

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Vocabulary is one of the important components English languages. By learning vocabulary the learner can support in mastering four skills in English, easily those are reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. If the learners less of vocabulary they can not to express the ideas in English language well. According to Wallace (1988:9) vocabulary is the vital aspect of the language. Furthermore, Rivers (1970:462), it would be impossible to learn a language without vocabulary. It means that more vocabulary students learn, the easier they express their ideas. Therefore, learning vocabulary is a must for students.

Vocabularies take a major part in English learner's success. Having good at grammar but having less vocabulary is useless because students will have difficulties in learning the four skills. Thornbury in Njoroge (2013: 1) puts it clearly: if you spend most of your time studying grammar, your English will not improve very much. You will see most improvement if you learn more words and expressions. You can say very little with grammar, but you can say almost anything with words.

Richads jack C and Renadya Willy (2002 p.259) says that "For second language entering university, Laufer found that knowing a minimum of about 3000 words was required for effective reading at university level, whereas knowing 5000 words indicated likely academic

success” Minimum professional proficiency, able to speak the language with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate affectively in most formal and informal conversation on practical, social, and professional.

In the class, some of students showed a blank face instead of the desirable response to teacher because of their uncertainty as to what is expected of them or they have lack of confidence in themselves. The reason was that they do not understand about the material in textbook or sometimes the teacher talking about. Some will not take part in activities despite instruction or persuasion in speaking class because they have problem in vocabulary. They may be shy of their lack in vocabulary and do not want to be noticed. Therefore, they just keep silent. It is essential for the lecturer to recognize the different backgrounds, experiences and learning styles that students bring to the language classroom. The impacts of these experiences have on what aspects of the input are likely to become intake. In other words, it is too large extent the learners, not the teachers, who control what is learnt since it is they who selectively organise the sensory input into meaningful wholes.

Based on the case mention above the researcher will focuses on investigating the students' problems in mastering English vocabulary, because, by knowing the problem of students', the problems will be easier to lead them in the class activities. The writer expected that this finding of the research will help students to share their entire headache and

confusedness in learning English vocabulary in order to enhance their language skill ability.

B. Reasons of Choosing Topic

These are the reasons for choosing the topic:

1. Vocabulary is an important and the basic one for students to learn English as a second language.
2. Vocabulary will make the students know how to use the word and complete them into sentence correctly.
3. Many students get difficulties in mastering vocabulary.

C. The Problem of the Study

The problems of this research are formulated as follow:

1. What difficulties do the students encounter in mastering vocabulary?
2. What is the reason students problem in mastering vocabulary by the second semester students of University as Muhammadiyah Purwokerto

D. The aim of the Study

The aims of this study are:

1. To find out the case in which the students get some difficulties in learning vocabulary.
2. To find out the reason for students problem in learning English vocabulary.

E. Clarification of key Terms

To avoid the misunderstanding about the problem, the terms defined as follow.

1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the words that student's uses when there are talking about particular subject. The students will find vocabulary when they are studying reading, writing, listening and speaking.

2. Learning vocabulary

Learning vocabulary is more than study of individual word. Learning vocabulary also learn about the word function. It means in learning new word the students do not look only from the meaning but should understand the word in a context.

3. Students problem of learning

Resman in Sulasno (2000:1) said that there are some problems indirectly faced by students in learning vocabulary. The items such in pronunciation, spelling, memorizing and used words in sentences.

F. Contribution of Research

This research hopefully can give some contribution to some educational practices such as:

1. To the teacher, the result of the study expected to the lecturers faced by their students in learning vocabulary. By knowing students problems in mastering vocabulary the lectures can determine the appropriate technique in teaching vocabulary to solve their student's problem in learning English vocabulary.
2. To the students, the result of the study can motivate students who have a problem in learning vocabulary to enhance their desire in learning vocabulary. So that the students can minimize their difficulty in English skill, they are reading, listening, speaking and writing.
3. To the other researcher, the result of the study candid be a reference to do the related research about vocabulary.