

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Language is the most fundamental instrument of human communication. People have used the language for long time. It is impossible for human beings to interact without language. Language is used for any kind of activity of human life. Understanding language as the social function becomes the main purpose of human life to interact with others. According to Sirbu, language is essentially a means of communication among the members of a society.

Pyles and Algeo (1982, p.3) define language as “a system of conventional vocal sign by means of which human beings communicate”. Either it is spoken or written, it is used by people to communicate each other. Language is also an identity and symbol of a nation.

There are many different languages in the world as stated in the Holy Qur'an Surah Ar Ruum (30: 22) :

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَخْتَلَفُ السِّنْتِكُمْ وَاللُّوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ

فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَلَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

There are many languages in the world, and one of them is English language. English is one of the international languages, that is spoken in many countries both as a native and as a second or foreign language. It is a living and vibrant language spoken by over 300 million people as their native language.

As a global language, English taught in the schools and universities in almost every country in this world. It becomes very popular than ever and it is a very important language as a media of communication among university students. Their academic books, assignments, and so forth are also written in English.

Learning English is about integrating process of one or more aspects of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Beside those skills, there are some components of English that have to be learned by students in school or university such as pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary.

People maybe have million or even billion words in their brain used in their life both for speech or writing. Learning word is interesting and also important for human life. Many definitions of words will be found from dictionary or linguistic text book. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (1995, p. 1374) “word is a sound or group of sounds that express a meaning and forms an independent unit of a language”.

Words as a part of language have an important role in forming a language. People use them to build a sentence although they do not know where those million words actually come from. People as the users of language sometimes don't think about how a language is formed. There are million words now used by people. Every time people get more and more new words but almost never try to know the way they happen.

The meaning of the new word form is influenced by the process of forming a word. This process is usually called word formation process. Word formation process is the creation of a new word. Word formation is sometimes contrasted with semantic change, a change in a single word's meaning. Word formation process is a way of forming new words or terms from the use of old words.

According to Yule (2006) "the processes of word formation consist of clipping, blending, acronym, back-formation, conversion, derivation, compounding, abbreviation, and initialism".

Based on English Department curriculum, students of the sixth semester in English Department of Tarbiyah and Teacher's Training Faculty at Antasari State for Islamic University Banjarmasin have learned about acronyms, abbreviations and initialism which are parts of word formation in Vocabulary and Morpho-Syntax subject. Although they have learned them, the researcher thinks not all of them understood and remembered quite well.

The previous research by Kurnianingrum (2015) was talking about The Analysis of Word-formation Processes of Common Words used in Social Media and the result was that Acronym in highest percentage (29.77%). Actually, it was normal because users do not use all kinds of word-formation processes in social media. In this context, the writer wants to study about Acronym, Abbreviation, and Initialism. The writer wants to know the students' mastery on Acronym, Abbreviation and Initialism of the sixth semester of English Department at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin . Actually, it is for making sure that they have learned about Acronym, Abbreviation, and Initialism in Vocabulary and Morpho-Syntax.

The reason of discussing about Acronym, Abbreviation and Initialism is because its important part in learning vocabulary and they are kinds of word formation. And word as a unit in the writing system. So, it is the important of learning Acronym, Abbreviation and Initialism.

Students are sometimes confused to distinguish and to remember Acronyms, Abbreviation and Initialism, because they are quite similar in their form but different in the way how to pronounce them. Students mostly think all of them are Acronym, but actually its different.

**Acronym** is words derived from the initials of several words, e.g. **NATO** (*North Atlantic Treaty Organization*), **ASEAN** (*Association of Southeast Asian Nations*), **OPEC** (*Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries*), **UNICEF** (*United Nations Children's Fund*), **TOEFL** (*Test of English as a Foreign Language*) and they have to

pronounce like a single word. **Abbreviation** is a short form of word or phrase, for examples **Prof.** (*Professor*), **Adj** (*Adjective*), **Adv** (*Adverb*) and each has to pronounce like the original word. **Initialism** is a group of initial letters used as an abbreviation for a name or expression, and each letter being pronounced separately (be be ci), e.g. **BBC** (*British Broadcasting Corporation*), **FBI** (*Federal Bureau of Investigation*), **CIA** (*Central Intelligence Agency*), **FYI** (*For Your Information*).

Based on the reasons above, the writer is interested to conduct a research entitled “**Students’ Mastery on Acronym, Abbreviation and Initialism of the Sixth Semester of English Education Department at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin**”

## **B. Statements of Problem**

The research questions are determined as follows:

1. How is the sixth semester students’ mastery on Acronym, Abbreviation and Initialism at the English Education Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
2. What are the most difficult one among the use of Acronyms, Abbreviations and Initialisms for the sixth semester students at English Education Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?

### **C. Objectives of Study**

Based on the problem of study above, the purpose of the research are:

1. To know how the sixth semester students' mastery on Acronym, Abbreviation and Initialism at the English Education Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
2. To find out the most difficult of using Acronym, Abbreviation and Initialism for the sixth semester students of English Education Department at UIN Banjarmasin.

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

1. Acronym, Abbreviation and Initialism is important part in learning vocabulary. They are kinds of word formation.
2. Many students still have difficulties to differentiate and remember about Acronyms, Abbreviation and Initialism.
3. To improve student's knowledge in word formation process.

### **E. Significance of Study**

The result of this research is expected to have advantages, such as:

1. Giving information about acronym, abbreviation and initialism.
2. Developing student's ability in learning about acronym, abbreviation and initialism.
3. Enriching the research's knowledge and experience in the specific research.

4. Enriching literature of the library of Antasari State for Islamic University.

#### **F. Definition of Key Terms**

1. **Mastery** is the quality or being able to do something or great skill or knowledge. It means the writer wants to know the students mastery on acronym, abbreviation and initialism.
2. **Acronym** is word formed from the first letters of a name. The word related to military, government, informative, industry, and so on.
3. **Abbreviation** is short form of a word or phrase. The word related to military, government, informative, industry, and so on.
4. **Initialism** is a group of initial letters used as an abbreviation for a name or expression, each letter is pronounced separately. The word related to military, government, informative, industry, and so on.