ABSTRACT

Mardiani, Didin. 2007. Mental Processes in Remembering Short Story Experienced by English Learners. A thesis submitted as partial fulfilment of the requirements for Sarjana degree of the English Department, Airlangga University.

This study was conducted due to the writer’s curiosity after noticing the phenomenon that people tend to distort information when they are asked to recall the information. It was worth studying because by studying the reproduction, mental processes that accompanied the recall could be found out. Therefore, these mental processes would certainly influence the process of reproduction. Hence, the writer was encouraged to identify what kinds of mental processes experienced by the subjects, who are the learners of English at ELEN (English Learning) Course. In conducting her study she followed several major steps, namely, determining the subjects, giving them a short story, asking the subjects to retell the story, classifying the information in terms of Sir Frederic Bartlett’s framework and analyzing them to know the mental processes that occur during reproduction. Based on this, the writer interpreted them.

After the data was analyzed, the writer got the following findings: omission, rationalization, using dominant theme, transformation of information were found in the four subjects’ reproductions. Yet, transformation of sequence was not reproduced by one of the four subjects.

Having known the mental processes that accompany the reproduction, the writer interpreted how those mental processes appeared. First, omission occurred because the information was not readily recalled, or it had trivial influence on the story. Rationalization appeared because the subjects added some information that went beyond the text to explain certain incongruous passage. Using dominant theme took place when little elaboration of details could be found and several seemed to be related to what the subjects thought should happen, rather than what actually did happen in the story. Transformation of information was committed because the subjects replaced unfamiliar words with the familiar ones. And transformation of sequence happened when some events were characterized as appearing earlier in the story, others later.

Key Terms: Omission, Rationalization, Using Dominant Theme, Transformation of Information, and Transformation of Sequence.