

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of The Problem

The existence of language is vital in the world. It is becoming a reflection of thought, feeling, value, culture, feature, etc. By making use of a language the people can learn anything and interact each other. We know that the only instrument for people to communicate among the members of a certain community. Wardhaugh (1977: 3) defines that language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication.

Talking about a language, of course, there are many languages in the world, because every country has its own language. The famous existing languages in the world are English, Arabic, French, German, Chinese and Dutch. But English is the most important language because it has been decided as an international language. It means that all of countries in the world study English for the sake of communication.

As Alkhuli (1976: 7) states that language is an arbitrary system that vocal symbols used to communicate ideas and express feelings among the members of a certain social community. It means that people use language to communicate in their community. Without language people can not communicate with each other. In doing communication, people use a language for getting and

giving ideas, feeling, information, etc one and other. People use language in their daily life and activity. The position of language is at the center of human life because people can not live without language.

According to Webster's New World Dictionary (Victoria Neufeldt, 1996: 759) that language is a system of vocal sounds and combinations of such sounds to which meaning is attributed, used for the expression or communication of thoughts and feeling. In addition Robert Lado explain that language is intimately tied to men's feelings and activity. It is bound up with nationality, religion and the feelings of self. It is used for work, workship, worship, play by everyone, be he beggar or banker, savage or civilized. (Robert Lado, 1990: 11).

According to Muhammad Ali Alkhuli (1976: 10), most of people especially the students have to learn English because:

1. English is the first language in many countries in different parts of the world such as The United States of America, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand.
2. English is the second language in many countries such as India, Pakistan, Nigeria, etc.
3. English is the foreign taught in many countries all over the world.
4. English is one of the languages of advanced science.
5. English is one of the languages that are needed to run a first - class business.
6. English is needed by students travelling abroad to start or continue their university learning.

In Indonesia, English is formally taught to the first year students of Junior High School and then students of Senior High School, and even University Students. And now, the English language has been introduced to students of Elementary School.

Vocabulary is one of the language components. It supports the teaching and learning of the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and

writing). In learning language, vocabulary plays a very important role. How can the learner understand what he or she listens, speaks, reads, and writes, if he or she does not understand any word?. A learner should keep learning new vocabulary items everyday so as to make his or her understanding English much better. But, in learning the vocabulary may be learners will feel bored, because they have to memorize the vocabulary every day to get a purpose. So that the English teacher have to look for a good system in memorize the vocabulary.

Quite clearly, vocabulary has never had it is separate identity as a important aspect of language teaching. This is partly perhaps because of the overwhelming concern on the grammar is of course very important. However, good mastery of Grammar does not mean proficient in the target language. William Francis Mackey (1974: 111) suggests that without grammar very little can be conveyed, but without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. It is possible to have good knowledge of the grammar and yet not be able to communicate; whereas if we know the vocabulary, it is usually possible to communicate, after a fashion.

Research on make English test, has often shown the contribution of vocabulary mastery. On the other hand, there is relationship between students' vocabulary mastery and their ability to a topic of word.

In basic the student able to answer that question. But because they do not understand or know the mean and instruction, so they feel confuse in answering that questions.

The students of SMPN I Mandirancan – Kuningan have some problems, the writer would like to investigate how the ability of the second years. Students of SMPN I Mandirancan Kuningan on mastering vocabulary and their ability of find a topic of word. Is there any correlation between students' mastery on vocabulary and their ability to find a topic of word?. Based on above explanation, the writer will research about the correlation between students' mastery on vocabulary and their ability to find a topic of word.

B. The Formulation of the Problem

Based on of background of the problem above, there are three parts in formulation of the problem, namely:

1. Identification of the Problem

a. Field of the Research

The field of the research in this thesis is reading in particular of the correlation between vocabulary mastery and find a topic of word.

b. Approach of the Research

In this thesis writer uses quantitative approach. It mean that data is obtained in a particular, with is presented by numbers. So that it can be measured and interpreted by using statistical analysis.

c. Kind of the Problem

The kind of the problem in this research is unclear about the relation between students' mastery on vocabulary and their ability to find a topic of word.

2. Limitation of the Problem

To achieve the purpose of writing this thesis, the writer would like to limit her material so that idea that is going to write can be expressed in her simple thesis.

The writer will limitat of the problems as follows:

a. Vocabulary :

Is the total number of words in language; all the words known to a person or used in a particular book, subject, etc (Hornby, 1995: 1331).

There are some vocabulary skill, namely:

- Synonym is a word or phrase with the same or nearly the same meaning as another in the same language. For example *Shut* and *Close* are synonyms (Hornby, 1995: 1212).
- Antonym is a word that is opposite in meaning to another word. For example *Clean* and *Dirty* are antonyms (Hornby, 1995: 44).
- Meaning is what reffered to or indicated by eg sounds, words or signal: Sound and patterns that convey meaning, a word with a several meaning, the word is being used in its original meaning; a poem with a deeper/hidden meaning. Or meaning is a serious, important or useful quality purpose. For example *My life seems have lost all meaning.* (Hornby, 1995: 726).

b. Topic of Word

- Topic is subject of discussion, a talk, a programme, an essay, etc (Hornby, 1995: 1261)

- *Kata adalah apa yang dilahirkan dengan ucapan, ujar, bicara, cakap, ungkapan, gerak hati, keterangan dan sebagainya. Kata adalah kesatuan bunyi bahasa yang mengandung satu pengertian. Word is what which has been bora with utterance, statement, capable heart, movement, explanation, etc. Word is unity language sound which contain one comprehension. (W.J.S. Purwadarminta, 1976: 450).*

Based on the statement above, the writer makes a conclusion that topic of word is subject of discussion from several of words which in conclusion, so that has one of meaning. For example: Love, worry, sad, glad (feeling)

3. Question of the Research

The problem will be formulated by asking question as follows:

- a. How is the students' mastery on vocabulary ?
- b. How is the students' ability to find a topic of word ?
- c. How is correlation between the students' mastery vocabulary and their ability to find a topic of word ?

C. The Aim of the Research

The research of this thesis has three aims, namely:

1. To find the data on the students' mastery on vocabulary.
2. To find the data on the students' ability to find a topic of word.
3. To find correlation between the students' mastery on vocabulary and their ability to find a topic of word.

D. The Framework of Thinking

Language is used for communication. So mastering language is to have the ability to use that language for communication purposes both spoken and written. The ability to understand English language speaking is very important because it is a language is spoken all over the world. (Ronald Wardaugh, 1977: 8).

Every language has its own arbitrary symbols or words to express the meaning of the subject or ideas. A word is the basic component of communication through which are communicates thoughts, ideas, desires, feeling or emotions with others by talking or by writing. The totality of words, called vocabulary, makes up as language. This it is a reasonable if vocabulary is regarded as one of the basic components of the language. It is actually due to the fact that vocabulary is one of the language components; and no language exists without words.

According to Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary (Martin H. Manser, 1995: 461) states that vocabulary is total number of words in a language. Vocabulary is list of words with their meanings, especially at the back of a book used for teaching a foreign language.

In addition Morgan L. Waltres (1966: 911) state that vocabulary alphabetical list of words, often with translations or definition; lexicon; glossary.

Mastering vocabulary is a necessity for someone who to be able to understand the conversation, English written and speaking English. Without mastery the vocabulary well, it is impossible for someone to get a purpose.

To be able to read magazine, newspaper, or other reading in English they have to master the vocabulary and know the grammar in English. The mastery of vocabulary means knowing the words of that the language. When you know a words means knowing its form (sound) its meaning.

Reading is a unit of paragraf. A paragraf is a unit of the sentences. And a sentences is a unit of words which should be understood by the reader. So they must know word meaning, if the students wants to find a topic of word.

Topic of word subject of discussion form several of words which in conclusion, so that has one of meaning. So if the students wants to find a topic of word, they must know vocabulary them.

According to Nana Sudjana (2003: 117) taken from Carol's statement that there are five factors that determine the success learning such as:

- a. Students' talent
- b. The time of study
- c. The time needed by the student to finish or master material of the subject
- d. Teaching quality and the last
- e. Individual ability

E. The Steps of the Research

1. The Data Sources

a. Theoretical Data

The theoretical data are got from some books and other literature with related with the title of this thesis as reference.

b. Empirical Data

The empirical data are got from the location of research uses observation, documentation study, interview and test.

2. Population and Sample

a. Population

M. Subana (1995: 141) states that, *Populasi adalah keseluruhan objek penelitian yang terdiri dari manusia, benda-benda, hewan, gejala-gejala, nilai tes atau peristiwa-peristiwa sebagai sumber data yang memiliki karakteristik tertentu di dalam suatu penelitian* (Population is all research objects consists of men, things, animals, phenomena, test score, or events as the source of the data which has a certain characteristic in research). From that definition can be concluded that population is all research object which has a certain characteristic. The population of this research 265 students of *SMPN I Mandirancan Kuningan Academic Year 2004/2005*.

b. Sample

Suharsimi Arikunto (2002: 109) states that, *Sampel adalah sebagian atau wakil populasi yang diteliti* (sampel is some of the total or representative of population being researched). To get the sample, the writer refers to Suharsimi Arikunto's (2002: 112) also opinion *bahwa apabila jumlah subjeknya kurang dari 100, lebih baik diambil semua, dan jika jumlahnya subjeknya lebih dari 100 dapat diambil antara 10-15% atau 20-25% atau lebih* (that if the subject is less than 100, it is better to take it all, and if it is more than 100 it can be taken 10-15% or 20-25%).

Based on the opinion above, the writer puts the purposive sampling technically, and only take 15% of the population, that is $265 \times 15\% = 40$ students as the sample.

3. Technique of Collecting Data

In collecting the data, the writer uses four technique's, namely:

- a. Observation; That is the writer goes to SMPN Mandirancan Kuningan to observe directly about the reality of the field , such as: The process of teaching and learning, teachers, staffs, students and facilities possessed by the school.

- c. Documentation study; That is the writer studies the data that are collection in from of reports and comments from the research and staff.
- d. Test; Test technique used in other to the students active involved and they can feel the use of these exercises. The test that given to the students divided in two forms, that is multiple choice test to know the level students' mastery on vocabulary and essay test to find a topic of word.

4. The Technique of Analyzing Data

To know the correlation between students' mastery on vocabulary and their ability to find a topic of word, the writer carries on the counting of statistic correlation with formulation below:

$$r_{xy} = \frac{N\sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[N\sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2][N\sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2]}} \quad (\text{Anas Sudijono, 2004: 206})$$

Explanation:

r_{xy} = Correlation between variable x and y

x = Variable x (Students' mastery on vocabulary)

y = Variable y (The student's ability to find a topic of word)

N = Respondent

Where as to know the result correlation above. Interpreted used stimulation as follow.

Table 1
The Interpretation “ r ” Value

Besarnya “ r ” Product Moment (r_{xy})	Interpretasi
0,00 – 0,20	Antara variable X dan variable Y memang terdapat korelasi, akan tetapi korelasi itu <i>sangat lemah</i> atau <i>sangat rendah</i> sehingga korelasi itu diabaikan (dianggap tidak ada korelasi antara variable X dan variable Y). (Between X variable and Y variable there is correlation but the correlation is very weak or very low, so that the correlation neglected (it is considered that there is no correlation between X variable and Y variable)).
0,20 – 0,40	Antara variabel X dan variabel Y terdapat korelasi yang <i>lemah</i> atau <i>rendah</i> . (Between X variable and Y variable there is weak or low correlation).
0,40 – 0,70	Antara variabel X dan variabel Y terdapat korelasi yang <i>sedang</i> atau <i>cukup</i> . (Between X variable and Y variable there is enough or sufficient correlation).
0,70 – 0,90	Antara variabel X dan variabel Y terdapat korelasi yang <i>kuat</i> atau <i>tinggi</i> . (Between X variable and Y variable there is strong or high correlation).
0,90 – 1,00	Antara variabel X dan variabel Y terdapat korelasi yang <i>sangat kuat</i> atau <i>sangat tinggi</i> . (Between X variable and Y variable there is very strong or very high correlation).

(Resource: Anas Sudijono, 2004: 193)

5. The Research Hypothesis

H_a = There is positive and significance correlation between students' mastery on vocabulary and their ability to find a topic of words.

H_o = There is no positive and significance correlation between students' mastery on vocabulary and their ability to find a topic of words.