

ABSTRACT

Felico Rian / A1B219067 / Faculty of English Education / Students' Difficulties in Mastering English Vocabulary at One Junior High School in Jambi/ Failasofah, S.S., M.Pd., Ph.D. (supervisor 1) \ Robi Soma, S.Pd., M.Pd. (supervisor 2).

English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Almost every country uses the language. However, teaching and studying English vocabulary is important in assisting Indonesian students to master English as a foreign language. The English teaching and learning process at schools does not always run smoothly. One of the difficulties that often arises in the process of learning English is mastering vocabulary. This study aims to reveal the obstacles faced by students in mastering English vocabulary and identify the learning strategies they apply. The research was conducted on grade IX students at Ahmad Dahlan Junior High School, Jambi using a descriptive quantitative approach. Data was obtained through questionnaires distributed to 100 students and the sample is: 80 students with using Slovin formula. The instrument used had gone through a validity and reliability test process using the Pearson test and Cronbach's Alpha calculation. The results revealed that students experienced a number of problems in the aspects of understanding meaning, word arrangement in sentences, pronunciation, spelling, and vocabulary memorization. In addition, it is evident that the low level of exposure to English outside the classroom environment makes vocabulary acquisition limited. On the other hand, data analysis shows that cognitive strategies, especially the utilization of dictionaries (both offline and online), are the most widely used methods by students. Social strategies, such as consultation with teachers, asking friends, are also quite significant. However, memory strategies such as active repetition and writing words and their meanings are less optimal. The findings imply the need for more structured interventions from the teachers to strengthen proactive and holistic vocabulary learning habits, so that students' English language skills can improve comprehensively. Thus, the results of the study are expected to serve as a reference for the development of more effective English language teaching methods.