

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background Of Study

English is the first foreign language in Indonesia. English is one of those required subjects in a junior high through college. Therefore, vocabulary mastery has an important role in the English language, for it is basic knowledge to acquire other competence such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Hence, vocabulary was a basic competence requirement taught in elementary schools. Knowing many words is important because the opportunity to understand. For this reason, the primary purpose of teaching English programs at elementary school is to help students acquire many useful vocabulary words. Norrish said that language is not a set of facts that must be learned, but rather a medium for expressing thoughts, feelings in communication with other people. It means that as the main medium of communication, it plays an important and indispensable role in all aspects of human life, such as friendship, agreement, law, convention, marriage and other.

Vocabulary in glossary terms usually refers to a collection of words (terms) used in a particular field or context, complete with a brief explanation or definition. Vocabulary is a number of words that students know in a word. Vocabulary is central to language and is very important for language learners. Without adequate vocabulary, one cannot communicate effectively or express thoughts in writing or orally. This means that high school students must master English vocabulary and grammar rules to communicate with others. Alqahtani, says that effective vocabulary is words that learners understand and can pronounced correctly and are used actively in speaking and writing. It covers what is

required for a prescription vocabulary plus to ability to speak or write at the right time.¹ Alqahtani said that “to understand language, vocabulary is important for learners or master. Vocabulary is needed to express our ideas and to be able to understand other people’s speech. So, humans must have sufficient vocabulary to communicate something in a receptive and effective way.

Vocabulary is one of the linguistic components of learning English. Vocabulary mastery is one of the components of mastering English as a foreign language. Students can understand and use words and meanings. Students cannot write sentences or phrases in speaking or even write and reading due to a lack of vocabulary. According to Bracey, when students struggle with basic skill, they cannot master more difficult subject content materials. Struggles with vocabulary skills can affect understanding of the material and lower academic achievement. Most students are lazy to memorize and add to their vocabulary, which makes it difficult for them to speak and convey something in English.

Based on initial observations of VII grade of MTs AL-Khairiyah Tegal Buntu, researchers found that most students still hard difficulty learning vocabulary. Vocabulary is the main topic of English lessons in high school. The problem is that students have difficulty memorizing Vocabulary. So, the Students also lack of vocabulary. Students have difficulty remembering the meaning of word. Students also difficulty in writing vocabulary. They often write the word down as they hear them. For example, words like shoes, chair, board, and classroom are written as shoes, cher, belabor, and classrum. They also tend to say this word in Indonesian pronunciation. In addition, students are not interested in

¹ Bintana A. Zanoubia, “The Correlation between Students’ Vocabulary Mastery and Students’ Speaking Ability in Le Arning English at Smk Minhajut Thullab Dolopo Madiun,” *Skripsi* 52, no. June (2022).

English. In the process of teaching and learning, some students did not pay attention to the teachers. They discussion a few classes, daydreaming or playing with their writing tools while the teacher explains a topic or an assignment to them. Students also do not respond well to the teacher's explanation and instruction. Only a few students actively participate in classroom activities. Another factor that makes it difficult for students to study English is an unsupportive environment. Because English is a foreign language and is only used in English lessons, it can affect students' ability in English.

Based on the cases above, the teacher must find the best or the best effective technique for teaching English vocabulary. Thus, requiring concrete physical movements and activities to stimulate their thinking, and response to language by using concrete forms. So, it is important to create a classroom situation that can motivate students to learn. Media is a very important tool to help students understand vocabulary. Similarly, it is used to stimulate student motivation and student interest in lessons.

With reference to the explanation above and a strong desire to find a solution to this case, the researcher is motivated to conduct research on the effectiveness of using flashcard media in improving students' vocabulary mastery.

B. Identification of Problem

Based on background of study above, there are many problems that can occur in this research such as:

1. The students feel difficult in memorizing the vocabulary
2. Media is limited in learning
3. Boring class activities
4. Lack of vocabulary

5. Monotonous teaching techniques

C. Focus of Study

Based on background of the problem, the focus in this study is about improving students' vocabulary mastery by using flashcard.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the problems of this research are formulated as follows:

1. How is the students' vocabulary mastery at MTs Al-Khairiyah Tegal Buntu?
2. How is the significant difference in the students' vocabulary mastery between those who are taught by using flashcard media and those who are taught without using flashcard media?

E. Objective of Problem

In line with the formulation of the problems above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the students' vocabulary mastery at MTs Al-Khairiyah Tegal Buntu.
2. To determine whether there is a significant difference in the students' vocabulary mastery between those who are taught by using flashcard media and those who are taught without using flashcard media.

F. Significance of Study

1. For students

It can motivate to increase their interest in learning English since they will discover that learning English is not always difficult to learn.

2. For teacher

This gives them an idea of how to teach and motivate students to learning English, especially in learning vocabulary, they are not stuck on just a few specific teaching strategies. The use of media in this context “flashcard” can be good alternative or variant of teaching vocabulary words, which makes students enjoy learning.

3. For the other researcher

Furthermore, this research is expected to help support previous work and references from other researchers who are interested in teaching media vocabulary, especially using flashcard media.