

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Problem

Vocabulary is very important for English learners in order to master the language. However, to master vocabulary is not easy for the students. Introducing a foreign language to children is challenging. It happens because children are unique in their characteristics and have a special way of learning a new thing. They acquire knowledge by asking, listening to people around them and also experiencing. Through these acquiring children develop their vocabulary.

In learning vocabulary, the students have to be diligent to improve their vocabulary, the teachers in English class have to be active to help the students to master vocabulary.

The teacher should apply some strategies or use interesting media to help the students. Vocabulary is one important aspect in learning a foreign language. Without a proportional amount of vocabulary anyone will get trouble in his/her speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Without a shred of doubt, the writer said that the acquisition of vocabulary would help people in gaining, understanding, and also enhancing the process of knowledgeable transferred for a better life.

Learning vocabulary as a foreign language seems easy but some students feel fear. The teacher of English should find out solution by creating efficient and effective technique of teaching in teaching English vocabulary, besides that, the

teachers should establish condition which makes teaching vocabulary possible. The learning will occur within reasonable period of time.

Realizing how important the vocabulary and how difficult students to build up their vocabulary, the teachers of English have provided students with more exciting exercise which are expected to help vocabulary must be very helpful to improve the students' ability in English communication. Allen (1997:149) says that vocabulary is very important in a language, when people learn a language like English they learn the words of language. They must continue to learn words as they learn structure as they practice the target language. The vocabulary is very needed to master the four skills in English.

Through vocabulary, people convey their ideas, emotion, and efficiently. Without mastering it, people will not be able to use English effectively. In all language teaching, students must continually learn vocabulary as they learn structure (Allen 1997:149).

As a teacher, it is necessary to find new teaching media to overcome the problems and not to forget to motivate that the students. Some teachers have used games, pictures, songs, real object, cartoon and movies as their teaching media to grow the student creativity in learning process.

Based on researcher's interview with English teacher at SMP IT AziziyahPekanbaru, the teacher stated that the students have low motivation in learning vocabularies and it influences their quality in vocabulary mastery. Most of the students are not interested in learning English to improve their vocabularies. Furthermore, they also have lack of grammatical in understanding the text from

learn by textbook or something else. The teacher also gets difficulties to find effective ways to improve students' vocabulary mastery.

Actually, the teacher had tried to apply some strategies in teaching vocabulary to the students. However, the teacher's efforts were not helpful in English learning, especially in vocabulary mastery. Many students get bored in learning English in the classroom and get monotonous condition. In this case, the teacher less motivates the students, so the teacher should add new ways to solve that problems. In addition, the teacher should be creative and innovative to make their students understand what they learn.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher were interested in studying students' vocabulary at the seven year of SMP IT Pekanbaru in learning vocabularies. Therefore, this research paper entitled: **"A Study on Vocabulary Mastery of the First Year Students At SMP IT Aziziyah Pekanbaru"**

1.2 The Setting of Problem

In learning vocabulary, the students have to be able to master the vocabulary because it has important roles in the process of mastering language. Vocabulary is always used when language is used when the students have limited vocabulary, it simultaneously will affect the students' skill in mastering the language. The students will get problem to share their idea when they do not have any vocabulary that they can use in addition. The students will get problem to understand information that they listen if they have limited vocabulary mastery. Furthermore, the students also will get problems in their

reading activity because they have unfamiliar words in their reading. In conclusion, mastering vocabulary is very essential for the students.

1.3 The Limitation of Problem

Based on the explanation above, it was important to limit problems in this research. The researcher only focused on studying the first year students ability in mastering vocabularies to get more information about how well the students can improve their ability in vocabulary at SMP IT AZIZIYAH PEKANBARU.

1.4 The Formulation of Problem

In this research the problem is formulated as follows:

What are the level of vocabulary mastery in context at the sixth semester in English Language Education

1.5 Objective of the Research

The researcher carried out the research for an objective stated below:

To find out how well is Vocabulary Mastery of First Year Student at SMP IT Aziziyah Pekanbaru.

1.5 The Needs of the research

By the result of the study, the researcher expects that:

1.5.1 The students

It may motivate students to improve their interest in learning English since they will find out that learning English is not always difficult to learn. Their improvement of interest in learning English will help them Master English well.

1.5.2 The Teacher

It would give them a description about how to teach and to motivate the students to learn about English especially in vocabulary learning. They would not be stuck only in some particular teaching strategies. The use of media, like a picture, object and something else in this context could be a good alternative or variation in teaching vocabulary, where it would make the students enjoyed following the lesson.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation about this title, it is necessary to explain the terms used in this research; the term is as follows:

1.6.1 Vocabulary

Vocabulary is all the words known and used by a particular person and all the words which exist in a particular language or subject. Vocabulary is the total number of words in a language (Hornby, 1995; 1331). Vocabulary is an important part to master English well.

According to John (2000: 16), vocabulary is knowledge of knowing the meanings of words and therefore the purpose of a vocabulary test is to find out whether the learners can match each word with a synonym, a dictionary – tape definition, or an equivalent word in their own language.