

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

One of the subjects that is often considered difficult for some people is English. English, which as we know is the international language that is most often used when we communicate with foreigners or when we are abroad, is indeed one of the reasons we must be able to master or at least be able to speak this language.

It is a fact that students, especially in those middle and high school level, thinking that English is difficult to learn. They reasoned that English is not the language they often use. Even though nowadays there are so many sentences in English on billboards that they can read easily. Generally, the biggest difficulty of people in learning English is vocabulary. Vocabulary in learning a foreign language is very important in constructing a sentence. Another difficulty experienced by ordinary people who do not know English is the preparation of sentences, both active and passive sentences.

Even though they have been included in the Indonesian education curriculum for a long time, students often experience difficulties learning English. Even though the curriculum and methods of learning English continue to be developed in order to improve English language skills.

Many students in Indonesia do not like English because they think that learning English is difficult. Even though in the era of globalization with increasingly sophisticated technology, students can learn English easily and can improve students' English language skills. In addition, in Indonesia English lessons have also been implemented from elementary to high school levels, where English is included as one of the four subjects in the National Examination. However, the results have not been maximized in forming students who have good English skills¹.

Low of English proficiency due to low vocabulary mastery. Most Grade VIII students are still below the curriculum standards, that is under 100 vocabulary words. As cited from the Journal by Mofareh Alqahtani, scientists like Laufer and Country, Maximo, Read, Gu, Marion and Country and others have understood that vocabulary mastery is vital for the fruitful utilization of a subsequent language and assumes a significant part in the development of complete spoken and composed texts. Learning vocabulary words is an important part of all language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—in English as a second language (ESL) and English as a foreign language (EFL). In addition, Rivers and Nunan argue that having a sufficient vocabulary is necessary

¹ Dwi Palupi Widyasari, “*Tingkatkan Kemampuan Berbahasa Inggris Melalui Jejaring Sosial*”, Cabang Dinas Pendidikan Wilayah I Provinsi Jawa Tengah, 8th September 2022, <https://cabdindikwil1.com/blog/tingkatkan-kemampuan-berbahasa-inggris-melalui-jejaring-sosial/>

for the effective use of a second language because, without one, we will not be able to use the structures and functions we may have learned for communicating in a way that is understandable².

One of the tools that is used a lot today is social media. One purpose for which social media can be utilized is as educational media. There are currently a lot of apps and websites that offer content, including resources, formulas, answers, and other learning solutions. Media that lets users represent themselves by interacting, forming partnerships, sharing, and communicating with other users to form virtual social relationships are known as social media³.

Because social media can be accessed at any time, anywhere, it makes life easier for students. According to Dave Kerpen, social media is a platform where people and organizations share related content in the form of text, images, and videos. The most common use is as an information tool, where we can easily view and follow accounts we believe provide the necessary information. Because many students turn to

² Mofareh Alqahtani, "The Importance of Vocabulary in Language Learning and How to be Taught", *International Journal of Teaching and Education*. Vol.III, No.3, 2015, page.22, DOI: 10.20472/TE.2015.3.3.002

³ Enjelya Dewi Pitaloka et.al, "Pemanfaatan Sosial Media Sebagai Sarana Pembelajaran di Era Digital", *Journal of Digital Education, Communication, and Arts.*, Vol.5 No.1, 40-49, 2022, page: 40.

social media when they become bored in any situation, both on and off campus, this type of media is also referred to as entertainment media⁴.

Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Telegram, WhatsApp, TikTok, and other social media are just a few examples. Each is unique in its own way. However, of all the social media platforms, TikTok is the one that most people, from children to adults, use the most. TikTok is a brand-new social media platform that lets users share videos and express themselves. There are those who use it for entertainment, others for business, and still others for educational purposes, including English instruction. The Tik Tok app has a number of benefits for the teaching and learning process, including: First, if used correctly, it can serve as an engaging, innovative, and interactive learning medium. Second, four languages can be supported by a variety of Tik Tok application features. Then, TikTok is a simple application in applying it with the goal that it tends to be executed in learning. The majority of Tik Tok users are young, so the platform has the potential to be a useful educational tool for the nation's future. Thirdly, Tik Tok is the ideal medium for students to express their thoughts on education and positivity because it has a lot of

⁴ Enjelya Dewi Pitaloka et.al, *Pemanfaatan Sosial Media Sebagai Sarana Pembelajaran di Era Digital*, Vol.5, 41

interesting features that appeal to millennials, such as public speaking, language acquisition, research video tasks, and so forth⁵.

The increasing number of uses of the Tiktok application among school teenagers at this time because it has unique and interesting features. Various entertainment videos, information, and education are delivered every day well in FYP (For Your Page) for Tiktok application users. Of the various videos that pass through the users' homepages, almost 65% of the videos use English songs or videos of foreign users who use English. This makes students who use the Tiktok application certainly get a lot of new vocabulary and lessons every time they scroll through a Tiktok video. Of the many content creators and their large number of videos, which types and patterns in content are the favorites of young Indonesians to be used as sources of learning English online, which is discussed through this research.

Based on the researcher's experience when teaching eighth grade students at Tirtayasa Muhammadiyah Middle School, and brief interviews with the English teacher there, the researcher found that most of the students had low vocabulary mastery, this can be seen from errors in writing words such as "blek" which should be written "black". And

⁵ Nurul Afidah et.al, "Investigating Students' Perspectives on The Use of Tiktok as an Instructional Media in Distance Learning During Pandemic Era", *Dinamika* Vol.6 No.2, 2021, Page: 50-53.

also when the researcher greeted and tried to start a conversation with students in English, they were still confused about what to answer. In this case, it can be seen that the students' vocabulary mastery is still low.

Researchers can also see that the strategies used by teachers in teaching English are also relatively conventional. Most of them use the lecture method and read texts which make students feel bored. Teaching English in Indonesia is more memorizing than understanding. It is less effective in preparing someone to be able to speak English. So that teaching English in Indonesia has various problems. Lack of student motivation is believed to be one of the main problems of learning English. Insufficient time is a problem in teaching English because the time for learning in class is short, which is only once to twice a week. Therefore, lesson plans cannot be developed properly and the teacher fails to achieve the goals set⁶.

The use of the TikTok application to increase English vocabulary in Indonesia is still very rarely studied. Therefore, the researcher intends to use TikTok Application in research to increase the vocabulary mastery of grade 8 students of SMP Muhammadiyah Tirtayasa. This study aims to see whether there is an increase in students' mastery of English vocabulary in short videos on the TikTok application.

⁶ Dwi Palupi Widyasari, 2022.

B. Identification of the problem

Based on the research background, the problems related to this research can be identified:

1. The low interest of students in memorizing vocabulary from the dictionary.
2. Students often find it difficult to understand English texts and make English sentences, because they have low vocabulary.
3. lack of student motivation in adding vocabulary in an old-fashioned way.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problems above, the researcher only limits the Tiktok Video in increasing students' vocabulary mastery at SMP Muhammadiyah Tirtayasa.

D. Research Questions

Based on the statement mentioned in the background and identification of problem above, the researcher asked three research questions as follows:

1. How is the vocabulary mastery of 8th grade Junior High School Students?

2. How is the students' vocabulary mastery after watching the Tiktok Video?
3. How effectiveness of Tiktok in increasing Student's vocabulary mastery?

E. The Objectives of Study

Based on the problem questions above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To find out the English vocabulary mastery of grade 8 junior high school students.
2. To see students' vocabulary mastery after watching TikTok videos with English learning content.
3. To find out whether TikTok Application are effective in increasing student vocabulary mastery.

F. Significamt of the Research

The results of this study are expected to be useful theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is to enrich the theory of teaching English vocabulary. Practically, this research is useful for:

1. For students, this research is expected to be useful to make students more interested and motivated in increasing their vocabulary mastery.

2. For teachers, this research is expected to be useful for English teachers as an alternative technique for teaching vocabulary.
3. For other researchers, this research is expected to be helpful and useful for those who are interested in conducting research that is relevant to this research.

G. Previous Study

Researcher found several studies with similar themes, namely the effect of using the TikTok application on increasing students' English vocabulary, including:

No	Title	Writer	Year	Finding	Note
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	<i>The Use of TikTok Application: The Impact on Students' Vocabulary</i>	Yossi Rahmawati and Khoirul Anwar ⁷	2021	The TikTok application approach to increase vocabulary in the sixth grade	

⁷ Yossi Rahmawati and Khoirul Anwar, "The Use of TikTok Application: The Impact on Students' Vocabulary and Attitude", Professional Journal of English Education, Vol.5 No.3 pp 610-621, 2022, page: 620, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22460/project.v5i3.p610-621>

	<i>and Attitude</i>			of Phanang-Phakerng School (Thailand) was successful in increasing student's vocabulary.	
2	<i>Boosting the English Vocabularies of Young Learners through Tik-Tok Application in Digital Era</i>	Daniar Sofeny et al ⁸	2022	This study found a substantial difference between students' vocabulary mastery before and after being taught via the Tiktok application. This	

⁸ Daniar Sofyani et.al “*Boosting the English Vocabularies of Young Learners through Tik-Tok Application in Digital Era*”, Jurnal Sintesia, Vol.12 No.1, 2022, page: 64, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.53696/27219283.125>

				is evident from the test results, which demonstrate that the class performs better after using the Tiktok application media.	
3	<i>The Analysis of Students' Vocabulary Mastery Who Are Using Tiktok Application</i>	Lara Mauriza and Nurhafni Siregar ⁹	2022	From the vocabulary tests conducted in this study, it can be proven that students who use TikTok have good and more vocabulary mastery.	

⁹ Lara Mauriza and Nurhafni Siregar, “*The Analysis of Students' Vocabulary Mastery Who Are Using Tiktok Application*”, Medan Resource Center, Vol.2 No.2, 2022, Page: 157, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.57251/el.v2i2.449>

4	<i>Students' Experiences Memorizing Adjective Vocabulary Using the TikTok Duet Video</i>	Ichara Sinta and Zulfitri ¹⁰	2022	Research shows that TikTok duet videos can help in memorizing adjective vocabulary during English vocabulary learning, are easy for teachers and students to use, and can also increase student motivation and involvement in the learning process.	
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¹⁰ Ichara Sinta and Zulfitri, “*Students' Experiences Memorizing Adjective Vocabulary Using the TikTok Duet Video*”, *Cybernetics: Journal Educational Research and Social Studies*, Vol.3 No.1, 2022, page: 50, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51178/cjerss.v3i1.366>