

**An Analysis of Students` Vocabulary Mastery at the First Grade of SMA Pertiwi
1 Padang**

THESIS

*Submitted as Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain Strata One (S1) Degree at
English Department of State University of Padang*



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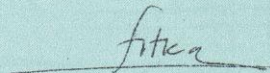
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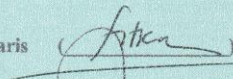
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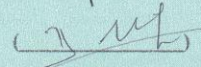
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ABSTRAK

Persada, Ade. 2015. “ An Analysis of Students` Vocabulary Mastery at the First Grade of SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang” *Skripsi*. Padang: Universitas Negeri Padang

Kemampuan siswa SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang dalam memahami teks bahasa Inggris masih rendah. Hal ini disebabkan oleh keterbatasan kosa kata yang dimiliki siswa. Karena siswa memiliki kosa kata yang minim maka siswa tidak bersemangat untuk belajar bahasa Inggris. Mereka menganggap bahasa Inggris sangat sulit untuk dipelajari sehingga siswa mengalami kesulitan dalam mempelajari kosa kata dalam bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan penguasaan kosa kata bahasa Inggris dan kesulitan dalam menguasai kosa kata siswa di kelas X SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kuantitatif karena data penelitian dideskripsikan dengan persentase angka dan analisis skor. Sampel penelitian ini berjumlah 40 siswa yang diambil secara acak dari keseluruhan populasi. Instrumen yang digunakan dalam pengumpulan data adalah tes dan kuesioner. Tes berjumlah 50 soal yang terdiri dari 35 butir soal pilihan ganda dan 15 butir soal isian. Sebanyak 80 butir soal diujikan kepada siswa untuk mendapatkan validitas dan reliabilitas soal. Kuesioner berjumlah 25 pertanyaan yang berguna untuk mengumpulkan data kesulitan siswa dalam mempelajari kosa kata. Analisis validitas dan reliabilitas kuesioner menggunakan pilot tes.

Hasil dari tes menunjukkan bahwa penguasaan kosa kata siswa termasuk pada kategori sedang dengan rata-rata skor siswa 51,85. Hasil dari kuesioner menunjukkan bahwa siswa mengalami beberapa kesulitan dalam menguasai kosa kata. Siswa mengalami kesulitan untuk mengingat kosa kata yang telah dipelajarinya, siswa memiliki motivasi yang rendah untuk mempelajari kosa kata bahasa Inggris, siswa jarang membuka kamus untuk melihat arti kata sulit yang mereka temui saat membaca dan siswa mengalami kesulitan untuk mengidentifikasi arti dan sinonim dari kosa kata bahasa Inggris. Berdasarkan data analisis bisa disimpulkan bahwa penguasaan kosa kata siswa kelas X SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang berada pada level sedang atau rata-rata yang berarti kosa kata siswa masih dibawah standar untuk ketuntasan pelajaran bahasa Inggris di SMA.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

In Indonesia, English is taught as a foreign language that has four skills, namely listening, reading, speaking and writing. The four skills are shared by the learning of language elements. They are structure and vocabulary. Vocabulary is one of the important language elements that the students should master. Harris (1996:9) states that vocabulary and grammar are two very important elements shared by all four skills. From the statement above, it can be said that if the students learn all four skills, they have to master vocabulary. Mastering vocabulary is a basic part to learn English skills. This is supported by Hatch and Brown (1995:1) vocabulary is the foundation to build languages, which plays a fundamental role in communication.

Vocabulary mastery influences students` performance in learning English. With a limited vocabulary, students will also have a limited understanding and performance in English skills that are speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Students` knowledge of vocabulary supports their knowledge and performance in learning English. A good mastery of vocabulary makes the students read or listen comprehensively, speak fluently and write well.

Moreover, a good mastery of vocabulary helps the learners to express their ideas precisely. By having much of vocabulary, learners will be able to comprehend the reading materials, listen comprehensively, give response, speak fluently and write

some kinds of writing. On the contrary, if the learners do not recognize the meaning of the words, they will be unable to express some ideas or unable to ask for information.

In the process of teaching and learning English in senior high school, vocabulary mastery is very important for students. It is because in senior high school, the levels of difficulty of the texts are high. The students are demanded to master a large number of vocabulary to understand that texts. Besides, it is hoped that students will have more vocabulary which can help them in studying English in the next level of their study or in the university.

In SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang, the teaching of English vocabulary is taught through the flash card technique. The students are hoped to be able to learn vocabulary, recognize the meaning and remember the word through the flash card. There are two kinds of flash card. They are word flash card and picture flash card. The flashcard is the interactive media to attract students' attention in learning vocabulary.

However, the teachers at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang had problems in teaching English vocabulary. First, the way of teaching vocabulary is not stated clearly in the curriculum. It was hard for teacher to teach vocabulary integratedly with English skills and it was difficult to create the meaningful learning and teaching of vocabulary. Second, students did not have good motivation in learning English vocabulary because most of them assumed that remembering English vocabulary and its meaning was difficult.

Moreover, the researcher chose to do the research at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang, because during the researcher's observation during teaching practice, students had difficulties in mastering English vocabulary. Another reason was the accessibility. The research can be done in that school as having the permission of the headmaster to do the research there and also the researcher can collaborate with English teachers to get the better result.

A preliminary study had done toward the first grade students at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang by interviewing some students and teachers, giving vocabulary test and observing students' daily exercises. From the preliminary study it showed that students had difficulties in mastering vocabulary.

The results of interview were students had problems in learning English because of lack vocabulary. Students had problem in understanding the English text because they had limited vocabulary. Students did not have motivation in learning English because they thought English was hard to learn and so many words in the text that they did not know. Students also got difficulties in understanding the meaning of words in context. A certain word might have different meaning in different context. It was hard for students to remember the word that they had learnt.

The vocabulary test was given to the students to check their vocabulary mastery. The test was done toward one class which consisted of 40 students. The results of the test were 1 students got score over 81. There were 6 students got score 61-80. There were 22 students got score 41-60. There were 9 students got score 21-

40. There were 2 students got score 0-20. From the result of the test, many students got score 41-60. It was categorized into average.

The results of observing the students daily exercises during the learning process showed that the students had difficulties in learning English because of lack of vocabulary. It was hard for students to understand the texts that they read. The result of students` quizzes and examination were under the minimal score that the students should pass. If it is compared with the minimal score of English subject at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang that is 70, the purpose of the learning is still far from the word of a success.

Based on the preliminary study, it can be said that students have some problems in mastering vocabulary while vocabulary mastery is very important to support students` knowledge and performance in learning English. The analysis of students` vocabulary mastery need to be done at the first grade of senior high school students at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang to know what students` vocabulary mastery is and what students` difficulties in mastering vocabulary are.

B. Identification of the Problem

There are several problems of the students` vocabulary mastery that have been identified by the researcher. The problems are identified as follow: first, the students have a problem in learning English because of lack of vocabulary. When they learn oral or written materials, it is hard for them to understand its meaning because there are many words that they do not know. While students have to know most of words

in the text to get the comprehensive meaning. Then, the students get difficulties in understanding the meaning of words in contexts. It is hard for students to recognize the meaning of word in contexts because some words may have different meaning depend on its contexts. While the ability to recognize the word from its context is the useful skill to gain the comprehensive knowledge in learning English. Moreover, it is difficult for students to memorize the words that they have learnt. The students have learnt a certain word before but they still have a problem to recognize the meaning of that word. It is impossible for students to learn many words just once. It should be learnt repeatedly. In short, they could not be able to master the vocabulary well.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Because not all of the problems are analyzed in this research, the researcher limits the problems into students` vocabulary mastery and students` difficulties in mastering vocabulary.

D. Formulation of the problem

The problem is formulated as follows: what is students` vocabulary mastery and what are the students` difficulties in mastering English vocabulary at the first grade of SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang?

E. Research Questions

To analyze the formulation of the problems which are stated above, there are two research questions. They are:

1. What is students' English vocabulary mastery of the first grade of SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang?
2. What are students' difficulties in mastering the English vocabulary of the first grade of SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang?

F. Purpose of the Research

Related to the research questions, the purposes of this research are:

1. To find out what is students' English vocabulary mastery of the first grade of SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang.
2. To find out what are students' difficulties in mastering English vocabulary of the first grade of SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang

G. Significance of the Research

This research is contributed to theory and practice. Theoretically, this research contributes to the application of the linguistic theory especially in learning English as a foreign language. Vocabulary mastery can be useful for the development of language learning especially English. Practically, this research is expected to give the advantage for students, teachers and researcher. Those advantages are: for students, this research is expected to help students to know how their vocabulary mastery is. For teacher, this research show students' vocabulary mastery and it is useful for them to improve their teaching in the senior high school. For researcher, this research is expected to be the reference to have a better result.

H. Definitions of Key Terms

1. Vocabulary : a total number of words that (with rules for combining them) make up a language.
2. Vocabulary Mastery : how well the students understand the meaning, form and using vocabulary or the comprehensive knowledge of words in a language.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

As it was mentioned in Chapter I, the purpose of this research is to answer two research questions which are to analyze students' vocabulary mastery and to analyze student's difficulties in mastering the vocabulary. The students' vocabulary mastery assessments are viewed from the students' score in the test. The students' difficulties in mastering vocabulary are viewed from the questionnaire.

Based on the collected data through the vocabulary test in the form of multiple choice and gap filling tests, and the analysis result of the research, it is found that the students' vocabulary mastery is categorized into average. The mean score of students grade on the vocabulary test are 51,85 which categorized into average grade. It can be said that most of the first grade students' vocabulary mastery at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang was average.

Based on the collected data through the questionnaire and the analysis of the result, it is found that students have difficulties in memorizing the words that have been learned and they have less motivation in learning vocabulary. Also, students seldom bring the dictionary and seldom use it. Furthermore, students get difficulties in the knowledge of words that are: understanding the meaning of the word, identify the synonym and choosing the appropriate word from context.

B. Suggestions

In line with the conclusion above, the researcher would like to propose some suggestions as follow:

1. Due to the result of this research that the students had average ability in vocabulary mastery, it is better for teachers to improve their way in teaching English vocabulary. They should guide their students to master English vocabulary by using various techniques
2. Students have less motivation in learning English vocabulary so teachers should motivate their students to master the vocabulary to improve their knowledge and performance in English.
3. Teachers should warn the students to pay more attention dealing with the meaning of words in the context. Knowing a word for context is very useful skill to be able to comprehend oral and written English materials.
4. Teachers should teach the high frequency words repeatedly to make students able to remember the word that they have learnt.
5. Teachers should encourage the students to be aware of looking dictionary while they meet the difficult word. It is useful to gain many new vocabulary.
6. It is suggested for the next researcher to find out or to analyze the cause of the problems and others factors that can influence the students' vocabulary mastery.

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