

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

As an English learner, vocabulary is one of the essential aspects in learning a foreign language, especially for those whose English is not their first language because it is the foundation of learning a language. This statement is in line with Nathaya (2013) vocabulary is one of the most crucial aspects of language teaching. This statement is also supported by Richards and Reynandya (2002:255), vocabulary is an essential part of language skills which is the foundation for learning to speak, listen, read, and write. Therefore, the students should have the ability in understanding and use the words and meanings. Students will be able to learn English more effortlessly by understanding the meaning of such terms.

However, there are some difficulties experienced by those who learn vocabulary, such as the use of foreign words that they have never heard before. This is also experienced by students in school, especially students with other language backgrounds. According to Thornbury (2002:2), in learn of a second language the learners could be presented with unfamiliar terms or see them utilized in unique and sometimes perplexing ways. They may even encounter notions that are not expressible in their original language. Based on the information the researcher got from the teacher, many students found it difficult to learn English due to a lack of understanding and knowledge of word meaning, so that the learning material was difficult for students to understand.

From the previous research done by Rohmatillah (2014:69), it shows that practically most of the students have problem pronouncing words, writing, and spelling. Inflections, or different grammatical versions of a word, were one of the causes of students difficulty learning vocabulary. Another research on vocabulary learning was conducted by Paduttungi (2020), from the findings of

the research, children had significant difficulty acquiring vocabulary in terms of pronunciation, spelling, length, complexity, and parts of speech.

It is essential to conduct research on students' difficulties in learning vocabulary, thus it can make the English teachers aware and enable them to identify any problems that students may have while they are learning vocabulary. In addition, some words have more than one meaning. As stated by Hiebert and Kamil (2005:1), words express complex and frequently many meanings. Furthermore, these complicated, numerous meanings of words need to be comprehended in the context of other words in sentences and paragraphs of text. It is important to recognize the student's difficulties in learning vocabulary, so it can give a better understanding to the teachers and educators in teaching English vocabulary.

The differences between this research and previous research is that this research was carried out in different places and of course with different subjects. The researcher believes the difficulties faced by students are different. The English language skills of students at the high school level are of course different from the abilities of college level students, as well as the abilities of junior high school students.

Based on the preceding explanation, the researcher is interested to find out the difficulties faced by students at the junior high school level. The researcher believes the seventh-grade students are new in learning English because not all elementary schools conduct English into the class, therefore the title of this research is “an analysis of the student’s difficulties in learning vocabulary.”

B. Research Questions

Based on the background, the research question in this research are as follow:

1. What are the difficulties in learning vocabulary faced by seventh-grade students of secondary school in Kalimantan Barat?
2. What is the influence factors in learning vocabulary faced by seventh-grade students of secondary school in Kalimantan Barat?

C. Research Purposes

Based on the research questions above, the purposes of this research are as follow:

1. To find out the difficulties in learning vocabulary face by seventh-grade students of secondary school in Kalimantan Barat.
2. To find out the influence factors in learning vocabulary face by seventh-grade students of secondary school in Kalimantan Barat.

D. Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of the research are to tell the readers about the difficulties of students in learning vocabulary and this research could be used as a reference for other researchers in the future.

2. Practical Benefits

a. For Teacher

The result of this research are expected could help the teachers to know the difficulties of students in learning vocabulary and to use the suitable technique or media will make it easier for the teaching-learning process.

b. For Students

The result of this research are expected could be useful for the students to make them easier to understand and master it as soon as possible in learning vocabulary. So, they could improve their vocabulary.

c. For the Researcher

This research is very important for the author to improve understanding of difficulties faced by students in learning vocabulary and how to overcome the challenges faced so that the writer can become better in the future.

E. Scope of the Research

This research analyse students' difficulties in learning vocabulary. The researcher chose the seventh-grade students of secondary school in Kalimantan Barat.

1. Research Variables

According to Ary, *et all* (2010:37) A variable is a concept or trait that may have several values or scores. It means that the variable is anything from an object or activity that were studied and concluded by the researcher. The researcher determines the variable of this research is students' difficulties in learning vocabulary.

2. Research Terminology

a. Vocabulary

Learning a language cannot be distinct from vocabulary development. it means that when someone learns a new language, they have to know the vocabulary. Vocabulary is a knowledge of the meaning of words which refers to a list or the collection of words used by the speakers of a particular language.

b. Students' Difficulties

Difficulty is something that is not easy to do or difficult to do and understand. Meanwhile, student difficulty is a condition where students face a problem that is not easy to overcome in the learning process, especially in English.