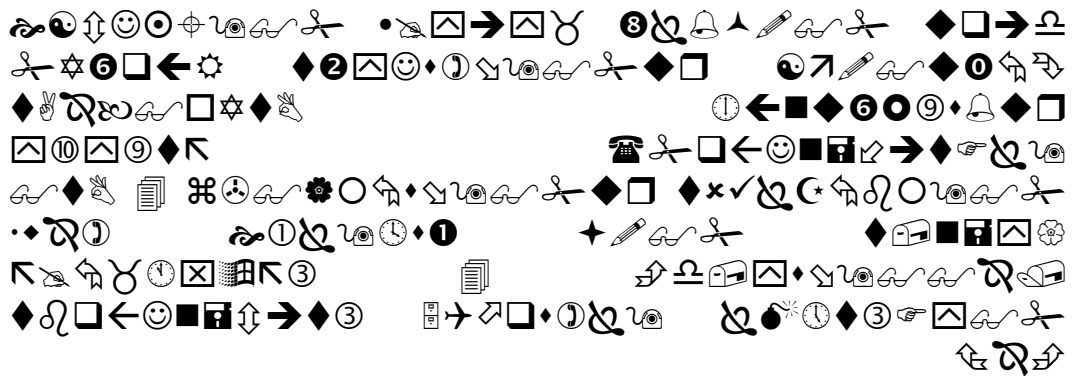


# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Rationale

English is known as an international language for communication over the world. Almost all activities in the world such as seminar, congress, conference, and international trade are carried out with English as a medium to communicate among people from different countries and races. This variety of language has shown one of Allah’s Greatness as He said in the Holy Qur’an:



In this era, English is the most important language for science and technology development and also for relating a good relationship with other people from many countries. To master the development of science and technology is needed mastering of English. Therefore English must be learned comprehensively.

Beside that, many books about science and technology are written in English. However, less students, teachers, lecturers and experts master English. This problem is one reason why foreign people are still difficult to reserve science and technology from other foreign country, included in Indonesia. So, it is

undeniable that English has important role in world's life. English is very useful for reserving understanding and improving knowledge.

As people who involved entirely environment are expected to be the next leaders, students are required to be able in mastering English. They have to study English from elementary school until university level. It becomes one of compulsory subject in all education level. 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 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.<sup>1</sup>Beside those skills, there are some components of English that have to be learned by students such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, etc. Rivers said, like quoted by David Nunan that an adequate vocabulary is essential for successful second language use because, without an extensive vocabulary, we will be unable to use the structures and functions we may have learned for comprehensible communication.<sup>2</sup>

Vocabulary is included as one basic component in language because it is like a store for students to understand material they read and to identify an object by its name. Someone can tell what he means by mention the word that identifies what he means. Vocabulary is a sum or stock of words employed by a language,

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<sup>1</sup>T. Harmer. *Practice of English Language Teaching*, (New York: Longman, 1991) p.,52.

<sup>2</sup>David Nunan, *Language Teaching Methodology for Teachers*, (Sidney: Prentice Hall International, 1991),p.117

group, individual, or work in a field of knowledge which available for use.<sup>3</sup> So learning vocabulary is very helpful for students. It is not only used in spoken language for transferring message but also for understanding reading sources.

Discussing about vocabulary means the study of words because it is one part that formed vocabulary. Every word has its root. But in the processing, the words can be changed by certain addition. It is called affixation or word changes. It can be divided into two kinds. Based on its places of addition, they are prefix (in the beginning) and suffix (in the end). But from its influence to the meaning, they are inflection and derivative.

Especially in this case, the writer wants to discuss about prefix. Prefix is the process of addition in the beginning of the word such as re-, un-, pre-, de-, etc. There are two kinds of word-classes that usually add prefix in the beginning of word-syllable, adjective and verb. Prefix usually matched with adjective are un-, im- and in-. This prefix gives negative meaning for the world. And re-, pre-, dis- and de- are used with verb and give some different meaning.<sup>4</sup>

Many reading sources that are used as English teaching material in senior high school contain more difficult word compared with general basic word. It makes senior high school students need to have enhanced vocabulary. One way to simplify of gaining new words is by understanding word changes. It helps them to identify basic word and its addition so that formed new word and new meaning such as happy-unhappy.

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<sup>3</sup><http://www.meriam-webster.com/dictionary/vocabulary>. "Definition of Vocabulary". Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008

<sup>4</sup><http://www.wikipedia.com.definition> and Kind of Prefix". Wikipedia Online. 30 th October 2008

Relating to this fact, students need to know some other ways to enlarge vocabulary beside look up in the dictionary or memorize them but they can get new words from basic that added the formed different word and different meaning but has same root (prefix).

The writer assumed that it is important to understand prefix because it will help students to comprehend reading text easier. Based on the first observation, the writer found that the second grade students at MA Al Istiqamah Pekapuran Banjarmasin are difficult to understand reading sources especially reading text because of lack of vocabulary. So, the writer is interested in making title: **THE ABILITY IN USING PREFIX ON COMPLETING READING TEXT FOR IMPROVING VOCABULARY OF THE SECOND GRADE STUDENTS AT MA AL ISTIQAMAH PEKAPURAN BANJARMASIN ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009.**

Then to avoid misinterpretation toward the title, the writer feels that it is necessary to explain some terms as follow:

1. Ability : The mental or physical capacity, power or skill require do something.
2. Prefix : A letter or a group of letters added to the front of a word to change its meaning.
3. Reading text : The action of a person who reads a text.
4. Improving : To become or make something better.

5. Vocabulary : The total number of words in a language.<sup>5</sup>

## **B. Statement of the Problem**

In order to get clear information for this study, the problems are as follows:

1. How is students' ability in understanding prefix?
2. How is students' ability in using prefix?

## **C. Reasons for choosing the title**

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

1. English is used as a media for communication over the world. Even many books about science and technology are written in English.
2. Many reading sources for learning English especially for senior high school contain difficult words. It needs wider knowledge of vocabulary to understand it.
3. There are many ways to improve vocabulary such as looking up dictionary and memorizing. But there is simple way to obtain new word by understand prefix.

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<sup>5</sup>AS Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, (Oxford University Press, New York, 1995), p.2, 909, 968, 598, 1331

4. At MA Al Istiqamah Pekapuran Banjarmasin, the students of the second grade find difficulties to understand reading text because lack of vocabulary.

#### **D. Purpose of Research**

There are two purposes of study based on the problem above, namely:

1. To know the students' ability in understanding prefix.
2. To know the students' ability in using prefix.

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

The result of this research is expected to give contribution as follows:

1. As an information for English teacher in the effort of improving students' vocabulary by prefix.
2. As information that prefix is one important element of vocabulary so it can help to understand reading material easier.
3. As information and comparison for the next research in this subject.
4. Enrich literary sources of IAIN Antasari library.

#### **F. Organization of the writing**

To enable the writing of this research, the writer makes the writing organization consist of five chapters as follow:

**Chapter I** : Introduction

Contain about rationale, Formulation problem, Reason for Choosing the Title, Purpose of Research, Significance of Research and Organization of Writing.

**Chapter II** : Theoretical Review

Contain about Definition of Prefix, Kinds of Prefix, Function of Prefix and Prefix Significance of Improving Vocabulary in Reading Text.

**Chapter III** : Method of research

Contain about method of research, which consist of subject and object of the research, data, source of data, and technique of data collecting, basic framework of the research, design measurement, technique of data processing and data analysis and research procedure.

**Chapter IV** : Report of research result

This consists of description of research location, data presentation and data analysis.

**Chapter V** : Closure, which consists of conclusions and suggestions.