

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is the expression of ideas. By using language people around the world could deliver their ideas, able to get information, express feelings and emotions, influence the activities of others. Language is the important thing for human in life and also language could help people to communicate with other people. English language is also one of language that can help people, in English especially for learning there are four skills that students should be mastered. Those skills are listening, writing, reading, and speaking. To master English language, students should pay attention to many aspects that support the language itself such as grammatical structure, vocabulary, and so on. One of the most important aspects is vocabulary. According to Scrivener (1994) has drawn attention to the fact that vocabulary is powerful carrier of meaning. Developing a rich vocabulary is an essential and continuing challenge for language learners.

Vocabulary is crucial part in language learning and communication. However, learning vocabulary is not easy. Thus, they need strategy to help them for learning new word and having rich vocabulary. One of the approaches to facilitate the students, to increase their vocabulary is using vocabulary learning strategies (VLS). Strategies for learning vocabulary have an important role in English language acquisition. Without strategies, the students will get difficulty to find the meaning of a new word, remember

them in their memory and used the vocabulary in appropriate situation, or to develop their vocabulary.

Therefore, it was unavoidable for the learners who learn language have strategy to learn vocabulary. Because of those reasons the writer was interested in investigating Vocabulary Learning Strategies Employed by The 8th Grade Students at SMP Negeri 2 Purwokerto.

B. Reasons of Choosing The Topic

This research conduct based on some reason:

1. Vocabulary learning strategies is considered as an important thing in learning language, especially English as a foreign language (EFL).
2. Research about vocabulary learning strategies in general is easily found. However, more specific research dealing with the way that students use to learn and to have rich vocabulary in junior high school is required.
3. Research about the most and the least of vocabulary learning strategies that use of the 8th grade students.

C. The Problems of Study

This research attempted to answer the following questions:

1. What are the English vocabulary learning strategies used by the 8th grade junior high schools students at SMP Negeri 2 Purwokerto ?
2. What are the most and the least frequently used English vocabulary learning strategies by the 8th grade students at SMP Negeri 2 Purwokerto ?

D. The Objectives of Study

The objectives of this research were to:

1. to investigate the vocabulary learning strategies according to Schmitt's taxonomy by the 8th grade students studying English language at SMP Negeri 2 Purwokerto. In addition, it explores vocabulary learning strategies used by them,
2. to know the most and least frequently used vocabulary learning strategies.

E. Clarification of Term

To understand the topic more easily, the terms of the study clarified as follows:

1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the total number of words in a language; all words known to a person or used in a particular book, subject, etc; a list of words with their meaning (Hornby, 1995: 1331).

2. Vocabulary Learning Strategy

Learning vocabulary is not only focus on word but also the strategies to learn new words to increase students' vocabulary (Hatch & Brown, 1995).

F. Contribution of Study

Hopefully, this thesis gives some positive contribution for learning process, especially in learning vocabulary. The teacher has to know that every student has differences strategy to learn new words in English based on their characteristic. Thus, the teacher must give motivation to the students to learn vocabulary based on their way.

For the students, they can use various strategies in learning vocabulary to increase their vocabulary by using their own strategies. Based on the strategy that they have, the students can be successful learners in learning vocabulary.

For the others researcher, this study can be a reference for their writers in their paper.

