

UNDERSTANDING OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS AMONG GRADE X STUDENTS OF SMA UNGGULAN AL-AZHAR MEDAN

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Abstract

A research on the comprehension of grade X students of SMA Unggulan Al-Azhar Medan was conducted to test their understanding of acronyms and abbreviations. Acronyms and abbreviations have a big role in everyday life, but in the current era of poor literacy, people's understanding of abbreviations and acronyms is lacking. This research was conducted in a qualitative way with questionnaires distributed to students of class X SMA Unggulan Al-Azhar. The results show that their understanding of abbreviations tends to be better than their understanding of acronyms. This is because abbreviations are easier to understand and are often found in public places, while acronyms are usually only written and usually people do not know what the acronym stands for.

Keywords: Acronyms, Abbreviations, Comprehension, Students.

INTRODUCTION

Language is the main communication tool for humans. Many languages have emerged due to the changing times and human culture. Language also plays an important role in human life. Over time, language has undergone various changes according to human needs. Good and correct Indonesian has many rules that must be obeyed, such as spelling, italics, capital letters, abbreviations, and acronyms. These rules are summarized in EYD. Generation Z has a limited understanding of standard language in accordance with the KBBI and EYD. This is due to the low interest in Indonesian language and the desire to be literate. One of the causes is the lack of understanding of acronyms/abbreviations. Acronym is the meaning of the actual word contained in a word (Wirjosoedarmo, 1992:22). An abbreviation is a combination of first letters, a combination of several syllables, or a combination of letters and syllables. For example, Senior High School is abbreviated to SMA. Abbreviations are commonly used to make things easier for people. Many members of Generation Z often use abbreviations/acronyms but do not know the long form or meaning of the acronym. Therefore, this research was conducted to find out Generation Z's understanding of acronyms that are often used in everyday life.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Abbreviation

Abbreviation is a shortened form of one or several words made by removing some letters or syllables, but still represents the meaning of the word or phrase. According to Kridalaksana (2009: 162), abbreviation is one of the results of the shortening process in the form of letters or a combination of letters, either spelled letter by letter or not spelled letter by letter.

2. Acronym

Acronym are abbreviations formed from letters or syllables (initial or final) of several words that are combined into a new word and pronounced as a single unit. Generally, acronyms are used to facilitate the pronunciation or writing of long terms. According to Finoza (1993), acronyms are

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abbreviations in the form of a combination of initial letters of words, a combination of syllables, or a combination and syllables of a series of abbreviated words.

3. Comprehension

Comprehension is the process or ability of someone to understand, grasp the meaning, or know something deeply. Comprehension involves interpreting information, ideas, or concepts so that they can be accepted by reason and become the basis for decision-making or action. Daryanto (2008: 106) says that, Comprehension is this ability generally gets emphasis in the teaching and learning process. Students are required to understand or understand what is being taught, know what is being communicated and be able to utilize its contents without having to connect it with other things.

4. Student

Students are individuals who are pursuing education at a certain level, such as elementary school, secondary school, or other formal educational institutions. According to Prof. Dr. Shafique Ali Khan (2005) the definition of a student is a person who comes to an institution to obtain or learn some type of education.

RESEARCH METHODS

A. Place and Time of Research

This research took place for one day, namely on September 3, 2024. The research location is at SMA Unggulan Al-Azhar Medan.

B. Population

The population studied in this study were students in grade X at SMA Unggulan Al-Azhar Medan.

C. Sample

According to Sugiyono (2015: 215), the sample is part of the population. The sample in this study was the 10th grade class. In this study, sampling was done by giving a questionnaire through G-Form. This study uses data from respondents who are considered to be able to provide important information for writing this work, according to the criteria determined by the researcher. The criteria used is to measure how well students understand the use of acronyms in everyday life. The sample of respondents in this study consisted of 178 grade X students at SMA Unggulan Al-Azhar Medan.

1. Primary Data

Primary data is information obtained directly from the source by researchers or those conducting studies for specific purposes. This data is generated through collection techniques that involve direct interaction with the research subject or phenomenon being analyzed. In addition, information from respondents is very important to understand their views regarding students' understanding of the use of acronyms in daily activities at SMA Unggulan Al-Azhar Medan. In this context, primary data can be collected directly by distributing questionnaires or questions to class X students

2. Secondary Data

Secondary data is information that has been collected, processed, or published by others and reused by researchers for specific purposes. Usually, this data is available in the format of documents, reports, statistics, or publications, so researchers do not need to collect it directly from the primary source. Secondary data in this study can be accessed from literature related to abbreviations and acronyms.

DATA COLLECTION METHOD

1. Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a medium for collecting data in the form of a series of questions or written statements given to respondents to obtain certain information. Questionnaires are usually used in both

quantitative and qualitative research and can be delivered directly (face-to-face) or indirectly (via email, online applications, or other media).

2. Literature Study

Literature study is a way to collect data or information by searching and studying various literature or writing sources related to research topics. This method is often used to obtain a theoretical basis, reference, or comparison with the results of previous research. Literature study is a crucial step in research to strengthen arguments or support analysis.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Results

SMA Unggulan Al - Azhar Medan is one of the high schools in Medan City with 568 students. However, in this study, we only focused on grade X students and got 178 responses. This research activity was carried out by distributing questionnaires with multiple choices in the form of G-Form, with the aim of reviewing the knowledge of grade X students on acronyms and abbreviations that are most commonly heard in everyday life. The data collected consists of the answers of 5 abbreviations and 3 acronyms. From the respondent data that has been collected, data analysis can be carried out by analyzing abbreviation data, and analyzing acronym data. The analysis in this study was carried out by analyzing the level of understanding of abbreviations and acronyms in class X students of SMA Unggulan Al - Azhar Medan.

After the questionnaires were distributed, the initial results showed that most or around 59.6% of the students already knew what acronyms were. A small portion or around 40.3% admitted that they did not know what an acronym was and chose the "other" option. Then for the answers of some acronyms and abbreviations that have been given, the results are as follows:

A. Abbreviations

1. SIM (Surat Izin Mengemudi or *Driver's License*)

From the SIM question, 175 students chose the correct answer 'Surat Izin Mengemudi or *Driver's License*', and 2 students answered the wrong answer, namely 1 student chose 'Surat Izin Menikah or *Marriage License*', and 2 students chose 'Sistem Informasi Mahasiswa or Student Information System'

2. PAUD (Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini or *Early Childhood Education*)

From the PAUD question, 158 students chose the correct answer 'Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini or *Early Childhood Education*', and 20 students answered the wrong answer, namely 19 students chose 'Pendidikan Anak Umur Dini or *Early Childhood Education*', and 1 person chose 'Pengetahuan Alam Untuk Dunia or *Natural Knowledge for the World*'.

3. KTP (Kartu Tanda Penduduk or *Identity Card*)

From the KTP question, 152 students chose the correct answer 'Kartu Tanda Penduduk or *Identity Card*', and 26 students chose the wrong answer 'Kartu Tanda Pengenal or *Identification Card*'.

4. BNN (Badan Narkotika Nasional or *National Narcotics Agency*)

From the BNN question, 124 students chose the correct answer 'Badan Narkotika Nasional or *National Narcotics Agency*', and 50 students answered the wrong answer, namely 13 students chose 'Badan Nasional Narkoba or *National Drug Agency*', and 37 students chose the answer 'Badan Nasional Narkotika or *National Agency Narcotics*'.

5. BPJS (Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial or *Social Security Organizing Agency*)

From the question BPJS, 103 students answered the correct answer 'Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial or *Social Security Organizing Agency*', and 75 students answered the wrong answer, namely 35 students answered 'Badan Pengelola Jaminan Sosial or *Social Security Management Agency*', 31 students answered 'Badan Penyedia Jaminan Sosial or *Social Security Provider Agency*', and 9 students answered 'Badan Penyidik Jaminan Sosial or *Social Security Investigation Agency*'.

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B. Acronyms

1. Rudal (Peluru Kendali or *Control Bullet*)

From the Missile question, 92 students answered the correct answer ‘Peluru Kendali or *Control Bullet*’, and 86 students answered the wrong answer, namely 13 students answered ‘Penjuru Andalan or Cornerstone’, 56 students answered ‘Ruang Kendali or *Control Room*’, and 17 students answered ‘Peluru Andalan or *Mainstay Bullet*’.

2. Bulog (Badan Urusan Logistik or *Logistics Agency*)

From the Bulog question, 75 students answered the correct answer ‘Badan Urusan Logistik or *Logistics Agency*’, and 103 students answered the wrong answer, namely 87 students answered ‘Badan Usaha Logistik or *Logistics Business Agency*’, 2 students answered ‘Badan Ujicoba Logistik or *Logistics Test Agency*’, and 14 students answered ‘Badan Usaha & Lembaga Geologi or *Business Agency & Geological Institute*’.

3. Tilang (Bukti Pelanggaran or *Proof of Violation*)

From the Tilang question, 52 students answered the correct answer ‘Bukti Pelanggaran or *Proof of Violation*’, and 124 students answered the wrong answer, namely 33 students answered ‘Tindakan Terlarang or *Prohibited Action*’, 92 students answered ‘Tindakan Pelanggaran or *Violation Action*’, and 1 student answered ‘Bukti Langsung or *Direct Evidence*’.

The additional questions in the questionnaire are

1. Apakah kamu sering menggunakan atau menemukan singkatan dan akronim dalam kehidupan sehari-hari?

(Do you often use or encounter abbreviations and acronyms in your daily life?)

From this question, the results are shown in the following diagram;

Apakah kamu sering menggunakan atau menemukan singkatan dan akronim dalam kehidupan sehari-hari?

178 jawaban

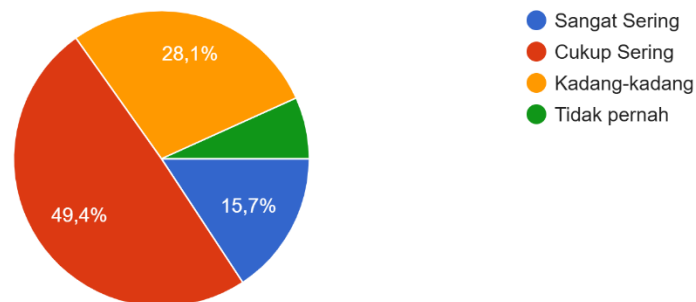


Diagram 1 *Students' frequency of encountering abbreviations and acronyms in daily life.*

It can be seen that around 49.4% of students admitted that they Quite Often (Cukup Sering), there were 15.7% of students answered that they Very Often (Sangat Sering), then there were 28.1% of students who answered Sometimes (Kadang-kadang), and the rest answered that they Never (Tidak Pernah) found abbreviations and acronyms in their daily lives.

2. Menurut Anda, seberapa penting memahami singkatan dan akronim dalam komunikasi sehari-hari?

(How important do you think it is to understand abbreviations and acronyms in everyday communication?)

Then for this question, the diagram results are as follows;

Menurut Anda, seberapa penting memahami singkatan dan akronim dalam komunikasi sehari-hari?

178 jawaban

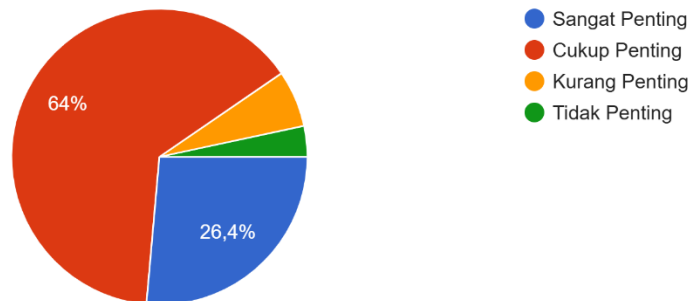


Diagram 2 *Level of Importance of Abbreviations and Acronyms in Daily Life According to Students.*

From the diagram above, it can be seen that about 64% of students think that understanding the meaning of abbreviations and acronyms is Fairly Important (Cukup Penting), while about 26.4% of students consider this Very Important (Sangat Penting). The rest of the students think it is Less Important (Kurang Penting) and Not Important (Tidak Penting) in their daily lives.

Discussion

From the research that has been conducted, it can be concluded that the level of understanding of class X students at SMA Unggulan Al-Azhar Medan about abbreviations is very good, especially for the most commonly heard abbreviations. However, their understanding for acronyms still has to be improved, this can be proven by the small number of students who are able to give the right answers to the acronyms that have been provided. Students only often hear, but do not know what the meaning of acronyms that are commonly heard in everyday life. Some of them even thought that the acronym given was a whole word that had no extension. The following is a discussion of each question;

A. Abbreviations

1. SIM (Surat Izin Mengemudi or *Driver's License*)

From the respondents who have answered it can be concluded that, on average, students have a good understanding of the abbreviation SIM. Because the number of students who answered incorrectly was very small.

2. PAUD (Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini or *Early Childhood Education*)

The results obtained from this PAUD abbreviation are also very satisfying, because the number of correct answers obtained from students is very large. This means that the average student has a good understanding of what PAUD stands for. In general, 'Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini or *Early Childhood Education*' and 'Pendidikan Anak Umur Dini or *Early Childhood Education*' have similar meanings. However, referring to KBBI and EYD, the correct abbreviation for PAUD is 'Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini or *Early Childhood Education*'.

3. KTP (Kartu Tanda Penduduk or *Identity Card*)

Similar to the SIM and PAUD abbreviations, the results obtained from this KTP abbreviation were also very satisfying. Most students knew what KTP stands for, but there were some students who were fooled by the answer options given.

4. BNN (Badan Narkotika Nasional or *National Narcotics Agency*)

The results obtained from this BNN abbreviation are also satisfactory, although quite a number of students chose the wrong answer from the answer options given.

5. BPJS (Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial or *Social Security Organizing Agency*)

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Slightly different from the previous 4 abbreviations, the results obtained from the BPJS abbreviation were somewhat less satisfactory. It is true, the number of students who answered correctly was still more than the number of students who answered incorrectly. However, the number of students who answered incorrectly was quite large. From the five abbreviations that have been given, it can be concluded that, although some of them are still wrong in interpreting an abbreviation, most students have been able to answer correctly about the abbreviations given. This indicates that the understanding of class X students at SMA Unggulan Al-Azhar Medan on abbreviations is very good.

B. Acronym

1. Rudal (Peluru Kendali or *Control Bullet*)

From the results of the questionnaires distributed, it can be seen that many students do not understand the full meaning of the acronym Missile. Although there were still more students who gave the correct answer, the difference between the number of students who answered correctly and the number of students who answered incorrectly was only 6 students.

2. Bulog (Badan Urusan Logistik or *Logistics Agency*)

For Bulog, the results obtained were considered unsatisfactory. This is because the number of students who chose the wrong answer was higher than the number of students who chose the correct answer. Also because the difference between the two is quite significant.

3. Tilang (Bukti Pelanggaran or *Proof of Violation*)

The average student could not clearly understand what Tilang stands for, because only a few students were able to choose the right answer. Many students were deceived by the answer options provided. They assumed that the term "Tilang" was related to an offense.

From the three acronyms that had been distributed, it could be seen that many students were still unable to understand the acronyms clearly. Because there are still many of them who are confused and choose the wrong answer. Thus, this shows that the understanding of class X students of SMA Unggulan Al-Azhar Medan about acronyms is still relatively low.

C. Additional Questions

1. Do you often use or find abbreviations and acronyms in everyday life?

As can be seen in Diagram 1, almost 50% of students answered that they often find or use them. This can be evidence of the large number of students who have a good understanding of abbreviations.

2. How important do you think it is to understand acronyms and abbreviations in daily communication?

As can be seen in Diagram 2, about 26.4% of students answered that understanding acronyms and abbreviations is very important. And as many as 64% of students answered that it is quite important to understand them after they answered all the questions about what acronyms and abbreviations should stand for in daily communication.

CONCLUSION

Correct Indonesian means that you must use Indonesian in accordance with the principles or rules of Indonesian language that already exist. The rules of proper Indonesian include spelling rules, grammar rules, and term formation rules. However, currently, some students consider this less important, especially regarding abbreviations and acronyms. The reason is the lack of understanding about acronyms and their use in everyday life. This can be seen from the research results that we obtained through research and analysis that has been carried out, where only some of the students of class X SMA Unggulan Al-Azhar MEDAN understand the meaning of acronyms correctly. This uneven understanding of acronyms can be overcome by familiarizing the use of good and correct Indonesian, and increasing students' interest in literacy.



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