

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

As an introductory chapter, this part will discover the problem statement that is important to build framework for the study. This chapter covers the rationale of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective, the problem limitation, the significance of the study, and the definition of the key terms.

A. Rationale

Since his birth, human naturally becomes social creature who cannot be detached from social environment such as interacting and communicating (Effendi and Malihah, 2007:12). One of the tools to communicate is language, because language is a symbol which expresses feeling and idea to show its meaning to others (Yusuf, 2001:36).

Allah in the holy Qur'an (Ar-Ruum:22) has granted to our capability in communicating and interacting to each other as follow:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَأَلْوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

This verse states that Allah has created the universe and also various language and skin colors, showing that He has capability to create. As the obvious evidence for those who understand. It means that the creatures need something to use in communicating.

In this technology era, mastering a foreign language especially English is not an interest anymore, but rather being a need. We can see the fact where nowadays school is no longer becomes the only one place for learning, but we can find many institutions offer the service of learning English. The other fact shows that the use of English in Indonesia dominates enough in textbooks, banners, billboards, or signs which are found in a common place. Examples; in supermarket or minimarket's front door there are a caution 'push' means '*dorong*' and 'pull' means '*tarik*', 'close' means

'*tutup*' and 'open' means '*buka*'. In addition, amount of technology use English as introduction language such as computer, television, hand phone, smartphone, tab and the other sophisticated technology. It proves that the use of English can be found in many places, so mastering English is very important.

In recent years, we can see a shift in the use of communication devices in Indonesian society where many people used to use mobile phones but now many people are turning to smartphones. Smartphone is a mobile/cell phone which has some of computer functions (Hornby, 2010:1404). Backer (2010:21) states that the smartphone is a phone that incorporate advanced capabilities; this is a form of wireless mobile device (WMD) capabilities that can run as a computer that offers features such as personal digital assistants (PDAs), Internet access, email, and global positioning (GPS). Smartphone typically also has other functions such as camera, video, mp3 players as the function of common cellphone. The other words, smartphone can be categorized as mini-computer which has many functions and the user can use it whenever and wherever.

The survey which was conducted in 2014 by Indonesian Internet Service Provider Association (IISPA) which researched about the Indonesian internet users shows that 85% of the internet users come from smartphone users and 66% of the internet users via smartphone are the youth includes students in elementary, junior, senior high schools and colleges without exception for the third semester students of *PGMI* department in *UIN Antasari* Banjarmasin. Most of students are the smartphone users. They use smartphone as the communication tool. Even, some of them use more than one cellphone. The students are tend to use smartphone for many reasons, such as for willing to follow the latest trend, or being more active in social media (Facebook, Twitter, BBM, Instagram etc.)

PGMI is one of the majorities in *UIN Antasari* Banjarmasin which the students focus on learning Islamic elementary school's subject where one of the subjects is English. Therefore, indirectly the students need to master at least the basic principles in English. The seriousness of *UIN* authority to equip students with the English language can be seen from their policies that require first-year students to join *Pusat Pelayanan Bahasa (PPB)* program during the first and second semester. *PGMI authority* also presents several courses related to English in the third semester. Some of these policies have an impact on the students desire to improve their skills in mastering English language because they realize that their skills are not as good as the English department students have.

One of the important aspects in learning a foreign language is by learning the vocabulary in the beginning. Vocabulary is list of words with their meanings, especially in a book for learning a foreign language. According to Harimurti (2007:6), "Vocabulary is a component of language that had all information about meaning and using in language". River said, as quoted by David Nunan that an adequate vocabulary is essential for successful second language use because without an extensive vocabulary, we will be enable to use the structure and function we may have learnt for comprehensible communication (Nunan, 1991:138).

Mastering vocabulary can increase the ability in communication, by having a large number of vocabularies we will be able to understand people ideas better and more effectively. *PGMI* students certainly realize about that fact. Even though English is not the main course in their majority and they do not have much time to deepen it, unconsciously they still have a chance to learn it directly or indirectly. Actually, they can learn English every time and everywhere through daily activity or by paying attention to the environment even by using the things around. One of the useful things to help them learn English is by using smartphone. In smartphone there are a lot of applications that use English as the introductory language; even there are some

applications which functions to help people in learning English such as English Dictionary, Thesaurus and etc. From 128 total numbers of four classes in the third semester students of *PGMI*, 124 or 98.8% of students are the smartphone users. Definitely not all the users can optimize the smartphone function as media in learning English; nevertheless some of them realize the advantages of using smartphone is not only for communication or just following the trend, but also can be used for learning everything especially in helping them to increase their English vocabulary mastering.

A research about the impact of smartphone in English learning has been discussed before. It was written by Dijey Pratiwi Barakati (2013). She conducted a research using qualitative approach which the objective was to identify and analyze the impacts of using smartphone in learning English based on Baker's theory. The different from the previous research, while Dijey research's main focus was on students' perception toward the impact of smartphone in learning English based on three categories, namely portability, collaboration, and motivation, in here the writer focus on smartphone impact on students English vocabulary mastery.

In accordance with the fact above, the writer tries to analyze whether the use of smartphone among the third semester students of *PGMI* department gives an impact toward their English vocabulary. The writer carries out the research under the title '**THE IMPACT OF SMARTPHONE ON ENGLISH VOCABULARY (A STUDY ON *PGMI* STUDENTS' PERCEPTION)**'.

B. Statement of the Problems

Based on the background above, the writer formulates the problems of the research as follows:

1. What are students' perceptions on the impact of using smartphone on increasing their English vocabulary?

2. Is there any impact of using smartphone in increasing students' English vocabulary?

C. Objective of the study

Based on the problem formulation above, the purpose of this research are:

1. To know students' perception on the effect of using smartphone in increasing their English Vocabulary.
2. To find out whether the use of smartphone gives effect to the user in increasing English vocabulary especially toward the third semester student in *PGMI* department.

D. Limitation of study

The writer focuses the limitation on the benefits of smartphone use in English vocabulary developments on smartphone user in the third semester student of *PGMI* department who apply English as their smartphone language setting. The scope of the vocabulary will be related to smartphone and applications that they use.

E. Significance of study

This study is expected to be significant to help the students who want to learn English more even when they do not have much chance to study in class or school or even college because learning English can be every time and everywhere. And the writer hopes that at the end, the result of this study can inform the teacher or even the lecturer who teaches English, someday they may want to try using smartphone as a media to help increasing their students' ability in mastering English.

F. Definition of Key Terms

Avoiding misinterpretation of the terms in the title above, the writer clarifies the terms used in this study as follows:

1. Impact here means the powerful effect that smartphone has on increasing students' English vocabulary.
2. Smartphone means a communication tool that students uses on daily activities and how they utilize it for learning advantages.
3. Perception is defined as a process to select, organize, and interpret the input from individual sense (vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste) to give meaning. Student's perception in this study is emphasized on their opinion on the impact of smartphone use on increasing English vocabulary based on their own experience.
4. English vocabulary here means the words that applied mostly in smartphone or the applications when the user uses English as smartphone language setting, and the common word that the users mostly find when they use it.