Using Crossword Puzzle to Increase Students' Vocabulary

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the basic consideration of the research, the research question, and the objectives of the research. Furthermore, this chapter also consists of the significance of the research. The end of this chapter discuss about the scope of the research.

Basic Consideration

In English teaching process, one of the important language components that should be mastered by students is vocabulary. Vocabulary is an important role in learning English. Corder (1974, p.51) stated that mastering vocabulary will help students to use English in any language skills. Everyone cannot master a lot of vocabulary easily. Nevertheless, even for students, they are demanded to master as much as vocabulary based on the curriculum created by government. Some students can master it easily, but some cannot. Therefore, it needs ways in order to help the students to master vocabulary easily, and one of the ways is by using a new media in teaching learning process.

Unfortunately, based on the researcher pre-observation in SMP N 4 Batudaa Pantai, it was found out that the students have problem in learning English. Those problem are the way of teaching and learning used by the teacher was monotonous. Moreover, the problem that faced by the students is lack of basic English knowledge especially their vocabulary limited. They found difficulties in mastering and expressing their language skill because they less of the vocabulary.

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The students often forget the vocabulary that has been learnt, they also felt complicated when they could not reveal what they had in their mind. This case may affect the students' motivation in learning English. For example, they become lazy to learn and they also may lose their interest to study English.

Based on the problem ecountered by the students, the teacher is insisted to have ability in combining media that is used in learning process in order to suit with students' learning characteristic. The English teacher has the responsibility to create and determine the way of teaching which is effective to improve the students' vocabulary. English teacher is forced to be creative to implement such an interesting and existing way of teaching that may create a good atmosphere in the classroom. It is hoped that the students pay attentions to the lesson and the process of vocabulary acquisition will be successful.

In this case, crossword puzzle is the alternative of teaching media that expected to solve students' problem in learning English. According to Njoroge, Ndung'u and Ganthigia (2013, p. 313-321) that the crossword puzzle is a media that makes the teaching learning process attractive and funny, and also gives much opportunity for students to practice and repeat the sentence pattern and vocabulary. Crossword puzzle is a word puzzle that can be applied as interesting media that means for improving the students' vocabulary in which words have to be guessed from contextual clues and written in spaces in a grid, as it gives the students pleasure. While they play the crossword puzzle and get some pleasures on it, they also improve their vocabulary.

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The researcher using crossword puzzle because it is suitable with the students' characteteristics, it is interesting, its provide the picture and the word. Students' can easly memorizing the vocabulary. So, it is can be said that the crossword puzzle can help the students to increase their vocabulary. Beside of that, by using crossword puzzle, teacher can evaluate how good students' ability in remembering what they have learned is. Herliana (2006, p.13) stated that it is a good idea for teachers of such students to keep in mind teaching techniques such as the use of pictures, picture dictionary, word lists, cards and the key word technique to assist students in acquire English vocabulary mastery. It means that it is important for English teacher to choose a certain technique in improving vocabulary of students of Junior High school, such as using crossword puzzle.

The implementation of crossword puzzle in SMP N 4 Batudaa Pantai is customized by curriculum 2013. In this case the researcher used K.D 3.10 *Memahami fungsi sosial, struktur teks, dan unsur kebahasaan dari teks deskriptif dengan menyatakan dan menanyakan tentang deskripsi orang, binatang, dan benda, sangat pendek dan sederhana, sesuai dengan konteks penggunaannya.*

In order to make the students become easily to remember what the teacher already taught, also can apply it in daily life. Thus, the researcher want to do this research by using crossword puzzle as one alternative in teaching English vocabulary

in SMP N 4 Batudaa Pantai.

Research Questions

Based on the basic consideration of the study above, the research question is formulated " can crossword puzzle increase significantly the students' ability in mastery vocabulary.?

Objectives of Research

The objective of this research is to find out whether crossword puzzle can increase significantly students' vocabulary or not.

Significance of Research

The significance of this study are elaborated below :

1. This media is useful for students in order to help them to develop their vocabulary. In addition the researcher hopes that the crossword puzzle can attract the students in learning English and can assist the students to increase their vocabulary.

2. This study also can help the teacher to apply the new and interesting media for teaching and learning vocabulary. Therefore, the students will more understand the material about.

Scope of Research

In this research, the researcher used crossword puzzle media to increase students' vocabulary. Then, this research only focuses on two classifications of vocabulary; they are noun (common noun and collective noun) and adjective, which are often used in students' daily life.

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Beside of that, the students are confused in using the parts of vocabulary in communication, especially in using noun (common noun and collective noun) and adjective. So, eventhough there are another classification or parts of vocabulary. But, this research only disscus about noun and adjectives.