

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, research problems, purpose of the study, and the benefits of the study.

A. Background of Study

There are so many languages in the world, one of them is English. English is an international language that is used by most of people around the world for communication. English is the dominant international language. It has been used in many fields such as, education, business, international relation, tourism, and many more. In Indonesia, English is used as first foreign language. It is also used as important subject learned at the school because it has an important role for learner in the future. It is taught from elementary school up to college level. In English, there are four skills such as reading, speaking, listening, and writing that should be mastered well. There are also many components of linguistics that can help the students in mastering English skills, such as vocabulary, pronunciation and also structure (grammar).

Vocabulary is basic foundation for the students when studying a foreign language. Vocabulary plays an important role in learning English, because it can link the four English skills such as speaking, reading, listening and writing. That's why the students should learn and know the meaning of each words in foreign

language in order to make the communication easier. The students will easy to understand the language if they have enough vocabulary mastery. It can be said that more or less the quality of English skill depends on the quantity and quality of vocabulary mastery. Vocabulary is the most important elements that should be taught in the first of teaching English. It is the basic learning in teaching and learning English. Celce and Olshtain (2000:73) state that “word lists were a core element of the language curriculum” it means that words or vocabulary is the basic element to study language. So, we have to master in vocabulary firstly, before we are going to higher level.

Good vocabulary mastery has important roles. First, it will help the learners to understand the four language skills, such as speaking, listening, reading and writing. Second, a good vocabulary mastery of course will make the learner’s communication run smoothly. It is can be said, that if we have good vocabulary mastery, we also will get good chance in using English, and if we have a low of vocabulary mastery, we will get a difficulty in English learning. The problem in learning vocabulary faced by many students is about memorizing the vocabulary. The students can memorize the vocabulary they have learned before, but they don’t remember in a long time, they will forget it easily. According to this case, actually students have different vocabulary learning strategies (VLS) in learning vocabulary, and of course they have different characteristics, interest, and motivation. For example, some learners who are interested in music will learn a different vocabulary from those who are interested in sport.

Based on the description above, “The Students’ Strategies in Learning Vocabulary at SMP N 1 Sokaraja” is chosen as a topic to be investigated.

B. Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of the study are stated by the question below:

1. What are the most VLS (Vocabulary Learning Strategy) category used by the second-grade students at SMP N 1 Sokaraja in learning vocabulary?
2. Are the second-grade students at SMP N 1 Sokaraja high, medium or low strategy users related the most used strategy?

C. The Aims of the Study

The aims of the research are:

1. To know the most VLS (Vocabulary Learning Strategy) used by the second-grade students at SMP N 1 Sokaraja
2. To know in which level of user the second-grade students of SMP N 1 Sokaraja when learning vocabulary belong towards that strategy.

D. The Benefits of the Study

The study is expected to give some benefits both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretical benefits
 - a. Theoretically, the result of this study is expected to give contribution for beginner learner when learning English, especially in learning vocabulary. Because vocabulary is an important thing in English.

- b. The result of this study gives some information about methods and strategies used by the students in learning vocabulary.

2. Practically benefits

Practically, the benefit of the study can be used by the students when learning English, especially to develop their strategies in learning vocabulary and apply it. So, they can study easily and more interested to become a good English learner.

