

## **CHAPTER II**

### **STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY**

#### **A. Concept of Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is one of the important elements in teaching English. This statement is supported by Hatch and Browa (1995:1). They say, "Vocabulary is the foundation to build languages, which plays a fundamental role in communication". It describes that by mastering vocabulary, people can express their ideas and understand the other basic competence well. Students Elementary School study basic English. They study about simple words or things in their surroundings, it is aimed that students are able to understand simple English used in daily context. However, it is difficult to master the other competences that must be reached by students in order to get other competencies like reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Vocabulary is presented as the first element of language that students learn before the other elements. Vocabulary mastery is an important thing in mastering all skills in language, such as speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Mastering can be defined as a great skill or knowledge of something. According to Bromley (2007: 15)" mastery is regarded as the ability of a student to implant the essence of the lesson given in a whole" it means that mastery is possession of skill, ability and technique in conducting a certain activity.

Vocabulary is the important element in learning English. It is the first step for the students if they want to achieve their goal in learning English skill. Vocabulary is an essential part of language and always be first thing to learn a language. It considered basic, either written or spoken. In schools, the students are introduced and taught English like other important subject as one of compulsory subject. However, English is still regarded as a difficult subject and a difficult language to be mastered by the students.

Vocabulary is a basis of language which was very important to be mastered first in learning English. Students cannot speak well and can understand written materials if students do not master it. Vocabulary becomes the most important aspect in learning English. Vocabulary is central to language and a critical importance to the typical language learner. Therefore, students should have stocks of vocabulary to make them master a language easily.

What is the broadly defined is that vocabulary is a set of words of a language or a particular language field or all of the words that are owned by someone who includes active vocabulary, namely the vocabulary used as a speaker and writer and passive vocabulary used when being a listener and speaker. To master a word was not only to learn its meaning but also to learn its register, association, collocation, grammatical behavior, written form, spoken form and frequency. All these properties were known as “word knowledge” (Tornbury 2012).

Many learners mastering the meaning of word meant to master the definition of the word in dictionaries. Hanson and Padua (2011) said that word meaning consist of the link of the word and its referent and the latter meant the person, thing, action, and situation. The meaning of a word in dictionaries was the basic meaning elements. However, a word could have different meanings in different context. This phenomenon involves the register. It was use in people's daily life popularly, and it meant denotation of a word meaning from the basic meaning in different contexts. It was the relationship between the content, sender, receiver, situation and purpose.

It means that words are related to other words in different ways and any word can belong to a particular set of words. There are four main categories of associations. The first is coordination; a collection of words together at the same level of detail for example; banana and watermelon. Moreover opposites belong to this kind of example; morning and night. The second one was super-ordination. It meant that some words cover other words which were subordinate to the upper ones example; when people

mention the word animal, others can easily associate to tiger and lion. The third one was synonymy, which meant word having the same or similar meaning were stored together example; happy and glad.

In order to understand the language vocabulary was crucial to be mastered by the learner. Learners must know use of the vocabulary in language because there is no language that without using the vocabulary. Vocabulary is important to learners as basic knowledge to know and to mastery a language learners must to increase their vocabulary in their language, more the vocabulary learners have, more develop the ability in language because each country uses the different language in their communication and without mastery a language, there will not be communication between people. And without vocabulary mastery enough, someone cannot communicate effectively in oral or written form.

Based on explanation above, the researcher concludes that vocabulary is number of words or called as basic knowledge that learners to learn to communicate. Learners can use the vocabulary in speech or writing form.

## **B. Concept of Student Vocabulary Mastery**

There are a lot of ways for students to mastery vocabulary, some of them are reading text, note it on diary and remember it one by one. Before researcher discuss more detail about students' vocabulary come from. There below predicting about students' vocabulary mastery.

### **1. Learn word meanings from reading context**

Students who are good readers mastery many vocabularies from reading text than poor readers. Nagy and Herman as cited in Kuhn and Stahl (1998) give suggestion that word meanings can be measured with use estimates of students' studying from reading context volume. If students read an hour per day at 100 words a minute for 300 days exception Sunday, that students will have 1.800.000 words in text per year.

## **2. Note words on Diary Book**

In this modern era students learn vocabulary with interesting methods and media applied by their teachers or they learn from electronic media such as smartphones, television, watching movies, listening to songs and soon.

## **3. Remember Words One by One**

Most of students still use this method now, especially they who have willing toward English subject. And some school in Indonesia forbids students to bring smart phone at the school. It is generally to use in education field. It can bring the open mind that it can be used by all students rich or poor. It is an effective method because students do not easily forget it.

### **C. Function of Vocabulary**

Vocabulary has a great function in language. People use vocabulary/ words to construct sentences. Vocabulary is as like as the bone of our body. Without bone, our body will not be able to be as perfect as possible. No body can be expressing his/her feeling to others. Thornbury (2012) said that words functioned to express ideas, as ingredients to arrange a nice sentence, to communicate effectively to another person and vocabulary has a big contribution to support the successful student's learning English. Without grammar very little thing can be conveyed but without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed.

When using electronic media to write short messages or emails on smart phones or computers students have to save a lot of vocabulary, with the aim that someone can save it as a real document that other people will remember.

Vocabulary is basic knowledge in learning language that learners should study in order to master their language especially in English. Nation (2011) realized that the acquisition of vocabulary was essential for successful second language use and played an important role in the formation of complete spoken and written text. In English vocabulary is one of aspects in

learning language to mastering 4 basic skill, because vocabulary is basic knowledge in achieve the comprehension in learning. According to Nation and Waring in Mehring (2010:3) vocabulary knowledge enables language use, language use enables the increase of vocabulary knowledge and language use and soon. It means vocabulary is first aspect that students should be learned if students want to improve their language especially in English.

#### **D. Indicator of Vocabulary**

Mastery of English vocabulary is the ability that exists within a person to be able to explore and understand a word contained in English, and becomes the basis for communicating which has been known by everyone both orally and in writing and can provide meaning when using the language. Thronbury (2012:13) said that in learning english, there are three basic components that need to be thought, and they are pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. All of them have an important role, because vocabulary has a big role to support the success of students learning English, because without grammar very little can be said, without vocabulary can be said. It means that vocabulary is very important thing in learning English. If students have lack of vocabulary in the English, students cannot express their ideas, it is impossible to communicate in English effectively among people.

Vocabulary is a special problem because there are multiple indicators of vocabulary knowledge that studetns will master. According to Nation as cited in Neary-Sunquist (2015:70) said that identified the indicators of vocabulary that determine what it means to know a word. Nation distinguished three indicator of vocabulary knowledge, it with three subcategories: form ( spoken form or pronunciation, written form or spelling and words parts such as a prefix, root and suffix), meaning ( form and meaning, concept and referents, associations), and use ( grammatical functions, collocations, constracitons on use). The focus of the research is meaning, spelling, grammatical functions and part of speech because the students get difficulties

to understand on those parts as explained before in the research background. The meaning is important indicator that focus on this research.

Therefore, three indicator of vocabulary such as meaning, spelling, grammatical function and part of speech will discuss as follow:

### **1. Meaning**

The meaning is important indicator of vocabulary which students must understand it. Vocabulary can be defined as a powerful carrier of meaning cited in Fortes (2017:11). Additionally, according to Thornbury (2012:13) if students don't know the meaning of many words that they cannot use it on the text, student ability of the selection is called compromising.

From explanation above researcher concluded that the meaning is become one of indicator that focus on this research. The reason is because without knowing the meaning of the words, students will be confused to be able to understand what they read, written, listen and say. Therefore, meaning is used in vocabulary.

### **2. Spelling**

Spelling is the one of indicator in learning vocabulary. Spelling knowledge applies not only to the ability to encode words during writing. Importantly, it also underlies individual ability to decode words during the process of reading Pikulski and Templeton (2014:7). Learning spelling of vocabulary can support to understand the meaning of vocabulary that learned. This letter indicator is related to the role that morphology plays as applicable on the variety part. Words that are related with meaning that relate with spelling, describe changes in sound.

### **3. Grammatical functions**

Grammatical functions are one important indicator on vocabulary. According to Faris (2016) "to investigate how language itself is organized to enable speaker (and researcher) to express different kinds of meaning experiential interpersonal and textual.

From the explanation above researcher concludes that grammatical function as one the indicator for this research.

#### **4. Part of Speech**

Part of speech has an important role in vocabulary. that its is Folsie stat that (2018:14) vocabulary is a special problem because there are multiple indicators of vocabulary knowledge that students will master. Part of speech is one of indicator on vocabulary. Because, studentns cannot arrange a good sentence if they didn't know part of speech like noun, verb, adjective, preposition, article, adverb etc.

In this research the researcher focus on meaning, spelling, grammatical function and part of speech. From four indicators would concluded students ability of vocabular mastery.