

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

English as one of important language in the world is widely studied and used as tool of communication among people. That is used to transfer information, ideas, and feeling from one person to another. It is used to communicate in written and spoken form. 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. English is taught in many countries around the world, including Indonesia.

Vocabulary takes a major part in English learner's success. Being 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.

It explains how important vocabulary is. Good words made good sentences. By collecting more words, students are able to understand the meaning of a sentence and by arranging the right words, they can create sentences. In other words, they will have a better comprehension on reading and listening. They are also free to express their idea in the from of written or

spoken language. To put it simply, the higher students' level of vocabulary, the easier they communicate in English.

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

Williams and Burden in Siriwan (2007:3) states that strategies are essential tools for developing communicative competence. Appropriate language learning strategies will improve proficiency and self-confidence. Moreover, Oxford in Riankamol (2008:10) observes that language learning strategies encourage greater overall self-direction for learners. Therefore, in this case, in order to help students to learn vocabulary successfully and become self-direction learners of vocabulary, they must learn various kinds of vocabulary learning strategies and found the most appropriate one to use.

There are many strategies which can be implemented by students, and each students has their own way in learning vocabulary. Since students have their own strategies, the researcher is interested in discovering what kind of strategies students employ.

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. Learning vocabulary needs 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 follows:

1. What strategies do the students use to learn vocabulary?
2. What are the most and least frequent strategies do the students employ?

D. The Aim of the Study

There are some aims in this study. Those are:

1. To know the vocabulary learning strategies used by students.
2. To know the most and least frequent strategies that students employ.

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 words that individual speakers of language might use. (Hatch and Brown, 1995)

2. Learning

Leraning as a process of change in the humen pesonality, and the change is shown in from increasing the quality and quantity of behavior such as increased proficiancy, 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, and the lecturer, which can be describe as follows:

1. The reader

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

2. The students

The students can understand more about their own learning strategies and found out what the most effective strategies for them.

3. The lecturer

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