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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Problem

Vocabulary is one important aspect in learning a foreign language. Without a proportional amount of vocabulary anyone will get trouble in speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Without any doubt, it can be said that the acquisition of vocabulary would help people in gaining, understanding, and also enhancing the process of knowledge transferred for a better life. According to Hiebert and Kamil (2005:3), vocabulary is a knowledge of the meaning words. It means that vocabulary can help the students to use a language to communicate and to understand what is being read or listened. Jhonson (2008:93) also states that “vocabulary instruction is used to help students learn new words and to help them acquire a deeper understanding of the words they know”. It means that the students should master many vocabularies, so that they will get easy to master all of four skills in English since vocabulary is the key in learning the language.

In learning the language, mastering in speaking, reading, and writing is not enough. The students should master the vocabulary. Without any vocabulary, the students will not be able to comprehend a speech, produce an utterance, understand a reading text or produce a writing text. Furthermore, Thornbury (2002:13) says that “Without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed”. It means that vocabulary is important in language learning. If we are lack of vocabulary, we will not be able to speak



anything. So, Rich vocabulary mastery will help us to speak fluently and comprehend a text.

State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras is one of the educational institutions in Pelalawan. State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras uses 2013 curriculum. The curriculum is a basic educational component in teaching and learning process. Based on the writer's preliminary observation at State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras, students faced problems in vocabulary. During the teaching and learning processes in State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras, the teacher taught reading about descriptive text. The teacher gave a descriptive text to the students and asked them to understand the text. If there are some parts of text that the students did not know, the teacher gave suggestion to the students to look up dictionary and then asked them to memorize the word. This strategy is not enough effective to be applied because it does not generate interest and excitement to memorize the vocabulary. In fact, the writer found that some of students felt bored and lazy to enrich vocabulary so that it affected the students' vocabulary mastery. It is clear that some of students are still getting problems and difficulties in learning vocabulary. Therefore, the writer would like to apply Vocabulary Journal strategy to improve students' vocabulary mastery.



In fact, students still have difficulties in mastery vocabulary. It can be seen in the following symptoms :

1. Some of the Students did not know the meaning of most words in a text
2. Some of the students got difficulties in memorizing the new vocabulary.
3. some of the students were not able to understand texts.
4. Some of students got the difficulties in using English vocabulary in the sentence
5. Some of students were not able to identify unfamiliar words

Based on the symptoms above, the writer would like to implement a strategy to improve students' vocabulary mastery called Vocabulary Journal. The strategy was used to help student identify unfamiliar words. This strategy helps students understand the meaning of the words. Antonacci and O'Callaghan (2012:110) define:

“Vocabulary Jurnal is one of the strategies to increase students' vocabulary. It is valuable in helping students explore the meanings of words that they encounter while reading. Vocabulary Journals are used by students to respond and transact with words, concepts, and ideas through the use of their own language. The primary purpose for using Vocabulary Journals is to encourage students to become word conscious by collecting new and interesting words and learning their meanings through engaged explorations.”



Based on the problems depicted above, thus, the writer is interested in investigating the problems above into a research project entitled “**The Effect of Using Vocabulary Journal Strategy On Students’ Vocabulary Mastery at State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras**”

B. The Problem

Based on the background illustrated above, it is very clear that the students still have a lot of problems in learning vocabulary.

1. Identification of the Problem

Based on the problem that the writer found from the preliminary observation, the writer identifies some problems of this research as follows:

- a) Why do some of the students not know the meaning of most words in a text?
- b) Why do some of the students get difficulties in memorizing the new vocabulary?
- c) Why are some of the students not able to understand texts?
- d) What factors make some of the students get the difficulties in using English vocabulary in the sentence?
- e) What make Some of students not able to identify unfamiliar words

2. Limitation of the Problem

In line with the identification of the problems stated above, the writer needs to limit the problems of this research on the student’s vocabulary mastery in the terms of noun, verb, adverb, and adjective.



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3. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the problem limited above, the problems can be formulated in the following research questions:

- a. How is students' vocabulary mastery at State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras taught by using Vocabulary strategy?
- b. How is students' vocabulary mastery at State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras taught without using Vocabulary Journal Strategy?
- c. Is there any significant difference between students' vocabulary mastery taught by using and without using Vocabulary Journal strategy at State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras?
- d. Is there any significant effect of teaching English using and without using Vocabulary Journal Strategy on students' vocabulary mastery at State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras?

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. The Objective of the Research

The reseach is carried out for several objectives as stated below:

- a) To know about the students' vocabulary mastery taught by using Vocabulary Journal strategy at State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras
- b) To know about the students' vocabulary mastery taught without using Vocabulary Journal strategy at State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras



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- c) To know whether there is or not a significant difference between students' vocabulary mastery taught by using and without using Vocabulary Journal strategy at State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras.
- d) To know whether there is or not a significant effect of teaching English using and without using Vocabulary Journal Strategy on students' vocabulary mastery at State Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras

2. The Significance of the Research

The significance of the research as in the following:

- a) Hopefully, this research is able to benefit the writer as a novice researcher especially in learning how to conduct a research
- b) These research findings are also hoped to be useful and valuable, especially for students and teachers of English, to be consideration for their future teaching and learning English process
- c) Besides, these research findings are also expected to be positive and valuable information for those who are concerned in the field of teaching and learning English as a foreign or second language
- d) Finally, these research findings are also expected to be practical and theoretical information to development of the theories on language teaching.



D. Definition of the Terms

There are so many terms involved in this research. Thus, to avoid misunderstanding on the terms used, the following terms are necessarily defined as follows :

1. Effect

According to Richards and Schmit (2002:175), “effect is used to measure the strength of one variables’ effect on another or the relationship between two or more variables”. In this research, effect is defined as the result of teaching vocabulary treated by using Vocabulary Journal strategy at Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras.

2. Vocabulary Mastery

According to Syafi’i (2013: 151), vocabulary refers to effective word/idiom choice and usage, word from mastery, appropriate register. While, Merriam-Webster (1997: 820), states that Mastery is possession or display of great skill or knowledge. However, in this research mastery refers to the number of noun, verb, adverb, and adjective recognized by the students.

3. Vocabulary Journal strategy

According to Antonacci and O’Callaghan (2012:110), Vocabulary Journal is a strategy that helps students select unfamiliar word from their reading. and explore the words’meaning by making connection between new word and

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their prior knowledge. However, in this research vocabulary journal refers to strategy that has been applied at Junior High School 1 Pangkalan Kuras

E. Reason for Choosing the Title

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in carrying out this research based on several reasons:

- a) The title of this research is a relevant with the writer's status as a student of English Education
- b) The problems of this research are not yet investigated by other researchers
- c) The location facilitates the writer to conduct the research