

**THE READING COMPREHENSION ABILITY OF  
THE STUDENTS OF SMA SEMEN GRESIK:  
A CASE STUDY**

**A THESIS**

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*If you give a man a fish, you feed him for one day.*

*If you teach him how to fish, you feed him for many days. (Confucius)*

*&*

*Tanpa ILMU kita termangu,*

*Tanpa IMAN kita bisa edan.*

## APPROVAL SHEET (1)

This thesis entitled **The Reading Comprehension Ability of the Students of SMA Gresik**

prepared and submitted by Nirdawati (8212701019)  
has been approved to be examined by the Board of examiners for acquiring the Master's degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language by the following advisor.



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## APPROVAL SHEET (2)

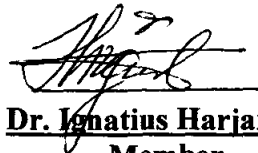
This thesis entitled **The Reading Comprehension Ability of the Students of SMA Semen Gresik** prepared and submitted by Nirdawati (8212701019) was examined by the following Board of examiners on oral examination on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007.




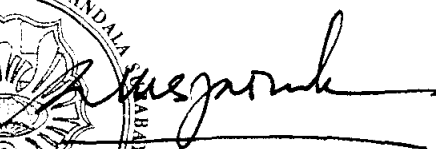
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**ABSTRACT**

## A B S T R A C T

Nirdawati, Dra, 2007. *The Reading Comprehension Ability of the Students of Semen Gresik Senior High School*. Thesis, Graduate Program in English Language Education, Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University.

Advisor: Dr. Agustinus Ngadiman.

Key words: comprehension processes, reading strategies, reading comprehension.

The aim of the research was to find out the reading ability of the students of Semen Gresik Senior High School. This research was based on the objective of reading instruction in the 2004 English curriculum for senior high school. It stated that the objective of learning in senior high school is to prepare the learners to continue their study to a university.

The subjects of the research were the students of Semen Gresik senior high school. There were 183 students, consisting of 82 boys and 101 girls, were involved in this research.

There were three kinds of instruments were used. The first instrument was, reading comprehension test. It was an objective tests consisting of 50 items. This test was used to know the reading ability of the students. It was administered on May 3, 2006. The second instrument was a close questionnaires consisting of 10 statements. It was used to monitor the students' reading habits which affect their reading comprehension ability. And, the third instrument was an interview. It was used to avoid misunderstanding both the researcher and the respondents in order to obtain the truthful information.

The results of the students' reading comprehension scores were ranked in order to know their category of reading ability. They could be categorized as excellent, very good, good, fair, poor or very poor. The results of the study showed that there was no student who was categorized as excellent. The study showed that 48.63% of the total percentage belongs to fair category. While the average score was 61.21, the mid point was 63 and the median was 62.

The results of the questionnaires showed that the students' inability to comprehend English text was due to: (1) vocabulary problems, (2) grammatical features problems, (3) lexical accessibility, (4) the use of inappropriate techniques in reading.

Based on these findings, it is suggested: (1) The teachers have to enrich vocabulary needed to understand the written texts. (2) The teachers have to practice various reading strategies. (3) The teachers have to friendly pressure in the form of persuasion and timing.



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