

**The Analysis of Students' Perception on Difficulties in Mastering
Vocabulary at SMAN 2 Rantau Utara**

THESIS



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ABSTRACT

Aditya, Yogi. 2025. The Analysis of Students' Perception on Difficulties in Mastering Vocabulary at SMA N 2 Rantau Utara.

This study aimed to analyze student's perception on difficulties in mastering vocabulary. Descriptive quantitative research was employed in this study. The eleventh-grade students were the population of this research. There were 100 students obtained as the sample through the voluntary response sampling method. Data were collected through a questionnaire including 4 aspects of difficulties in mastering vocabulary and 2 aspects of factors that caused the difficulties. The collected data were analyzed using the descriptive technique. The results revealed that: 1) Pronunciation become students' main difficulty when they are going to master the vocabulary, followed by grammar, word meaning, and spelling. 2) Teaching and learning process become a bigger factor that caused students to feel difficult in mastering vocabulary than students' attitude and behavior.

Keywords: Perception, Students, Difficulties, Mastering, Vocabulary

ABSTRAK

Aditya, Yogi. 2025. The Analysis of Students' Perception on Difficulties in Mastering Vocabulary at SMA N 2 Rantau Utara.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis persepsi siswa dalam kesulitan menguasai kosakata. Penelitian ini menggunakan deskripsi kuantitatif. Populasi dalam penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas sebelas. Sebanyak 100 siswa menjadi sampel dalam penelitian ini melalui metode voluntary response sampling. Data dikumpulkan melalui kuesioner yang mencakup 4 aspek kesulitan dalam menguasai kosakata dan 2 faktor yang menyebabkan kesulitan tersebut. Data yang terkumpul dianalisis menggunakan teknik deskriptif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa: 1) Pelafalan menjadi kendala utama siswa ketika menguasai kosakata, diikuti oleh tata bahasa, makna kata, dan pengejaan. 2) Proses belajar mengajar menjadi faktor yang lebih besar dalam menyebabkan kesulitan menguasai kosakata bagi siswa dibandingkan dengan sikap dan perilaku siswa.

Kata Kunci: Persepsi, Siswa, Kesulitan, Penguasaan, Kosakata

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The researcher realizes that this thesis is not perfect yet. However, the researcher hopes this thesis can be useful for himself and all people in general. Therefore, the critics and comments are useful for the researcher to improve this thesis.

Padang, May 2025
Yogi Aditya

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, identification of the problems, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, purpose of the research, significance of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of The Study

English is an international language taught in Indonesia. English has become a compulsory subject at all level of Indonesian education starting from elementary level to university level. According to Mappiasse (2014), English language teaching has been an intrinsic part of the Indonesian educational system. English has been selected by the government as a foreign language that is compulsory for students to learn. It is because English is an international language that has an important role as a medium of communication globally.

In English language learning, there are primarily four skills that are essential for effective communication: reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Besides mastering those four main skills, learners also need to master the vocabulary. Vocabulary is the basic aspect to learn and master in English. Vocabulary is the word of language, including single items and phrases that express a specific meaning (Arjunia, 2022). Vocabulary is a fundamental knowledge required before learning the other skills. Richard and Renandya (2002) stated that vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provide much of the basis for how

well learners speak, listen, read and write. So, it can be said that vocabulary plays the crucial aspect that should be mastered by the learners to be fluent and better in learning English.

Not only that, vocabulary also a main skill that learners need to learn since it influences students' ability to speak, listen, read, and write. Arjunia (2022) stated that vocabulary is the fundamental knowledge learning other skills. In speaking, vocabulary is required in order to effectively communicate and express the feeling. In listening, vocabulary helps the student to hear and understand the topic of the information that has been expressed. In addition, in reading, students need a proper vocabulary in order to understand the text or information explicitly and implicitly. Lastly in writing, vocabulary is needed to help the students to write a sentence or expressing their idea through writing.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that vocabulary is one of the important aspects in learning English language. Vocabulary also become the foundation for learners in learning English. Vocabulary can help the learners on developing and mastering English language skills. Having a great amount of vocabularies have an impact on successful communication. Learners communicate effectively if they have a good of vocabulary mastery. When learners want to master the English language skills, they need to master their vocabulary. Since it is quite impossible to master the English language skills if they are lack of vocabulary.

Unfortunately, based on the researcher experience during conducting teaching practice (PPL) at SMAN 2 Rantau Utara, the researcher found out that

many students were not be able to express their knowledge in teaching learning process due to their lack of vocabulary. The English teacher in SMAN 2 Rantau Utara also mentioned that some students have the low English vocabulary mastery that makes them lazy to follow the teaching learning process. The low of vocabulary mastery also makes them feel difficult to comprehend the context and meaning of the text, difficult to state some expressions or sentences in English, and difficult to be focus when listening to the English speakers. Those problems cause the students to feel difficult to understand the learning topic properly. It is supported by a research done by Susanto (2021) that finds that the students faced several problems when learning English, such as unable to say, read, and write a word, difficult to use words in grammatical pattern correctly, selecting the suitable meaning of the words, and still confuse in using the word affirmed in context. In line with that, Surmanov and Azimova (2020) explained that several problems that faced by students in learning English are pronouncing the words, understanding the different grammatical form of word, choosing appropriate word of word, and also confusing about the use of words based on context. Those problems arise due to the lack of vocabulary that students have.

A research done by Kristiana, et. al. (2021) entitled “Students’ Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Text at Seventh Grade of SMP Sint Carolus Bengkulu”, found that the lack of vocabulary became one of the main problems faced in writing a descriptive text. Another research by Purwanto, et. al (2021) also found that in listening comprehension, the lack of vocabulary still remains one of the main

problem students faced. A study conducted by Thao and Tham (2018) explained that two common areas of difficulties in ESP reading comprehension students were faced with were unknown words and background knowledge of subject matters. Saputra, et. al (2023) conducted a research to find out EFL student's difficulties in speaking English. The results showed that apart from lack of confidence, the lack of vocabulary also become one of the main problems students' faced in speaking English.

After knowing the importance of vocabulary and the students' problem on mastering the vocabulary, the deeper understanding on students' difficulties on mastery vocabulary and its caused are needed. So, this current research studies about "The Analysis of Students' Perception on Difficulties in Mastering Vocabulary at SMAN 2 Rantau Utara"

B. Identification of The Problems

Based on the background above, the researcher finds several problems, such as:

1. Students' feel difficult in several aspects when learn the vocabulary
2. There are some factors that makes students difficult to learn the vocabulary

C. Limitation of The Problem

In this study, the researcher focuses to explore about students' difficulties in vocabulary mastery. However, this result of the difficulties in mastering vocabulary would just based on perception of the students. In order to make the

result optimally, the researcher limits this study, it is done at eleventh grade students of SMAN 2 Rantau Utara.

D. Formulation of The Problem

Based on the problems, some research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the difficulties encountered by eleventh-grade students of SMAN 2 Rantau Utara in mastering vocabulary?
2. What are the factors cause the difficulties in mastering vocabulary for eleventh-grade students of SMAN 2 Rantau Utara?

E. Purpose of The Research

The purposes of this study are:

1. To find out the difficulties encountered by eleventh-grade students of SMAN 2 Rantau Utara in mastering vocabulary.
2. To find out the factors that causes eleventh-grade students of SMAN 2 Rantau Utara feel difficult in mastering vocabulary.

F. Significance of The Research

The researcher hope that this study is useful for teachers, students, and for researcher as the following statement:

1. Theoretically

The result of this study is expected to be used as a reference for other researchers when conducting the research on vocabulary teaching.

2. Practically

The result of this study is expected to benefit both the teacher and students in teaching learning vocabulary process. It is also expected to help the teacher to overcome the students' problems in mastering vocabulary.

G. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid the misunderstanding or doubt, the researcher explains some key terms in this study as follows:

1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is an essential element of language proficiency and provide much of the basis for how effectively learners communicate through speaking, listening, reading and writing.

2. Vocabulary Mastery

Vocabulary mastery refers to the comprehensive understanding and capability to comprehend and utilize words efficiently in communication.

3. Difficulty

Difficulty is a condition when someone is inability to accomplish something.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, the researcher provided the conclusion and suggestion of this study regarding students' difficulties in mastering vocabulary

A. Conclusion

Based on the research result and discussion of the research supported by the data that has been conducted, the researcher found that the difficulties in mastering vocabulary faced by the eleventh-grade students of SMA N 2 Rantau Utara were various. Pronunciation become their main aspect of difficulties that students' encountered when they are going to master the vocabulary, followed by grammar, word meaning, and spelling in that order. The factors that has bigger impact in students difficulties in vocabulary mastery is teaching and learning process and then students' attitude and behavior.

B. Suggestion

Based on the conclusion above, the researcher would give several suggestions to the teacher and for future researcher. First, for the teacher, they need to analyze students' difficulties learning vocabulary in order to help the students mastering the vocabulary. There are some teaching learning activities, teaching medias, and teaching techniques that can be used by the teacher to make the teaching learning process more effective for the students.

Students also need to consult with the teacher about their issues in mastering the vocabulary so the teacher can provide the appropriate solutions for them. Students also need to practice and use the vocabulary as frequently as they can to enhance their retention of the vocabulary they have acquired during the learning process. They also can utilize various media such as YouTube or other platform to assist them practice to speak or use the vocabulary properly.

For future researchers who are interested to conduct research in this topic, it is recommended to explore the impact of different factors including cognitive development, exposure to the English language outside the classroom, and teaching methods or media that align with the students' difficulties in certain aspects, as this can benefit both teachers and students.

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