

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In this modern era, people demand to have more than one language. Language as a tool for communication takes an important role in daily activities that is used to transfer information, ideas, and feeling from one person to another. It is used to communicate in written and spoken form. Considering the importance of the language, English as international language has been used all over the world and it is used in many sectors of international affairs such as education, economy, politics, science, etc. Besides, there are many books, magazines, newspapers from other countries written in English. Hence, English is taught in many countries around the world, including Indonesia.

In Indonesia, English is taught as foreign language from elementary school up to university. As foreign language, English is considered difficult to be learned by students, because the students have been speaking their mother tongue from their childhood. Teaching English in Indonesia is more emphasized the ability to memorize than to understand. It is perceived lack of support on prepare a person to be able to use English in communication with others and for academic affairs (<http://ugm.ac.id>).

To master English learning, students must pay attention to many aspects of language knowledge (grammatical structure, vocabulary, and so on) in order to reach a high degree of competence in English. And one

the most important aspect is vocabulary, which plays a great role in English learners' comprehension. (Riankamol, 2008: 1)

Vocabulary is central to language and it is of great significance to language learners. It is one of the aspects of language which must be mastered by every English learner, especially students of the English Education Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto. The students are expected to master enough vocabulary to support their English. When the students have known enough vocabulary, it will help them to make their learning process easier with the maximum result.

Certainly, second or foreign language learners have strategies on how to learn vocabulary. One approach of facilitating vocabulary learning that has attracted increasing attention is vocabulary learning strategies (VLS). Interest in VLS has paralleled a movement away from a predominantly teaching-oriented perspective to one that includes interest in how the actions of learners might affect their acquisition of language (Schmitt, 2000: 132). Therefore, learning vocabulary is a very important part of learning a language. The more words the students know, the more words they will be able to understand what they hear, read and the better they will be able to say what they want to speak or write.

Because of the reason, the writer is interested in taking up the title of the research: "Students' Vocabulary Learning Strategies (A Descriptive Study on Second Semester Students of English Education Department Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in Academic Year 2013/2014)"

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

There are some reasons why the writer chooses this topic, those are:

1. Vocabulary is an important aspect in learning English.
2. Vocabulary needs learning strategies to achieve success in learning English.
3. Learning strategies is one of factors that influence the success in learning.

C. Problem of the Study

The problem of this study can be formulated as follow “What are strategies of learning vocabulary that is most frequently used by second semester students of English Education Department Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in academic year 2013/2014?”

D. Objective of the Study

The objective of vocabulary learning strategies study is to describe strategies of learning vocabulary that are most frequently used by second semester students of English Education Department Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in academic year 2013/2014.

E. Clarification of the Key Terms

The following are the key terms used in the study:

1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a list or set of words for particular language or a list or set of word that individual speakers of language might use. (Hatch and Brown, 1995)

2. Learning

Learning as a process of change in the human personality, and the change is shown in form increasing the quality and quantity of behavior such as increased proficiency, knowledge, attitudes, habits, understanding, skills, power of thought and other abilities. (Hakim, in Sutikno, 2007: 6)

3. Strategies

In language, strategies can be interpreted as tactics, tips, tricks or ways. While, in the general strategies is an outline of the bow in action to achieve its intended purpose. (Sutikno, 2007: 3)

F. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be able to give significance for the reader, the students, the lecturer, and the writer which can be described as follows:

1. The reader

It will be useful the reader to know the strategies of learning vocabulary.

2. The students

The students can master their vocabulary by using strategies of learning vocabulary to achieve their achievement in learning English.

3. The lecturer

The lecturer can improve their teaching and learning for students' vocabulary mastery by using vocabulary learning strategies.

4. The writer

This study will be one of her experiences in writing English while she is studying in the English Education Department Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto.

