

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the research background, research problem, research objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitations as well as definitions of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

The words known in one's language are vocabulary. Vocabulary often develops with age, which serves as a useful tool for communicating and acquiring knowledge resources. Vocabulary is the affluent of words that are owned by a language. Vocabulary can be understood as a set of several words that are combined so that the words that have been combined have a meaning or meaning. Vocabulary mastery is a very important aspect, because if a foreigner wants to learn a language, but doesn't master vocabulary, it will be difficult Alqahtani (2015). Vocabulary is a basic component that must be learned, especially for students. Vocabulary is knowledge that must be acquired by students in obtaining other competencies such as speaking, listening, reading as well as writing Hiebert (2005). Apart from all the skills in English subjects that must be taught in schools, there are also four other language components that underlie these skills. To communicate well, students must have a lot of vocabulary to make learning easier. If the vocabulary is felt to be lacking, it can cause students to find it difficult to master and understand, especially in learning English. Students who have a large number of

vocabularies will be more proficient in language than students who have a smaller number of vocabularies.

Without adequate vocabulary, students can not communicate efficiently or express ideas in oral and written form. Vocabulary is an important component of language because it allows students to use their language well. It was explained that vocabulary is one of the components of the English language which has an important role in understanding reading and expressing all ideas in written or spoken form Alqahtani (2015). Students cannot express their ideas without sufficient vocabulary. The student scores are also below 75% or below the KKM. Therefore, learning vocabulary is an obligation in learning a language.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that vocabulary is words that have meaning possessed by humans to be used in language and communication and vocabulary is an important component in learning English.

The teacher is the first source who will provide knowledge to students. The teacher as a facilitator in the learning process. The teacher here is an important role to be able to develop the vocabulary of his students. Teaching words is important aspect of learning a language because language is based on words. However, there are still many teachers who only focus on four aspects of English, namely speaking, writing, reading and listening Nation (2005). Basically to be able to understand all of that students are required to have a lot of vocabulary.

Teaching vocabulary is a teacher activity that will provide a vocabulary or transfer a new vocabulary to students. Teaching vocabulary is not easy, considering that there are so many, even thousands, of vocabulary in English. However, students do not have to use all the vocabulary, just daily conversations and also during teaching and learning activities. Harmer (2007) believes that teaching vocabulary is more than simply introducing new words. As for what the teacher must master when teaching vocabulary, namely, the teacher must really prepare what will be taught, the teacher must focus on practice and the teacher must also use an effective learning method.

As for what must be taught by the teacher when teaching vocabulary, namely, in the form of word forms, how to pronounce words, spell words, and also tell students what nouns, verbs and so on. For students who have a small vocabulary, it will be difficult to do the assignments given. Memorizing English vocabulary is generally considered uninteresting because there is a lack of desire during learning activities, which reduces their interest in learning and their productivity, which leads to laziness in learning English.

This is what the teacher usually does with students, namely the teacher instructs students to rewrite the vocabulary learned that day then in the next meeting students are ordered to memorize what was written yesterday. It is unlikely that memory skills will be improved by rote exercises alone, but by learning how to remember better, people will more easily remember a wider range of material. Learning like that is considered very boring, many students only memorize it at the beginning, but at the next meeting they have forgotten what they got yesterday. This is where teachers

are challenged to be able to be creative facilitators and be able to arouse students to be active in the classroom.

This research is supported by several previous studies. Researchers who are relevant to this research and can support the description above are journal articles carried out by several researchers Ardiyanti (2021). The article entitled Difficulties Faced by English Teachers in Teaching Vocabulary explains that the researcher found several problems experienced by teachers when teaching vocabulary. The problem experienced is that the teacher has difficulty choose teaching materials, because there is a broad vocabulary and hundreds of them.

The next article by Sulastri (2021), entitled Difficulties in Teaching Vocabulary Faced by English Teachers, which states that teachers have difficulty controlling classes, that classes are not conducive due to students who don't really like English subjects. Teachers are also less motivated when teaching vocabulary, with this lack of student motivation students become lazy and even reluctant to get to know new vocabulary.

As for the problems at SMAN 1 Plosoklaten, through several internships at the school it was revealed that students at SMAN 1 Plosoklaten got less than average grades. Student scores cannot meet the standards that have been determined. Apart from the lack of proper grades in class, there are also some problems, such as those in the students themselves, such as lack of motivation and so on. In addition, teachers are also lacking in using modern learning media such as applications, music, games or so on, so the class becomes monotonous.

There are lots of problems to be faced. Especially in teaching vocabulary. The problems that are often found are in the form of a lack of student knowledge about vocabulary, a lack of motivation in students, so that students are not interested in learning English, especially in terms of memorizing vocabulary, lack of interest in learning English, vocabulary that is difficult to pronounce, not in everyday language day and there are many more problems encountered when teaching vocabulary. Discuss how motivation to learn a new language plays a key role in the ability of learners to improve their language skills.

Like the research that have done at SMAN 1plosoklaten, it can conclude that the English language scores of class XI students are below the average or below the KKM. According to what the researchers observed, there were several factors that led to scores below the average, namely students' lack of interest, too monotony in the teaching and learning process as well as the lack og English vocabulary.

After the researchers observed what was learned during the internship, some of the problems in teaching vocabulary at SMAN 1 Plosoklaten were student scores that were less than the desired average. Furthermore, students find learning English difficult, because they think that a foreign language is a language that is difficult to understand. The lack of use of modern learning media is also one of the problems in the classroom.

Technology is a process that is carried out in an effort to make things happen rationally. With this very rapid technological progress, teachers must be able to take advantage of this progress to make learning media. Conducted

this research looking at how technology can be used to help people learn languages. Learning English now is not only obtained in schools. Wherever and whenever everyone can learn. Through the media which is very fast at this time. Such as YouTube media, movies, music and applications.

Currently, many students use mobile applications to support their language learning both inside and out of the classroom. There are now many applications devoted to learning, especially learning English. One of them is the Duolingo application. This application is an English learning application. From the Duolingo application, we can learn English. Both at school and outside of school. The Duolingo application can increase student vocabulary. Teachers can use this application as a learning medium.

Previous research has described that using Duolingo can motivate student in Call, the article explained that the students studied were more motivated and happy when using ts. Rizky (2016). An article entitled Improving Vocabulary Through Duolingo Application the Duolingo application learning media for learning English vocabulary.

The next research was conducted by (Reskyani 2021). The article entitled Online Learning Vocabulary by Utilizing Duolingo Application, it is explained that by using the duolingo application students enjoy it more, they can more easily understand new vocabulary and also students are not stressed.

Therefore, the writer wants to see the effect of Duolingo if this application is implemented in the classroom. This study aims to see whether this application will help them to increase vocabulary in class or not. This can be an alternative for teachers to be used as learning media, especially in

enriching student vocabulary and before students learn to other stages. The researcher intends to conduct classroom action research with the title "Using Duolingo Application to Improve Students' Vocabulary Mastery at SMAN 1 Plosoklaten"

B. Research of Study

Based on the background above, this study formulates "How can Duolingo Application improve the Vocabulary mastery of Class X Students at SMAN 1 Plosoklaten"

C. Objective of the Study

The purpose of this study is to improve students' vocabulary through the Duolingo application in class XI SMAN 1 Plosoklaten.

D. Singnificance of the Study

The results of this research are expected useful for:

1. Teacher

Based on this research, the writer hopes that by using Duolingo application, teachers can take it as a medium for learning English, especially in enriching vocabulary. So that the class is more interesting and not saturated.

2. Student

Learning using interesting applications can make students more able to enrich students' vocabulary and also students are more affective and not easily bored. Then it can be a way out when students have

difficulty memorizing English vocabulary. Not only in class, outside of class students can also learn using the Duolingo application.

3. Future Research

Hopefully this research can provide new knowledge for further research, and so that future researchers can be better and can develop more creative ideas, especially in learning English.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research focused on increasing students' vocabulary mastery by using the duolingo application. The school that will be examined in this research is SMAN 1 Plosoklaten, class XI, with a total of 30 students in one class.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

The research would like to clarify the terms used in the title to make this thesis easy to understand:

1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a collection of several words that are combined. Vocabulary is the total number of words owned by each individual. Vocabulary is used as a means of communication and expressing one's thoughts.

2. Teaching Vocabulary

Vocabulary teaching is one of the most widely taught aspects in teaching English as a foreign language. Vocabulary teaching must be done

in such a way that students or students can learn to use vocabulary appropriately according to the context. When the teaching and learning process takes place, problems arise for the teacher. You have a problem how to teach students to achieve satisfactory results. Teachers must prepare and find the right techniques to apply to students

3. Duolingo

Duolingo is an English application created by Quiz von Ahn and Severin Hacker. This Duolingo app is designed to make learning English easy for students. Especially in enriching the vocabulary of student

