

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

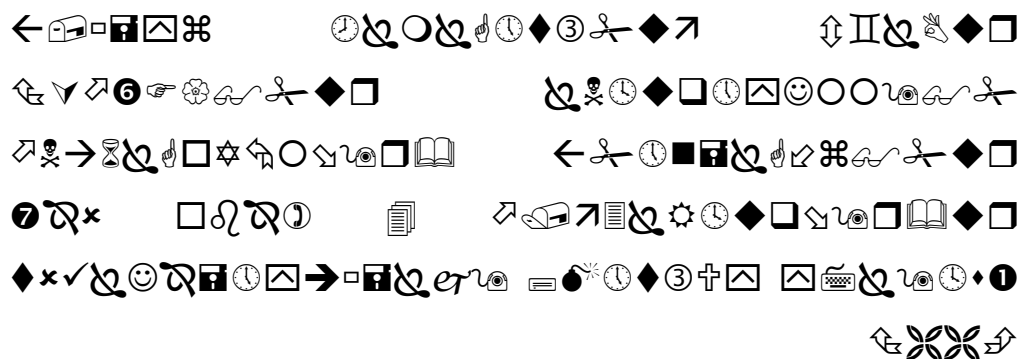
Language is a crucial mean for human communication. It is used to make an interaction with other people in society and is used to express emotion, feeling, and opinion. Kamus Bahasa Indonesia (2008: 119) states that language is “*system lambang bunyi yang bersifat sewenang-wenang dan konvensional yang dapat dipakai sebagai alat komunikasi untuk melahirkan perasaan, pikiran, percakapan, dan perkataan yang baik, supan santun dan tingkah laku yang baik*”.

There are many languages used for communication in the world, for examples Arabic, English and Mandarin. So, it is important to learn the other language in order to make the same understanding when they communicate to each other. Being communicated, however, is supposed in Islam like stating in the Holy Qur'an in Al-Hujuraat verse 13 as follows:



According to the verse, Allah created the men and women, made them be in nations and ethnic groups. To communicate, of course, they need a tool called language, and one of them is English.

English is an international language which is used for communication all over the world. It is used in many fields of life such as in education, tourisms, politics, technology, laws, business, etc. English also has very crucial position and becomes more popular since it is the first foreign language in Indonesia. In addition, it has been studied from elementary until university. Studying English as foreign language is also accordance with message found in the Qur'an (Ar-rum: 22) as follows.



At the end of the verse, Allah says, 'verily in that are sign those who know'. It can be understood from this verse that Allah created some variations in our language in order to study and investigate by human beings. New condition of life and thought are constantly evolving new words and expression, new syntactical, structure and new words of pronunciation. Thus, English language should be taught and learned seriously and that the students will have high or good ability in English.

The ability of students can be influenced by internal and external factors of the students. The students can learn English vocabulary with their teachers in the classroom instruction or outside. They also need time to learn at home, including learning English vocabulary such as finding out some words in dictionary, memorizing, and pronouncing them.

It is important for everyone to have many vocabularies. Without so many vocabularies, someone cannot do more in English. Learning vocabulary is a very important part of learning English. It is one of main important parts in English which has to be mastered by students. Learning to build vocabulary is a powerful way to master vocabulary, to enhance in the life and career. Mastering vocabulary or the ability in vocabulary can increase the ability in communication. Also acquiring a large vocabulary can benefit in school and social life. It will enable to understand people ideas better and more affectively. 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 idea they should have, and so they can communicate the idea more effectively (Pieter, 1991: 6).

Vocabulary, which consists of knowledge of meaning, is the main component of a language, in that it should be thought together with reading, structure and conversation. Ideally vocabulary should be part of reading course because one needs the mastery of vocabulary to comprehend the reading passage. In addition, vocabulary has an important role in all aspects of language skills. It is

the flesh of the language. Someone cannot express his/her idea without having enough vocabulary.

There are four language skills should be achieved in the study of English as a foreign language. These four language skills are developed from four language components: structure, vocabulary, pronunciations and spelling. In this research the researcher's attention focused on the vocabulary as one of the English component. The vocabulary as one of the elements of language is important to study. Without enough vocabulary mastery, the ability to communicate and convey message cannot be established. Therefore, English teachers must have responsibility to use some material in teaching a foreign language. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is then interested in doing research on the title: **The Students' Ability in Vocabulary at the Second Semester of English Education Department in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin Academic Year 2012/2013.**

B. Statements of the Problem

The problem in this research is focused on the students' ability in vocabulary at the second semester of English Education Department. To study this problem directly, the researcher makes some questions as follows.

1. How is the students' ability in vocabulary at the second semester of English Education Department in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2012 – 2013?

2. What are dominant errors the students have in vocabulary at the second semester of English Education Department in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2012 – 2013?

C. Objectives of Study

Based on the problem above, the objectives of study are:

1. To know the students' ability in vocabulary at the second semester of English Education Department in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2012 / 2013.
2. To know the dominant errors the students' have in vocabulary at the second semester of English Education Department in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2012 /2013.

D. Significance of the Study

There are some significances of this research as stated in following points.

1. For lecturers of English, it is hopes that they can use some methods or techniques to improve students' skill in vocabulary.
2. For the students of English Education Department, it is hoped that they can increase their ability in vocabulary again and again.
3. Give the Information for everyone who wants to research about this problem which is closely related to this research.
4. To enrich the researcher's knowledge and experience in scientific research especially about the ability of vocabulary.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation, the researcher needs to clarify the title as follows:

1. According to Martin (2000: 1), ability means skill or power. In this research, ability means skill or power of students to understand and to use a word or words.
2. According to Andrianigita (2007), vocabulary is one of aspects of language besides grammar and pronunciation. Vocabulary mastery is crucial to language acquisition. One of the greatest inhibit to communication in the target language is the lack of vocabulary. These, vocabulary means words to master by students.
3. The second semester means the level the students who are sitting at English Education Department in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin.

Thus, the title of this research means the power of second semester students to understand or to use a word or words at the English Education Department in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin Academic Year 2012/2013.