CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer discusses about the background of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research and operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is communication system in the world. It is important for us to learn language especially English since it is used as international language among nations in the world. As the first foreign language in Indonesia, English is carried out in education. English as formal subject is taught at all levels of education from kindergarten to university.

Besides learning about four English skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. The students also learn about the components such as vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. In this case, according to Masmaliyeva (2009), Vocabulary is central to the learning and teaching of a second language as it affords learners access to all forms of oral and written communication that includes literature, music, and content knowledge. It means that vocabulary has a big role for the students in learning English.

Vocabulary mastery is one of the most important things to make our communication fluent. Brown (1987:87) states that "the larger the vocabulary size one has the better one's performance in all aspect of English language work will be". The appropriate words are helpful to make a good communication. If the students have limited vocabulary, it means that they will find difficulties in understanding English.

In fact, students of SMK 1 Kudus especially students of tenth grade of SMK 1 Kudus are still difficult in memorizing and understanding vocabulary items. They think that English is unnecessary. They do not interesting in learning English yet. Based on the English teachers of SMK 1 Kudus said that the students still find some difficulties in learning English, because they think that English is hard to understand, unnecessary lesson and not interesting in learning English.

To solve the problem, the writer must find out how to make the students enthusiastic in learning English. If the students enthusiastic in learning English, it can make them easier to understand the material. The writer can use various media, such as using a video, pictures or a game. Nowadays, gadget or smartphone is spreading massively in entire world. Start from children to adult now can operate a smartphone. It has a big effect for humans' life. People usually cannot go without a smartphone. So, related to the phenomenon, the writer decides to use mobile application especially T-Flat Learn English to teach the students. Based on Johnson (2014), "The innovation in mobile apps has raised interest among educators because it facilitates teaching and learning". Similarly with Pure Oxygen Labs (2013) define that Mobile devices with robust Internet connection have proliferated in educational use since the advent of the iPad in 2010. The new mobile device ecosystem led to the rise of thousands of free or almost free applications (apps), which refer to compute programs design to run exclusively in mobile devices. For instance, more than 775.000 apps were available of January 2013". Based on that data, there are a lot of mobile applications which can help the teacher or the writer to teach English. From the statements above the writer conclude that mobile application can improve students' spirit in learning English.

Based on the explanation above, the writer interested to conduct the research entitled "The Vocabulary Mastery of Tenth Grade Students of SMK 1 Kudus in 2018/2019 Academic Year Taught by Using T-Flat Learn English".

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the writer determined the statement of the problems as follows, "Is there a significant difference between the vocabulary mastery of the tenth grade students of SMK 1 Kudus 2018/2019 academic year before and after being taught by using T-Flat Learn English?"

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the statement of the problem, the objective of this research if there is a significant difference between the vocabulary mastery of the tenth grade students of SMK 1 Kudus in 2018/2019 academic year before and after being taught by using T-Flat Learn English.

1.4 Significance of the Problem

By conducting this research, the writer hopes that the result will be useful as follow:

1. For Teachers

   This research can give contribution to the teachers to innovate learning media, especially using T-Flat Learn English. So, they can increase teaching and learning quality and the students' learning achievement.

2. For Students

   The students can apply or use their mobile application or T-Flat Learn English wisely not only for useless activities such as playing games, go surfing on the internet or do chatting with their friends but also for benefit activities such as use it for increasing their knowledge.

1.5 Scope of the Problem

The writer focuses on the effectiveness of using of mobile phone application to increase the students' vocabulary mastery, especially in used of asking and giving direction. The writer used a mobile application from Android OS named "Belajar Bahasa Inggris" or TFlat Learn English from Android Playstore.

1.6 Operational Definition

Related to the title of this research, the writer gives operational definition of some key words as follow:

1. Students' Vocabulary Mastery is the students' mastery in understanding any expressions as the key of the daily communications such as mastering asking and giving directions.

2. T-Flat Learn English is an android application that is intended to facilitate users in learning English vocabulary.