

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Problem

Having English vocabulary knowledge is one of the indicators that can influence students' ability in mastering the language. There are four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing, which closely connected with the vocabulary. According to Schmitt (2008:329), vocabulary is considered as an important part of mastering a second language. In this case, when the students have limited vocabulary, automatically they will find difficulties in understanding English.

The students have to be active to improve their vocabulary knowledge. There are some ways that can be done by the students to master the English vocabulary. First, they have to read many books, articles, or newspapers which are written in English. Second, they have to take a note of unfamiliar words that they have found. Last, the students must be able to use the vocabulary that they learn in English communication practices. In this case, the students have to keep improving their vocabulary.

At SMK KANSAI Pekanbaru, vocabulary is learned by the students every time they study English. Teachers' roles in teaching vocabulary at school are very important. First, the teacher uses a new concept in teaching vocabulary by using some ways that can increase students' interest in learning English.

Second, to develop students' vocabulary, the teacher gives some vocabulary to students, and asks them to make sentences based on the vocabulary that they have learned. Third, the teacher explores students' vocabulary knowledge by giving one vocabulary to students and asks them to explain it directly in front of classroom.

In learning vocabulary, the students usually learn about some synonyms and antonyms in English. Synonym is a word that means exactly the same as another word but has different form in writing. The synonyms are usually used when students want to say someone "pretty" and "beautiful" or "small" and "little". In this case, the students have to know some similar meanings of words. Conversely, antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word. The antonym is easy to find in daily life, such as: "stop" and "go" of a traffic signal or restroom doors labelled "men" and "women". In learning English antonym, students should know some words that have opposite meaning. They can also practise the words in daily activity.

Based on researcher's interview with one of the English teachers at SMK KANSAI Pekanbaru, Susi Lasmita., S.Pd. She said that the students learn about vocabulary every time they study English. There are some vocabulary exercises done by the students, such as learning about antonym and synonym. In National Exam, the teacher informed that the students also get vocabulary test in relation to the use of antonym and synonym.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting the research entitled **“AN ANALYSIS OF VOCABULARY KNOWLEDGE OF THE THIRD GRADE STUDENTS AT SMK KANSAI PEKANBARU IN 2017/2018 ACADEMIC YEAR”**.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

In this research, the researcher finds out some phenomena in relation to the English vocabulary knowledge at SMK KANSAI Pekanbaru. They relate to Students, and National Exam.

The first phenomenon relates to the fact that vocabulary is very important in learning English. Without a sufficient vocabulary, students cannot communicate effectively or express their ideas in both oral and written form.

Second, the students learn about vocabulary every time they study English. Learning English vocabulary in great amount of time can make the students know much more vocabulary and they can improve their English skill. In addition, when they are learning about vocabulary, they can develop their English skills, such as in speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

Third, the phenomena relates to the National Exam. In Indonesia National Exam refers to the final test to all students and as determiner to the students if they pass or not. Vocabulary is one of categories test in National Exam, especially about synonym and antonym. If the students have English vocabulary knowledge, they will get easily answer the test. However, if the students have lack

of vocabulary knowledge, they will find difficulty in answering the test. It means that, vocabulary is one of component in the English National Exam.

### **1.3 Focus of the Problem**

This research focused on studying vocabulary knowledge of English of the third grade students at SMK KANSAI Pekanbaru, especially about their knowledge of words' meaning for the use of synonym and antonym.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

In this research, the researcher has two research questions, they are:

- 1.4.1 How is the vocabulary knowledge of the third grade students at SMK KANSAI Pekanbaru in 2017/2018 academic year?
- 1.4.2 What are the levels of vocabulary knowledge of the third grade students at SMK KANSAI Pekanbaru in 2017/2018 academic year?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

Based on the research questions above, the researcher determines the objectives of this research are:

- 1.5.1 To find out the vocabulary knowledge of the third grade students at SMK KANSAI Pekanbaru in 2017/2018 academic year.
- 1.5.2 To find out the level of vocabulary knowledge of the third grade students at SMK KANSAI Pekanbaru in 2017/2018 academic year.

## **1.6 Significance of the Research**

The researcher expects that the result of this research will be beneficial both academically and practically in vocabulary knowledge.

- 1.6.1 The School, to provide source of information in term of vocabulary.
- 1.6.2 The English Teacher, to know how good students' vocabulary knowledge.
- 1.6.3 The Students, to measure the vocabulary knowledge of students by giving test.
- 1.6.4 The Readers, to get more information in knowledge of English vocabulary.
- 1.6.5 The Researcher, to motivate the researcher in learning English, especially in vocabulary knowledge.

## **1.7 Definitions of the Key Terms**

- 1.7.1 Analysis refers to analyse the content of text. The text is anything written, visual, or spoken that functions as a medium for communication. Content refers to words, meanings, pictures, symbols ideas, themes, or any message that can be communicated, (Octavita, 2016:73).
- 1.7.2 Vocabulary is one of the most important components of language learning and teaching of a foreign language since it affords learner of the language access to all forms of oral and written communication of the word, (Moeller, Ketsman & Masmaliyeva, 2009:1).

1.7.3 Knowledge is an arranged of facts that have to be memorized in learning process, (Alqahtani, 2015:23).

1.7.4 Vocabulary knowledge is often viewed as a critical tool for English learners because a limited vocabulary in a second language obstructs successful communication, (Alqahtani, 2015:22).

