

**Using Vocabulary.com as a Material to Teach English
Vocabulary Course at Senior High School**

PAPER

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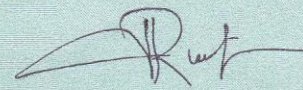
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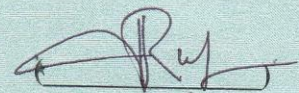
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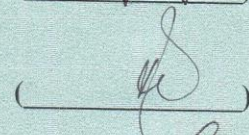
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ABSTRAK

Aditya, Nofrival. 2012. "Using Vocabulary.com as a Material to Teach English Vocabulary at Senior High School". Makalah Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris FBS UNP.

Makalah ini bertujuan untuk memaparkan salah satu materi pengajaran Vocabulary di Sekolah Menengah Atas (SMA) dengan menggunakan situs *Vocabulary.com*. Situs ini menyuguhkan fitur-fitur menarik dalam mempelajari kosakata bahasa Inggris. Di awal pelajaran, guru menarik perhatian siswa untuk belajar dengan memberikan pertanyaan-pertanyaan mengenai penggunaan internet bagi siswa terutama di bidang pendidikan. Selanjutnya, guru mengenalkan situs *Vocabulary.com* dan mengajarkan siswa tentang fungsi serta cara-cara mendaftar sebagai anggota di situs ini. Guru membagi siswa ke dalam beberapa kelompok dan menunjuk seorang ketua pada setiap kelompok. Ketua kelompok mengatur setiap anggotanya untuk menjalankan semua instruksi yang diberikan guru. Guru menciptakan sebuah kompetisi dimana setiap kelompok diberikan tantangan untuk mendaftarkan semua anggotanya ke dalam situs ini dan menjawab sepuluh pertanyaan bagi setiap anggota. Kata-kata baru yang anggota dapatkan, dicatat dalam buku catatan masing-masing. Kelompok yang menyelesaikan tantangan dengan waktu tercepat keluar sebagai pemenang kompetisi. Dengan adanya kompetisi ini, siswa akan lebih tertantang serta menganggap bahwa belajar kosa kata bahasa Inggris itu tidak membosankan. Peran guru adalah memantau dan menilai hasil kerja kelompok dan mendiskusikannya di akhir kompetisi. Di akhir pelajaran, guru menyuruh siswa untuk menjawab pertanyaan serta melaporkan kosa kata yang didapat di dalam situs di rumah secara individu. Tentu saja, dengan menggunakan situs ini dalam pengajaran bahasa Inggris, siswa akan lebih termotivasi dan menghilangkan anggapan bahwa belajar kosakata bahasa Inggris itu membosankan dan sulit. Guru juga akan terbantu dalam menciptakan suasana belajar yang lebih menarik dengan pelaksanaan kompetisi kecil di dalam kelas.

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By saying “*Alhamdulillah* *rabbi ‘Alamin*”, the writer would like to express his praise to Allah SWT, who has given the writer chance, knowledge and strength in finishing this paper entitled “Using Vocabulary.com as a Material to Teach English Vocabulary at Senior High School”. He also sends *shalawat* and *salam* along with greetings to the prophet Muhammad SAW, the last prophet and the greatest leader of human being.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Vocabulary as one of language components is important for the students to be learned. Richard and Renandya (2002) state that vocabulary is a core component of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. In addition, Hornby (1986) states that vocabulary is the word in a language, in which all the words are known by someone and used in the books, subject, and so forth. It means that limited vocabulary impairs personal ability in using language. Thus, it shows how important vocabulary is.

The students can get many advantages by building and improving vocabulary. First, they can improve their speaking skills. If they speak with the limited vocabulary and use the same words repeatedly, the listener will be very bored, but if they have much vocabulary, speaking in English will be interesting for both of them. Second, many students find it easier in getting ideas on reading because they understand the meaning of the words that they read. Third, the students can find it easy in listening English because they have much vocabulary, so it can make them understand what the speaker says. Last, they can write well because with much vocabulary they can develop their ideas.

In Genre-based approach, teaching vocabulary is integrated in teaching language skills; reading, speaking, listening, and writing. In this paper, the writer is going to teach vocabulary in reading skill. Based on the Curriculum 2004 which was developed into curriculum KTSP 2006 of English at Senior High School, the

students need to know various genre or kinds of text (procedure, descriptive, recount, narrative, report, news item, analytical exposition, hortatory exposition, spoof, explanation, discussion, and review texts). The students should master all of the kinds of texts by learning in the classroom.

In fact, learning those kinds of texts is difficult for senior high school's students. Based on the writer's interview with one of English teacher at SMAN 2 Payakumbuh, the problems in learning vocabulary happened because of some factors. It can happen because the students seldom read English or do not read English a lot and they did not want to find the meaning of the vocabulary items. On the other hand, the students said that learning new words in English are not interesting because the teacher tend to use translation method. For example in reading, the teacher ask the students to translate words from L2 (foreign language) to L1 (first language) while reading the text. It is not good for them because it just make the students bored and passive because they just have to memorize the words and the meaning.

In addition, the students feel the texts that are given to them are not interesting to be read. They get texts from the teacher that has boring contents. The students need a text that has interesting topic and appropriate with their age. Moreover, the students cannot understand the content of the text because they get difficulties on understanding new vocabulary. Vocabulary is one of the main parts of reading activity that the students should be mastered. They should be skillful in vocabulary while they are reading. If the students understand the vocabulary, they will read the text easier and understand its content.

The media is also one of problems in teaching reading. It plays an important role to the students in reading. However, the teacher still uses a traditional media in the learning process. The teacher just gives some explanation from the textbook or LKS (Lembaran Kerja Siswa) and distributes pieces of paper to the student. The teachers only distributed the texts and asked the students to read silently for several minutes, and then did some exercise by themselves. Finally, the teacher checked the answer together with the students and collected the exercises. As a result, they cannot explore the text too much. The media are not varied, monotonous activity, and lack of aids to help the students to comprehend the text easier. Because of that, the students do not understand a passage very well. They do not understand what they read because of lack of vocabulary. This causes the students do not get good mark at the end of the lesson. It can be concluded that the media do not give good results.

The other problems come from reading materials. The teacher should choose the materials which are relevant with the students' need and interest to understand a reading passage well, but the teacher did not do it. The teaching materials are given to the students are not appropriate to the students' level, need, and ability. Even, it contains new difficult vocabulary that cannot be understood by the students. Therefore, the students will be difficult to understand the text.

To overcome these problems, the teacher should give an interesting media and material in their teaching, in order to make the student get a good comprehension in reading. It is important to introduce them about using a new material like sites on reading activity in order to make them easier to learn

vocabulary. The site is vocabulary.com. it will help them in understanding vocabulary. This site provides the users especially for the teacher and the students some features in learning vocabulary which are easy to understand and fun to do. It makes the vocabulary learning become more interesting, fresh, and fun.

B. Limitation of the problem

The paper is limited to the study of using vocabulary.com as a material to teach English vocabulary at Senior High School.

C. Formulation of the problem

The problem in this paper is formulated in the following question: “How can the English teacher use vocabulary.com as a material to teach English vocabulary at Senior High School

D. Purpose of the paper

The purpose of writing this paper is to explain how the teacher can use vocabulary.com as a material to teach English vocabulary in order to make the teaching and learning process more interesting, fresh, and fun.