

**A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY
AT THE SECOND GRADE
OF MTSN NGEMPLAK BOYOLALI**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language as a means of communication seems to have played an important role in human life. Language and human being cannot be separated. Human life perspicuity can run well because they use language to communicate something one another. Through language, people gain a better insight into human relation. They use language to express their ideas and thought. Meanwhile, language itself can survive and develop because people use it and teach it to other people. Whoever, whenever, and wherever they are, the language always accompanies them.

It is known that there are many languages in the world. Each community such as a nation, a village, a tribe, etc has its own language. People at least, master one language in order to be able to communicate with other in their community. It will be so hard and difficult to understand each other if they communicate using their own language. On the contrary, people who want to communicate with other from another community that has a different language may get problems. The communication process will not run well. They do not understand each other and cannot catch the message or the idea. They should learn other language and master other language that can be understood by them.

Each country has a national language where people associate each other in each territory areas. People should master a common language and master other

language that can be understood by people they meet. In Indonesia, it is better for Indonesian people to know and to be able to use Indonesian National Language, bahasa Indonesia, in order to communicate and get with Indonesian people.

However, each country in the world needed International language for global communication, and English language is one choice as the International language. So English has an important position in the world. The different growth of languages makes it the most popular language among other International Languages. Nowadays, there are no part of the world affair know nothing about English. It is used widely in the world. Almost all countries use it either as the first, second or foreign language.

English is the first foreign language that has to be taught at schools in Indonesia. Since it is one of languages that is able to connect countries in the world the choice of English as the first foreign language in Indonesia is, of course easy to understand. It is the only language that makes communication between one person and other person from different countries having different language possible.

In Indonesia, English is taught from the elementary school until university as a compulsory subject. Based on General Outline of curriculum, junior high school graduates are expected to master English language skill which consist of reading, speaking, writing and listening, with vocabulary at the level of about 300 words and can use the words with appropriate grammar.

As English is the first foundation at secondary schools, the vocabulary teaching and learning is very important to support the mastery of English

language skills. In relation to this, vocabulary is the most important component in language teaching.

Language mastery demands mastery of its vocabulary as much as its grammar. Hemawan (2006: 3) argued that word recognition is an important component of reading in the native language or reading in target language. Vocabulary is important to learning language because of several reasons. First, the ability to understand the target language greatly depends on one's knowledge of vocabulary. Second, vocabulary acquisition is an important aspect of speaking skill. Third, vocabulary can develop the ability of writing foreign language.

Vocabulary is the first step to be taught before teaching other aspects of language. Vocabulary mastery has always been an essential part of English as a foreign language. There is no doubt that vocabulary mastery plays an important role in the four language skills. Vocabulary must not be neglected by anyone who learns a language. It even needs to be mastered if one wants to master it. It is so important that the teaching of vocabulary must be on the first priority in the English language teaching.

However, in foreign language teaching vocabulary has for a long time been neglected to be not so important in getting English skill. Pride of place has been given to "structure" or latterly function. Linguist suggested that the emphasis should be strongly on the acquisition of the grammatical patterns of the language. This idea seems to ignore one important thing that is an ability to manipulate or to use grammatical structure doesn't have any capability to express meaning unless words are used.

Hocketts as quoted by Nunan (1991: 117), went so far arguing that vocabulary was the easiest aspect of a second language to learn. In the early stages of learning and using a second language, one is better served by vocabulary than grammar (Nunan, 1991: 117). It is even possible that if vocabulary is correctly used, it can cancel out structure inaccuracy. Rivers (1983: 257) as quoted by Nunan (1991: 117) argued that the acquisition of an adequate vocabulary is extensive vocabulary students will be unable to use the structure and function to learned for comprehensible meaning words in communications.

The majority of vocabulary teaching in junior high school is using words because the student can not only translate from Indonesia language to English language but the student must write and make a sentence from the words. This is important for the student vocabulary ability. Besides, vocabulary mastery is important in developing write language skills. So without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. It has to be realized that the student ability to write is conditioned by their vocabulary.

In this research the writer is studying the English teaching in junior high school in MTSN Ngemplak Boyolali. In addition, the writer is interested in conducting a research about vocabulary mastery to student at junior high school. Based on the observation at this school, for the English teacher vocabulary became the first priority in English teaching learning process. It is because vocabulary mastery is basic language skill. It appears in every language skills especially writing skill. It is even possible that if vocabulary is correctly used, it can cancel out structure inaccuracy. Therefore the writer wants to make the

descriptive research to measure the student mastery on the vocab of English language. Considering the importance of vocabulary mastery in English language skills the writer takes “vocabulary mastery” as the topic of this thesis which entitled, “A Study On the Students’ Vocabulary Mastery At The Second Grade Of MTSN Ngemplak Boyolali”

B. Problems Statement

Relating to the background of the study, some problems can be identified as follows. In general, the problem is “How is the students’ vocabulary mastery?”. Specifically, the problems are:

1. How students’ capability in understanding the word meaning?
2. How many words are the students able to use in making sentences?

C. Objectives of the study

The study aims to:

1. measure the students’ capability in understanding the word meaning in MTSN Ngemplak Boyolali.
2. know the ability of the students in making sentences

D. Limitation of the Problem

Since vocabulary is used in writing and speaking the researcher also limit she research on the students ability in using the words in writing sentence or in written form. So the research doesn’t study oral expression.

E. Benefits of Study

It is known that everything done always has advantage. Different activities will have different advantages. There are two kinds of advantages of this study: theoretical and practical. The expected advantages of the study both theoretical and practical are:

The theoretical advantages of the study are as follows:

1. For the student

The students will know their position in vocabulary mastery as one part of English skills.

2. For the teacher

The finding of the study will be helpful as input for the teacher in conducting teaching and learning process and have a better methods in the teaching and learning process.

3. To other researchers

This study may be useful as the reference for other researchers to have better study and finding in the future.

The expected practical advantage of the study is the motivating students to increase vocabulary mastery.

F. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization entitled” a study on student vocabulary mastery at the second grade of MTSN Ngemplak Boyolali” consists of five chapters. The first chapter is introduction; it deals with the background of the

study, problem statement, objectives of the study, limitation of the problem, the benefit of the study, and research paper organization. The second chapter deals with the underlying theory. It consists of the previous researches and review on vocabulary. It consists of notion of vocabulary, kinds of vocabulary, vocabulary mastery, teaching vocabulary, and vocabulary test. The third chapter is the methodology of the research, object of the study, the subject of the study, the data and source, the technique of collecting data, and the technique of analyzing data. The fourth chapter is analysis and discussion. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.