

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### **A. Rationale**

In such a global world and the development of science and technology, English has become a means of communication in the world. It is a key to science and technology entrance into our country, and a key to success in education, business and any field of development and innovation.

There are many kinds of nations and tribes in the world and each of them needs a communication tool to know each other. As far as we know, the effective tool to know one another is language. Language is a cultural product subject to laws and principles that are partially unique to it and partially reflective of general properties of the human mind.<sup>1</sup>

In Indonesia, English is classified as the first foreign language and it is being taught in every school begins from elementary High School. The purpose of English teaching at Indonesia school basically is to produce people mastering English perfectly and they are demanded to be able to read and write very well, besides understanding it when they study about science and technology.

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<sup>1</sup> Mary Finnochiaro, *English as a Second Language from theory to practice*, (New York; Regents Publishing, Co. 1974), P. 3.

Learning English is very important, because language is one of the important factors in our life, because language is tool of communication. It is a reality that human beings of the world have various languages in expressing their wish, idea, thought, and feeling. Therefore, it is important to learn the other's language in order to make the same understanding when they communicate to each other. It is related with the Holy Koran surah al-Hujarat, verse 13, it is said:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ (١٣)

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

English a foreign language has four skills, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In the process of teaching and learning English, the four skills of language cannot be separated. Because of that it has develop in unity. The elements of English language given in classroom like grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation are supposed to support the mastery and the development of the four skills of the language. Among the four language skills

mentioned, vocabulary is one of the most essential parts to be learnt, since to be able to write and to speak the target language.

Vocabulary is one of the component of English and there is no language without words. It means that learning vocabulary is very important since vocabulary mastery is a basic to learn a language. Someone will not able to read, to write, to speak and also to understand the language without understanding the words.

Vocabulary is one important component that the students must master for learning. If they master vocabulary, they can understand what they read and they can do assignments in English book easily. The words found in their reading will be remembered, but it is not easy to master, student will face difficulties. For whatever reason a language is put into teaching and learning program, it must be taken the language as a whole. It is true that in some cases particular language skills are stressed. However, vocabulary cannot be completely separated from other language skills and language constituent.

In the situation of teaching and learning a foreign language, vocabulary is a basic skill in learning foreign language. It must be kept in mind that only in a very unusual event that direct oral teaching and learning may take place. In the ordinary situation the teacher and the students must use appointed books, which require vocabulary.

Mastering vocabulary becomes a problem for students of Islamic senior high school, especially at the second year classes. The reason is the student level

of thinking is different and to master vocabulary it self is very difficult. Sometimes there are students, who can memorize many words, but other cannot, while for learning vocabulary it is needed many words and strong memorization.

Based on first writer's observation of the eleventh grade students at Islamic Senior High School Darussalam Awayan, the writer found the fact that the eleventh grade students of Islamic Senior High School Darussalam Awayan often get confused and have many mistakes when using vocabulary in the sentence and when they are speaking. This occurs they do not understand the meaning of the words and they do not master vocabulary. To cope the problem proposed above, the researcher intend to know how far students master vocabulary by analyzing students' ability in mastering vocabulary.

Based on curriculum of SLTP, a student has to master minimum 500 vocabularies which are suitable with their education level.<sup>2</sup> in this English curriculum with the competence at level of Junior High School student has to master 1000 vocabularies. At High School or Madrasah Aliyah, student has to master 2500 vocabularies. In the book of English vocabulary it is said:

Once a student has to mastered the fundamental grammatical pattern of language, his next task to master its vocabulary or at least that part of its vocabulary that he need. No body ever learns all the words in any language. We know and use the word that suit or has particular purposed and we continue to learn new words as long as we live.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Pusat Kurikulum Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Departemen Pendidikan nasional, *Kurikulum Berbasis Kompetensi*, (Jakarta; Tut Wuri Handayani, 2001), P.10

<sup>3</sup> Ronald H, Sitorus, *English Vocabulary*, (Bandung; Pionir Jaya, 1993),P.1.

Islamic Senior High School Darussalam Awayan is one of education institution managed by the Department of Religious Affairs and it is a qualified Senior High School in Awayan a District in Balangan Regency. Instructional program at Islamic Senior High School Darussalam is divided into common instructional program held at the school, that are Social Science Program and Nature Science Program.

Based on the rationale, the writer is interested in getting a research in script form entitle “THE MASTERY OF ENGLISH VOCABULARY OF THE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS AT ISLAMIC SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DARUSSALAM AWAYAN DISTRICT BALANGAN REGENCY ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/2008”

Then, to avoid any misinterpretation towards the title, the writer will explain the term used as follows:

#### 1. Mastery

It means great knowledge about or understanding of a particular thing .<sup>4</sup> In this thesis, mastery means “ability”

#### 2. Vocabulary

Vocabulary means the total number of words in language or all words known to a person.<sup>5</sup> The number of words the writer studies here are vocabulary of English Language.

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<sup>4</sup>Hornby A.S, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of current English*, (New York; Oxford University Press, 1997),P.944.

Based on the explanation above, the title of the thesis writer means here is a research activity about the students ability in vocabulary, especially the ability of the students to answer the questions in connection with synonyms, antonyms, word in sentence and defination or meaning the words.

## **B. Statement of Problems**

Concerning with topic, the problems of this research is about the students mastery on English vocabulary. The problem is then formulated as follow:

1. How is the degree of ability of the eleventh grade students in mastering English vocabulary at Islamic Senior High School Darussalam in Awayan a District Balangan Regency?
2. What factors that influence the ability of the eleventh grade students in mastering English vocabulary at Islamic Senior High School Darussalam in Awayan a District Balangan Regency?

## **C. Reasons for Choosing the Title**

Some reasons that have made the writer interested in this research are:

1. English is one of the most popular language in the world that has become the main communication device in the field of science and technology.

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<sup>5</sup>Hornby A.S, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (New York; Oxford University Press, 1987),P.461.

2. Vocabulary is one of the most essential to be learnt. Because it will influence writing and speaking ability.
3. Mastering vocabulary is important to understand the four skills of English language.
4. Most of the students of Islamic Senior High School Darussalam Awayan assumed to have some problems in learning English especially in mastering vocabulary.
5. Madrasah Aliyah Darussalam is the only one of Islamic Senior High School which is located in Awayan, Balangan Regency. There, English education problems are never specifically researched.

#### **D. Purposes of Research**

Based on the problem above, they are two purposes the writer has, they are:

1. To know the degree of the mastery of English vocabulary of the eleventh grade students at Islamic Senior High School Darussalam Awayan.
2. To investigate the factors that influence the mastery of English vocabulary of the eleventh grade students at Islamic Senior High School Darussalam Awayan.

#### **E. Significance of Research**

This research is prepared to give contribution to:

1. All English teachers and student of Islamic Senior High School Darussalam Awayan, to make better process in teaching and learning English especially in mastering vocabulary.
2. Increasing the writer's knowledge and experience on the related field, then also benefit for those who may need the result of this research at sometime later.
3. The libraries of IAIN Antasari and Education Faculty, so this thesis can give a new contribution, especially for those who want to improve their English knowledge.

## **F. Organization of the Contents**

This research consists of five chapters. They are systematically arranged as follows:

Chapter one, contains introduction which consist of rationale, statement of problems, reasons for choosing the title, purposes of research, significance of the research and organization of the contents.

Chapter two, contains theoretical review, which consist defination of mastery and vocabulary, types of vocabulary, the importance of mastering vocabulary, some techniques in mastering vocabulary, and the influenced factors in mastering vocabulary.



Chapter three, contains method of research which consists of subject and object, data, sources of data and techniques of data collecting, design of measurement, techniques of data processing analysis and research procedure.

Chapter four, contains the report of the research result that is achieved in this research. It consists of general description about research location, data presentation and data analysis.

Chapter five, contains closure which covers conclusion and suggestions.