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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Problem

English is included in the national curriculum in every school in Indonesia. In mastering four skills in English, the students have to master vocabulary. So, vocabulary is the basic in learning English as the foreign language. In order to support the mastery of English skills, it is essential to learn vocabulary. It becomes a central part in English learning. Vocabulary refers to a list or set of words for a particular language or a list or set of words that individual speaker of a language might use (Hatch and Brown, 1995: 1).

According to Patty et al (1967:7) vocabulary is usually “all the words of a language” or “all of those words used by a particular person, groups of person, etc” or, often, “a list of words usually arranged alphabetically and defined”.

The report of the National Reading Panel (2000:1) in Pikulski and Templeton, for example, concluded, “The Importance of vocabulary knowledge has long been recognized in the development of reading skills. As early as 1924, researcher noted that growth in reading power relies on continuous growth in word knowledge”. Biemiller (2003:6), in DCFS, also stated that Vocabulary is a strong indicator of reading success.

SMP N 1 Singingi, Regency of Kuantan Singingi is one of the schools in Kuantan Singingi. The students also have difficulties in learning English

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because the problem is the students have lack of vocabulary. When the students experience unadequate vocabulary mastery, they will have difficulties to understand the language. Since the vocabulary is the basic in learning another language, that's way the vocabulary is the crucial thing.

Researcher also found that the students felt difficulties in learning vocabulary. In the learning process, they just talked with their friends and were not interested in the learning process. Sometimes, when they feel bored they will go out for many times. When the teacher asked the students to make a sentence with their own words, just some of them could make it and the rest just did cheating.

The next problem is that this problem may be caused by the impletation of uninteresting teaching technique. Consequently, the teacher should change an other technique as a possible solution for the students to enrich their vocabulary.

Based on the researcher's preliminary observation at State Junior High School 1 Singingi Regency of Kuantan Singingi, many students experienced unadequate vocabulary mastery, they did not know the meaning of the vocabulary, the synonym and antonym. The researcher found some sympstoms as follow:

1. Some of the students were not able to know the meaning of the vocabulary.
2. Some of the students did not know how to differentiate between synonym and antonym of English vocabulary.

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3. Some of the students were unable to identify appropriate words to form sentences grammatically.
4. Some of the students were unable to differentiate the word formation i.e. noun, verb, adverb, and adjective, in accordance with the correct English sentence structure.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in carrying out a research entitled **The Effect of Using Four Corner Strategy on Students' Vocabulary Mastery at State Junior High School 1 Singingi, Regency of Kuantan Singingi.**

## B. The Problems

### 1. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem, it is very clear that most of seventh grade students at the State Junior High School 1 Singingi, Regency of Kuantan Singingi still got some problems in their vocabulary mastery. As being stated before, the problems are identified as follows:

- a. Why are some of the students unable to know the meaning of the vocabulary?
- b. Why do some of the students not know how to differentiate between synonym and antonym of English vocabulary?
- c. Why are some the students unable to identify appropriate words to form sentences grammatically?

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- d. Why are some of the students unable to differentiate the word formation i.e noun, verb, adverb, adjective, in accordance with the correct English sentence structure?

## 2. Delimitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, it shows that there are some problems in this research. This research only focuses on students' vocabulary knowledge at the seventh grade of the State Junior High School 1 Singingi, Regency of Kuantan Singingi.

## 3. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the problems limited above, the problems are formulated into the following major and minor research questions:

The major research question is: Is there any significant effect of using Four Corners strategy on students' vocabulary mastery at the State Junior High school 1 Singingi, Regency of Kuantan Singingi?

The minor research questions are

- a. How is students' vocabulary mastery taught by using Four Corners strategy at the State Junior High School 1 Singingi, Regency of Kuantan Singingi?
- b. How is students' vocabulary mastery taught without using Four Corners strategy at the State Junior High School 1 Singingi, Regency of Kuantan Singingi?



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### C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the objective of this research is stated as follows:

1. To determine whether there is significant effect of using Four Corners Strategy at State Junior High School 1 Singingi, Regency of Kuantan Singingi.
2. To find out students' vocabulary mastery taught by using Four Corners strategy at State Junior School 1 Singingi, Regency of Kuantan Singingi.
3. To find out students' vocabulary mastery taught without using Four Corners strategy at State Junior High School 1 Singingi, Regency of Kuantan Singingi.

### D. The Significance of the Research

This research can be worthwhile for the teaching and learning English. Theoretically, the research finding will be valuable input for Junior High School English teacher in using an alternative technique in teaching and learning to improve students' vocabulary. While practically, it will be beneficial for helping teacher improve his/her teaching quality by revising the method or technique of teaching. This research is expected to give some contribution to English teacher, English teaching, and soon. The contributions are as follows:

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1. To give information and solution to the English teachers and school about the effect of using Four Corners strategy to improve students' vocabulary
2. To give positive contribution to the students in order to improve their vocabulary
3. To fulfill one of the requirements to accomplish the writer's study in English Education Department of State Islamic University of Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau.

**E. The Reason for Choosing the Tittle**

The reasons why the writer chooses the title in conducting the research on the topic "the effect of using Four Corners on students' vocabulary mastery" are based on some consideration:

1. The writer wants to know the students' vocabulary mastery taught by using Four Corners strategy.
2. The problem of the research is very interesting to be investigated in term of teaching and learning process. The teacher of English is required to build the students' vocabulary mastery.
3. The topic is relevant to the writer as one of the students of English Education Department.
4. As far as the writer is concerned, this research title has never been conducted by any researchers.

**F. The Definition of Key Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation about some terms used in this paper, the writer defines them as follows:

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### 1. Effect

According to Oxford Dictionary (2010:138), effect is a change which is a result or consequence of an action or other, effect is defined as the result of teaching vocabulary by using Four Corners strategy.

### 2. Strategy

Strategy is specific method of approaching a problem or task, mode of operation for achieving a particular end, and planned designs or controlling and manipulating certain information (Brown, 2000:113).

### 3. Four Corners

Four Corners is a co-operative teaching and learning strategy to help develop and increase students vocabulary knowledge, retrieved from online source Strategies for Students. Four corners is a collaborative method of Teaching and learning that gives the students a platform for various cognitive and affective learnings. This strategy helps the students to think at a higher level, reflect on what they have learnt in the class, voice out opinions safely, learn to critique on various issues, evaluate certain solutions and communicate better. This strategy also enhances the responsibility of a student when making a conclusion or opinion, retrieved from Wikipedia.

### 4. Vocabulary Mastery

A dictionary definition of vocabulary is usually “all the words of a language” or “all of those words used by a particular persons, etc.” or, often, “a list of words-usually arranged alphabetically and defined.

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Vocabulary refers to a list or set of words for particular language or a list of words that individual speakers of language use. Behlol (2010:78) in Macrothink Institute stated that vocabularies can be divided into passive vocabularies and active vocabularies. According to oxford Dictionary in fourth edition (2008:271), mastery is great skill of knowledge. Vocabulary knowledge means effectively able to recognize and use a word in different contexts, speak, write, and pronounce the word well and also precise comprehension which is operationalized as the ability to translate the lexical items into L1, the ability to find the right definition in a multiple-choice task, or the ability to give a target language paraphrase (Henriksen, 1996:11). Grabe (2009:79) in Macrothink Institute reported in his research that a new issue of current review about vocabulary mastery stressing on the importance of (a) making students aware of use the new words they encounter and (b) motivating the students to learn and use the new words, more ever the students need to be collectors of words either by listing words which are interesting or difficult, or by noting possible connection between new words and known words or trying to use the new words in some interesting way. On this vocabulary mastery, researcher only focused on students' ability to choose the correct answer in multiple choice.