

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Language is an important means for communication in daily activity. Moreover, in this era English has become a primary need due to it is the high demand of English fluency to communicate with other people from various countries. For many years students from many places around the world learn English. Since it is considered as an international language, learning English has become a necessity for everyone who wants to engage in international interaction. Mastering English is not a simple thing to do. There are some skills that should be learnt and practiced, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They are the basic language skills especially in teaching English as a foreign language at schools, courses or other educational places whether they are formal or informal. In order to make good communication, people must have enough words, which people understand and use. Considering this need, English as foreign language is taught in the early age, hence in Indonesia, English generally taught since Kindergarten.

Richards and Renandya (2002: 81) state that vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis for how well learners speak, listen, read and write. It also states that vocabulary is a sum or stock words employed by a language, group, individual, work or in field of knowledge. Moreover, Oxford learner's pocket dictionary states that

vocabulary is: (1) all the words that a person knows or uses; (2) all the words in a language; (3) list of words with their meanings, especially is a book for learning a foreign language.

From the definitions above, vocabulary becomes such an important part in learning language especially English. Why? Because vocabulary is the basic essential component in learning English which makes someone able to speak, write, read, and listen. In relation to this case, Tarigan (1985: 2) states that language skill mostly depends on the mastery vocabulary. Thus, the more vocabulary mastered, the bigger possibility someone can skillfully use the language. While, Nation (2008: 66) says that vocabulary is central to language. Without an extensive vocabulary, one will be unable to use the language communicatively.

Good mastery of vocabulary is important for anyone who learns the language used in listening, speaking, writing and reading. A learner of a foreign language will speak fluently and accurately, write easily, or understand what he or she reads and hears if he or she has enough vocabulary and has the capability of using it accurately.

Mastering vocabulary is the ability to get or to receive lots of words. By having and mastering vocabulary students will know the meaning of vocabulary in the context. It can also help to avoid making mistakes in understanding a written or spoken text. On the other hand, students who learn English face a classical problem dealing with English text, lack of vocabulary

is the major one, whereas in fact vocabulary is the most important thing in comprehend the English text.

Learning a foreign language means learning about another language beside native language of a country. It means we learn how to translate our native language into foreign language or on the contrary.

Translation is one of the most important skills that should be learned and developed by the students. Pinhhuck as quoted by Suryawinata (2003: 13) said translation is a process of finding a TL (Target Language) equivalent for an SL (Source Language) utterance. It is important to have the translation skill because translation is ultimately a human activity which enables human beings to exchange ideas and thoughts regardless of the different language used. Basically translation is transferring the meaning from one text into another text with the change of the form, form of Source Language (SL) is replaced by the form of Target Language (TL).

Descriptive text is one of the genres in text that is learnt by the students in senior high school. Bachtiar Bima M and Cicik Kurniawan in *Let`s Talk*, (2005: 15) state descriptive text is a text which says what a person or a thing is like. Its purpose is to describe and reveal a particular person, place, or thing. Descriptive text stretch out many information about certain people, things, and place clearly and detail. It is taught by teacher as one of learning topics in order to make students know how to describe themselves and their surrounding although it is still in a simple way.

In order to be able to translate well, a student should master vocabulary and fully understand and be familiar with the subject matter that will be translated. The more a student has stock of words used in a language, the better it will make their performance in translating English words in a text. Because of that, vocabulary mastery will affect the student's understanding and how they will translate the words in a text.

The syllabus items for senior high school in Arif Rahman Hakim (2011:1) showed that the students should have around 3000 words and the passing grade for English test is 79. In fact, what students got is below what they have to achieve. It is supported by Arif Rahman Hakim (2011) in his research entitled "The Correlation Between Vocabulary Mastery and The Ability of Translation Among The Tenth Grade Students of SMAN 4 Martapura in Academic Year 2010/2011". The research showed that the vocabulary mastery of the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 4 Martapura classified into category fair, because the students got the vocabulary knowledge below 3000 words and the average scores of Translation test was under the passing grade.

Based on writer's experience in teaching English at senior high school during the teaching practice, the writer has an interest to conduct a research entitled "The Impact of Vocabulary Mastery on The Student's Translation Ability of Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 1 Sampang in 2013/2014 Academic Year".

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

Based on the title of this study is “The Impact of Vocabulary Mastery on The Student’s Translation Ability of Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 1 Sampang in 2013/2014 Academic Year”, there are some reasons in choosing the topic, such as:

1. Vocabulary is very important to teach to the students for the purpose of helping them in communicating with others and mastering the language as well.
2. Mastering vocabulary is the ability to get or to receive lots of words.
3. Vocabulary mastery affect the student’s understanding and how they will translate the text.
4. Translation is one of the most important skills that should be learned and developed by the students.
5. The more vocabulary mastered, the better translation ability of the students will be.

C. Research Problems

In order to make the research brief, the problem of research can be formulated as follows:

1. How is the vocabulary mastery of the students to the grade XI of SMA Negeri 1 Sampang in 2013/2014 Academic Year?
2. How is the translation ability of the students to the grade XI of SMA Negeri 1 Sampang in 2013/2014 Academic Year?

3. Is there any significant impact of vocabulary mastery on translation ability of the grade XI students of SMA Negeri 1 Sampang in 2013/2014 Academic Year?

D. Aims of the Study

Based on the problems formulation above, the research is aimed at finding out:

1. To know how is vocabulary mastery of the students to the grade XI of SMA Negeri 1 Sampang in 2013/2014 Academic Year.
2. To know how is translation ability of the students to the grade XI of SMA Negeri 1 Sampang in 2013/2014 Academic Year.
3. Whether any significant impact of vocabulary mastery on translation ability of the grade XI students of SMA Negeri 1 Sampang in 2013/2014 Academic Year or not.

E. Clarification of Key Terms

The title of this research is “The Impact of Vocabulary Mastery on The Student’s Translation Ability of Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 1 Sampang in 2013/2014 Academic Year”.

To make the study clear, the writer wants to clarify the key terms as follow:

1. Impact

Impact means the striking of one body against another; a collision or impinging; effect or influence; the force of a collision or impingement (Webster, 2003: 479).

2. Vocabulary Mastery

Vocabulary mastery is a having complete knowledge of sum of words that are used in any language skill (Hornby, 2005)

3. Translation Ability

Translation ability is someone's basic (power, potential and skill) which it can bring someone to the progress and safety in translating.

F. Research Contribution

The result of the research entitles "The Impact of Vocabulary Mastery on Students' Translation Ability" is expected to contribute to the English Department students and other researchers. The finding of this study can be used by other researcher as the basic consideration to conduct the further study. The result of this study also hopefully can give benefit and contribution to the educational development in SMA Negeri 1 Sampang. It is also hopefully can give actual information about the achievement of vocabulary mastery and translation ability for the XI grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Sampang in academic year 2013/2014.