

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the basic theory of the research. It consisted five sections such as Basic Consideration, Problem Statement, The Objective of Study, The scope of Study, and The significance of Research.

Basic Consideration

In learning a foreign language especially for English in the context of Indonesia, mastering of the vocabulary plays an important role, because it can help the students in many ways. Vocabulary is one of the important components of language because it cannot be separated with the other four skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. To be able to use all four language skills, students need to master the vocabulary and know how to use it.

Johnson (1996, p. 6) states that vocabulary is very important in a language, because the most basic constituents of a language are its vocabulary and the vocabulary is manipulated to make up meaning. Furthermore, vocabulary can be defined as a list of words and often phrases, usually arranged alphabetically and defined or translated; a lexicon.

Nowadays, vocabulary always becomes a big problem in learning English. The students at the 8th grade of SMPN 2 Telaga have variation categories in mastering vocabulary and most of them are still difficult in understanding every text because they have less of vocabulary (it based on my experience when I am taking the PPL program). So, they make an alternative way by using digital

dictionary; because they think it is faster and easier to be used in helping them to find meaning of a word or words which they are not familiar with. However, if they are facing with final examination in fact they are not allowed in using any helping tools. As a consequence, they find many difficulties to understand the text or questions that are given. They have no idea in answering the questions because of the less of vocabulary they have, or in other words, having an alpha link is not a solution for their problem.

Generally, students who start to learn English (called as beginners) need to enrich the vocabulary as well as the knowledge of the vocabulary they learnt. If the students have master a lot of vocabulary knowledge, it will be helpful for them to be able to use it in the sentence whether it is in oral or in written form.

Moreover, vocabulary and text are also related to each other, or in other words, the text itself has contained a group of vocabulary. Text is constructed with words, phrases, sentences, or paragraphs. Thus, vocabulary is the main part of text. We can find many vocabularies in a text and it usually called word classes such as noun, verb, adjective, pronoun, and adverb.

To measure students' mastery of vocabulary of a reading text, it is not enough if the students only find out the meaning of the words which are containing in a text, but they also need to find out the vocabulary's meaning relation such as the synonym and antonym of the words as this can enrich their vocabulary knowledge to the higher level.

Vocabulary related to a reading text, thus it is in particular one's knowledge of vocabulary can guide the person to be success in their reading tasks.

It can be said that the poor vocabulary one has can lead to the poor reading ability the person has. The key to understand the meaning in every written text or to success in learning English in general depending upon the vocabulary mastered by an individual. Having explained these all, I believe that, the more vocabulary the students have, the easier for them in learning English. This statement supported by Tarigan's statement (1985, p. 2) that the quality of one's language ability is mostly influenced by the quality and the quantity of his or her vocabulary knowledge.

Meanwhile, in Junior High School level, English is mostly taught by using text and it was collaborated with learning classroom activities such as conversation, writing, and reading. Text also is used to improve students' mastery of vocabulary. Thus, if students have less of vocabulary, they would feel difficult to learn and understand the text. Moreover, in the process of learning, it is found that there are so many kinds of reading text provided for students. Each kind of reading text has its specific purpose and function. There are several kinds of text that is taught at Junior High School level, such as descriptive, recount, report, narrative, and procedure. Those all reading texts need students' vocabulary knowledge in order for the students to be able to easily understand those texts.

Having explained these all, I need to conduct a research about the students' mastery on vocabulary in SMPN 2 Telaga. To complete my research, I took descriptive text as the subject of my research. Descriptive text is one of the text genres which taught at Junior High School level. This kind of text has the function to describe a particular person, places, or things (Wardiman, 2008:16).

Therefore, this research will be conducted with the title: “A Study on Students’ Mastery of Vocabulary in Descriptive Text”

Problem Statement

The formulation of the problem statement of this study which I highlight is: how the students’ mastery of vocabulary in descriptive text?

The Objective of Study

The objective of this research is to describe the students’ mastery of vocabulary in descriptive text.

The Scope of Study

Eventhough vocabulary covers word classes such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, and adverbs, this study only focuses to understand the students’ mastery on adjective. The adjective itself is related with synonym and antonym which takes place in descriptive. In other words, the descriptive texts in this study are only used as a media to understand the students’ mastery on vocabulary.

The Significance of Research

There are some significances of this study which I highlight in the following:

1. For students, this research is expected to be able to provide information about the important of vocabulary in learning English and also can enrich students’ motivation in mastering vocabulary.

2. This research hopefully can give information or as a description for the teachers about the condition of the students in SMPN 2 Telaga in mastering vocabulary.
3. This research is also expected to be a reference for the readers or other researchers about how to improve students' vocabulary in descriptive text.
4. For English Department, this research can add references or new insight opinion about the condition of students' mastery vocabulary through written text, especially in SMPN 2 Telaga.