

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

In the millennial era, having a good English language skill is a must, because we must compete in the world. English language also becomes important media to communicate. Besides that, based on Saarinen and Ursin (2012) the importance of English language skill has been recognized as a vital component for communicating. There are four component English skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Although those four components, students cannot communicate effectively in English without have enough vocabulary. Jumiarti (2010) stated that the important aspect in learn foreign language is vocabulary mastery. Students improve in their vocabulary mastery if they learn more words and expressions. In Indonesia, English is a foreign language. It means English become a one of subject that must be learned to the students at school. In oral and written communication, vocabulary has important role to support the language skills in English. Schmitt (2021) explains that besides the meaning of the words and how are connected other words, the students are also involved to know the form of the words. By this way, the students are needed to learn the vocabulary as a tool that enables them to solve what expressions are useful to communicate effectively and to understand easily. Furthermore, Ndomba (1983, P.26) argues that one big obstacles to the students in learning a language is a lot of difficult words, so that they do not understand what they read. By mastering the vocabulary, they can understand to improving their knowledge and their ability in mastering a foreign language.

Based on the researcher's observation, the English mastery of the second students at Muria Kudus University in academic year 2020/2021 said that the

Student still have some obstacles in learning vocabulary. They get difficult to understand every sentence. English vocabulary is different from Indonesian and English from form, including pronunciation and spelling, meaning and the word use. In addition, the way of how pronounce the word is quite different from writing. Therefore, people especially students who learn English often find some obstacles in learning vocabulary.

According to some researcher by Thornbury (2004:27), Bower (2005), and Nation (2001) have the same argument on some of obstacles influencing vocabulary learning, those are: meaning, appropriate use, pronunciation, spelling, and connotation.

Thus, in this research, the researcher wants to know the obstacles that are faced by the second semester students of Muria Kudus University in vocabulary mastery and to find out the obstacles affecting them in vocabulary mastery. Based on the explanation above, the researcher interest in conducting a research entitled “*Students’ Obstacles in learning vocabulary* “

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background of the research, the researcher determines that the statement of the problem as follows:

1. What obstacles are faced by second semester students of English Education Department?
2. How do the students solve the obstacles in learning English vocabulary?

### **1.3 Objective of the Research**

1. To identify the obstacles that are faced by the second semester students of English Education Department at Muria Kudus University in Academic year 2020/2021.
2. To know how the students solve the obstacles in English learning vocabulary by the second semester students of English education department at Muria Kudus University in academic year 2020/2021.

3.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Research**

Based the explanation above, the researcher hopes that the result of this research can give significant advantages for:

1. The students

The result of this research are helps the students who have obstacles in learning vocabulary to enhance their desire in learning vocabulary. So, the student can minimize their difficulty in English skill.

2. The researcher

The result of this research is the one of the sources for the researcher to learn from this research and they get some references from this research if they want to conduct research which has similar problems.

#### **1.5 Scope of the Research**

Based on the background above, the researcher limits this research on the students' obstacles in learning English vocabulary. The researcher limits the participants only at the second semester of English education department at Muria Kudus University. The researcher would like to identify the obstacles are faced by students in learning English vocabulary and to know how the students solve their obstacles in learning English vocabulary.

#### **1.6 Operational Definition**

Based on the title of this research, the writer defines some the terms that are used in this research are as follow:

1. Students Obstacles

Students Obstacles is a condition where students have difficulty in learning process, so that the students cannot understand what they are learning well.

2. Learning Vocabulary

Learning vocabulary is the learning process of the students to understand and master the vocabulary with correct pronunciation, spelling, meaning, and connotation.