

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

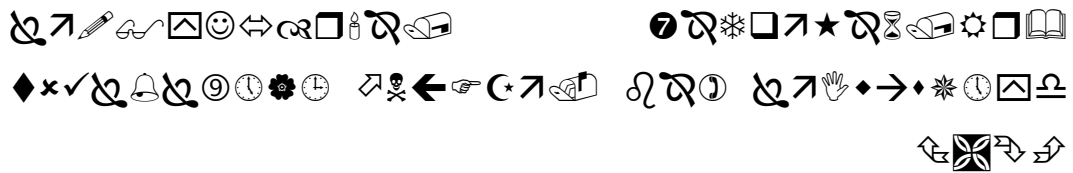
Language is needed by human to communicate with each other. Language is system of sounds, words, etc, it's used by human to communicate thoughts and feelings or a form of language used by a particular group, nation, etc.¹

Learning a language is very important, because it is one important communication instrument for human being. By using language, people can easily express ideas, thought, and felling to other.

Teaching a language is teaching highly integrated systems which make up the language. Those are the systems of language sounds, the system of word forming, the system of word information, the systems of meaning, and the system of spelling. All of them make up the language which content vocabulary. Allah self creates languages in order the humans being can communicate among others. Allah creates everything and gives them names of the things. It is related with the Holy Koran surah al-Baqarah, verse 31, it is said:



¹ Martin H. Manser, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, New Edition, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 233.



The verse explains that Allah creates the names of things and tells it to His angel and say” He taught Adam the names of all His attributes, then He presented the manifestation of those attributes to the angels and asked them: Tell Me the names of these, if you are right.”² From the verse we are able to know many vocabularies, because they have been created by Allah.

There are many languages in the world, one of them is English. In Indonesia, English has become one of main subject in the school. English a foreign language has four skills, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. 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. In learning English, mastering vocabulary is very needed because vocabulary is one of important parts of language.

Vocabulary is an essential element of learning a foreign language, because no language exists without words. Words are signs or symbols for ideas. They are the means by which people exchange their thoughts. The more words we learn, the more ideas we should have, we can communicate the ideas more effectively.

² Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, *The Quran*, (London and Dublin: Curzon Press, 1981), p. 9

Nevertheless, the English learners often face a lot of problems, the problems are in the vocabulary, pronunciation, writing, and so on. It happens because English is a foreign language for them, but English is not impossible to be mastered as long as the learners are diligent, read the English book, magazine, and newspaper regularly and always attempt to practice using the language they have studied.

The vocabulary is very important for someone to possess, because without the vocabulary itself someone cannot do anything in English. Learning vocabulary is a very important part of learning English. It is one of the main important parts in English, which has to be mastered by students.

If the learners want to communicate English, they should memorize the vocabulary as many as possible, by using many ways. For example, the learners open the dictionary and then memorize two or three new words which are regarded to be substantial in speaking, writing and reading, although sometimes the learners get many problems for memorizing the words long, and the vocabulary may disappear from their memory. This happens because the learners seldom use the vocabulary in speaking and seldom read books, magazines, or newspapers in English. In addition, written vocabulary is usually difficult to be understood.

In most cases of teaching and learning English as a foreign language little attention has been given to the teaching and learning vocabulary. Most teachers believe that learning vocabulary is inherent to the teaching and learning of the four language skills. In many cases, when they meet new

vocabulary, the teacher can easily supply the Indonesia vocabulary which matches the English one, but this does not promote the learning of vocabulary.

There are not problems without reasons, because some students still do not understand how to use vocabulary in sentences. When they learn antonym and synonym etc, they have limited words. So, they can not command another words.

Learning vocabulary becomes a problem for students of SMP, especially at the eighth grade students. The reason is that the student level of thinking is different and to learn vocabulary it self is very difficult. Sometimes there are students who can memorize many words, but other can't, while for learning vocabulary it is needed many words and strong memorization.

Based on temporary observation of the eighth grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 4 Pekapuran Raya Banjarmasin, the researcher perceives that the students' ability on English vocabulary is still low. It is based on the result of interview with English teacher had been known that from the activity of English teaching and learning in the class, there were many students who could not answer their English teacher's question about the meaning of words previous vocabulary and also the students often get confused and have many mistakes when using vocabulary in the sentence and they are speaking. This occurs they do not understand the meaning of the words and do not master vocabulary. In this study, the researcher intends to take the eighth grade students only be investigated, because they have learned English lesson

before. When they are in the eighth grade students, their ability on English vocabulary must be better than before.

Based on the above problem, the researcher feels that it is necessary to pay attention to carry out a research to look for the solution to improve the condition to be better and useful for the learners and to all people who are interested in English, especially from the mastery of the vocabulary aspect. The researcher is interested to observe and make a research entitled: **“THE PROBLEMS OF LEARNING VOCABULARY OF THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS AT SMP MUHAMMADIYAH 4 PEKAPURAN RAYA BANJARMASIN ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010”**.

To avoid misinterpretation toward the title, the researcher will explain some terms in the title as follow:

1. Problem is an obstacle which make it difficult to achieve a desired goal, objective or purpose. It refers to situation, condition, or issue that is yet unresolved.³
2. Learning is the process of acquiring knowledge or some skill by means of study, practice, and/or experience.⁴
3. Vocabulary is total number of words, which make up a language.⁵

³http://www.google.com/search/hl=en&defl=en&q=define:problem&sa=x&oi=glossary_definition, accessed 14th November 2009

⁴ Dental Dictionary, *Learning*, <http://www.answers.com/topic/learning>, accessed 14th November 2009

⁵ A S Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), p. 959

Based on the explanation above, the title of the thesis writer means here is a research activity about the students' problems in learning vocabulary, especially the problems of the students to answer the questions in connection with synonym, antonym, vocabulary translation, and matching the words.

B. Statement of the Problem

This research gives a problem limitation in order not to be far from what will be described, the problems are as follow:

1. What are the students' problems in learning vocabulary at the eighth grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 4 Pekapuran Raya Banjarmasin?
2. What are the influential factors of the students' problems in learning vocabulary at the eighth grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 4 Pekapuran Raya Banjarmasin?

C. Reason for Adopting Title

There are some reasons that makes the researcher choose this title, they are:

1. Since English vocabulary has an important role, as a key form mastering the four skill of English language.
2. Most of the eighth grade students at SMP Muhammadiyah 4 Pekapuran Raya Banjarmasin assumed to have some problems in learning English

especially in vocabulary. So, there should be some ways to develop their ability in vocabulary.

D. Purpose of Research

The purposes of this research are:

1. To know the students' problem in learning vocabulary at the eighth grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 4 Pekaruran Raya Banjarmasin?
2. To know the influential factors of the students' problems in learning vocabulary at the eighth grade students of SMP Muhammadiyah 4 Pekaruran Raya Banjarmasin.

E. Significance of Research

The research will be expected to:

1. Improve researcher's knowledge and experience on related field, and also the benefits for who wants to do research more deeply in the same study.
2. Be a collection and substance of exchequer literature in the field of education, especially in State Institute for Islamic Studies Antasari Banjarmasin.

F. Organization of the Content

This research is divided into five chapters, as follows:

The first chapter contains introduction, which consists of rationale, statement of the problem, reason for adopting title, purpose of research, significance of research, and organization of the contents.

The second chapter contains theoretical review, which consists of definition of learning and vocabulary, some aspects of English vocabulary, the important of learning vocabulary, some factors that influence the learning vocabulary.

The third chapter contains method of research, which consists of population and sample of the research, data, sources of data and techniques of data collecting, design of measurement, techniques of data processing and data analysis, and research procedure.

The fourth chapter contains report of research result, which consists of general description about research location, data presentation, and data analysis.

And the last chapter is fifth chapter contains closure, which consists of conclusion and suggestions.

