CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the research, statement of the problems, the objective of the research, the significance of the research, scope of the research, operational definition.

1.1 Background of The Research

Human needs to communicate with each other and express themselves towards languages in order to have a good interaction and support the living. Language is made by human and unspontaneous method of delivering things such as ideas, emotions, and aspirations by mean of a system of symbols that are produced (Edward, 1921:8). We have so much languages that are used in international communication. English is one of them.

English is decided to be an international language in the world and it is used as a tool of communication. It has been adopted as a connecting language that used between speakers who are living in different areas and have different native languages (Richards, 2007:2). The number one purpose of learning foreign language is the ability to communicate with each other using the language we have target on. Students are demand to able to interact to each other through English orally in class or out of class. However, in fact many of English learners could not communicate in English properly, even when they reach the university level of English education. They are difficult to express their English, especially in writing probably because of lack of vocabularies.

Writing is a core skill of language learning, as we have four main skills, listening (finding the meaning of the language that has spoken), reading (finding the meaning of the written language), and productive skills (which are speaking and writing) (Haycraft, 1978: 8). Which mean that the written language is way more substantial and is more various than the vocabulary of verbal language (Hayes, Wolfer & Wolfe, 1996). In this kind of era, people across the world are most likely to communicate via digital which we call social media. Therefore, social media includes a lot of aspects, writing is one of the biggest. People spreads

news and messages towards writing, and in order to not only deliver the messages and describe the things clearly, but also connect the meaning so it will be easy to understand, we need to have the capability of having a good writing skill.

Vocabulary is one of the most important parts which students have to conquer, because all aspects of language learning need it. People will easily understand the meaning of a foreign language and able to speak it fluently if they understand the meaning of words that they listen or read as well as they can produce a good writing if they have enough vocabulary. There are so much ways to learn vocabulary, such as watching movies, listening to music, reading the news, or reading novels.

Vocabulary and Writing, those two aspects are also taught in Universitas Muria Kudus. The classes have the purpose and goal for the students to improve their vocabulary and their writing skill. When students were in lower semester we might have thought that they do not correlate each other. However, the higher semester we get in, the more it is obvious to know that our vocabulary mastery is really impactful on our writing ability. The reason the researcher takes this topic is that she got interested of her past experience of doing good in writing task, she would like to know whether it is because of her vocabulary mastery or not,   she would like to find out the specific correlation between the students' vocabulary mastery and their writing ability, as the previous researcher Umairah (2018) has found about the correlation between students' vocabulary mastery and their writing ability that there is a really significance correlation towards each other. It shows that that the more students mastering vocabulary, the better ability of writing they would have. Based on Harmer (2007) writing is one of the English skills that students are learning, while the vocabulary is the supporting components of writing. According to Yonex (2008), having a large knowledge of vocabulary is helping students make a good quality text, which means that by mastering vocabulary can make students having a good writing ability.

From the explanation above, the writer would like to research by the title **"The Correlation Between The Vocabulary Mastery and The Writing Ability Of Descriptive Writing of The Sixth Semester Students Of English Education Department of Universitas Muria Kudus"**

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the writer is conducting the statement of the problem which is:

Is there any significant correlation between the vocabulary mastery and their writing ability of descriptive writing of the sixth semester students of English Education Department Universitas Muria Kudus?

1.3 Objective of The Research

Based on the statement on the problems above, the objective of conducting this research is:

To find out if there is any significant correlation between the students' vocabulary mastery and their writing ability of descriptive writing of the Sixth-Semester students of English Education Department.

1.4 Significance of The Research

The writer gave some tests to the students as they may learn and find out their ability. The result of the research also may give benefits for the writer, the students, and the future researchers which are described as follows:

a. The Writer

By doing the research, the writer hopes to have more knowledge and information to know the problem in both vocabulary mastery and writing ability. As a student that is prepared to be a teacher in the future, hopefully this research will help her a lot.

b. The Students

The result of this study shows a reference and reflection for students of their vocabulary mastery and English writing ability of descriptive so they can motivation to learn more to improve their ability in both vocabulary mastery and writing ability of descriptive text.

c. Future Researchers

Hopefully, this research interests the other researches and will be the consideration so they can have some information if they are about to conduct the similar problems in the same fields.

1.5 Scope of the Research

The study focused on the correlation between students' vocabulary mastery and their writing ability of Descriptive Writing on the sixth semester students of English Education Department. The subject of this research is the sixth semester students' of English Education Department. The writers explained the correlation between the vocabulary mastery and the writing ability in the English writing class and collected the data to find out the correlation and to find the best way to solve the problems faced.

1.6 Operational Definition

Based on the focus of this research, the writer is dividing the operational definition of this research into three, they are:

1. Vocabulary mastery is the level of people acknowledge a large number of vocabularies in a way to develop to four language skill since it is one of the important factors.
2. Writing Ability is the capability of people to make and arrange from words become sentences, and sentences become texts, for a good written massage so the readers can understand the meaning.
3. The Sixth Semester of English Education Department is the the 3rd year students who are currently registered as students of English Education Department in Universitas Muria Kudus.