AN ANALYSIS OF THE TEST ITEMS OF ENGLISH FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THE SIXTH YEAR STUDENTS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN SOUTH SEMARANG REGENCY IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2007/2008

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ABSTRACT

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Key words: English, Achievement Test, validity, Reliability, Difficulty Level, Discriminating Power.

One way to know student’s ability in using English is evaluation or test. In learning, test is a tool of evaluation which has important role to measure the teaching learning process in schools. The main purpose of this study is to analyze the English final examination items which are administered to sixth grade students of Elementary Schools in South Semarang Regency. The problem of this study is “How good are test items in final test prepared for the sixth grade students of Elementary Schools in South Semarang Regency in the academic year of 2008/2009?”

Achievement test emphasizes past progress, whereas aptitude test primarily concerns with future potentialities. Achievement test is used for assessing present knowledge and abilities. The primary goal of the achievements test is to measure past learning, that is, the accumulated knowledge and skills of an individual in a particular field.

The data used in this study were taken from the test papers and students’ answer sheets. The test papers consist of 50 items in the form of multiple choices. The students’ answer sheets are needed for statistical analysis to find out the quality of the items based on item analysis, validity and reliability of the test.

From the result of the analysis, the mean of validity level is 0.3250. Then, the result was consulted to the value of product moment formula at level of significance 0.05. Since the value of r circulation is more than of the table, it can be concluded that the test is valid. However, this test is reliable, with the coefficient of reliability of the whole test items is 0.946. The mean of the difficulty level is 0.83. So, the English summative test items are classified as easy items in term of their difficulty level. Then the mean of the discrimination power is 0.20, meaning that the items are still able to discriminate the clever students and the poor ones. Also the dependability is 0.963.

Based on the result, the writer suggests to the teacher as the test makers to prepare test items far in advance before they give it to the students. They should also pay attention to the writing of multiple choice items and the characteristic of a good language. Finally, the writer draws a conclusion that the items in the English final test for the sixth grade students of Elementray Schools in South Semarang Regency could still be used as an instrument of evaluation with some revisions.