

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter presents the review of related literature. It includes the definition of vocabulary, the importance of vocabulary, the aspect of vocabulary and the kinds of vocabulary, the definition of educandy application, the advantages and disadvantages of educandy application, the procedures of using educandy application, vocabulary assessment, and previous studies.

#### **A. The Concept of Vocabulary Mastery**

##### **1. Definition of Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is an essential part of language acquisition. Appropriate vocabulary knowledge is needed to be mastered and learned by all students for effective communication. Several researchers have defined several definitions of vocabulary. According to Alqahtani (2015) vocabulary is a collection of significant words or the total amount of words in a language utilized to transmit information. It is difficult to communicate effectively in a foreign language without mastering vocabulary. Jannah et al. (2020) stated that Vocabulary is the foundation for communicating orally and in writing in every language. Furthermore, Nunan in Ardianti et al. (2022) defines vocabulary as all of the words used by individuals in a particular language, whether in discussing a specific topic or as a set of terms with their meanings. The appropriate use of vocabulary allows speakers to deliver messages clearly in a variety of communicative circumstances.

Based on the statement above, the researchers conclude that vocabulary is more than just a collection of words. It is the basis for successful

communication in a variety of settings. For students, vocabulary mastery is essential because it makes it easier for them to express their ideas, participate in conversations, and understand literature. The various definitions highlight vocabulary's complexity and importance in written and spoken communication.

## **2. The Importance of Vocabulary**

Vocabulary plays an important role for language learners in developing four skills: listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Students with a strong vocabulary can successfully express themselves in the language. According to Nunan (1991) even if one lacks grammatical knowledge, they can still understand spoken and written language if they have a large vocabulary structures that contain the encoded text. This implies that comprehension depends on vocabulary mastery, which enables students to gain meaning from communication despite their grammatical proficiency.

## **3. The Aspects of Vocabulary**

There are certain vocabulary learning aspects that students are taught by their teachers. According to Lado (1992:1) as cited in Mardianawati (2012: 11), there are several vocabulary aspects that students should know and learn as follows: meaning, spelling, pronunciation, word classes, and word use.

### **a. Meaning**

In foreign language learning, it is essential for students to understand the meanings of words. Knowing a word's meaning makes it easier for students to use it in both written and oral communication.

b. Spelling

Spelling is crucial in vocabulary learning as it aids in reading comprehension and strengthens the connection between sounds and letters. English vocabulary can be particularly challenging due to its inconsistent spelling and pronunciation; for example, the letter 'T' is not always pronounced as /I/. Therefore, teachers should guide students in correct pronunciation and spelling of English words.

c. Pronunciation

Pronunciation refers to how words or letters are articulated. It can be challenging to learn due to the lack of a direct correlation between spelling and pronunciation. Some words have only one pronunciation, while others may have multiple pronunciations.

d. Word Classes

Word classes categorize words into types such as nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, and prepositions. Understanding word classes is crucial for semantic analysis. The eight classes of words are nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, and determiners.

e. Word Use

Word use refers to how words, phrases, or concepts are employed in a language. Lexicographers analyze written and spoken examples of word usage to identify patterns related to regional or social variations as well as meanings. There are several types of word families are suffixes, prefixes, and affixes.

This study focused on two key aspects of vocabulary learning: word meaning and word use. The aspect of word meaning helped students understand the correct meaning of words, while the aspect of word use taught students how to use words accurately in different contexts. By focusing on these two aspects, this research aimed to help students improve their ability to master English vocabulary.

#### **4. The Kinds of Vocabulary**

Hatch and Brown (1995) indicates two kinds of vocabulary namely receptive vocabulary and productive vocabulary.

##### **a. Receptive Vocabulary**

Receptive Vocabulary that people can recognize and comprehend when they read or listen are referred to as receptive vocabulary. Despite not being actively used in writing or speech, these words are crucial for understanding. Receptive vocabulary typically exceeds productive vocabulary, indicating a deeper comprehension of language than what people actively employ. Receptive vocabulary knowledge is known and understood by learners when reading text or listening to the text (Maskor & Bahrudin, 2016).

##### **b. Productive Vocabulary**

Productive Vocabulary that people may safely employ in both writing and speaking are part of a productive vocabulary. People are able to successfully communicate their thoughts and ideas since these terms are usually well-known and recognizable. Building a useful vocabulary is essential for both academic success and effective

communication. Productive vocabulary knowledge is assumed to consist of the words that are understood and can be pronounced by learners (Maskor & Bahrudin, 2016).

## **B. How to Teach Vocabulary**

Vocabulary teaching is a crucial aspect of language learning because vocabulary serves as the fundamental foundation for effective communication. According to Nation (2001), vocabulary knowledge is the ability to recognize and use words appropriately in context. If students don't know enough vocabulary, they will have trouble understanding and using the language. That's why teaching vocabulary needs to be done carefully and in an organized way.

Several methods and techniques for teaching vocabulary are commonly used, according to Harmer (2007), including direct teaching, the use of pictures or visual media, language games, and digital technology. Interesting and interactive learning media can increase students' motivation, which positively impacts their vocabulary mastery.

### **Ways to Teach Vocabulary :**

1. Direct Teaching: Teaching vocabulary explicitly by explaining the meaning, pronunciation, spelling, and providing example sentences.
2. Using Context (Contextual Learning): Presenting vocabulary in sentences or stories so students can understand the meaning based on its usage in context.
3. Using Visual Media: Utilizing pictures, flashcards, videos, or real objects to help students associate words with their meanings visually.

4. Language Games: Using games such as word matching, crossword puzzles, bingo, or quizzes to make vocabulary learning enjoyable and interactive.
5. Using Technology and Digital Applications: Using learning applications like Educandy, Kahoot, Quizlet, and others to provide interactive practice accessible anytime and anywhere.
6. Repetition and Continuous Practice: Providing repeated and varied exercises to help students remember and actively use vocabulary.
7. Group Teaching and Discussions: Engaging students in group activities or discussions to apply new vocabulary in both spoken and written communication.

Among these vocabulary teaching methods, this study chose to use games or applications such as Educandy. This method was selected because of its advantages in making the learning process more engaging, interactive, and enjoyable for students. By using games or applications, students are more motivated to learn, can practice repeatedly, and increase their active involvement in vocabulary learning, which ultimately enhances their vocabulary mastery effectively.

## **C. Educandy Application**

### **1. Definition of Educandy Application**

Educandy is becoming an effective learning program that provides a creative way to enhance the learning process, particularly when it comes to language acquisition. According to Andani (2024) Educandy is a web-based program for creating quizzes. To improve students' vocabulary knowledge,

Educandy applications use creative features, games, and interactive components. According to Simanungkalit et al. (2023) Educandy contains three main game features: words, matching pairs, and quiz questions. These features can be created into various game models including Crosswords (crosswords), Multiple Choice (multiple choice), Word Search (searching for words in the random letter arrangement), Noughts & Crosses (select the right response by moving up to the across position), Spell It (spelling letter by letter), Anagram (rearranging the letters of words to give them a different meaning), Match-up (matching), memory (choosing responses in specified order) According to Fitri et al. (2021) educandy is a new interactive game can improve the enjoyment of learning sessions for both teachers and students.

## **2. The Advantages of Educandy Application**

Educandy offers a variety of engaging and interactive features that make vocabulary learning more enjoyable for students. Through games and creative activities, Educandy transforms vocabulary practice into an exciting experience, helping students stay motivated. This engaging approach not only enhances the enjoyment of learning but also supports students in retaining new words more effectively. By actively involving students in the classroom, Educandy creates a collaborative environment that encourages both teachers and students to participate fully. Additionally, it inspires students to independently explore new vocabulary, which contributes to improved learning outcomes.

### **3. The Disadvantages of Educandy Application**

While Educandy offers many benefits, it also has a few limitations. Because it is game-focused nature, students may sometimes perceive it more as a fun activity than as a serious educational tool, which could shift their focus away from specific learning objectives. Additionally, Educandy can be challenging to use for students or teachers with limited access to technology or stable internet. Furthermore, relying solely on Educandy may not fully support students with diverse learning styles or those who need to develop more advanced vocabulary. Such learners may require more in-depth explanations and context than the app can provide.

Although the Educandy application has some limitations, such as being perceived more as a fun activity rather than a serious learning tool and requiring reliable technology access, its advantages are greater than its disadvantages. The app makes vocabulary learning enjoyable, helps maintain student engagement, and fosters collaboration in the classroom. Additionally, it motivates students to explore new words independently, resulting in improved learning outcomes. Therefore, despite its limitations, Educandy remains a valuable tool for enhancing vocabulary learning.

### **4. The Procedures of Using Educandy Application to Teach English**

A guide to using the Educandy game in the app:

- a. Visit the website <https://www.educandy.com/>. You will see two options: "Educandy Play" for students and "Educandy Studio" for teachers. Click on "Download the Free App" in the top right corner. Once downloaded, open the app and log in using your email and password.



- b. After logging in, you will see the Educandy interface. There are three types of games you can create: Word Games, Matching Pairs, and Quiz Questions. Start by clicking on “Words” to create a word game.
- c. When you click on “Words,” two boxes will appear. Fill in the name of your activity and the subject of the activity, then click “Create.” After setting up your activity, you can choose the type of game you want to use.
- d. When you click on “Matching Pairs,” two empty boxes will appear for you to enter words for the game. After filling these in, click “Create.” Then, enter your questions and answers in the provided boxes. The matching pairs can be played in five different formats, such as crossword puzzles, matching games, memory games, and multiple-choice questions.
- e. For the “Quiz Question” game, the interface is similar to the Word and Matching Pairs games. Enter the activity name, subject, and create your questions and answers. Choose the correct answers and mark the incorrect ones, then add more questions as needed. The questions can be played in a multiple-choice format.

#### **D. Word Match**

Word match media is a teaching tool used to help students learn vocabulary by matching words with their meanings, synonyms, antonyms, or related images. This method makes vocabulary learning more engaging and interactive, allowing students to strengthen their understanding through repeated exposure. According to Current (1994), make a match method is one

of the cooperative learning methods that makes the students active in teaching and learning process. Nation (2001) explains that word matching activities are an effective way to expand vocabulary because they encourage students to connect new words with familiar concepts. This process helps improve memory and retention. Similarly, Brown (2007) highlights that interactive learning tools like Word Match Media can boost students' motivation and participation in language learning by making the process more enjoyable.

### **E. Vocabulary Assessment**

According to John Read (2000), vocabulary is essential because words form the foundation of language, creating the units of meaning that build larger structures like sentences, paragraphs, and texts. Vocabulary assessment seems straight forward in the sense that word list is readily available to provide a basis for selecting a set of words to be tested. Moreover, several well-established item types are convenient for vocabulary testing. These items are easy to create, score, and allow for efficient use of testing time. Multiple-choice items, in particular, are widely used in standardized tests. A well-designed multiple-choice vocabulary test is highly reliable and effectively distinguishes learners based on their level of vocabulary knowledge. According to John Read (2000), here is assessing for vocabulary such as:

#### **1. Multiple Choice**

This assessment type provides students with a word and a set of possible answers, asking them to choose the correct meaning or synonym. It is commonly used in standardized tests because it is quick to administer, easy to score, help evaluate how well students recognize word meanings.

## 2. Completion (Fill in the blank)

This assessment type requires students to complete a sentence by filling in a missing word. It evaluates their ability to recall specific vocabulary and use it appropriately in context, testing their active recall and understanding of words.

## 3. Translation

This assessment type involves translating a word from the target language into the student's native language. It helps assess students' ability to connect vocabulary meanings across languages, particularly useful in bilingual or multilingual learning environments.

## 4. Matching

This assessment type asks students to match words with their corresponding meanings or definitions. It is an efficient way to test vocabulary recognition and understanding, checking if students can correctly associate words with their meanings.

In this study, multiple choice assessments were used for both the pre-test and post-test to evaluate students' vocabulary knowledge. Multiple choice items was considered a reliable method for assessing how well students recognized word meanings, and it was quick to administer and score. For vocabulary exercises, however, the matching type of assessment was employed. This allowed students to associate words with their meanings, providing an opportunity for deeper understanding and practice of vocabulary. By combining both assessment types, the study aimed to effectively measure and enhance students' vocabulary mastery in various ways.

## **F. Previous Studies**

Several researchers have investigated the effectiveness of the Educandy application in enhancing vocabulary acquisition. The first study was conducted by Ardianti et al. (2022) and entitled “Reinforcing Students’ Memory in Learning English Vocabulary Through Educandy Media.” This research focused on seventh-grade students at SMP 3 Papalang. The results indicated that the implementation of Educandy significantly improved students' vocabulary retention, with average scores rising from 27 in the pre-test to 75.50 in the post-test.

The second study, conducted by Salsabila et al. (2023), was titled “The Effectiveness of Using Educandy Media towards Students’ Vocabulary.” This research involved eighth-grade students at SMPN 10 Serang. The findings indicated that the experimental group using Educandy had a statistically significant improvement in vocabulary test scores compared to the control group. The study emphasized that the interactive features of Educandy effectively engaged students and enhanced their vocabulary understanding.

The third study conducted by Alchorni (2024) and titled “English Learning Strategies Using Educandy Games In High School Pamekasan”, emphasized the strategic use of Educandy games in lesson plans to reinforce key vocabulary concepts. The research demonstrated how integrating Educandy into lessons not only enhanced students' motivation and engagement but also aligned with learning objectives, thereby optimizing the learning environment. This study underscored the transformative potential of digital

media in education, providing a framework for effectively utilizing games to improve vocabulary learning.

These studies have similarities in their focus on digital tools for improving vocabulary proficiency, but they also exhibit differences in participant demographics and educational contexts, which may affect the outcomes. Therefore, this research aims to further investigate the impact of the Educandy application on vocabulary mastery among students, emphasizing the need for innovative, game-based teaching techniques in language education.