

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

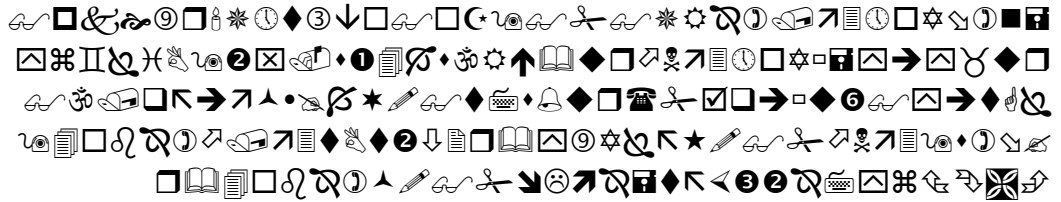
Education is an intentional effort to produce high competent people. It gives people who are educated an important basic competence they are needed in their lives. It also helps them to improve their humanistic potencies. Based on the competencies and potencies, it is needed to improve the student's high quality.

To reach the goal, it is listed some subjects to be thought especially at school. The subjects give students sufficient abilities to be competent human resources as stated above. One aspect considered that important thing to be taught is language, because Maryy (1975, p. 2) states that language is one of the important devices of communication in any type of human activities; language support processing civilization and its progress day to day. Language is use to show their thought and feeling, wish and activities and to influence others. One's education background, association, tradition and sign of family and nation can be explained by a language.

Murcia and Lois in their book *Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language* (1959, p. 183), stated:

“The essence of language in human activity on the part of one individual to make him understood by another, and activity on the part of the other to understand what was the main of the first”.

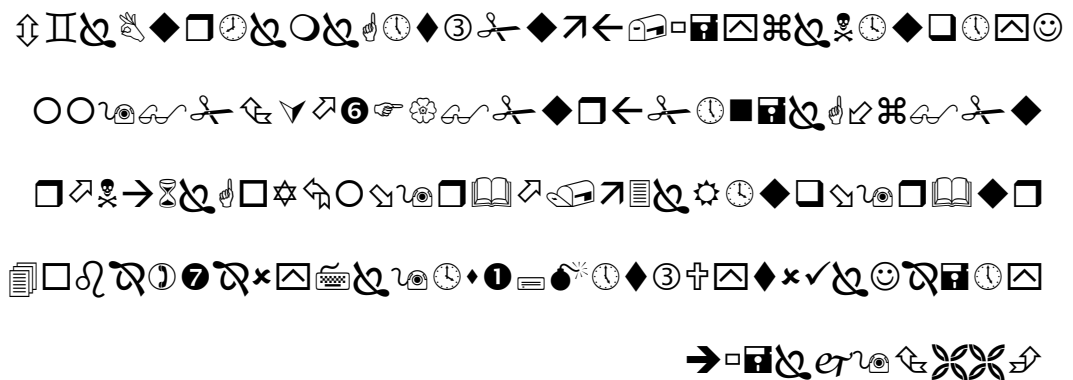
Language becomes an important thing and people around the world use it as a gift from God to human beings as adjusted to one of the Holy Koran in the Al-Hujurat verse 13 as follows:



The verse explains that Allah creates many different human and nations with different cultures in the world. It is also explains that we are Moslem is asked to know each other. Of course, we need some language in order to make the same understanding when we communicate each other.

In such a global world and the development of science and technology, people do not have to master his own language but also to master other languages.

In holy Qur’anat Surat Ar-Rum verse 22, as Allah said:



The verse says that variety of languages forced people to learn another languages beside their own language, especially English language. Because, English has become a means of communication in the world. It is a key to

science and technology entrance into our country. English is one of international languages, which is used throughout the world and also English is used in many fields of life such as: in Politics, Economics, Social and Education. Therefore, English as a language in international communication is clearly needed by many learners to deliver thought and interact in a variety of situation.

In learning English, students must learn all the skills necessary to communicate. One important component of English is vocabulary. Vocabulary is the first priority, as one of basic component that plays an important role among the four language skills. Without learning vocabulary, students can not master English perfectly. 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. According to Harimurti (1993, p. 451), "Vocabulary is a component of a language that had all information about meaning and using words in language".

According to Richard and Renandya (2002. p.8), vocabulary is a core component of language proficiency and provides much of the basis for how well learners to construct or comprehend the object.

Learning to build vocabulary is a powerful way to master vocabulary, enhance in the life and career. Mastering vocabulary can increases the ability in communication. Also having a large vocabulary can benefit in school and

social. It will enable to understand people ideas better and more effectively. As Pieter (1991, p. 6) said that vocabulary is one of the component of language and no language without words. Words are simbols 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 effectifely.

The English language has gained immense popularity due to globalization. Learning to build vocabulary is a powerful way to increase the vocabulary ability, one of them is by using collocation.

Collocationis a way in which some words are often used together, and sound natural together. This also refers to restrictions on how words may be can be used together, such as which verbs and nouns can be used together, for example,*make an appointment*, nous and noun, for example *job interview*, verbs and adverbs can be used together, forexample,*take it seriously*.

Collocation is A familiar grouping of words, especially words that habitually appear together and thereby convey meaning by association (Richard, 2013). Collocations of a given word are statements of the habitual or customary places of that word.

Collocation, or word combination, is thought to be an important dimension in language learning because the way words combine in collocations is fundamental to all language use. Moreover, collocation knowledge helps learners to create more native-like sentences.

Learning collocations is an important part of learning the vocabulary of a language. Some collocations are fixed, or very strong, for example **take a photo**, where no word other than *take* collocates with **photo** to give the same meaning. Some collocations are more open, where several different words may be used to give a similar meaning, for example **keep to / stick to the rules**. Here are some examples of collocations: You must **make an effort** and study for your exams (Not ~~do~~ an effort), Did you watch TV last night? (Not ~~look at~~ TV), There are some **ancient monuments** nearby (Not ~~antique~~ monuments).

Sometimes, a pair of words may not be absolutely wrong, and people will understand what it means, but it may not be the natural, normal collocation. If someone says *I did a few mistakes* they will be understood, but a fluent speaker of English would probably say *I made a few mistakes*, Michael (2005, p. 6).

Increase vocabulary ability by learning collocation it is important because, by using collocations the language will be more natural and more easily understood, by using collocations the speaker has alternative and richer ways to express feeling, thought and mind, then, by using collocations is easier for the brain to remember and use language in chunks or blocks rather than as single words. But, some students feel difficult or still confuse about the right combinations of words, for example word *do*, they sometime confuse what words that collocate or combine with *do*.

MAN Pelaihari is one of the government schools in Pelaihari that puts English as a compulsory subject in teaching and learning process. The students are expected to have a good performance of English skill properly for each level of education. In this research, the researcher wants to know how far the mastery of the students in vocabulary, especially in understanding collocations.

In this case, the writer is interested in conducting the research that concern students' ability in understanding collocations. Hopefully, the findings of this study will give valuable input to the English teaching and learning process, especially in order to improve the students' vocabulary since vocabulary are very crucial in learning a foreign language. This writing however hopefully can give suggestions to improve or broaden students' vocabulary toward English as a foreign language.

Based on the rational, the writer is interested in getting a research in script form entitle **“The Students' Ability in Understanding Collocations at Eleventh Grade students of MAN Pelaihari Tanah Laut Regency in the Academic Year 2012/2013”**.

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the background above, the statement of the problem as follows:

1. How is the students' ability in understanding collocations at eleventh grade students of MAN Pelaihari Tanah Laut Regency in the academic year 2012/2013?
2. What are the students' common errors in understanding collocations of MAN Pelaihari Tanah Laut Regency in the academic year 2012/2013?

C. Objective of Study

Based on the statement of problem, this research has purpose:

1. To know how the level of the students' ability in understanding collocations at eleventh grade students of MAN Pelaihari Tanah Laut Regency in the academic year 2012/2013.
2. To know the students' common errors in understanding collocations at eleventh grade students of MAN Pelaihari Tanah Laut Regency in the academic year 2012/2013.

D. Significance of Study

This research is prepared to give contribution to:

1. To enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in this research
2. To provide information, consideration and input for educators generally and english teachers at the English Department Tarbiyah Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

3. To provide information and comparison for future researchers.

E. Definition of Key Terms

The writer includes some definition to support the readers understanding this thesis easily. They are as follow:

1. Ability is skill or power, Oxford (2008, p. 1)
2. Understanding is from understand. It means know or realize the meaning of words, a language what somebody say, or know or realize how or why something happens, works, etc,Oxford(2008, p. 483)
3. A collocation is a pair or group of words that often used together, Michael(2005, p. 6)