CHAPTER IV

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Result

This chapter presents the analysis results of the obtained data. The results of data analysis were obtained from test. As it has been mentioned previously the test used is pronunciation test in which students are asked to read groups of words. The data were analyzed using a formula by *Schonell* and then the data interpretation which was in the form of mean was used to know the students' average reading age.

1. Junior High School Students' Average Reading Age

a. Reading Age Calculation

The first data was the reading age. To find out the reading age of the students, the writer using following formula.

$$\text{Reading age} = \frac{Number\ of\ Words\ Correct}{10} + 5$$

Example: Student number 1

$$\text{Reading age} = \frac{54}{10} + 5$$

Reading age = 10.5 (10 years and 5 months)

The student number 1 belongs to level 10 (White). The result of students' reading age based on their pronunciation competence could be seen in the following table.

Table 4.1. Junior High School students' reading age

Reading level	Percentage of student

Level 8	2.5 %
Level 9	2.5 %
Level 10	7.5 %
Level 11	5 %
Level 12	12.5 %
Level 13	2.5 %
Level 14	10 %
Level 15	57.5 %

Based on the table above, it known that more than half of the students are in level 15 (Dark Pink). There were 57.5% (23 students) acquiring Level 15 or the highest level by correctly pronounce 76 to 94 words from 100 words prepared. Only 2.5 % (1 student) who got Level 8, which is the lowest from the entire participant with 45, correct words. There were only 2.5 % (1 student) at Level 9 (Purple) with 47 total numbers of correct words, in a row with Level 8. Meanwhile at level 10 (White) 7.5 % (3 students) of the student obtained by correctly pronouncing 54 to 56 words in total. Whereas 5 % (2 students) were occupied Level 11 (Lime) with 57 and 59 total words, correct. While at Brown (Level 12) reached by 12.5 % (5 students) with total correct words pronounced between 61 to 65. At Level 13 (Grey) there was only 2.5 % (1 student) who got it by pronouncing 68 correct words. Meanwhile at Level 14 (Dark Blue) there were 10 % (4 students) correctly answering 71 to 76 words.

b. The Average Reading Age of Junior High School Students

To find out the mean, the writer using the following formula.

$$M = \frac{\sum S}{N}$$

Where:

$\quad\quad$ M $\quad\quad$: the mean

$\quad\quad$ $\sum$S $\quad\quad$: the total of reading age

$\quad\quad$ N $\quad\quad$: number of students

$$M = \frac{\sum S}{N}$$

$$M = \frac{498.4}{40}$$

M = 12.5 (12 years and 5 months)

The mean or the average reading age of Junior High School students is 12 years and 5 months.

2. **Compatibility of reading age with their grade**

Table 4.2 Mean table

Mean of eight grade age	Mean of reading age
13 years and 10 months	12 years and 5 months

The table above portrays that the average chronological age of eight-grade student who participates in this research is 13 years and 10 months far above their average reading age, which is 12 years and 5 months. The difference is 17 months. Whereas it is categorized to be

in a good compatibility if the difference is same or less than six months.

B. Discussion

1. Junior High School Students' Average Reading Age

To our knowledge, there were many ways in assessing students' reading age. For this research, the researcher use *Schonell Reading Age Test*. The aim of the research is to know a child's reading age by testing their pronunciation. Schonell believes that if one can pronounce a word correctly it means that he/she understand it. In other words, students are considered to understand the meaning of a word if she/he can pronounce it well. Because in this test, the words are arranged from the easiest to the most difficult. Thus, the more she/ he pronounce correctly, the higher the level (reading age) she/ he got. Based on the result of the test, the researcher found that 57,5 % students are on level 15 the highest level. It means that they could pronounce correctly more than 76 words. The most number of words that pronounced correctly by the student is 94 out of 100 words. However, there are still 42.5% students who are on lower level. Considering their average chronological age between 13 to 14 years old, their reading age level should be on level 15 (Dark Pink).

On level 9, 1 student got to pronounce 47 correct words so that her reading age is only 9 years and 7 months. Meanwhile, 3 students

able to get on level 10 with 54-56 correct words pronounced. Besides, only 5 % of the students who done the test were on level 11. It means only 2 students could pronounce 57 and 59 words correctly from 100.

While 5 students got to settled on level 12. 12,5% students could pronounce 61-65 words correctly. It means their reading age were around 11 years and 1 months to 6 months. In accordance with what happen on level 8 and 9, only 1 student able to take level 13. With the percentage only 2,5% the student manage to pronounce 68 words correctly and the reading age is 11 years and 8 months.

Thus, there were 4 students who got level 14 as their reading age level. With total numbers of word correct is between 71 to 76 words. Their reading age were 12 years and 1 month to 6 months.

The lowest level that student got is Level 8 and the reading age revealed to be only 9.5 (9 years and 5 months). Very far from the standard reading age of eight grade students. Still, there were more students who got Level 15 but the comparison is very small.

From these findings, the researcher could calculate the mean or the average reading age of students based on their pronunciation competence. The number came from after the researcher conducted the test. Students are asked to pronounce some words that have been arranged from the easiest. After the entire process done, the researcher found out that students' reading age average is 12 years and 5 months.

2. **Compatibility of reading age with their grade**

   The compatibility means that the difference between the students' chronological age (real age) and their reading age. The bigger the gap between students' CA and the students' reading age, the worse the compatibility. The writer conducted the test for eight grade students in 4 different schools. The average chronological age of eight grade students is between 13-14 years old. Hence, their reading age level must be on Level 15, the highest. From 40 students whom done the test there were 9 students who were 13 years old, 30 students who were 14 years old and 1 student who were 15 years old. The average chronological age of the students in this research is 13.8 years old or 13 years and 10 months. According to the average reading age that has been discussed previously the difference between students CA and reading age is 17 months. Meanwhile to get good compatibility the difference between reading age and CA has to be less than or same with 6 months (Burt, 1974). The lowest level of student reading age is level 8 which means that student's reading age only 9 years to 9 years and 6 months. As conclusion, the compatibility of Junior high school students' reading age with their grade is not good because there is significant difference between it. Therefore, the students need to improve their ability of reading in English.

   In line with this research finding, students' English reading series must be appropriate with their reading age. Because our country

does not have the standard to determine students' reading series so the government only adjust to their grade. In the other hands, native countries use reading age as the criterion to determine students' reading series. For example in New Zealand, they have the Prime Milburn (PM) reading series that determined by students' reading age (Greany, 2005). It is possible for classmates to have different reading series because their reading age is different. This condition will motivate the students to read a lot.