

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research, and operational definition of term.

1.1 Background of The Research

The most common problem in learning English is the difficulty of mastering vocabulary. Vocabulary is the entire words that make up language. Vocabulary is the one of language components. Before the student study about the English skill, the basic one is they should learn about vocabulary for the first step. It is related to link the four language skills, such as: listening speaking, writing, and reading.

Mastering vocabulary plays an important role in supporting language skills. Vocabulary is one of language elements which need to be mastered. If students master vocabulary, they can easily improve the language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing (Cahyono & Widiati, 2008). Vocabulary is one of the elements of language that should be learned and taught. Vocabulary is central to language and of critical importance to typical language learner without a sufficient vocabulary; one cannot communicate effectively or express the ideas in both oral and written form (Zhihong, 2000:18). Moreover, Schmite and Mc Carthy (1997:6) stated that vocabulary has an important role in language skills. In listening ability, vocabulary gives easiness for the learners to comprehend what the other speaks. In speaking and writing, vocabulary gives ease for the learners to expand their ideas. In reading, vocabulary gives easiness for the learners comprehend the text. Vocabulary must not be neglected by anyone who learns a language. Another point Ferdi (2020:2) said that vocabulary is the most important thing to make easy in learning English. Without mastering it, they get some difficulties in developing four skills of English. It is supported by Ur (1996, p. 60), vocabulary is one of important things to be taught in learning foreign

language because it will be impossible to speak up without a variety of words. So, vocabulary is very crucial for the students to learn English.

In fact, an internship program in SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus, I found out a lot of students still lack of vocabularies, the teachers has taught the students by some ways, like listening conversations or text, used some media like English books, English video and another English subject from another sources. In order to increase and improving students' English skill. The teacher also gave the students some exercises and home works. But, many of students are not interested, in otherwise they do not pay attention and ignore in learning English. And also some of the students could not use the available media, so they cannot develop their vocabulary yet.

According to the explanation above, the researcher intended to conduct a research entitled "Tenth Grade Science Program Students' Difficulties in Mastering English Vocabulary in SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus in Academic Year 2020/2021". This research is very important for researchers to analyze students' difficulties of vocabulary mastery. This study aims to find out and analyze what makes students difficult in mastering vocabulary, how the students solve the problem, and by this research, the researcher hopes there is something positive and knowledge that can be taken and useful.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher would like to present the statement of the problem as follows:

1. What are the difficulties face by tenth grade science program students of SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus academic year 2020/2021 in mastering English vocabulary?
2. What are the factors that cause students' difficulties in mastering English vocabulary for tenth grade science program of SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus academic year 2020/2021?

1.3 Objective of The Research

According to the statement of the problem above, this research aims to:

1. To find out what are the difficulties face by tenth grade science program students of SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus academic year 2020/2021 in mastering English vocabulary?
2. To find out the factors that cause students' difficulties in mastering English vocabulary for tenth grade science program of SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus academic year 2020/2021?

1.4 Significance of The Research

By conducting this research, the researcher hopes that this research will be beneficial, theoretically, and practically.

Theoretically, it is hoped that this research can be used as one of the references by the future researcher who will conduct this research related to students' difficulties in mastering English vocabulary.

Practically, the researcher hopes that this research can give information to the teachers or lecturers about students' difficulties in mastering English vocabulary, so that they can recognize the difficulties of their students earlier, or anticipate if the difficulties will also be faced by their students, by finding the solutions. Beside, for the students who may read this research, particularly tenth grade science program of SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus, the researcher hopes that it can give them a lot of information related to the problem discussed, and if they have the same difficulties, hopefully this research will help them to find the solution.

1.5 Scope of The Research

This research will take place in SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus, particularly in tenth grade science program in academic year of 2020/2021. The participants of this research will be the tenth grade of science one of SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus, who got the English lesson in this academic year.

Moreover, this research will discuss about students' difficulties in mastering English vocabulary and the factors that cause the difficulties. Based on the results of Rohmatillah (2014) and Sriwahyuningsih (2019). Pronunciation,

spelling, grammar, meaning which is those aspects became their main problem in mastering vocabulary. The researcher will focus on pronunciation (alphabet, word, shortened word, abbreviations, acronyms, initialism), spelling (alphabet, word, vowel, consonant, diphthong), grammar (sentence, v1, v2, v3, regular, and irregular verb), and meaning (Indonesia translation, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms).

1.6 Operational Definition

1. Students' difficulties

Students' difficulties are an unavoidable thing, but important part of the learning process. Seems particularly complex for conceptual learning. However, challenges in the learning process are difficult to detect and respond to in educational environments where growing class sizes and the increased use of digital technologies mean that teachers are unable to provide nuanced and personalized feedback and support to help students overcome their difficulties.

2. Mastering English vocabulary

Mastering English vocabulary refers to the number of words someone knows. The term mastery is not restricted to simply recognize the meaning of certain words. It is more precisely defined as 'to know a word' because the learners are said to have a good vocabulary mastery if they are able to recognize the meaning but also to know form, grammar, collation, meaning and word formation.

3. Tenth grade science program of SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus

Students who are studying at tenth grade science program of SMA Muhammadiyah Kudus in academic year 2020/2021.