

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter focuses on reviewing the literature relevant to this study. The review includes the definition of vocabulary, the definition of vocabulary mastery, kinds of vocabulary mastery, the function of vocabulary mastery, the importance of learning vocabulary, the definition of Busuu application, the objectives of the Busuu application, advantages and disadvantages of using the Busuu application, and steps for using the Busuu application on mobile.

A. Vocabulary

1. The Definition of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of the essential components of language that must be taught to learners. It plays a crucial role in enabling students to express themselves effectively in English and to comprehend English language materials. According to Cameron (2001), vocabulary is a key aspect of language learning that learners should acquire, and understanding the meaning of words is fundamental to vocabulary knowledge. When someone is said to "know" a word, it implies that they can recognize its meaning upon encountering it, which significantly influences their overall language learning ability.

In this context, vocabulary is often defined as a collection of words used within a language. According to Štěpánová and Takac (2008), vocabulary can be seen as a mental dictionary consisting of words and their meanings, which function as tools for communication. Similarly, Alqahtani (2015) explains that vocabulary refers to the total number of words necessary for conveying ideas

and expressing meaning in communication. Without an adequate vocabulary, individuals cannot fully participate in conversations or comprehend written and spoken texts.

Neuman and Dwyer (2009) further divide vocabulary into two categories: expressive vocabulary (used in speaking) and receptive vocabulary (used in listening and comprehension), both of which are essential for effective communication. This highlights the need for learners to master vocabulary in order to articulate their thoughts clearly and to understand others. Vocabulary mastery not only allows individuals to convey specific and detailed information about themselves but also helps them decode the messages communicated by others.

Nunan (1999) emphasizes that acquiring a large vocabulary is vital in learning a new language. Without sufficient vocabulary knowledge, learners may struggle to apply language functions, even if they understand grammar or sentence structure. Students' vocabulary mastery varies due to differences in individual cognitive abilities, motivation, and learning strategies. Therefore, vocabulary mastery reflects students' capability to process, retain, and apply new linguistic information, which ultimately determines their success in language acquisition.

2. Kinds of Vocabulary

Vocabulary plays a crucial role across the four fundamental language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. According to Nation (2001), vocabulary can be broadly classified into two categories: receptive vocabulary and productive vocabulary. Receptive vocabulary refers to the words that

learners recognize and understand when they encounter them in listening or reading, even though they may not be able to use them actively in speaking or writing. Nation explains that receptive vocabulary involves language that is received from others and processed for comprehension (Nation, 2001). In other words, these are the words we understand passively but may not recall or use accurately when producing language.

On the other hand, productive vocabulary includes words that learners not only understand but can also pronounce correctly and use accurately in both spoken and written communication. Productive vocabulary enables language users to produce language forms for expressing ideas to others. As Nation (2001) asserts, productive vocabulary involves actively retrieving and using vocabulary in real-time communication through speaking and writing.

In addition to Nation's classification, Hiebert and Kamil (2005) propose a slightly different perspective by acknowledging the potential confusion caused by vocabulary categorization. They recommend a simpler approach by distinguishing vocabulary into oral vocabulary and print vocabulary, along with productive and receptive aspects. Oral vocabulary encompasses the words individuals recognize and use in spoken language, whereas print vocabulary refers to words encountered in reading and writing. These overlapping categories highlight the complex nature of vocabulary knowledge and its application in various language contexts.

In conclusion from the explanation about kinds of vocabulary above, it is so important to teachers and learners to know and understand the kinds of vocabulary before doing the process of teaching-learning vocabulary.

Moreover, the vocabulary itself has different dividing concepts of vocabulary kinds which can also affect teaching-learning instructions and objectives.

3. Classification of Vocabulary

There are several categories into which vocabulary can be divided. Hatch and Brown define parts of speech as the terminologies used to group words into functional categories, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Other important classes including pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections are also mentioned. In this study, the Busuu application was utilized to create instructional materials for students that included a wide vocabulary set. This decision was especially important because the researcher found that the kids were not very motivated to learn new words. The extensive vocabulary falls into the following categories:

a. Noun

According to Hatch and Brown, a noun refers to a person, place, or thing.

These types of nouns can be explained as follows:

1) Countable and Uncountable Nouns

- Countable nouns are those that can be counted, such as "a university," "many books," "some books," "several men,"
- Uncountable nouns are those that cannot be counted, such as "money," "water," "sugar," etc.

2) Proper Nouns

Proper nouns are special names given to people, animals, places, or things that always begin with a capital letter. Examples include

"Daphne," "Java Island," and "Cleopatra."

3) Collective Nouns

A collective noun is the name of a group of people, animals, or things considered as a single whole. Examples of collective nouns are "team," "family," or "flock."

b. Singular and Plural Nouns

Singular noun is a noun which stand for one person, animal, place or thing.

For the examples are bag, house, girl, dog, etc.

1. Plural noun is a noun which stans for more than one person, animal, place, or thing. For the examples are follows:

- By adding – s

Example: bag-bags dog-dogs

- By adding – es to nouns ending in -s, -sh, -ch, -x, or -z Example: box-boxes wish-wishes

- By adding -es to nouns ending in -o Example: potato-potatoes hero-heroes

- By adding -s to some nouns ending in -o Example: piano-pianos radio-radios

- By changing -y into -ies

- Example: baby-babies story-stories

- By adding -s to some nouns ending y Example: boy-boys toy-toys

- By changing -f into -ves Example: leaf-leaves knife-knives

- By just adding -s to some nouns ending in -f or -ef Example: roof-roofs chief-chiefs

- By changing the inside vowels Example: tooth-teeth mouse-mice
- By adding -en
- Example ox-oxen child-children
- No changing in plural forms Example: deer-deer sheep-sheep
- By adding -s to some unusual nouns. Note where the -s is placed Example:
brother-in-law – brothers in law
- Some nouns are used only in the plural Example: scissors, trousers, measles, etc.
- Some plural forms are only used in singular Example: news, mathematics, scener.

c. Verb

Verbal is classified into two classes. The classes are ordinary verbs and auxiliary verbs. The explanation of each class is described as follows:

1) Ordinary Verbs

There are two types of ordinary verbs, they are regular verbs and irregular verbs.

- Regular Verbs

The past and past participles of regular verbs are formed by adding -d or -ed to the present. Here are the examples of regular verbs:

Present	Past	Past Participle
work	worked	Worked
play	played	Played

study studied studied

- Irregular Verbs

irregular Verbs have irregular forms of past tense and past participle. Here are the examples of irregular verbs:

Present	Past	Past Participle
give	gave	given
see	saw	seen
begin	began	begun

- Auxiliary Verbs

An auxiliary verb helps other verbs to form some tenses. An auxiliary verb helps the main verbs to make a statement, to give a command or to ask a question. For examples, is, are, was, were, have, been, has, should, must, did, etc.

d. Adjectives

Adjectives are used to highlight qualities or attributes. There are some types of adjectives, they are:

- 1) Qualitative : good, bad, stupid, clever, excellent, bold, etc.
- 2) Quantitative : many, much, plenty, thousand, score, etc.
- 3) Possessive : my, his, her, its, your, our, etc.
- 4) Demonstrative : this, that, these, those.
- 5) Distribute : each, every, any, and some.

6) Interrogative : whose, which, what.

e. Adverbs

Adverbs are similar to adjective in many ways although they typically assign attributes to verbs, to clauses, or to entire sentences rather than to nouns. There are some types of adverbs as follows:

- Manner : politely, badly, bravely, softly, loudly, slowly, etc.
- Place : here, there, whenever, inside, out, etc.
- Time : now, then soon, already, before, today, ago, etc.
- Frequency : always, never, continually, seldom, often, etc.
- Sentence : certainly, definitely, luckily, surely, etc.
- Degree : very, quiet, almost, too, so, even, simply, clearly, etc.
- Interrogative : when? where? why? what?
- Relative : when, where, why, what.
- Degree : very, quiet, almost, too, so, even, simply, clearly, etc.
- Interrogative : when? where? why? what?
- Relative : when, where, why, what.

4. The Importance of Learning Vocabulary

According to Ur (2009), vocabulary acquisition is one of the most important aspects of language to be taught. Students can easily understand a reading text with perfect grammar, but students will not reach the goal without vocabulary. It can be interpreted that without grammar, only a little can be

conveyed, while without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed. Baskarani (2016) states that methodologists and linguists focus on and recommend vocabulary teaching because it is considered important in language teaching and has the main purpose of helping students master various vocabularies.

The functions of Learning vocabulary are as follows:

- 1) Communication: Vocabulary helps students in expressing ideas, thoughts, and feelings effectively to others. A student can communicate clearly and connect with others by understanding and using the right vocabulary.
- 2) Knowledge: Vocabulary is the key to acquiring new knowledge. By understanding new words, students can grasp broader concepts, ideas and information in various aspects.
- 3) Expression: Vocabulary helps students to express themselves more richly and creatively. By having a greater variety of words, a student will find it easier to express feelings, nuances, and thoughts according to the situation and conditions they are experiencing.
- 4) Reading and Writing Skills: The right vocabulary will support students' reading and writing skills. By knowing many words, students can understand a text easily and can write fluently and with variety.

B. Busuu Application

1. The Definition of Busuu Application

Busuu application is an online language learning platform founded in 2008 that can be downloaded for free on the Web, iOS, and Android. Busuu is named after the endangered Busuu language spoken in Cameroon (Winas, 2020). Busuu incorporates the communicative skills element of social learning

into a practical, self-paced language learning feature that allows users to learn languages anywhere and anytime through their devices, making language learning easy for everyone. Shibata (2020) states that the language learning courses provided by the Busuu application help users develop fluency in all target language skills, such as listening, reading, speaking, and writing. It also seeks to assist learners in improving vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

2. The Objectives of The Busuu Application

According to Lopez (2024), the objectives in using the Busuu application are as follows:

- 1) **Language Mastery:** Busuu users use the application to master or improve their language skills in their chosen language.
- 2) **Time and Place Flexibility:** One of the advantages of online learning is flexibility. Busuu users use the application to learn anytime and anywhere that suits their schedule.
- 3) **Interactive and Community-Based:** Busuu has community-based features where users can interact with native speakers and fellow learners. Busuu users use the application to improve speaking and communication skills through interaction with the community.
- 4) **Measuring Progress:** Busuu users use the application to measure their progress in understanding and using a new language. Busuu provides progress measurement features such as tests and evaluations to help users achieve this goal.

3. Advantages And Disadvantages of Using The Busuu Application

According to Albatani (2018), the advantages and disadvantages of using the

Busuu application are as follows:

1) Advantages of using the Busuu application:

- CEFR-based curriculum that helps users to measure progress in a standardized way.
- Interactive and non-boring learning media
- Lightweight, fast, and easy to use application.
- A user community feature provides a bridge to interact with other users.
- Learn other languages in one application.

2) Disadvantages of using the Busuu application:

- Requires an internet connection.
- There is a free limit, so it is necessary to upgrade to premium to be able to learn all the material.
- Only suitable for beginners and intermediate level. Advanced levels require additional resources to deepen understanding.

4. Steps For Using The Busuu Application

- 1) The first step is downloading the Busuu application on the Play Store or App Store.

Figure 2.1 Download the Busuu app



- 2) Second step, open the application until the display in the picture comes out, then continue by clicking the "Mulai Belajar" button.

Figure 2.2 Open The Busuu app



- 3) Third step, students select "Inggris" as the language they want to learn.

Figure 2.3 Select the Languages



- 4) Fourth step, students can register for an account by entering an email or connecting to an Apple, Facebook, or Google account that they have.

Figure 2.4 Login page of Busuu app



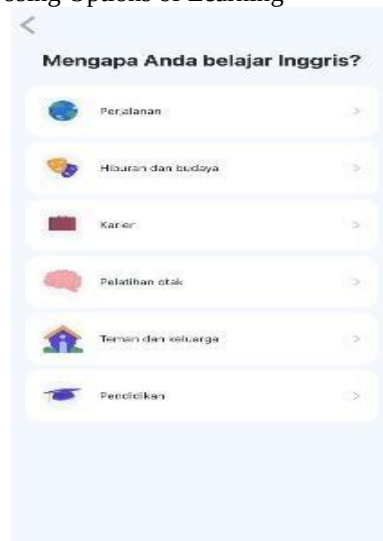
- 5) Fifth step, after successfully registering, students can continue by clicking on the option "do not understand English at all", considering that seventh-grade students are still at a basic level.

Figure 2.5 Features of Busuu App



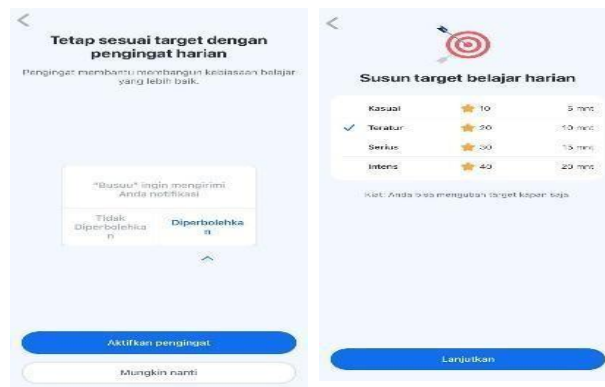
- 6) Sixth step, students can select the learning option for "Pendidikan".

Figure 2.6 Choosing Options of Learning



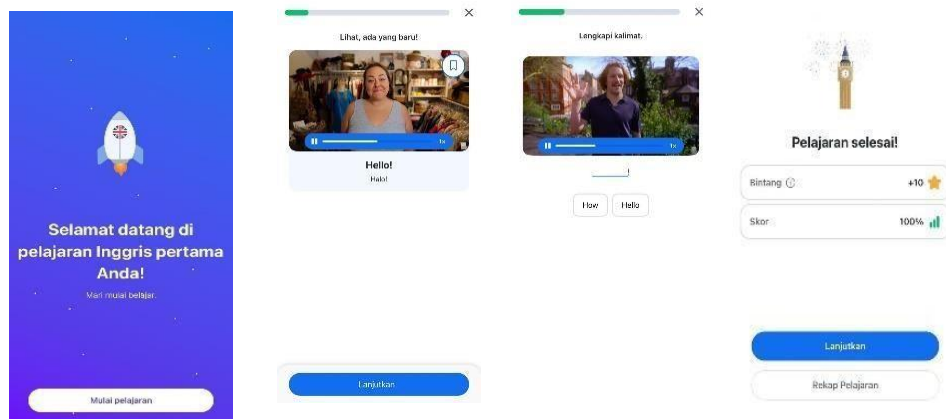
- 7) Seventh step, students can choose to set a daily study target of "teratur" and then proceed to activate daily reminders for better study habits.

Figure 2.7 Choosing a daily study target



- 8) Eighth step, after selecting the settings, the opening screen will appear and click to "start learning". Students can start working on the questions until completion and get a score.

Figure 2.8 The Opening of Busuu App



- 9) Ninth step, after completing one exercise, students can continue by setting the first target with "rentetan 7 hari-Normal " and click "Saya bisa melakukannya!" then, several exercises will appear that can be done by students.

Figure 2.9 Setting the next target by students



C. Previous Study

Comparing research conducted by the author with research conducted by others is a common task in the compilation of research, known as previous study. This process aims to identify patterns and distinctions in the research, so that it can subsequently be used as an input in the author's research.

A study by Sholikha (2024) found that the use of the Busuu application facilitated vocabulary learning in a fun and practical way. The app allowed students to study not only in the classroom but also anytime and anywhere. The research showed that Busuu effectively improved students' mastery of English vocabulary, as evidenced by a significant difference in performance between the experimental group using the Busuu application and the control group that did not.

In addition to its academic benefits, the Busuu application has received several prestigious awards in the field of educational technology. According to Huda (2017), Busuu was honored with several accolades, including the BETT Innovator Award, the TechCrunch Europe Award, and the title of Best Education Startup in Europe by EdTech Europe. These achievements serve as evidence of Busuu's credibility as a learning tool and highlight the importance of further introducing the app to learners and educational technology stakeholders in Indonesia.

Another relevant study was conducted by Nurlianti and Aulia (2024), which also confirmed that the use of the Busuu application significantly improved students' vocabulary mastery. The study reported positive student responses

toward the app, indicating that it is an effective and engaging tool for vocabulary learning in an educational context. Based on their findings, the researchers recommended the integration of more interactive and engaging media in teaching and learning processes to support language acquisition.