

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Rationale

Human beings are social creatures and depend on one another for all forms of interaction and relationships; language is therefore an important factor for everyone. By language human beings can communicate each other and convey ideas and opinions from one another. Without language humans can do nothing with others. Verbal language is not always being used people, but also other kind of languages such as body language or some codes or symbols.

Language is a device of communication for the development of ideas, minds and opinions. This matter is in line with an opinion opened by Mary Finocchiaro that Language is the means by which result of human thought and action are passed on. Language is also a tool we use to communicate with other people. We encode what we want to say using language which is made up of a range of components.<sup>1</sup> Therefore with language human beings can understand the way of approaching others, even through oral language, articles and signals.

As a means of communications in human life and in a condition that is progressing globally, language plays an important role in forwarding of acceptable minds and ideas. In this world there are assorted races, tribes, nations, and immeasurable cultures, so that each group has separate markings and identity

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<sup>1</sup>Cora Lindsay & Paul Knight, *Learning and Teaching English*, (New York: Oxford University Press. 2006), p. 28

in interacting. This diversity is in line with Words of Allah SWT in holy Qur'an Ar-Ruum verse 22:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ  
وَالْوَلَوْنِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

*And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors. Indeed in that are signs for those of knowledge.<sup>2</sup>*

Looking at the role of language today, one language assumed by most as having an effect on many people is English. English is a good medium of communication, as well as a means of commerce and knowledge. Therefore, foreign Language education, especially English, needs better attention.

The study of English is potentially more appealing when English is presented as a key for establishing communication with as new world. This communication can take a variety of forms; it can mean sharing ideas face to face with someone from a foreign country or gaining access to the knowledge embedded in the world's vast library of material published in English. In either case, learning English means developing the ability to understand and interact with the universe that is largely inaccessible to those who don't know English. Here is the point that learning any language opens new doors, learning English particularly does so because of its growing role as an international language; English is now the language of publishing and speech for most international

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<sup>2</sup> <http://quran.com/30> (18 December 2011 at 18 :11)

communication and is often used even by people from non-English-speaking countries when they need to interact with people from other nations.<sup>3</sup>

Acquiring a foreign language is indicated by many numbers of students' quality are still low whereas the English language has been taught and learned from the Elementary School until Junior and Senior High School in Indonesia. If this condition is not changed, it may immediately influence to the acquisitions of language competence until university.

For success in studying, someone must have a key that is a language. He or she can study anything or any times, in his country but if he or she wants to study from another country, he or she must be able to understand the languages. It is excess already being given by God on human, with caught on people until they can add knowledge that they have, in every times anywhere, in realizing or not. But, God has other creation such as blind, deaf, and mute that they can not learn or study like complete human being.

The objective of teaching English in Indonesia is stated in the curriculum, it states that the objective of the teaching English at junior and senior high school to make the students able to use the language for communication orally and in written form. The communication competence involves listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.<sup>4</sup> To master the four skills, the students must have the knowledge of language component such as English grammar and vocabulary.

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<sup>3</sup>Don snow, *More Than A Native Speaker (An Introduction to Teaching English Abroad)*, (Virginia: Kirby Lithographic Company, 2006), p. 7

<sup>4</sup> Depdiknas, *Competency-Based Curriculum*, (Jakarta: Depdiknas, 2004), p. 14

Learning vocabulary is a very important part of learning a language, the more words, learner knows, the more he will be able to understand what he hears, reads, and also the better result when he speaks and writes.

Vocabulary is one of the elements of language besides structure, pronunciation, and spelling. The elements of language are important because they will support the four language skills they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Vocabulary is important to enrich students' skills, because it will encourage reading and listening comprehension. Having a lot of vocabulary makes students able to comprehend the reading and listening. Otherwise, having limited vocabulary, students will be difficult to understand the language.

*In the book of English Vocabulary*, it is said:

Once a student has to master 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>5</sup>

Mastering vocabulary becomes one of the problems for students at intermediate level in universities. The reason is the lack of vocabularies, while for learning vocabulary it is needed many words and strong memorization.

From the explanation above, it is stated that vocabulary is important thing to master, especially for students at university for the higher level and mastery.

According to the writer's first observation of the fifth semester of English Department Tarbiyah Faculty in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2011/2012 in vocabulary specipicly for antonym

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<sup>5</sup> Ronald H, Sitorus, *English Vocabulary*, (Bandung: Pionir Jaya, 1993), p. 1

recognition, the writer found the fact that the fifth semester students of English Department in Tarbiyah Faculty of Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2011/2012 often get confused to some new unfamiliar words, especially for antonym. To explain the problem proposed above, the researcher intends to know how far students master vocabulary by analyzing students' mastery in antonym of English vocabulary.

Based on the rationale above, the writer is interested to explore more about antonym of English vocabulary mastery, especially for students at the fifth semester of English Department Tarbiyah Faculty in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2011/2012. Thus, the writer intends to conduct research written in a thesis entitled:

**“THE STUDENTS’ MASTERY IN ANTONYM OF ENGLISH VOCABULARY AT THE FIFTH SEMESTER OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT TARBIYAH FACULTY ANTASARI STATE INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES BANJARMASIN ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012.”**

To avoid many misinterpretation towards the title of this research the writer feel necessary to explain some terms in the title as follows:

1. Mastery is the power to dominate or defeat; great skillfulness and knowledge of some subject or activity, also can be meant as the act of mastering or subordinating someone.<sup>6</sup> The great knowledge about or

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/mastery> (10 December 2011 at 11. 20)

understanding of a particular thing.<sup>7</sup> The particular thing that means in this study is about students' ability to distinguish in synonym of English vocabulary. In this thesis, mastery means "ability".

2. Antonym is, from the Greek *anti* ("opposite") and *onoma* ("name") are gradable opposites. Gradable opposites lie at opposite ends of a continuous spectrum of meanings; examples are *hot* and *cold*, *slow* and *fast*, and *fat* and *skinny*.<sup>8</sup>
3. Vocabulary is all the words of language (English).<sup>9</sup>
4. English is of or relating to the English language.<sup>10</sup>
5. The fifth semester students here are the students who study in English Department Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin at the fifth semester academic year 2011/2012.

## **B. Problem Formulation**

1. How is the English vocabulary in antonym mastery of students at the fifth semester of English Department Tarbiyah Faculty in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2011/2012?

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<sup>7</sup>A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, Sixth Edition*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), p. 788

<sup>8</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opposite\\_\(semantics\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opposite_(semantics)) ( 10 December 2011 at 20. 22)

<sup>9</sup><http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Vocabulary> ( 05 January 2012 at 20. 45)

<sup>10</sup><http://www.thefreedictionary.com/english> ( 05 January 2012 at 20.50)

### **C. Reason of Adopting The Title**

There are certain reasons make the writer to conduct the title, they are:

1. No one has ever made a research about the students' mastery of vocabulary in antonym at the fifth semester of English Department Tarbiyah Faculty in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2011/2012.
2. Since English vocabulary very important especially for English Department students.
3. It is assumed that the students feel hard to find the meaning of some new strange words, to match the correct pair of the antonym.

### **D. Research Purposes**

Based on the problem above, the purposes of this study are:

1. To know the antonym of English vocabulary mastery, especially for students at the fifth semester of English Department Tarbiyah Faculty in Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2011/2012.
2. To find the valid result from a subjective test given to students at the fifth semester of English Department in Tarbiyah Faculty of Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin academic year 2011/2012.

### **E. Research Significance**

The results that are going to achieve in this study are:

1. To enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in scientific research especially about the mastery of vocabulary in antonym.
2. To be information and input for education administrative on increasing and improving the quality of education.
3. To be an input for English teachers who teach at English Department of Tarbiyah Faculty Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin.
4. To be an information and comparison for the next researchers who want to conduct a research on the same topic.

### **F. Organization of Writing**

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

The first chapter contains introduction that covers of rationale, clarification of title, problem formulation, reason for choosing the title, the purpose of the research, the significance of the research, and writing organization.

The second chapter contains theoretical review on related subject including: definition of mastery and vocabulary, mastering English vocabulary which consists of strategies of mastering English vocabulary and principles of mastering English vocabulary, some types of English vocabulary building, some parts of English vocabulary, the importance of mastering English vocabulary.



The third chapter contains method of research, consisting subject and object of the research, data, source of data, technique of data collecting, techniques of data processing and analysis, design of measurement, and research procedures.

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

The fifth chapter contains closure, which contains conclusion and suggestion.