

CHAPTER II

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE GAME TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' VOCABULARY

A. The Nature of Vocabulary

1. Definition of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of English language components which must be mastered by the students. Vocabulary cannot be separated from other English language skills, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Liando *et al.* (2019, p. 572), define vocabulary as “the knowledge of words and word meaning. Thus, vocabulary can be defined as the word of a language, including single items and phrases or chunks of several words which convey a particular meaning, the way individual words do”. Then according to Hatch and Brown in Nushi and Jenabzadeh (2016, p. 52), “vocabulary is the specific set of words a person is familiar with and can use in a language.” These definitions may make it seem that vocabulary is a pretty straight forward term, but this perception will not last long when one takes into account the fact that vocabulary is much more than just single words, that is, vocabulary includes not only single words but also multiword phrases, idioms, and even sentences. Ambiyatul Um (2018, p. 13), added “vocabulary is the knowledge of meaning and uses the word that used by the speaker of language to communicate with other people. Vocabulary is important part in learning English, because It has big contribution to supporting successful people to communication. If we are having good enough vocabulary, we will be able to communicate to other people.”

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that vocabulary is about meaning of words which needs whole part of language learning. The students should have the knowledge of the meaning of word in order to make them easy to acquire the new words because whole English language components need vocabulary. Without vocabulary, nothing the students can do. Vocabulary will make the students understand all things about English because vocabulary is important.

2. The Importance of Vocabulary

Vocabulary has an important role in language teaching. In every language, vocabulary is very important to convey the idea, express desire and feelings; and to communicate with others. If the students master enough English vocabularies, they would be easy in understanding English. "Vocabulary is very important thing because it can list of the words used in some enterprise, a language user's knowledge of words and the system of techniques or symbols serving as a means of expression (as in arts or crafts); 'he introduced a wide vocabulary of techniques" (Wardani, 2015, p. 132). According to Thornbury (2002, p. 13) "without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed".

Additionally, Liando *et al.* (2019, p. 572) said "Vocabulary is very important in language learning. It should be recognized as a central element in language instruction from the beginning stages to develop those skills well. If the students master vocabulary well, they will be able to identify quickly and accurately the meaning of most words, but if they do not master vocabulary, it is impossible for them to use a language. On the other hand, mastering vocabulary allows them to be able to communicate in English and have a strong desire to read simple English book. It can be said that mastery of vocabulary is a good start to develop English skills".

According to Baskarani (2016, p. 12), "Vocabulary mastery is how the teachers teach a list of a word with their meanings, especially in a book for learning a foreign language to the students. By having and mastering it, we will know the meaning of vocabulary in the context. It can also help to avoid making the mistakes in identifying a language with dictionary and guide us in making the equivalence of the second language to native language".

3. Aspects of Vocabulary

They are several aspects of vocabulary that the students should know. Harmer as cited in Baskarani (2016, p. 18)," writes some components of vocabulary that students need to know, they are: meaning, word use, word formation and word grammar". Then, Cameron as cited in Gushendra (2017, p. 54), explained that "vocabulary aspects include: pronunciation, spelling, grammar and meaning".

The aspects of vocabulary help the teacher in teaching the students in order to make the teacher easy to choose the words that should be acquire by the students. On

the other hand, the students will get some benefit when they know the aspects of vocabulary and it is really help them in mastering English as the foreign language. "That aspects really help them in knowing how to use the word, what the word meaning is, and how to spell the word, the structure of the word based on the explanation above" (Ningrum, 2017, p. 10). According to Lado in Mardianawati (2012, p. 21), "there are several ways that the learner can learn English vocabulary such as":

1. Meaning

The most important aspect of vocabulary teaching for students is to foster students' independence so that they will be able to deal with new lexis and expand their vocabulary beyond the end of the lesson. Therefore, guided discovery, contextual guesswork and using dictionaries should be the main ways to deal with discovering meaning.

2. Spelling

Spelling is very important in learning vocabulary because it aids in reading. It helps cement the connection that is shared between sounds and letters. Learning high frequency sight words also has been shown to help with both reading and writing. This is why students learn sight words during their early years. Spelling and reading also have a common factor, proficiency with language.

3. Pronunciation

Pronunciation of a word is what we hear when someone says the word. Most words have only one pronunciation, but sometimes a word has two or more pronunciations. English pronunciation is difficult to learn because it is not related to the spelling of words.

4. Word classes

Word classes are categories of word. Word class is an important feature in semantic feature analysis. In each of the following sets of words, one word does not belong. Example: nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjective, prepositions are word classes.

5. Word use

Word use is how a word, phrase, or concept is used in a language. Lexicographers gather samples of written or spoken instances where a word is used and analyze them to determine patterns of regional or social usage as well as meaning. Word use may also involve grammar and thus be the subject of profound analysis.

Based on above explanation, in order to make the indicator of creating the instrument of the test, the researcher will focus on four aspects from Lado in Mardianawati (2012, p. 21) namely, meaning, spelling, word classes and word use. By focusing these four aspects of vocabulary will help the researcher and collaborator easy to decide what shall be taught to the students in order to improve student' vocabulary by using word search puzzle game.

4. Types of Vocabulary

The first type of vocabulary refers to the one that the students have been taught and that they are expected to be able to use. Meanwhile, the second one refers to the words which the students will recognize when they meet them, but which they will probably not be able to pronounce. Hatch and Brown in Alqahtani (2015, p. 25) indicate two types of vocabulary, namely receptive vocabulary and productive vocabulary as explained in the following section:

a. Receptive Vocabulary

Receptive vocabulary is words that language learners know and understand when the words are used in context, but the learners may not be able to produce the words.

b. Productive Vocabulary

Productive vocabulary is the words that language learners understand, and they can pronounce the words correctly and use them constructively either in speaking or writing. In other words, mastering productive vocabulary involves mastering what is needed for receptive as well as the ability to use it in speaking and writing appropriately.

In the context research focusing on vocabulary learning, Hirsh (2015) highlighted the importance of differentiating between receptive and productive vocabulary because it will help the research to determine the kind of vocabulary to be

tested. According to Hirsh (2015), receptive knowledge of words is associated to recognizing the words in written and spoken texts, and the tests of receptive vocabulary knowledge is intended to assess the learner's ability to attach a meaning to a word in written form or to transcribe words presented in oral language. Hirsh (2015) further explained that productive knowledge of words is related to word use in contexts, either in writing or speaking context.

In the present research, the teaching vocabulary is focused on both receptive and productive vocabularies. While for the purpose of assessing the students' vocabulary mastery, the test items are focused more on the receptive vocabularies. Thus, there is no test for assessing the students' ability on pronouncing and writing the words.

B. Word Search Puzzle Game

1. Definition of Word Search Puzzle Game

A word search puzzle is a word game that is letters of a word in a grid that usually has a rectangular or square shape. The objective of this puzzle is to find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Often a list of the hidden words is provided, but more challenging puzzles may let the player figure them out. Many word search puzzle games have a theme to which all the hidden words are related. The puzzle itself kind to play that can be used to practice certain language features at certain phases in learning process in order to develop communication skill. In summary, word search puzzle is a game played to find vocabulary in the words that are scattered.

According to Vossoughi and Zargar (2009, p. 80), "word-search-puzzle game is one of many instructional games that reinforce word-level onto a grid and persuades the class to make suggestions for the puzzle clues. A simpler but still popular alternative word puzzle is the word-search. The object of word-search-puzzle is to find the listed hidden words. This game is good to review general vocabulary, without ever tiring the students. In most of the puzzles, there are at least 40 words. The words may be hidden in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and forwards and backwards".

Word Search Puzzle Game can be most effective to increasing vocabulary mastery used before, during, and after find the word. It also can used to introduce new vocabulary before reading. As a follow-up to find the words and discussion meaning of the words, the teacher encourages students to develop their word maps by using the new information they acquired through find the words.

2. Procedures of Word Search Puzzle Game

In teaching to increase vocabulary using the WSP game, researcher need to develop the teaching and learning process into interesting, enthusiastic and enjoyable learning. Below are several procedures that researcher use to increase students' vocabulary through the WSP games.

- First, the researcher presented the Word Search Puzzle game according to class VIII material at each meeting.
- Second, researcher provide students with explanations and rules on how to complete the Word Search Puzzle game. After students understood how to complete the Word Search Puzzle game, the researcher asked students to form small groups consisting of 5-6 students per group.
- Third, the researcher began distributing photocopied sheets of the Word Search Puzzle game to each small group that had been formed.
- Fourth, the Word Search Puzzle game contains random words consisting of 10 vocabulary words from previously taught material. These 10 vocabulary words are hidden and can be found from all directions, such as: horizontally, vertically, diagonally. In this game the researcher directs each group to find the hidden words accurately and correctly.
- Fifth, after each group completed the Word Search Puzzle game according to the time limit determined by the researcher, each group scrambled and competed to write the vocabulary found with English spelling and the correct and correct meaning of the English to Indonesian vocabulary on the blackboard.
- Sixth, after all the puzzle answers had been answered, the researcher continued to explain again the words that had been studied and found in the Word Search Puzzle game sheet to ensure that all students had understood all the spellings, meanings and meanings of each vocabulary.

By carrying out learning activities according to the procedures above, students will be enthusiastic, more active and enthusiastic when studying in the classroom, because they can play while learning. Students will also feel comfortable and enthusiastic in a class atmosphere that does not contain all the learning material, because most students will feel happy if they are invited to learn while playing. Apart from that, their vocabulary will also increase and begin to improve, because their memory is stronger if they study in a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere.

3. Advantages of Word Search Puzzle Game

WSP games have several advantages for students. According to Niemi as cited in Anggreni (2017, p. 24) stated there are some advantages that can be taken when teachers teach vocabulary to students using WSP games:

a. Improve vocabulary

Solving a puzzle helps improve students vocabulary. Once students have found the word and it fits, they related with their success. After doing numerous puzzles students will become familiar with words they never know about before. This can enrich their vocabulary.

b. Stimulate problem solving skills

Doing word search puzzle can stimulate students' skills in problem solving. By reading the clues and looking at the corresponding list of words, students will try to find the hidden words. They will think the answer by seeing the clue given, not being told by teacher. This can stimulate student's skill in problem solving. In other word, it can sharpen students' thinking skill.

c. Improve focus and attention

When students have a word search puzzle, they have to search words which are hidden to find the meaning. They will see the clue to help them. This can improve their focus and attention. Students will stay focus because they have an attention on the clue to find the meaning.

d. Give students a successful experience

It gives students a good feeling for the whole day because they can solve a puzzle. It will challenge them to do it more until they complete the whole puzzle. It will give a satisfaction feeling and become a successful experience for them.

4. Disadvantages of Word Search Puzzle Game

Besides having advantages, WSP games also have some disadvantages. The following will explain some disadvantages of the WSP games:

- a. This puzzle game spends a lot of time as students try to find each hidden word.
- b. Some students may be lazy or don't want to take riddles seriously, because they think it's just an ordinary game, so they think it's not very important.
- c. Tools or media that can be used to teach English using puzzles in classes and schools are limited.
- d. If the teacher does not prepare and provide tools for teaching beforehand, it is certain that this will take up a lot of time in class.

C. Previous Relevant Study

Reviewing relevant previous research conducted by other researchers is needed to keep the originality of the present research previous research. The following are previous studies of the present research and inform the research related to the use of WSP games in teaching vocabulary.

The first research was conducted by ZA et al. (2021) in the title "Improving Students Vocabulary Through Word Search Puzzle". The research subjects were Students of Junior high School (SMP) Kartika XIV-1 Banda Aceh. The results of the study indicate that During the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the number of students attending study meetings was slightly reduced. And the implementation of the Word Search Puzzle has succeeded in increasing students' motivation and understanding in learning English Vocabulary for students at SMP Kartika XIV-1 Banda Aceh. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that using word search puzzle game is effective in this research. By using word search puzzle game, the teaching learning process will run attractively and exciting. So, the class will be live because the students will not feel bored or sleepy. The students can learn while enjoy the game competitively. The students can memorize many vocabularies and its spelling in happy situation easily. In addition, students will learn to work cooperatively and competitively

The second previous study was conducted by Maylani et al. (2021) in the title "The Influence of Word Search Puzzle on Students' Vocabulary Mastery at Seventh

Grade of 10 Junior High School Serang (SMP Negeri 10 Kota Serang)". The population of this research was the seventh-grade students in SMP Negeri 10 Kota Serang. The result was the sample of this research was the students of VII D as control class and VII A as an experimental class. The result of the calculation showed the t-count is higher than the t-table ($12.87 \geq 2.02$) with the significant level of 0.05. Using word search puzzle as a technique in teaching vocabulary is appropriate and applicable. English teacher should be creative and innovative in applying the technique, method, and strategy for teaching and learning vocabulary activity. Therefore, it can be concluded that there was an influence of using words search puzzle as a teaching technique on students' vocabulary mastery. Furthermore, the researcher would like to suggest the English teachers use words search puzzle in teaching vocabulary.

And the last previous study was conducted by Megawati, (2021) in her title "The Effect of Word Search Puzzle Game in Teaching Vocabulary to The Sixth Grade Students of SDN Kolpajung II". The population of this research is all of students at the sixth grade of SDN Kolpajung II. While the sample of this research is the sixth-grade students of SDN Kolpajung II. There are 29 students of sixth grade at SDN Kolpajung II. The result of this research is there was significance effect of Word Search Puzzle Game in teaching vocabulary to the sixth-grade student at SDN Kolpajung II because the t-value was higher than t-table in significance alpha 5% The score of t-value in this research was 2,05 and the score of t-table was 10.865 in level significance 5% with degree of freedom 28 ($10.865 > 2,05$). With this game the students add any vocabulary and understood meaning and other meaning in vocabulary. It can be proven by the mean score of pre-test and post-test that the researcher has already computed it and compared it. From these results, it is suggested to the English teachers to use an appropriate technique in teaching English especially in teaching vocabulary, in this case using Word Search Puzzle Game since Word Search Puzzle Game was gave positive effect in teaching vocabulary. It is also expected for further researchers to continue this research on the other vocabulary items. So, it can conclude that Word Search Puzzle game has high significance effect in teaching vocabulary to the sixth-grade students of SDN Kolpajung II.

Based on previous research that word search puzzle games can improve English vocabulary mastery. In the previous study, their subjects were SD, grade 7 and SMP Kartika XIV-1 Banda Aceh. The difference from previous studies is that the researcher used a word search puzzle games to improve vocabulary mastery for the eighth-grade students of SMP Borneo Bengkayang in the 2022/2023 academic year.