

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English is an important language because it is used by many people in the world today. As language of the world, people of Indonesia need to learn it in order that they can communicate with foreigners, especially those whose native language is English or those who use it as an international means of communication.

The following are some notions of language according to the experts. Keraf in Yulius (2005: 1) language has the following notions. First, language as a means of communication between members of the community in the form of a symbol of the sound produced by human vocal organs. Second, language is a communication system that uses symbols vocal (speech sound) that are arbitrary.

Tarigan (1989: 4) there are two definitions of language. First, language is a system that is systematic and also for generative system. Second, language is a set of symbols or arbitrary symbols.

According to Santoso(1990: 1) language is a series of sounds produced by the human vocal organs consciously. The meaning of Santoso's statement, language is a form, not a state (language may be form and not matter) or a system of many systems and articulate sound (produced by the vocal organs) that are arbitrary and are conventionally

used as a communication tool to bring forth group of human feelings and thoughts.

In our life nowadays we should be able to understand English in general as well as in specific use through listening, speaking, reading and writing. There are three parts of language sub-skills (grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary) which support the language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In the process of learning the English language, vocabulary is also one of important part. We should be able to master the vocabulary to make it more easier for us to speak in English.

As stated by Krashen (1988) in Maria Emi Swastini (1994) vocabulary is indeed a basic elements for communication. It is described or emphasized on lexemes, single words, compound words an idiom, with learning many vocabularies everyone will have a good speaking in English.

To develop student language skills in reading, listening, speaking and writing, the learners should master vocabulary. The mastery of vocabulary cannot sometimes be reached optimally. The mastery of vocabulary of a speaker is needed in each language skill. In reading for instance, the students will get difficulties in comprehending the text if they do not know the words in the text. Similarly, in speaking they will have the same problem if they have only few vocabularies.

Beside the vocabulary, Reading is one of the important materials in the curriculum because through reading, people get much information or knowledge and understand or comprehend what they read in order to get the message implied in the text or book.

During the teaching practice, however the writer observed that many SMA students were not able to write and pronounce the words correctly when they were asked to read aloud. They were not able to answer the comprehension questions directed to them and they did not understand grammar used in the text.

In this study the writer combines two components, namely English reading comprehension and mastery of vocabulary. The writer would like to examine the correlation between mastery of vocabulary and reading comprehension. Therefore the writer would like to make a correlative study under the title “ **A Correlative Study Between the Mastery of Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension of the Eleventh Grade Student of SMAN Tuabatan Miomafo Tengah In the School Year 2014/2015.**

1.2 Statement of the problem

Based on the background mentioned, the writer conducts a study concerning the correlation between the student's vocabulary mastery and their reading comprehension. The main question that needs to be answered in this study is “ is there any correlation between the mastery of vocabulary and reading comprehension?”

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of this study are formulated in the following statement. This study is aimed at knowing whether there is any correlation between the mastery of vocabulary and reading comprehension or not.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study was stated in the following lines.

- a. For the English teacher of the researched school.

The result of the study may help them by giving information about their students' knowledge in reading comprehension and mastery of vocabulary.

- b. For the writer

Through this study, the writer implements what she has already got and can enrich her with the theories and practice of the correlation between mastery of vocabulary and reading comprehension.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this study, the writer just limits her study on the vocabulary and reading comprehension. She would like to know the correlation between mastery of vocabulary and reading comprehension of the Eleventh grade students of SMAN Tuabatan Miomafo Tengah by giving a task and then the students answer the question and find out the difficult words.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms used in this writing that should be defined and explained. The terms that should be defined are as follows:

1. Reading

Reading is a bringing meaning from printed and written materials (Finnochiaro and Bonomo, 1973:119). Reading does not develop simply

as a product of training in the spoken language. In this study reading is the process to get, to understand, to catch the content of the reading by the reader.

2. Comprehension

It is a process by which person understand the meaning of written or spoken language (Hornby, 1982: 238). For this study, it is a process for the students of SMAN Tuabatan Miomafo Tengah to understand the meaning of written language.

3. Reading comprehension

Reading comprehension is process of using syntactic, semantic, and rhetorical information found in printed text to reconstruct in the reader's mind, using the knowledge of the words he or she possesses, plus appropriate cognitive skills and reasoning ability. In this study reading comprehension defined as the level of understanding of a writing.

4. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a word used by language or branch of science, list of these, arranged alphabetically with definition or translation (Hornby, 1985). For this study, it is a list of words in a reading task used to help the readers understand the message of the text.

5. Mastery

According to Hornby (1975: 216) Mastery is a great skill or knowledge. For this study, it is the knowledge of the students of SMAN Tuabatan regarding reading and vocabulary.