

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of Study**

To master the development of science and technology, it is necessary to master English. Therefore, English must be learned comprehensively. Learning English as a foreign language is an integrated process that the learners may not ignore one or more aspect of four basic skills; they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Harmer (1991, p.52)in his book said that one language skill should not be performed without another skill. It is impossible to speak without listening to the speaker and impossible to write without reading the sources. Besides those skills, there are some components of English that have to be learnt by students such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary etc. River said, like quoted by David Nunan(1991, p.117)that an adequate vocabulary is essential for successful second language use, because without an extensive vocabulary, we will be unable to use the structure and function we may have learnt for comprehensible communication. Vocabulary holds an important role in language learning. A learner cannot acquire speaking, listening, reading and writing without adequate vocabulary, because vocabulary is the basic element of English subject.

There is a verse of The Holy Quran of Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 31 that explains about vocabulary. It is said:

وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ

هَٰؤُلَاءِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ {31}

Words are the basic foundation of a language, it is used to create sentences, larger paragraph, and whole texts. Different with second language learners that require effort and study hardly, native speakers rapidly acquire vocabulary in childhood and the development of their vocabulary continues following new experiences. But, some second language learner make their vocabulary enlarge with memorizing lists of words or relying on their bilingual dictionaries to overcome their gaps in English acquisition as stated by Brown and Abeywickrama(2010, p.305). It means that to master vocabulary extensively, it is required hard effort to decrease gaps between English and its acquisition.

Vocabulary is one of subjects that taught in universities, because learning English automatically also learning vocabulary. National Institute for Literacy in 2001 reported Vocabulary is critically important to readers who use the words they speak and hear to make sense of the words they see in print. Decoding without understanding what words mean is not reading meaningfully. Telling about Vocabulary, the researcher will conduct a research in academic area, especially Academic Vocabulary.

Because students study in university, speaking with academic words is required. Different with common vocabulary that used in general communication, Academic Vocabulary is a word that has a special meaning

within a subject or field of study as stated in Advanced Oxford Learner's Dictionary. Not only in science and technology, but also in educational area includes a lot of academic words, for instance media, methodology, technique, acquire, etc. Beverly Jobrack (2010, p.2) revealed Academic Vocabulary development is important for student achievement throughout the grades.

Vocabulary has been taught as a subject at second semester at English Department of Tarbiyah and Teachers' Training Faculty in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin. Academic Vocabulary also has been taught as one of the materials of vocabulary subject, actually at two last meeting before final test. Students not only master in general English, but also must be able to understand and use Academic Vocabulary as their own field of study.

Seventh semester students are the students who will approach the last of their study. One of prerequisite to finish the study is thesis. To design thesis the students have to acquire Academic Vocabulary, because the language of thesis require Academic Vocabulary, such as rationale, subject, population, statement, etc. Beside designing thesis, the students will face TOEFL test as one of the prerequisite to finish their study. Without acquire Academic Vocabulary the students will get difficulties to face them.

Factually the researcher found some students have a problem in mastering Academic Vocabulary, especially in translation and close meaning. For instance word *implementation*, *explicit*, and *interpretation*; in pre-observation the researcher gave the question to be translated. Some students only answered *implementasi*, *eksplisit*, and *interpretasi*. They could not

mentioned the translation or the close meaning of the word. The real meaning of *implementation*, *explicit*, and *interpretation* are *pelaksanaan*, *jelas*, and *tafsiran*.

Based on the fact above, the researcher is interested in investigating the students' ability in mastering Academic Vocabulary especially the seventh semester students' in academic year 2014/2015. Hopefully, the findings of this research will give valuable input to improve English teaching especially vocabulary teaching.

Based on the reason, the researcher wants to know how students' mastery in Academic Vocabulary of English Department. The title of this research is **THE SEVENTH SEMESTER STUDENTS' ABILITY IN MASTERING ACADEMIC VOCABULARY ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/2015.**

## **B. Statement of Problem**

Concerning with the topic the problem of the research can be formulated as:

1. How is the students' ability in mastering Academic Vocabulary?
2. What is the most difficult part of the Academic Vocabulary that students have?

### **C. Objective of Study**

Based on the reasons above, the purposes of this research are:

- To measure the students' ability in mastering Academic Vocabulary.
- To find out the most difficult part of the Academic Vocabulary that students have.

### **D. Significance of Study**

From the result of this research the writer expects it can be useful as:

- a. Enriching the writer's knowledge and experience in this specific research.
- b. Information and comparison for the next research.
- c. It is hoped that this research can contribute some idea, concept or information to English vocabulary teacher.
- d. Enrichment of Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin library's literature.

### **E. Limitation of Study**

Because the research objects focusing on Academic Vocabulary seems general, the researcher limits the scope of study as taught by the vocabulary teacher, there are the common Academic Vocabulary that used in Academic text and related to educational area.

## **F. Definition of Key Terms**

In order to the misinterpretation does not occur when exploring the content of the research, the followings are the definitions of several key terms:

1. The seventh semester students

The students who study in the seventh semester of English Department of Tarbiyah and Teachers' Training aculty in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

2. Ability

The mental or physical capacity, power or skill required to do something (Advanced Oxford Learner's Dictionary). Clearly, a learner's skill that can use in study or real application.

3. Mastering

Learning and understanding completely (Advanced Oxford Learner's Dictionary). It means that a learner can use and apply an ability in real life.

4. Academic Vocabulary

Academic is of (teaching or learning in) schools, colleges, etc. and vocabulary is list of words with their meanings, especially in a book for learning a foreign language. So, Academic Vocabulary is a word that has a special meaning within a subject or field of study (Advanced Oxford Learner's Dictionary). It means that, Academic Vocabulary is a special word list that used in specify area, especially study area.