

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

English is a language which has high importance in international relationship either formally or informally. As a nation, Indonesia has many relationships with all nations in politics, social, culture, etc. Only English is used in making good relationship to each other.

Allah SWT creates different language with the important purpose. It is written in the Holy Quran Surah Ar-Ruum:22



The verse says that people have to know each other and to have a good relationship, then to get the aim in communication, languages are very needed, especially the international ones that are most widely spoken in the world. One of the languages, which is the most widely spoken in the world, is English.

Considering that English has a crucial position, Indonesian government realizes that, the language has to be learned by the Indonesian people without ignoring the status of the Indonesian language as their own national language. English is taught as a compulsory subject from elementary school up to even some semesters of college level. In learning English, vocabulary is the first priority, as one of basic components that plays an important role among the four

language skills. It is impossible for the students to perform English appropriately if their mastery on vocabulary is very poor. In short, by having too limited vocabulary, the students find difficulty to master English skills.

Learning to build vocabulary is a powerful way to master vocabulary, enhance in the life and career. Mastering ability in vocabulary, can increase the ability in communication. Also acquiring a large vocabulary can benefit in school and social. It will enable to understand people ideas better and more affectively. As Pieter said that "vocabulary is one of the components of language and no language exists without words. Words are symbols for ideas, means by which people exchange their thought. The more words they learn the more ideas they should have, and so they can communicate the ideas more effectively".¹

In learning vocabulary, there are many strategies, one of them is reading. Vocabulary is mostly learned by reading textbooks, novel and other literatures. The more reading, the faster vocabulary will be built. It means that reading has high influence in learning vocabulary because by reading many words could be learned. It is also the best way to check on words that have already learned. Often people are not interested in reading because they are lack in vocabulary, then they do not understand the meaning and they could not comprehend the reading.

In learning vocabulary through reading, the students will learn about words that are important to know by students such as synonym, antonym,

¹ Pieter. A. Napa, *Vocabulary Development Skills*, (Yogyakarta: Kanisius, 1991) p. 6

references and definition. Also, it will help students to comprehend the reading, but students often find many new and composed words when they read.

However, English is a compulsory subject in schools of all levels in Indonesia. One of them is Madrasah Tsanawiyah Negeri Tambak Bitin in the regency of Hulu Sungai Selatan in which English is taught from seventh grade up to ninth grade. The students of eighth grade of MTsN Tambak Bitin, to whom the research is carried out, are supposed to be able in using a certain words or vocabulary.

On the case, the writer wants to know the ability of the students in learning vocabulary through reading comprehension, that is, the eighth grade students of MTsN Tambak Bitin in academic year 2010/2011. Here, the writer limits the discussion on the use of vocabulary in reading as synonym, antonym, definition and reference. Whereas the title she chooses is : **Learning Vocabulary Through Reading Comprehension of the Eighth Grade Students at MTsN Tambak Bitin Negara.**

In order to avoid misinterpretation about the title above, it will be nice to explain some terms in the title as follows:

1. Learning derives from “ to learn” is gain knowledge or skill in subject or activity, knowledge gained by study.²
2. Vocabulary is all the words known to person or used in a particular book, subject, etc. In Webster’s dictionary, vocabulary is a list of words of often,

² I Martin. H. Manser, *Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary*, (Oxford: Oxford Unversity. Press,1991), p 237

phrases, observation, in flectional form usually arranged in alphabetical order defined and otherwise identify in dictionary or glossary.³ In this research, the writer means is that vocabulary in reading comprehension.

3. Reading comprehension means the ability of students to understand and comprehend the reading text fully in the written or printed materials. Based on the explanation above, the title of the thesis writer means here is a research activity about the students' ability in learning vocabulary through reading comprehension, especially the ability of the students to answer the questions in connection with synonym, antonym, definition and references in reading comprehension.

Thus, the title means the learning vocabulary through reading comprehension that done by students of the eighth grade students at MTsN Tambak Bitin Negara in academic year 2010/2011.

B. Statements of Problem

In order to make a systematic approach in solving the problems, the statement of the problem is further develop into the following questions:

1. How is the students' ability in vocabulary of the eighth grade students in MTsN Tambak Bitin in academic year 2010/2011?
2. How do the students learn to improve their vocabulary through reading comprehension?

³ Webster, *New World College Dictionary*, 1994, p. 704

C. Reasons for Choosing the Title

Some reasons that make the writer interested to choose this title are as follows:

1. Learning a language is difficult activity, for each language has its own system which is different from that in the students' native language. The differences in the system of the language may bring about learning problems for the foreign learners. So, the teacher is expected to pay attention to the problems which may be encountered by the students.
2. Students' ability in vocabulary is the key of learning English
3. Learning vocabulary through reading comprehension is an effective way besides memorizing, using dictionary, motivation, keeping record, using, guessing the words in the context.
4. Teaching is profession which is useful for Indonesian education, with regard to that statement, the writer as a prospective teacher wants to make contribution to the English teaching in Indonesia.

D. Purposes of Research

In the line of problem, the purposes of the research are:

1. To find out the students ability in vocabulary of the eight grade students of MTsN Tambak bitin in academic year 2010/2011.
2. To find out the way the students learning to improve in their vocabulary.

E. Significance of the Research

By doing the research, the writer hopes that the result will be helpful to provide:

1. The learners of English of the eighth grade students of MTsN Tambak Bitin in academic year 2010/2011 to increase their understanding in learning vocabulary through reading comprehension.
2. To the English teachers in order to help students in learning English, particularly in learning vocabulary through reading. it reminds that reading is the important way in increasing the knowledge of words.
3. The teacher in increasing the students' ability in learning vocabulary through reading comprehension.

F. Organization of Study

This research consists of five chapters; they are systematically arranged in this writing as follows:

The first chapter contains introduction, which consist of rationale, statement of problem, reasons for choosing the title, purpose of research, significance of the research and organization of content.

The second chapter contains theoretical review of related literatures, the theory underlying the writing of the research is discussed.

The third chapter contains the description of the methodology of research.

The fourth chapter deals with the analysis of collected data and the discussion of the result. It consists of both of statistical and non- statistical analysis.

The last chapter is chapter five, which contains the conclusion and suggestions.