

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

It is the first chapter of this thesis. This chapter consists of six points to be treated i.e background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and the last is definition of terms.

1.1. Background of the Study

In Indonesia, English has been taught in almost all schools. English is the first foreign language taught as a compulsory subject in junior high school up to university. English has been therefore included in our national curriculum and should be taught to the students without considering whether the students are interested in English or not. Our government is aware that teaching English to students becomes very important and needs much concern. Ideally, by applying English in our national curriculum the students are motivated and encouraged to learn it both inside and outside of the class in order to get a better job, be able to communicate with members of a target language community or obtain the goals that they want to achieve.

In studying English, students have to master the four English skills namely: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Moreover, they are also required to master or have a sufficient knowledge on: vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation. We cannot speak English well without vocabulary. Vocabulary is one important

aspect in learning a foreign language, as Rivers (1968:42) said that it is impossible to learn language without vocabulary or without words. Mastering vocabulary is one of the major problems being confronted by the learners in learning English as a foreign language. The more vocabularies they know the better their chance to do well on an English test.

Vocabulary plays an important role in the four skills of teaching English thus it should be taught to the students. The problem faced by teacher is the students might find some difficulties in developing their English vocabulary, especially in getting the meaning of the words. This problem leads to another problem that students cannot fully improve in their ability to use English.

According to Ur (1996:60) vocabulary can be defined roughly as the words which are taught in the foreign language. However, a new item of vocabulary maybe more than a single word. For instance, *post office* and *mother-in-law*, which are made up of two words but express a single idea. Krashen in Sukrawa (1981: 39) stated that vocabulary is indeed basic to communication and the acquisition process. The writer knows that acquisition and learning are inseparably linked and hence the comprehensibility of an input depends directly on the ability of the learners to recognise and comprehend the meaning of vocabulary item. The acquisition of a large number of vocabularies can help the students in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

English teachers at junior high school have to be able to motivate the students, and facilitate them by using interesting techniques in teaching learning process, which act as stimuli to arouse the students' interest in English.

Considering the importance of teaching vocabulary to the students, the writer wants to give a solution especially in increasing the students' vocabulary mastery, so that later they will be able to speaking English well.

Based on the background, the writer would like to make a study entitled: **“A Study on the Vocabulary Mastery of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 2 Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019”**.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

The statements of the problems of this study can be formulated in questions that should be answered in the data analysis. They are presented below:

1. Have the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Kupang mastered vocabularies as tested to them?
2. What is the students' level of mastery of the tested vocabularies?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

Based on the questions in the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out whether the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Kupang have mastered the use of vocabulary in sentences or not.
2. To find out students' level of mastery using vocabulary in sentences
3. To identify the difficulties experienced by the students in using vocabulary.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study has some significances or benefits for the following persons.

1. For the Students

By knowing the results of this study, the students of SMP Negeri 2 Kupang especially the eighth grade students will know the level of mastery in using vocabulary in sentences. The students can be motivated to learn more english vocabulary.

2. For the English Teacher

This study can help the teachers of SMP Negeri 2 Kupang to know their students' vocabulary mastery.

3. For the Writer

Through this study, the writer can apply her knowledge in college. Besides, through this study the writer can study deeper about vocabulary mastery.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

Vocabulary is a general term, which consists of lexical words, content word, compound word and idioms. However, referring to this study it only talks about content words of nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

1.6. Definition of Terms

There are some terms used in this study that should be defined. The definition may help the reader's understanding on the study as a whole. The terms that should be defined in this study as follows:

1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the stock of words used by or known to a particular group of persons (Ghove, 1993: 2560). The scientific vocabulary is constantly growing (dictionary). In this study vocabulary means the stock of vocabularies known or mastered by the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Kupang.

2. Mastery

Mastery is a strategy used by the teacher in learning process to help the students to understand the material.

3. Content Vocabulary

a. Nouns

Noun is a word that refers to the human family, objects, and concepts or understanding (semantic aspect). In the sentence predicate verb, noun functions occupy the subject, object or complement, cannot be used as a noun form is not broken, but with words instead. Example: Doctor, image, stems (Asa 2003:1).

b. Adjectives

Adjective is a word that serves to explain noun or pronoun by pointing to the quality (a nice woman, a black hat) or by limiting the objects in question (five meters, the third level) (Asa 2003: 41).

c. Verb

Verb is one of the type of words that are used to form sentences using an activity (action), a process or a state. Verb consists of several types, each of which is used to form a particular pattern of verbal sentences. (Asa 2003 : 62).

4. SMP Negeri 2 Kupang

SMP Negeri 2 Kupang is one of the publicjunior high schools in Kupang city located on Jl. Tompello No.33. Oebobo, Kota Kupang.