

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

A. Background of Study

English is the language used by many countries in the world. This language is recognized as an international language and is used to communicate with other people from various countries and cultures. As a result, many people want to learn and perfect them so that they will have no trouble speaking with people from various countries.

In Indonesia, English is not only taught for middle and high school students but also for elementary school students. This is done so that young students are basic level to get used to English. In English, there are four components of language skills that include listening, speaking, reading and writing that must be learned by students in deep and precise. The four skills cannot be separated because they are integrated.

To support mastery of English skills, students need to learn vocabulary. According to (Hatch and Chocolate, 1995: 1) A list or series of words for particular languages, or lists or series of words that can be used by individual speakers, is referred to as vocabulary. means that even if someone has excellent grammar, it will be useless unless they have a large vocabulary.

Vocabulary learning is important. According to Wilkins (in Thornbury, 2002: 13), "Without very little grammar can be delivered, without vocabulary

cannot be delivered". Therefore, many researchers have tried to improve the efficiency and performance of students when studying English vocabulary.

It is important to introduce English, especially vocabulary to junior high school students. Unfortunately, the mastery of vocabulary is not easy for students, especially for students in Indonesia where English is studied as a foreign language because English is not used in everyday communication.

There are difficulties in learning English vocabulary that are often found by students, such as students difficult to distinguish vocabulary or English words in sentences such as subject, predicate, object, complementary, etc. In addition, students find difficulties in pronunciation or spelling words. Sentence meaning that uses English vocabulary and students find it difficult to remember new vocabularies.

Students have several problems in mastering vocabulary, such as learning process that is not interesting so that makes students lazy to learn English. Lack of school facilities. Students need an effective learning atmosphere and adequate facilities, so students can learn well. Vocabulary is the most important thing that must be mastered by students because all abilities in English need adequate mastery of vocabulary.

The next problem is related to the media used. The teacher must prepare all components in the teaching and learning process well. These components include media, materials, and teaching methods. For example, the teacher prepares subject matter well, but they do not use the media or teaching methods in the right.

So, it can make the teaching and learning process into being ineffective and students will get consequences like they don't know what the teacher.

Teacher must be able to provide solutions or creative and effective ways for students to teach vocabulary. Teacher must have a good technique in learning English especially learning in vocabulary interest. One suitable teaching method for increasing mastery of student vocabulary is to use a notebook.

Vocabulary notebook is a good way to learn new words. This is a technique for memorizing new words during the learning process. Students can write unfamiliar words, predict the types of words, determine their meanings, construct a short phrase, and look for synonyms and antonyms for those terms.. According to Fowle (2002) notebook vocabulary is often considered a useful way for students to become more aware of their vocabulary learning process. Keeping vocabulary notebooks requires students to note down unknown words while also writing their meanings and related information.

In relation to the issue above, the researcher choose the second grade of SMPN 1 Semen and the researcher interested in taking the title “Using Vocabulary Notebook Assignment to Improve Vocabulary Mastery at SMPN 1 Semen in the Academic Year of 2022/2023”

B. Research Question

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the research question as follow:

How to improve vocabulary using a vocabulary notebook assignment for eighth grade students at SMPN 1 Semen?

C. Purpose of the Study

Based on the formulation of the research question, this study is aimed to know how to improving students vocabulary mastery through the use of vocabulary notebook assignment for eighth grade students at SMPN 1 Semen.

D. Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes that this research can contribute in improving students vocabulary mastery through vocabulary notebook assignment. The researcher also hope research can give benefits to teachers, students, researcher and school as stated below:

1. For the English Teacher

The result can help teachers to prepare and present their material and it can help them to build the interesting situation in learning. Teachers can use this method as a substitute for traditional methods in teaching and learning process.

2. For the Students

This research has positive impact for students, wich is to help students fo learning and understanding vocabulary by using vocabulary notebook assigment.

3. The school

This research has a positive impact on teaching and learning process in Junior High School, make contributing in developing better English learning media and make students' can easly understand the lesson.

4. The Researcher

The result can give some information to enrich their knowledge of vocabulary learning. Based that, it can help the researchers to improve their method in learning especially on vocabulary learning.

E. Definition of Key Term

In this part, there are some explanations from the topic of the study and the title mentioned in the previous item. The title is “Using Vocabulary Notebook Assignment to Improve Vocabulary Mastery at SMPN 1 Semen in the Academic Year of 2022/2023”. The definition of key terms as follows:

1. Vocabulary Notebook

Vocabulary notebook, help student in learning vocabulary. Student can write or record word on their vocabulary notebook and they can write the definition also about the words using their own comprehension. Students can find the synonym, antonym and etc, that has connection the word.

2. Improving Vocabulary

Vocabulary is an important subject to study in English. It can support the four language skills. Vocabulary is also important factor that influences the language practice as means of communication. Without a sufficient vocabulary, one cannot communicate or express his idea. Many ways to improving vocabulary one of them using of vocabulary notebook.

3. Vocabulary Mastery

Vocabulary mastery is one of the factors to master English as foreign language. It mean that students have the ability in understanding and using the word and meaning