure what the researcher wanted to measure. According to Oluwatayo (2012) that face validity refers to researchers' subjective assessments of the presentation and relevance of the measuring instrument as to whether the items in the instrument appear to be relevant, reasonable, unambiguous and clear. So, face validity was determined by a review of the items and not through the use of statistical analyses. Unlike content validity, face validity is not investigated through formal procedures and is not determined by subject matter experts. Instead, anyone who looks over the test, including examinees and other stakeholders, may develop an informal opinion as to whether or not the test was measuring what it was supposed to measure.

The criteria of face validity assessment for this study are based on Oluwatayo (2012) namely:

- a. Appropriateness of grammar.
- b. The clarity and unambiguity of items.
- c. The correct spelling of words.
- d. The correct structuring the sentences.
- e. Appropriateness of font size.
- f. The structure of the instrument in terms of construction and well- thought out format.

Lavrakas (2008) stated that reliability is concerned with the consistency of result whether those result are valid. Meanwhile according to Creswell (2012) reliability means that scores from an instrument are balance and consistent. However, when the researcher distributed the instrument multiple and different times, the results are should be stable or consistent. Questionnaires in this research were taken from Hamouda (2013) as the previous research and the research has been published at Scholink CO., LTD.

The items that researcher adapted were 35 items from related journals. This questionnaire should be reliable before distributed by the researcher. Therefore, the researcher would test this questionnaire firstly to try out class to know the range reliability of indexes. In this research, the researcher choosed class B at first semester students to be tested. Then, researcher calculated the result by using SPSS which is Alpha Cronbach's as the formula to see whether reliable or not to be distributed to the sample of the research. The items of questionnaire should be in the range $> 0,7$ to reach reliability. William (2003) added the reliability indexes below:

Table 3. Reliability Indexes

CATEGORIES	SCORING
Excellent Reliability	$> 0,9$
Good Reliability	$0,8 - 0,9$
Acceptable Reliability	$0,7 - 0,8$
Questionable Reliability	$0,6 - 0,7$
Poor Reliability	$0,5 - 0,6$
Unacceptable Reliability	$<0,5$

In this study, the researcher was analysed the data by using SPSS from the questionnaires filled by the participants. (Creswell, 3013) "A method discussion in a quantitative proposal needs also to specify the steps in analysing the various forms of quantitative data" (P. 245). The result would be described by descriptive analysis and there were several steps that researcher used in analysing the data:

1. The researcher checked name, class and grade of level of the respondent. And researcher changed the name of respondents become alphabet A-Z because it could be easy to include to SPSS.
2. The researcher started to put the data into Mc-Exel, the data divided into two columns. The first column is the result from the third semester students and second is from the fifth semester students. The value of agree is 1 and disagree is 0. So, for the respondents who chose agree or disagree toward the statements, the researcher entered the value on the column based on what the students responded. Then, the researcher copy and paste the data and entered that into SPSS. 0.16. The researcher started to find out the frequency of questionnaires and continued to analyse the data. The frequency of the results are divided into 3: the result from the third semester students, the result from the fifth semester students and the result from 200 (the third and fifth semester) students.
3. The final step in data analysis was making an interpretation in quantitative descriptive against the finding or the result. In process of making an interpretation it might involve the researcher's experiences.

Result and Discussion

The researcher concludes that training on dictionary used is still problematic for the students. Because the finding shows that more than half of the third and fifth semester students claimed that they were not taught in detail in how to use dictionary was reaching 58,5%. Then supporting by the other finding that 54,5% students claimed that they were not got the information that they need in dictionary. It shows that the lack of applying dictionary skill is still need to be solved at Jambi University especially for English students.

The students claimed that they are have more than one dictionary in which their ability in seeking independently about what dictionary to use may be involved. Then even millennial, the students who preferred paper dictionary was more than half of the students, there 54% students who still use print dictionary. The finding shows mostly the students from the third and fifth semester students preferred to use online dictionary and Google translate, hence the students only need to copy and paste the text and it also time less consuming. It can be noted that online dictionary or Google translate more frequently used by the English students at Jambi university.

What become the most activity that involved the students using English dictionary was when they working on translation activity (English-Indonesia, Indonesia-English), there 88% students agree about it. That's why mostly the third and fifth semester students preferred to use bilingual dictionary than monolingual. It shows that the students chose bilingual dictionary were based on their target language. The students need to pay attention toward the use of dictionary. Dictionary is not solely to work on translation activity only. But they must improve the skill in accessing or using dictionary. Based on the result the most information that students looked up on dictionary is the meaning of the words. Instead the students can access dictionary to find the pronunciation, antonym, synonym and part of speech of the words and until the introduction of using Thesaurus.

The researcher also found the different attitude among the third and fifth semester students. The most students who seek information independently about what dictionary to use was from the third semester students, it reached 78 students who claimed about that. Beside there only 33 students from the fifth semester who claimed sought the information independently about dictionary to use. Also, the researcher found another contrary of attitude among the third and fifth semester student. There were 64 students from the fifth semester preferred to use print dictionary, beside there only half of the third semester students or 50% who preferred print dictionary. it can be noted the younger generation the lesser they rely on paper dictionary.

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