

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Language plays very important role in human life. We use language to communicate, to express our idea, feeling, and our thought. Language is foremost means of communication, and communication usually takes place within some sort of social context; it occurs both nationally and internationally. English is one of the most important languages in the world because as an international language it is used as the instructional language of broad scientific studies, economics, and business, technology, information, and politics.

For Indonesia, English is the first foreign language. Learning a foreign language is an integrated process in which the learners should study the four basic skills, namely: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. We use it to understand our world through listening and reading and to communicate our feeling, need, and desires through speaking and writing. By having more knowledge about language skill we have much better chance of understanding and being understood and getting what we want and need from these around us. Besides the four major skills, the language components such as, grammar, the learners should fundamentally master pronunciation, and vocabulary.

In relation to language components, vocabulary is more than words.<sup>1</sup> One's vocabulary certainly consists of words and meaning. The words in your vocabulary are those you understand and use. Vocabulary is the collection of word that an individual knows.

Vocabulary is also central to language and critical importance to typical language learner. Without a sufficient vocabulary, one cannot communicate effectively or express his/her ideas in both oral and written form. When they do not know how to enrich their vocabulary, they often gradually lose interest in learning<sup>2</sup>.

Learning vocabulary is one of the major challenges that foreign language learners faced during the process of learning a language. Words are the building blocks of a language since they label objects, actions, ideas without which people cannot convey the intended meaning. Most of the research on strategy training has focused on vocabulary learning. The results have been rather mixed. Training students to use strategies that involve different ways of making associations involving target words has generally proved successful.

Learning strategies are the particular approaches or techniques that the learners employ to try to learn a second language; they can be behavioral. The learners are typically problem-oriented. That is, learners

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<sup>1</sup> David Nunan. *Practical English Teaching*.(New York: McGraw-Hill.1990).121.

<sup>2</sup>Endang, Fauziati. *Teaching of English as a foreign language (TEFL)*.(Surakarta: Muhamadiyah University Press, 2005).155.

employ learning strategies when they are faced with some problems, such as how to remember a new word in reading.<sup>3</sup>

Reading is essential skill for learners of English as a second language. For most of these learners, it is the most important skill to master in order to ensure success not only in learning English, but also in learning in any context class when reading in English is required. With strengthened reading skills, learners will make greater progress and development in all other areas of learning<sup>4</sup>. Learners are aware of the strategies they use and, when asked, can explain what they did to try to learn something. In the present study, the researcher is interested in undertaking a research that deals with *“The students’ strategies in coping with new vocabulary in reading in the fourth semester’s students of English department of STAIN Kediri”*

## **B. Problem of Study**

Based on the background of study, the research question can be stated: “What strategies are the students used in coping with new vocabulary in reading?”

## **C. Objective of the Study**

Any scientific study is certainly intended to answer and solve the research question that has been formulated for the study. In line with the research question stated above, the present study intended to know the

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<sup>3</sup>Rod Ellis: *Second Language Acquisition* Oxford University Press 1990).76.

<sup>4</sup> David Nunan. *Practical English Teaching*.(New York: McGraw-Hill.2003).69.

students strategies in coping with new vocabulary in reading in the fourth semester of English Department.

#### **D. Significance of the Study**

The finding of the present study are hoped to provide both theoretical and practical importance such as practical Significant.

Practically, this study is expected to be any use for the students of English Department, lecture, reader, and researcher. The result of this study will provide them what insight on the implementation of English learning. It is to know how the students strategies in coping with new vocabulary in reading.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation of the study**

This research is focused on the student's strategies in coping with new vocabulary in reading especially to the students of English Department. Why researchers choose this study? Because the researcher intends knowing of the student strategies in coping with new vocabulary, does not the teachers' strategies.

The limitation this research is just the student at the fourth semester of English Department in STAIN Kediri. The reason is from the student we can know the strategies from the every student who has strategies themselves in order to make them easy to memorize the vocabularies by their style.

#### **F. Definition of the Key terms**

It is very essential to know the key terms of this study to avoid misunderstanding on the part of readers. In this case, the researcher is going to give clarification about the terms used in this study, as bellow:

### 1. Learning Strategy

In the literature, strategies have been referred to as “Technique, tactic, potentially Language learning strategies are oriented toward the broad goal of communicative competence. Learning strategies help conscious plan, consciously employed operations, learning skill, basic skill, cognitive abilities, language processing strategies, problem solving procedure. Language learning strategies are oriented toward the broad goal of communicative competence.<sup>5</sup> In this research, learning strategies help learner stimulate the growth of communicative competence in general and help learners to regulate their own cognition and to focus, plan, and evaluate their progress as they move toward communicative competence.

### 2. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is taught in connection with other language activities.<sup>6</sup> Vocabulary development is an important aspect of language development and the research that has been conducted in recent years in

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<sup>5</sup> Rebecca L. Oxford, *language, learning, strategies; what every teacher should know?* , (Boston: Heinly Publishes hers A division of Boston, 1990).8.

<sup>6</sup> ISP Nation. *Teaching Vocabulary and Learning.* ( Heinle Publishers a division of wadsworth, 1990

very exciting. A variety of studies has proven that appropriate vocabulary instruction benefits language students especially school age learners.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Lines T Caroline. *David Nunan. Practical English Language Teaching Young Learner*. New York: :McGraw Hill Education.2006).122.