

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, research problem, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key term.

A. Background of Study

Language is closely linked to human life since it affects practically every aspect of it; English is one of the most widely used languages in worldwide communication. The English language is now officially huge business. There are possibly one billion pupils studying English around the world; it is a fascinating and useful language with numerous benefits.

One of the most significant components in helping students in mastering language abilities, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing, is vocabulary. Students may not be able to understand decent discourse when listening. Students may not be able to communicate effectively in speaking if they lack vocabulary, may not understand the content they are reading in reading, and may have difficulties articulating ideas in writing if they lack vocabulary. Because vocabulary is one of the components of language in English, we can conclude that vocabulary acts a significant part in a language. Vocabulary is the foundation of language, and it is what gives a language its meaning. This means that the more language a person learns, the easier it will be for them to communicate their thoughts. This is critical for building effective strategies for understanding and

improving language patterns, as well as using the most effective methods for learning vocabulary (Chen, Hsieh, and Kinshuk, 2008). The goal of acquiring vocabulary is to develop, memorize, and apply newly acquired words in a variety of situations (McCarthy, 1984, Teng, 2016). The 2013 curriculum concept, according to Amri (2013, p.28), is scientific Approach, which means students learn more independently during the learning process. As a result, if kids lack vocabulary, it will be difficult for them to study and comprehend the curriculum's information. This is crucial to consider because acquiring language will assist students in comprehending substances.

Because English is considered a foreign language in Indonesia, the Ministry of Education and Culture has undertaken several efforts to familiarize students with the language. English is required to be taught at junior high schools, with the seventh grade being the most important. Students must be able to comprehend English texts in both written and spoken form. For students, the difficulty in learning English is a lack of vocabulary. There are various reasons why acquiring vocabulary is difficult, based on observations in the classroom. Many students devote time to expanding their vocabulary, yet they still say that remembering English words is difficult and that there is no way to prevent forgetting them. Students will be unable to communicate, read, write, or listen in English. To put it another way, acquiring the correct methods and techniques for learning vocabulary is crucial to learning English successfully.

Teachers should be able to use the latest technologies to assist in the teaching process today. One solution to overcome some obstacles in English

learning is for teachers to have a variety of teaching strategies and media so that students enjoy studying English, particularly in terms of vocabulary mastery. We can use media to make vocabulary learning more entertaining and fascinating. We can use digital technology to help us learn. In teacher-centered teaching, media is typically used as a support. The Duolingo app is one medium that may be used to teach vocabulary. This is a mobile educational application that includes a variety of tasks such as vocabulary, reading, writing, listening, grammar, and talking.

Duolingo has been the subject of several research (e.g., Vesselinov & Grego, 2012, Munday, 2016, Ahmed, 2016). Vesselinov & Grego (2012) discussed how motivation for learning a new language plays a key part in the learners' ability to improve their language skills.. Munday's (2016) study, "The Case for Using Duolingo as Part of the Language Classroom Experience," evaluated at the effectiveness of Duolingo in comparison to standard teaching methods in Spanish university courses. Munday (2016) recommended for the use of Duolingo in classrooms, stating that students prefer it to homework. Furthermore, some students continued to use Duolingo after the course ended (Munday 2016). The findings show that basic level learners may find Duolingo more entertaining and effective than advanced level learners. Heba Bahjet Essa Ahmed (2016) conducted this research. He looked at the use of technology to help people learn languages. Duolingo is a modern program that makes learning a second language easier.

As a result, the author is interested in employing Duolingo teachers to enhance teaching methods (particularly in the teaching of English) and to assist

students improve their vocabulary mastery by using the "Duolingo Game." The researcher wants to observe how the Duolingo game impacts students at SMP Darul Fikri Ngoro Jombang when a teacher uses it in the classroom. Researcher wants to see if it helps them increase their vocabulary mastery or not. It might also be a different technique to keep students' vocabulary mastery up to date. The author plans to perform classroom action research (CAR) with the title: **The use of duolingo to improve students' vocabulary mastery in SMP Darul Fikri Ngoro Jombang.**

B. Research Problem

Based on the background above, the formulation of the research problem are :

“How can Duolingo Application improve students’ vocabulary mastery in SMP Darul Fikri Ngoro Jombang?”

C. Objective of the study.

To improve students’ vocabulary mastery with Duolingo Game in SMP Darul Fikri Ngoro Jombang.

D. Significance of The Study

1. Teachers

Duolingo can be a learning tool that teachers can use to teach English, specifically vocabulary, and to solve problems with students' difficulty learning and developing vocabulary, making the learning process in the classroom more engaging and dynamic for students SMP Darul Fikri Ngoro Jombang.

2. Students

Students will find this research engaging and enjoyable when learning English in the classroom or at home since it is intended to give mastering the English lesson utilizing the Duolingo game. Then, because the teachers utilize appropriate media in educating students as if it were something new to them, it can alleviate their difficulty of grasping the meaning of words in a phrase. As a result, students may use Duolingo anywhere and at any time because it will assist them in memorizing vocabulary and allowing them to utilize it in everyday dialogue.

E. Scope and Limitation of The Study

The purpose of this study was to use Duolingo as a learning tool to help students at SMP Darul Fikri Ngoro Jombang increase their vocabulary mastery. The researcher limited the subjects used to improve vocabulary mastery using the Duolingo application.

F. Definition of Key Term

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

1. Vocabulary

Knowledge of words and their meanings is referred to as vocabulary (Steven Stahl, 2005). Vocabulary is a helpful and important tool for communication and knowledge acquisition that develops with age. There are

two types of vocabulary knowledge: productive and receptive information (Nation & Meara, 2002). Teachers can assist students in learning vocabulary by employing engaging media, approaches, and strategies when teaching English. A vocabulary test was used to assess vocabulary teaching in this study.

2. Duolingo

Luis von Ahn and Severin Hacker invented the Duolingo app, which is a free language learning tool. This program is available in Android, iOS, and Windows Phone versions in addition to the web version. As of November 2016, the app offers 66 language courses in 23 languages, with 22 more courses in the works. This app has almost 120 million registered users from all around the world. Duolingo has the potential to be a useful tool for learning languages and expanding one's vocabulary in the future. Because the Duolingo app is incredibly user-friendly and offers a variety of languages, it is ideal for anyone looking to learn a new language. Duolingo provides a number of tools that can assist language learners, such as daily word lists and discussions with other users. Duolingo is an app that allows students to learn a new language more easily, and they can use it to learn many languages. The Duolingo app is designed to be simple and convenient, so users don't feel like they're learning but rather enjoying themselves while playing the game. As a result, the researchers attempted to include the Duolingo app into classroom activities as a medium for learning English in order to help students expand their vocabulary.