

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Vocabulary is a basic language area that must be mastered before learning English skills. According to Istiqomah (2020:10), Vocabulary is one of the elements of language which plays a very important role. Vocabulary helps with all English skills which include listening, reading, writing and speaking. In line with the statement Wahyuni & Rahmanida (2020: 652), Vocabulary is the essence of teaching and learning English. A student will not be able to learn a language without mastering vocabulary first because the main word of a language is vocabulary. All the words that humans use have a meaning. With the meaning of a word, people produce words to show their thoughts and give the name of something in a communication every day.

Junior high school students are students who are beginners in learning English. According to Kurniawati (2017), junior high school students who have never received English lessons can be said to be beginners or young learners when studying English. Therefore, they are just learning English vocabulary, because they have never studied English before. Learning English vocabulary is not only about how to read the vocabulary or how to interpret the vocabulary but also how students can master and be proficient in English. When studying English vocabulary, there is a lot that needs to be done to understand and memorize which is an effort so that students can master understanding. In learning English, each student has a different strategy. According to Sulastri (2019:36), students who have good strategies when learning vocabulary will more easily understand what they are learning because several aspects of learning English require understanding to understand the meaning. If students have strategies, their vocabulary increases.

Student strategies can be a motivation for him to master something more. As a student learning English as a Foreign Language (EFL), using strategies in learning English especially in mastering vocabulary can really help students improve their ability to master English vocabulary. Ghazal (2007) opinion regarding one way to help students

increase their foreign language vocabulary knowledge is to use various vocabulary learning strategies. Vocabulary mastery without using strategies will encounter more or less obstacles so that students slow down along with increasing vocabulary mastery. In conditions where there is no specific learning about vocabulary learning at school students must be able to master vocabulary in English. Making students in the sense of independent learners students must have a strategy in learning English vocabulary. In other words, students will often experience problems in applying the four language skills, one of which is due to limited vocabulary if they ignore the strategies they apply. Therefore students must know which strategies they use appropriately so that their vocabulary skills become better.

Several previous studies have been carried out by previous researchers who discussed the strategies used by students in learning English vocabulary. The first, research entitled "A survey of beliefs and vocabulary learning strategies adopted by EFL learners at Shaikh Zayed University" by Hadi & Guo (2020), of the three strategies analyzed, namely cognitive strategies, affective strategies and metacognitive strategies that are most often used by EFL students in the university Shaikh Zayed is a cognitive strategy or what can be called a strategy learned through the use of the word. The second, research entitled "Vocabulary Learning Strategies Used by Junior High School Students" by Bakti (2018), the results of the study indicate that it is beneficial for language students to enrich their vocabulary, which provides a better understanding of the language. The five strategies chosen by the participants indicate that these language learners tend to use practical, simple, and efficient strategies to understand their lessons.

From the explanation above, the researcher concludes that it is very important to know what strategies students use in learning their English. Researcher used junior high school students considering that students at this level are beginners in learning English, so they need suitable techniques or media to make it easier for students to increase their vocabulary, so to find the right media and techniques, students need to know what strategies they use. Therefore, researcher investigated students' strategies as well as the dominant strategies used by students in learning English comprehension for eighth grade students at SMP Negeri 19 Pontianak City. Through this research, students can find out strategies for learning English skills, students can find out what strategies are suitable for

them, and teachers can find out the strategies students use in learning English skills. So it can help students master their learning. This research was conducted to collect information regarding their strategies in learning to understand English so that the results can help students and teachers in using appropriate techniques, methods or teaching media to improve their English comprehension skills so that learning becomes easier to understand. So researcher are interested in conducting research entitled "An Analysis of Students' Strategies in Learning English Vocabulary" with the subject of class VIII students at SMP Negeri 19 Pontianak City.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background explanation above, the research problem can be formulated as follows.

1. What are the students strategies in learning English vocabulary at the eighth grade Students at SMP Negeri 19 Kota Pontianak?
2. What is the most dominant strategies used by eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 19 Kota Pontianak in learning English vocabulary?

C. Research Purposes

Based on the research question, the researcher formulated the research purpose, as follows.

1. To find out what the strategies of eighth graders of SMP Negeri 19 Kota Pontianak are in learning English vocabulary.
2. To describe the most dominant strategies used by eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 19 Kota Pontianak in learning English vocabulary.

D. Significant of Research

The present research would benefit in the following aspects:

1. Theoretical Research

This research can add information and knowledge about students' strategies in learning English vocabulary. Not only that, this research is also expected to provide a role and contribution to several other research theories

2. Practical Research

a. To Students

Hopefully this research can provide deeper information on English vocabulary mastery. Through the strategies used in learning vocabulary, students are expected to have good vocabulary enrichment and be able to change behavior in vocabulary.

b. To Teachers

It is hoped that the results of this study will be useful as material for expanding methods and reflections to improve them in teaching students about vocabulary by using strategies that are easy for students to understand.

c. To other Researchers

Through this research, the researcher be able to increase the knowledge of the researcher in writing a good thesis and the researcher hopes that this research is useful for knowing strategies in learning English vocabulary.

E. Scope of The Research

1. Research Variable

According to Asywar (2014: 15), research variables are things that make up what is determined by researchers to research in order to obtain information and then make conclusions.). In this study, these variables were included as a single variable, Analysis of Student Strategies in Learning English Vocabulary.

2. Research Terminology

The researcher provides the following explanations which are used in this research. The terms are below:

a. Strategies use by students

Strategies are steps that function in thinking and learning. When students are thinking or learning about something, as a way to achieve that goal they need steps.

b. Learning English Vocabulary

Learning English Vocabulary is the center point of foreign language proficiency, because one cannot speak, understand, read, or write a foreign language without knowing many words.

c. Eighth grade students at SMP Negeri 19 Pontianak

Eighth grade students at SMP Negeri 19 Pontianak for the 2022/2023 academic year. SMP Negeri 19 Pontianak is located on Jalan Ampera, Sungai Jawi, Kec. Pontianak City, Pontianak City, West Kalimantan. The researcher used eighth grade C students of SMP Negeri 19 Kota Pontianak for the 2022/2023 academic year as a research sample.