CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In general, the aim of teaching reading is to develop students’ reading skill. By reading the students are hoped to get process of understanding discourse, especially in written form. They will get the ability to see the main thought of the writer’s general idea in a piece of reading. Reading is an activity with a purpose. The students may read in order to gain the information or verify existing knowledge. To gain the information, students have to know the meaning of each word on the text. New vocabulary or difficult word will be found by the students when students read articles of reading text. The students have to know the meaning of those new vocabularies by understanding the context of the word in sentence.

Vocabulary becomes foundation of people in identifying the meaning of the word, the reason is simple that either every sentence or expression even poem consists of words which initially stand-alone, then be weld each other become a complex meaning. In addition Wilkin in Badru (2000: 198) said that without grammar, very little can be conveyed. Without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed, so it can be simplified that vocabulary is most important thing in learning English. Based on the aspect above, it can be concluded as supporting substance in relation with how much the new
vocabulary that people mastered, because by doing either respective or productive activity such as reading, speaking, listening and writing can improve vocabulary significantly.

To get the data, the writer used a test taken from Jakarta Post news’ article. The reason is because The Jakarta Post is the most famous and actual newspaper in this country which is written in English. Thus, the research will be entitled “A Study on Students Mastery of New Vocabulary in Reading Jakarta Post Articles”.

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

A number of considerations are proposed to show the importance in conducting this study. They are as follows:

1. Vocabulary mastery becomes one of important elements of learning English.
2. The importance of reading in learning activity is one of the ways to widen students’ knowledge.
3. Jakarta Post is the most famous newspaper in this country which is written in English.

C. Statement of the Problem

1. How good is the students’ mastery of new vocabulary in reading Jakarta Post Articles.
2. What kinds of vocabulary in Jakarta Post Articles give problems for students?

D. Aim of the Research

The aim of this research is to know how good is the students’ mastery of new vocabulary in reading jakarta Post Articles.

E. Contribution of the research

The contribution of the research are:

a. To the lecturers

From this research the researcher is expected will be adding a reference for the lecturers who teach reading skill, to explain how to find an appropriate synonym of the new vocabulary or difficult word and how to master it well. It is not only for the lecturers in English Department but also for the general lecturers in this university.

b. To the learners

The result of this research will be useful for the learners to give new knowledge about new vocabulary and its synonym (based on the context) and how to choose an appropriate word for the new vocabulary or difficult word.
F. Clarification of Terms

To understand the topic more easily, the key terms of study are clarified as the following:

1. Study

In Oxford advanced learner’s dictionary states that study is the activity of gaining knowledge of a particular subject. Hornby (2000: 856) “Study” is devotion of time and taught to get knowledge of or to a close examination of a subject especially from books. He also formulated definition of study at something that attracts investigation that; which to be investigated.

2. Mastery

Mastery means complete control knowledge or great skill (Oxford learner Pocket Dictionary, 1994: 766). The word “mastery” means procession or display of great skill or technique, skill or knowledge (Webster’s Seven New Collegiate Dictionary).

3. Vocabulary

To study the vocabulary we should know what vocabulary is. There are some definitions of vocabulary, such as:

a. Napa (1991: 14) explains the word vocabulary as one of the basics components of language exists without words.
b. Broadly defined, vocabulary is knowledge of words and word meanings. However, vocabulary is more complex than this definition suggest. First, word comes in two forms: oral and print. Oral vocabulary includes those words that we recognize and use in reading and writing. Second, word knowledge also comes into two forms, receptive and productive. Receptive vocabulary is typically larger than productive vocabulary, and may include many words to which we assign some meaning, even if we do not know their full definition and connotations or even use them ourselves as we speak and write (Kamil and Hiebert, in Press).

4. New Vocabulary
   In this research new vocabulary means difficult word or unfamiliar word.

5. Reading
   Reading is the process of understanding written language. It begins with patterns on the retina and ends (when successful) with a definite idea about the author’s intended message.

6. Skill
   In Oxford learner’s pocket dictionary states that skill is ability to do something well.