

# Hard word and Lexical Density of the Five Short Stories for Children in Bahasa Indonesia

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**Abstract**—This paper discusses hard word and lexical density found in the five short stories for children in Bahasa Indonesia. The aim of the research is to find out the percentage of the hard word and the lexical density used in the five short stories for children in Bahasa Indonesia. The five short stories for children used as the data are 1) *Angkri, Jagoan Tanjung Priok yang Angkuh*, 2) *Anjing dan Rusa*, 3) *Asal Mula Nama Palembang*, 4) *Asal Mula Wamena*, and 5) *Asal Mula Banyuwangi*. The result shows that the hard word of the five short stories for children in Bahasa Indonesia is 21.28% in average while the lexical density of the five short stories for children in Bahasa Indonesia is 45.23% in average.

**Keywords**— Hard Word, Lexical Density, Bahasa Indonesia.

## I. INTRODUCTION

SHORT stories for children are different from short stories for adults. It can be said that the short story itself is a prose narrative shorter than a novel. A novel is longer than a short stories, if a novel is around fifty to hundreds pages while a short story commonly is less than fifty pages then. In other words that a short story is shorter that a novel in length. Now we compare to a short story for children and a short story for adult. Of course they are different. Besides the topic of the story is different, the short story also uses simpler words than the adult one. It can be concluded that the adult short stories, of course, will have more complex words and the plot of the story is also more complex than the children short stories.

Difficultness of reading texts is different from one to another. The difficultness can be measured by, for examples, the hard word and lexical density of the texts. This current research applied a free ware from [www.usingenglish.com](http://www.usingenglish.com). It is defined that hard words are defined as words with three or more syllables. This definition is used in calculating the readability and difficulty of a text, including the Gunning Fog Index while the lexical density has a relation to the types of the texts: spoken or written texts. Both spoken and written texts can be seen differently, on they own way. As Eggins (1) describes the spoken and written language in the following.

Spoken language	Written language
Low lexical density	High lexical density
- few content-carrying words as a proportion of all words	- many content-carrying words as a proportion of all words
High grammatical intricacy	Low grammatical intricacy
- many clauses per sentence	- few clauses per sentence

Further Gerot and Wignell (2) mentioned that “*Spoken and written language are both complex but in different ways. Spoken language tends to be complex grammatically and written language tends to be complex lexically. Spoken language tends to be grammatically intricate whereas written language tends to be lexically dense.*” This argument is supported by Halliday (3) in line with Presnyakova (4) that “Typically, written language becomes complex by being lexically dense: it packs a large number of lexical items into each clause; whereas spoken language becomes complex by being grammatically intricate: it builds up elaborate clause complexes out of parataxis and hypotaxis.”

To differentiate between spoken and written Cruickshank describes *Mode continuum* in Hertzberg (5).

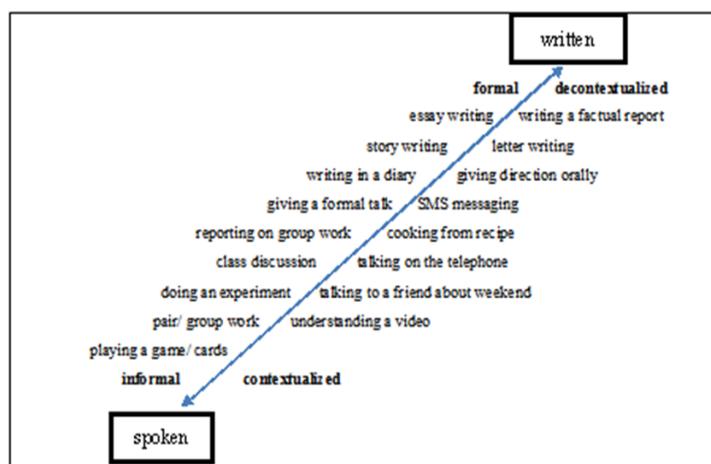


Fig. 1 *Mode Continuum from Spoken to Written* Besides the mode of continuum from Hertzberg (5), the following is the continuum taken from Gerot and Wignell (2):

