

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of six points, they are: The Background of the Research, The Research Question, The Limitation of the Research, The Purpose of the Research, The Significance of the Research, and The Definition of Key Terms. Each of these points will be explained in the following:

1.1 Background of the Research

Vocabulary is one of the language aspects and as foundation to master English skills which should be learnt, because vocabulary is important in speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Nomatter how well the students learn grammar if their vocabulary mastery is still low, they can not master English well. Vocabulary helps the students in producing as well as comprehension of language. Therefore, vocabulary becomes an indispensible component of English which has a role in learning language (Marttinen, 2008; Takac, 2008; & He, 2010). It means that vocabulary influences a student's language skill and all of that skill will be achieved if students have a big number of vocabulary.

With sufficient of vocabulary mastery they will be very easy to understand the language. In other words, we can say that more or less the quality of English skill depends on the quantity and quality of our vocabulary achievement. Vocabulary is the most important elements that should be taught early in teaching English. It is the basic learning in teaching and learning English. According to Celce & Olshtain (2000), word lists are coreelements of the language

curriculum. It means that words or vocabulary is the basic element to study language. So, we have to master it in vocabulary first, before we are going to the higher level.

Vocabulary has been considered as a main component of English that must be learnt by learners in the beginning level in order to earn sufficient insight in learning language. Vocabulary is not only important for beginning level, but it also important for university level, since it helps them in understanding the language quickly.

Based on preliminary observation with students in fifth semester, the researcher conducted on October, 10, 2017 in learning vocabulary. Students in fifth semester were still confused with their score in vocabulary subject are still low. It happens because every student has various strategies in learning vocabulary among individual each other. Of course, by using their preferred strategies, the students can accommodate their ability in English skill. But, learning vocabulary is not easy, one of the student problems in studying vocabulary is that they are easy to memorize, but they do not remember it in long time. It means that vocabularies which they have learned are easy to forget. As Gu (1994) stated that, there are some EFL students who have difficulties in remembering a word. It is probably because they ignore the function of learning vocabulary.

From the problem above, the researcher would like to find out the students' strategies in learning vocabulary in English study program Academic Year 2016/2017 at Jambi University in fifth semester. Because, students in fifth semester

have just learned about vocabulary in previous semester, it makes the researcher want to conduct this research in that semester.

1.2 The Research Question

The question of the research was formulated as follows:

What are the strategies used by students in learning vocabulary in English study program in academic year 2016/2017 at Jambi University in fifth semester?

What is the dominant strategies used by students in learning vocabulary in English study program in academic year 2016/2017 at Jambi University in fifth semester?

1.3 The Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this research was to know the students' strategies in learning vocabulary and the dominant strategies that used by students in English study program academic year 2016/2017 at Jambi University.

1.4 The Limitation of the Research

This research is limited on finding students' strategies and the dominant strategies in learning vocabulary in English study program at Jambi University.

1.5 The Significance of the Research

The result of this research is expected to bring some significance and give contributions for both theory and practice. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich students' strategies in learning vocabulary, and this research will be used as a reference. Practically, this research is expected can help students to find out the strategies in learning vocabulary.

1.6 The Definition of key terms

The following is definition of key terms to make the readers have the same perception for some terms used in this research to avoid misunderstanding.

1. **Strategy** is the skill of making or carrying out plans to achieve goal.
2. **Learning** is a process to get new information from other.
3. **Vocabulary** is a list or collection of words knows by individual person that constitute a language under discussion or a particular subject.