

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English becomes an important language in the world. The different growth of a language makes it the most popular among the other international languages. Nowadays, there are no part of the world affairs know nothing about English. International affairs such as education, economic, sport, science, medicine, and security, always involve English as the medium.

For Indonesia, English is a foreign language. In this position, it does not have social function as wide as a second language. English in academic field taught as a subject matter. By learning English the learners are hoped to be able, communicate about anything in English.

In learning English, many aspects should be developed and mastered by the learners. One of them is vocabulary. Vocabulary is a vital aspect in language because it appears in every skill of language such as listening, speaking, reading and writing skill. Vocabulary is the body of words that make up a language. Thornbury (2002, p.14) said that “without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed” thus it can not be ignored vocabulary is an essential element which should be mastered by students in learning English language.

People have difficulties in expressing their idea when their vocabulary is limited, the acquisition of a large number of vocabularies can help the students read, speak, listen and also write English. Mastering vocabulary is the ability to get or to receive a lot of words. Mastering vocabulary will help us to avoid making mistake in understanding. Furthermore, mastering vocabulary will help other aspects (four skills) in language especially in listening.

Allah the Almighty said in Holy Qur'an: Al-Baqarah 33:

قَالَ يَا آدَمُ أَنْبِ لَهُمْ بِأَسْمَاءِهِمْ ۗ قَالَ أَلَمْ أَقُلْ لَكُمْ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ غَيْبِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۗ وَ

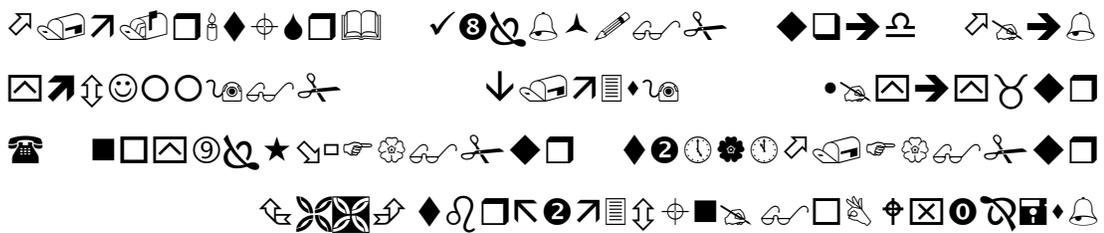
أَعْلَمُ مَا تُبْدُونَ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَكْتُمُونَ (البقرة: ٣٣)

This verse tells that Allah has given name of everything in the world. It means that “names of everything” or vocabulary is important component that have to be mastered by the students for learning.

Beside vocabulary has the big role for developing students skills in learning language, there are also four skills that have to be mastered by the students when learning a new language. In learning English, there are four skills that should be developed and mastered by the learner. The skills are: writing, speaking, reading, and listening. For the fourth skill above, listening is more difficult than others. Smith (1997, p. 25) says “many students find listening is more difficult skill in English. Listening is a skill that felt difficult to be mastered, because it needs more attention

and concentration to comprehend the sound (listening material) “. Listening also leads to understand of fact and ideas. Listening skill is really needed by students in order they can absorb anything that the teacher taught. By listening, students can get much information around them. Listening is the first skill that the students do in learning language. When the students learn English, it necessary for them to listen everything that the teacher explains.

Allah the Almighty said in Holy Qur’an: Al- Mulk 23:



The verse above explains that Allah create peoples with hearing first and then seeing. It means listening skills are very important in human daily life. Listening as one of the basic skills, it is very important part in learning English. It also have been viewed as a primary vehicle for language acquisition process. People can understand what the others say by listening. This is achieved when the listener is listening for meaning, when the listener checks if the statement has been heard and understood correctly. All of it cannot be released without knowing any vocabulary.

The writer assumes that the more vocabulary students’ know, it will be better for their listening skill and consideration that they are now in intermediate level of course their listening subject more difficult than beginning level.

According to the result of writer's pre-interview with some of fourth semester students in English Department of IAIN Antasari about their english subject problems, especially about their listening skill, the writer got information that they have big problem in listening because they do not have enough vocabulary. Some of them said if they have enough vocabulary, listening skill would be easy for them. Other students said if the students master vocabulary, they would listen easily and guess every word or sentence that they heard from the source.

In their level now, they are expected and hoped to be able in listening to TOEFL test. It is planned by the English Department program that they should take the test in order to make them easy to find jobs, or continuing their study on abroad or master degree. In fact, the students are not accustomed to most vocabularies in TOEFL test. With that reason, it is normal if most of them could not get the expected score for standard TOEFL score, or even low than it. The students said that kinds of vocabularies in TOEFL test are quite different from common listening test. While for common listening test, the students still get difficulties, and confused when they are listening to the test, and even more with the TOEFL test.

By the case above, the writer is really interested to find out the connection between students' mastery in vocabulary and listening skill of the fourth semester students' in English Department of IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin academic year 2012/2013.

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the background above, there are some problems that will be investigated by the writer, including:

1. How is the vocabulary mastery of the students at the fourth semester in English Department of IAIN Antasari academic year 2012/2013?
2. How is the listening skills' ability of the fourth semester in English Department of IAIN Antasari academic year 2012/2013 ?
3. Is there any significant correlation between vocabulary mastery and listening skill of the students of the fourth semester in English Department of IAIN Antasari academic year 2012/2013?

C. Objective of Study

Based on formulation of problems, there are three puposes of this research:

1. To find out the vocabulary mastery of the students at the fourth semester in English Department of IAIN Antasari academic year 2012/2013
2. To find out the listening skills' ability of the fourth semester in English Department of IAIN Antasari academic year 2012/2013
3. To find out the correlation between vocabulary mastery and listening skill of the students of the fourth semester in English Department of IAIN Antasari academic year 2012/2013?

D. Assumption

The assumptions for the research are:

1. Each students has different ability in vocabulary mastery and listening skill
2. The students' vocabulary mastery influences their listening skill.

E. Hypothesess

It is necessary for the writer to formulate the hypothesis of the study as follows:

1. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha): There is a significant correlation between vocabulary mastery and listening skill of the students of the fourth semester in English Department of IAIN Antasari academic year 2012/2013
2. Null Hypothesis (Ho): There are no significant correlation between vocabulary mastery and listening skill of the students of the fourth semester in English Department of IAIN Antasari academic year 2012/2013.

F. Significance of Study

The result which are going to be achieved in this research are expected to contribute to:

1. Enriching the writer's knowledge and experience in this specific research.
2. Giving valuable contribution for all English teachers in the English Department to improve the teaching and learning of English
3. Providing information for and considerations for future reasearch.
4. Enriching literary source of IAIN Antasari library.

G. Definition of Key Terms

There are some terms are used in this research. In order to avoid misinterpretation of them, some terms are defined as follows:

1. Correlation is another measure of relationship between two variables (Sudijono, 2005). In this research especially to know the correlation between students' vocabulary mastery and listening skill.
2. Vocabulary Mastery is to again complete knowledge of skill (Hornby. 1995) In this reseach especially to know how is the students mastery in vocabulary.

3. Listening Skill is an ability to do something is interpreted or understood well. (Hornby.1995) in this research, the writer wants to know about the students' skill in listening.