

CHAPTER I

Introduction

1.1 Background of Research

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. According to Burn & Broman (2007), vocabulary is a collection of words used by a person, class, or profession, all of which have similarities but each is different. The primary aspect of learning a language is mastering vocabulary. Therefore, successfully learning a language requires a lot of vocabulary mastery. A person who lacks mastery of language will not be able to communicate with their. However, expanding vocabulary is not an easy to do. A teacher should select a suitable teaching styles and methods that help students develop their vocabulary. Teachers, on the other hand, must be innovative in teaching vocabulary in order for their students to acquire it easily. Vocabulary is very important for anyone studying a foreign language. Researchers recognize the significance of vocabulary learning, but this does not imply that other factors may be overlooked.

The English teaching and learning process at schools do not always run smoothly. One of the difficulties that often arises in the process of learning English is mastering vocabulary. Even though the key to mastering English is mastering a lot of vocabulary. According to Hasan (in Saridevita, 2019), vocabulary learning is the key to all languages. Poor pronunciation can lead to grammatical errors. Vocabulary is a fundamental aspect of acquiring a foreign language, as the meanings of words are frequently highlighted, whether in educational materials or in the classroom. It is also a pivotal element in language instruction and a crucial component for language learners. Vocabulary is one of the components that must be mastered by students, because the vocabulary they know, the more they understand a language. Besides, vocabulary is closely related to the four skills of

English skills: *writing, reading, speaking* and *listening*. According to Richard and Rendaya (2002), vocabulary is an important core in foreign language learning and one's language skills, affecting how well one speaks, listens, reads and writes. Furthermore, there are no shortcuts in learning words. To achieve proficiency in vocabulary, it is essential to possess a strong intention and willingness to strive for enhanced results. While some individuals may be apprehensive about English, that's no problem for those who are passionate about English-related subjects, who are passionate about English-related subjects tend to have a more positive outlook. Vocabulary mastery is a crucial aspect of English language learning in junior high school. During this period, vocabulary acquisition is closely linked to students' prior experiences and plays a pivotal role in their language development.

The researcher is interested in exploring the problem discussed above at one junior high school in Jambi city namely Ahmad Dahlan Junior High School. The researcher chose this school because: first researcher has the experience of teaching at the school during last year. Second researcher observed the learning activities taking place in the classroom and identified several issues related to vocabulary mastery.

1.2 Research questions

Based on the background of the Research, the researcher formulated research question:

1. What dominant factors cause students to experience difficulties in learning English vocabulary?
2. What dominant strategies do students implement to overcome these difficulties in vocabulary learning?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

1. To identify the factors or situations that make it difficult for students to learn vocabulary.
2. To find out the strategies to reduce student errors when learning vocabulary.

1.4 Limitation of the Research

This research focused on the factors that are problematic when learning vocabulary. And the strategies to minimize errors when learning vocabulary at seventh grade students of Ahmad Dahlan Junior high school Jambi city.

1.5 Significance of the Research

This research is expected to have more contribution to the students' vocabulary ability. This information can help teachers or educators understand more about the factors that make students struggle in learning vocabulary and try to find strategies to reduce errors when learning vocabulary.

1.6 Definition of Terms

in order to avoid confusion of this research, the researcher defines the essential terms related to the context:

- **Vocabulary:** list or collection of words used by individual language speakers.
- **Mastering:** The process of mastering knowledge in depth to apply it well and effectively.
- **Student difficulties:** the barriers experienced by students in information processing, thus affecting their ability to listen, speak, read and write.