

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses six sub-chapters. Those are the background of the research, statement of the research, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research, and operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

The most significant aspect of daily human life is language. Mastering a language is not particularly new for someone. To communicate with one another, people need language. It is caused by the main function of language which is for communication. We can express our ideas, emotions, and feelings with other people through language. The activities of humanity are impossible without language. There are several languages around the world. English is one of the languages. English has an important role as an international language because it is used by millions of people around the world. People interact and communicate using English as a first language, second language, or foreign language.

English is a foreign language in Indonesia and it is rarely used to communicate by Indonesian citizens. In Indonesia, English has been implemented in schools and studied by Indonesian students as a foreign language. In elementary, junior, and senior high schools as well as at universities, English is taught as a compulsory subject. There are four interrelated skills in the English learning process. This includes listening, speaking, reading, and writing at the same time.

To learn a language, especially English, one or more of the four English language skills must be known by people and by students. It consists of the following elements such as grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary. To learn English, vocabulary is the most important element. In communication between humans, vocabulary is a very important element. In general, vocabulary is defined as the foundation of language. According to Wilkins (1972), without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed (as quoted in Thornbury, 2002: 13). Therefore, in learning English, vocabulary is an important element to learn.

Based on the experience of the researcher when conducting the PLP II Program through students at SMAN 2 Bae Kudus, the researcher found that the students have several difficulties learning or using English. Many students have a limited vocabulary. Unfortunately, not every student is motivated to start learning the language. The process of teaching and learning requires the researcher to communicate with students through several means since they are unable to speak English well. The researcher has used a mixed language between Indonesian and English during the teaching and learning process.

Several kinds of reasons cause students to lack vocabulary when learning English. For example, English is difficult because it is not their native language; their ability to understand the meaning of words and remember vocabulary is low; they are bored because the subject is not delivered interestingly; they are worried if they make mistakes; they are confused with new words because no strategy allows them to master vocabulary quickly; and sometimes their friends laugh at them when they practice pronunciation of the word.

There are many media to teach vocabulary. Some interesting media can be applied to solve this difficulty in vocabulary teaching and learning, such as teaching vocabulary with songs, maps, pictures, scrambled letters, and crossword puzzles that will help students study vocabulary. One of the interesting and effective ways to teach vocabulary is through songs. Songs are easy to find and people can find them on digital music platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, JOOX, SoundCloud, Youtube Music, etc.

Therefore, the researcher is motivated to conduct a study using popular English songs lyrics. In this research, the researcher used popular English songs based on the music chart on the Spotify music platform to enhance the vocabulary of the students. It is a good media for enhancing the vocabulary. The researcher used this media to determine whether using this media can enhance the students' vocabulary. It is also supported by previous research conducted by Sari, Asahra, & Yana (2019) in their research entitled *"Improving Students' Vocabulary Mastery Using English Song"* which shows that using English songs can be a good media choice in teaching and learning vocabulary.

Students can enhance their vocabulary mastery by learning English song lyrics. When the students listen to English songs, students will discover some new vocabulary, and indirectly they will be curious about the meaning of the song lyrics. Students can look for the meaning by opening a dictionary or searching on the internet. By looking up the meaning in a dictionary or the internet, students can enhance their vocabulary mastery. The more English song lyrics students know the more vocabulary they can acquire. Therefore, popular English song lyrics can be used as a medium to enhance students' vocabulary mastery.

The use of popular English song lyrics to learn English motivates students, encourages them to increase their vocabulary, and helps them achieve their educational targets. Anis, Rosyidah, & Wulandari (2021) which shows that learning English using song lyrics is very effective in helping students to master vocabulary. Because people are familiar with the medium, it is easier to memorize the vocabulary of a song. This is also supported by previous research by Bawawa (2020) which shows that teaching English vocabulary by using songs is more effective in developing students' vocabulary mastery.

In this research, the researcher used alternative media in the form of popular English songs based on music charts from the Spotify music platform for teaching English to tenth grade students, especially for teaching vocabulary. Meanwhile, several previous studies only applied English songs in general or randomly and did not match songs that were suitable for students. This research used popular English songs selected from music charts on Spotify to find out whether there was a significant difference in students' vocabulary mastery before and after students were taught using popular English song lyrics.

Based on the discussion above, the researcher is interested in conducting a study entitled "***The Use of Popular English Song Lyrics to Teach Vocabulary for the 10th Grade Students of Senior High School of SMAN 2 Bae Kudus in Academic Year 2023/2024***"

1.2 Statement of the Research

Based on the background of the research above, this research can be formulated in the following question: “Is there any significant difference toward students' vocabulary mastery before and after being taught using popular English song lyrics for the tenth-grade students of SMAN 2 Bae Kudus in the academic year 2023/2024?”

1.3 The objective of the Research

Based on the statement of the research, the objective of this research is to find out the significant difference toward students' vocabulary mastery before and after being taught using popular English song lyrics for the tenth-grade students of SMAN 2 Bae Kudus in the academic year 2023/2024.

1.4 Significance of the Research

There are two kinds of significance of this research as follows :

1. Theoretical Significance

The theoretical Significance of this research are :

- a. The researcher expects that the results of this study can provide information about effective media for teaching English, especially for teaching vocabulary mastery to students.
- b. The researcher expects that this research will be used as a reference for future research.

2. Practical Significance

a. For the Lecturer / Teacher

The findings of this research are expected to be used as a guide for English teachers in developing successful media for teaching English, specifically vocabulary. Teaching-learning can occur efficiently and be enjoyable for students if suitable media is used, and the teacher explains it clearly.

b. For the Students

The results of this research are expected to help students enhance their vocabulary mastery. The implementation of the right media for mastering vocabulary can help students learn vocabulary more effectively.

c. For the Researcher

This research can be used as a guide for other researchers to conduct future research on teaching vocabulary to students using effective media. As a result, the teacher will become more professional in the future.

1.5 Scope of the Research

From the significance of the research, the scope of this research focused on the use of popular English song lyrics as a medium to teach students vocabulary mastery. The subject of this research was the tenth-grade Senior High School in SMAN 2 Bae Kudus in the academic year 2023/2024. This research was conducted at the SMAN 2 Bae Kudus.

1.6 Operational Definition

To minimize misunderstandings between the researcher and the reader, the researcher defines the following key definitions used in this study :

1. English Song

The definition of English song is an instrumental composition sung or performed in English or with English lyrics. Examples of English songs that are currently popular among teenagers are songs sung or performed by several world-famous musicians such as Taylor Swift, Bruno Mars, Ed Sheeran, and so on.

2. Song Lyric

A song lyric is a collection of words used in a song to convey a message, thoughts or feelings, and tell a story. Song lyrics commonly divided into verses and choruses.

3. Teaching

The definition of teaching refers to the process of transferring information, skills, and understanding to students through a variety of instructional approaches and techniques. It includes facilitating learning, helping students to learn new

information, and helping students in developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

4. Vocabulary

A set of words and phrases that a person learns and understands in a particular language is usually called vocabulary. It includes terms and their definitions.

5. Vocabulary Mastery

The definition of "vocabulary mastery" is the score of a person's ability or skill in understanding and implementing various kinds of words and expressions in a particular language. This means being able to understand and use words effectively in various situations and circumstances.

6. Tenth Grade Students of SMAN 2 Bae Kudus

Tenth-grade students of SMAN 2 Bae Kudus refers to the first year of senior high school that was registered in SMAN 2 Bae Kudus in the academic year 2023/2024 and this grade is divided into 11 classes. The total of the student is 396.