

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of 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

As we know that language learning is one of hard work in life, one must make some efforts to understand, repeat accurately, manipulate newly understood language, and use the whole range of known languages in conversation (for communication) or written composition. Language is most important as people start to listen and then try to speak what they heard and learn to read the written text. Not only the skills but also the students have to master components of language. They are vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. As human being, people need to communicate with others because he needs others helps. In communication we should know the rule of communication such as vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation (Pieter Napa 1991:30).

English is an international language. There are four skills in the English language: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. According to the Kurikulum 2013, language components such as vocabulary, structure, pronunciation, and spelling are taught integrated with language skills. Therefore, it becomes essential for teachers to teach vocabulary. Students need not only to understand the meaning of the word clearly but also to be able to use the vocabulary in a sentence. Vocabulary is also essential for learning to read, speak, write, and listen. In addition, it is supported by Ur (1996:60) that vocabulary is one of important things to be taught in learning foreign language because it will be impossible to speak up without variety of words.

Furthermore, according to the researcher's experience in the teacher internship program (PLP II) at SMA Negeri 1 Mayong in teaching English, many students had very limited vocabulary, so in teaching English, it was necessary to use a mixed

language between English and Indonesian. Vocabulary is one of the major problems confronted by people who learn English as a foreign language, in this case, students. Students should master sufficient vocabulary in learning a language, including English. Without having sufficient vocabulary, one cannot communicate their ideas. Vocabulary is the key to communicate (Nugroho & Suprpto 2017:192). Vocabulary is one of the language components; there is no language without words. Listening comprehension, writing, and reading abilities must be improved by vocabulary capacity.

There are various techniques to teach vocabulary, such as games Word Search Puzzle. For example, reading text. The students usually get some vocabulary when they are reading the text, and they will find some new words from the text. At the same time, the game can be defined as a form of play governed by specific roles or conversations.

The previous studies found that increasing vocabulary requires a precise and fun method. One of them is by using crossword. Crossword can be considered as a tool used to attract students' motivation in following the teaching and learning process because crossword can make students focus more on learning because they don't feel forced to learn (Rostina & Rahayu:2022).

Word search puzzles are meant to be fun, no matter where they are played. In language classes, however, games are not just a diversionary break from routine activities. They should also contribute to language proficiency by acquiring learners. From the previous research, the results showed that students were enthusiastic about learning vocabulary through crossword puzzles. Crosswords are good for facilitating thinking and problem-solving. Besides, students also experience increased vocabulary mastery through crossword puzzles (Rostina & Rahayu:2022).

Based on the background above, the researcher is motivated to conduct research on the effectiveness of word search puzzles for teaching vocabulary of tenth-grade students in SMA Negeri 1 Mayong academic year 2022/2023. The writer knows that word search puzzle can help and encourage learners so that they will be interested in their work when they use word search puzzle.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulates the problem statement as follows: Is there any effectiveness in teaching vocabulary between the experimental and control group to the tenth-grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Mayong in academic year 2022/2023?

1.3 Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is to find out whether there is a significant difference in teaching vocabulary between the experimental and control group to the tenth-grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Mayong in academic year 2022/2023.

1.4 Significance of the Research

This research is anticipated to make theoretical and practical contributions to teaching English. Theoretically, this research should educate all readers that word search puzzles positively influence teaching vocabulary to tenth-grade students, can motivate students to learn new vocabulary, train students' spelling, help students memorize words.

Practically, the research can help teachers understand whether using word search puzzles to teach vocabulary is worthwhile. Students found that learning English vocabulary through word search puzzles is interesting. Additionally, it is anticipated that future academics working in fields related to this one will use this research as a guide.

1.5 Scope of the Research

This research focuses on tenth-grade vocabulary in SMA Negeri 1 Mayong academic year 2022/2023. The participant of this research will be the tenth grade of SMA Negeri 1 Mayong academic year 2022/2023. In addition, the research has discussed about using word search puzzle to teach vocabulary.

1.6 Operational Definition

This section presents the definition of terms used in this research as follows:

1. Word Search Puzzle

Word search puzzle is a game in looking for diction, either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally is made by researchers with themes according to the material being taught. Word Search Puzzle in this game, the students are given a list of encoded letters that contain hidden nouns, verbs, and adjectives. The students must find those words by circling them.

2. Teaching

Teaching is an activity of transferring knowledge from an educator to students. By including vocabulary in the material being taught, researcher have used word search puzzles in teaching vocabulary.

3. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of the language components; there is no language without words. Adjusting to the material being taught at school, the vocabulary themes that have been used are in the form of nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

4. SMA Negeri 1 Mayong

The tenth-grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Mayong in the academic year 2022/2023 are students learning English. Each class has 36 students, and the researcher has used 2 classes for the research.