

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of this study is the introduction. I divide it into six parts. This chapter discusses the Research Background, Research Questions, Research Objectives, Significance of the Research, Scope of the Study, Definition of terms, and Outline of the Study. I list explanations below.

1.1 Research Background

Vocabulary is the key to learning many languages, not simply English. It cannot be disregarded because vocabulary is the primary basis to be achieved the goal of learning English. If learners lack vocabulary, four skills include reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills also are influential. A vocabulary is a crucial tool of communication. It means an adequate vocabulary to be necessary for learners. When someone needs to master many languages, it is difficult for them to communicate effectively without understanding the vocabulary knowledge.

As a foreign language, many students are unaccustomed to learning English because they believe English is a difficult subject for many reasons are they do not know about the meaning of the words and how to adapt their ability to the vocabulary learning process in the classroom and outside the classroom.

According to Patahuddin et al. (2017) vocabulary is part of the language that students must reach by starting to learn about the basics of vocabulary such as the meaning of words, the structure of words, position of words in the sentence, spelling, how to write the word, etc. By statement previously, it presents that when a learner increases vocabulary it is beneficial to mastery many skills as speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills. It shows that vocabulary holds an important element to master language, although this language is difficult for nonnative speakers as Thai learners in Semarang. In line with, English vocabulary language is the one basic that important uses in communication both of document and conversation. In addition, adequate vocabulary can help students master four skills in English (Asyiah, 2017). It is connected to demonstrate why vocabulary is so important.

English is the language of communication used by people all over the world. It is becoming one of the most important languages in this globalization era. Therefore, as an International language, English is very important to learn. It is not only used among nations of different countries in the world but also is used as official communications as well. So, it is undeniable learning a foreign language is crucial and necessary in everyday life because it is the primary tool for communication, education, seeking knowledge, occupation, apperception of culture and worldview, and realization of numerous traditions.

According to Rintaningrum et al. (2017) mastery of English is very important because almost all global sources of information in various aspects of life use this language. Therefore, learning English vocabulary can help learners understand and

improve skills in using language fluency particularly Thai learners in Semarang who did not use English as an official language.

In Thailand, English is a foreign language (EFL) and Thai is the official language. They learn the English language for communication with other people because Thailand is a famous attraction. Many Thai people, around 1000 persons decide to study in Indonesia to learn culture, tradition, and language. Indonesia is a country with a variety of languages and cultures because Indonesia allows communication, respect, and nationality. This is the reason why the majority of Thai people want to study in Indonesia to learn new things and develop life skills, especially learning English and the Indonesian language. One of them is Thai learners in Semarang who study the English department for learning and understanding new languages.

As a foreign language (EFL) learner, vocabulary is a vital language element that supports the skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. So, English subject is the best choice for learning and communicating with Indonesian people. By causes, English as a foreign language is not their language. Furthermore, learners also lack vocabulary in English. Wherefore, when learners need to understand English, they should start by learning vocabulary comprehension first. It is one reason to make them easily get all of those skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. It shows that it is hard for learners to use the language fluently when learners still lack vocabulary. The four skills previously are easier if learners have a rich vocabulary. According to Mcgee (2012) lack of vocabulary knowledge is a crucial

factor in the school failure of disadvantaged students. This is the first big problem to show why vocabulary is an important basis to learn English.

In line with this case, learners should improve their vocabulary performance since vocabulary helps them understand the meaning of the sentence. Moreover, English is the international language that we can communicate with because the majority of countries are spoken and understood. Thus, the first general problem of Thai learners in Semarang who study English department is lack of vocabulary.

The second problem is related to the technique in learning vocabulary. The learning of vocabulary takes much time. Therefore, learners should be more attentive to everything that relates to vocabulary mastery. The learners need to know the procedure of the vocabulary learning process because vocabulary can improve their communication skills. Using the right words when they talk can make more effective in communication. It means that there are many techniques to learn vocabulary which different people have a different way to learn. So, using the improper technique can make them got more difficulties in learning vocabulary.

The third problem is related to motivation. The learners need the motivation to learn because vocabulary is complicated to achieve. The learners should try to understand intently and the key impeller of learners to success vocabulary mastery is active and self-motivated. Moreover, English words are different from Indonesian and Thai words. It can be seen in spelling, writing, and pronunciation. According to the information previously provided, the vocabulary learning process necessitates a high level of motivation to practice and review the vocabulary material studied

regularly because motivation can eliminate laziness, change mindset to keep going, and push learners to achieve their goals quickly. It is unavoidable that learners' motivation is a crucial skill that they must master to succeed.

The last problem is related to the structure of English vocabulary. This problem has often been found in Thai learners who were difficulty distinguishing the function of English vocabulary such as subject, predicate, object, complement, choosing the appropriate meaning of the words, confusing to use the word based on context, spelling, idioms, and so on. Based on the information above, the different forms of the term, such as structural and grammar, are one general problem in learning the vocabulary of Thai learners in Semarang.

For my experience, whenever I have learned vocabulary I found many problems in the learning process such as; (1) Vocabulary has complicated about the structure of the words, the function of the words, formulations of the words, multiple meanings, synonym, spelling, etc. (2) Vocabulary learning process depends on an environment, it presents that learning vocabulary is useless when I only learn but I did not use in communication, (3) English as a foreign language that I need to take much time to understand and to be more active to learn, (4) The improper technique to learn vocabulary. Nowadays learner focuses on other material such as pronunciation, the spelling of the words, tips for understanding English, communication tips, but there are ignoring to learn vocabulary because most learners think that those materials are included with writing, speaking, listening, reading, and vocabulary mastery. This is the main reason to make learners overlook learning

vocabulary and ignore to use the appropriate way to learn. Learning a new language should start with vocabulary because it can help them correct in writing, accurate reading, understanding in listening, and communicating effectively. Therefore, the improper technique to learn vocabulary is one of my problems in learning English vocabulary.

However, I would like also to find out the perspective of the difficulties in learning English vocabulary from Thai learners in Semarang by reason following as; (1) The importance of learning English vocabulary for Thai learners in Semarang to encourage four skills to be more efficiently, (2) The common factors of difficulties in learning English vocabulary for Thai learners in Semarang, (3) Technique to solve the problem in learning English vocabulary of Thai learners in Semarang. It should be focused to know the difficulties of vocabulary to be more understanding in the learning process.

According to the explanation given above, Thai learners in Semarang must comprehend the difficulties of vocabulary for guidance in solving the problems in learning English vocabulary. It can develop soft skills and help them to live in Indonesia with acceptance culture, food, language, people, and communication.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on a statement, the problem discusses to find out the following questions:

1. What is the importance of learning English vocabulary for Thai learners in Semarang?
2. What are the common factors of difficulty in learning English vocabulary for Thai learners in Semarang?
3. What are the techniques to solve the problem in learning the English vocabulary for Thai learners in Semarang?

1.3 Research Objectives

1. The research objective explains from the study are: To explain the importance of English vocabulary learning for Thai learners in Semarang who study the faculty English department.
2. To explain common factors of difficulties in learning English vocabulary of Thai learners in Semarang.
3. To describe how the students in dealing with their difficulties in learning English vocabulary.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The significance of the research is expected to be useful for:

1. Theoretical Significances
 - a. The result of this research is expected to show the importance of vocabulary learning in many ways and the advantage of knowing vocabulary for teaching or communication.

- b. The result of this research is expected to be the manual to enrich the literature and identify learners' factors in the vocabulary learning process.
- c. The result of this research is expected to give an idea to improve vocabulary learning. It makes learners know the difficulties in learning vocabulary and the technique to solve the problems such as understanding the meaning of words, communication, spelling, and including to improve four skills like speaking, writing, reading, and listening.
- d. Hopefully, the research gives the information as a reference to use by the teacher in teaching method to know student complications and the difficulties in learning English vocabulary that they encounter.

2. Practical Significances

- a. The result of this research can help learners to communicate with native speakers.
- b. The result of this research gives information to the teacher in teaching English vocabulary. The teacher can help learners to achieve the goal that they hope, in this part relating to the difficulties of vocabulary learning. So, when the teacher knows the student's difficulties in learning vocabulary they can solve the problem because the teacher is the key to changing complications to fluency.
- c. The result of this research helps learners to understand their weaknesses and strengths in learning English vocabulary. This part is to find out how

to curtail their weaknesses and enhance their strengths in English vocabulary learning.

- d. The research hopefully can be additional manual to researchers to solve students' difficulties in learning English vocabulary.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is focused on the difficulties in learning English vocabulary and techniques to solve the problem. Therefore, this study is limited to learning vocabulary methods and motivates students' interest to improve vocabulary knowledge because vocabulary learning becomes an essential skill to learn a foreign language for Thai learners in Semarang.

1.6 Definition of Terms

1. Difficulty in this study means the problems that students encounter in doing something, and it makes them cannot do it easily (Pujiana, 2016).
2. Vocabulary is knowledge of words and word's meaning in both oral and written language and productive and receptive forms (Faculty and Tanjungpura, 2018).
3. Vocabulary learning is a critical predictor of foreign language learning in the first language and second language learning. Ahmadi et al., (2012) stated that vocabulary learning is closely related to foreign languages. In the foreign language learning process, the readers need to understand most of the vocabulary and the contextual meanings used in the passage. This research

presents vocabulary as the most important competency. Without knowing the vocabulary, students cannot express their ideas and face some difficulties in developing four skills of English. Furthermore, vocabulary is one indicator of learner background knowledge.

1.7 Outline of the study

This research consists of five chapters.

Chapter one is an introduction that holds the background of the study, the reason for choosing the topic, statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the research, scope of the study, definition of terms, and outline of the study.

Chapter two is the literature review. It consists of previous study and theoretical description including vocabulary, the importance of vocabulary, the kinds of vocabulary, vocabulary learning for foreign language learners, students' difficulties in vocabulary mastery, students' problems in learning vocabulary, and the technique in learning English vocabulary.

Chapter three is a research methodology that consists of research design, research subjects, research setting, data and source data, data collection technique data analysis, and research procedure.

Chapter four is research findings and discussion. Apart from findings including the importance of learning English vocabulary, the common factors of

difficulty in learning English vocabulary, and the technique to solve the problems in learning English vocabulary of Thai learners in Semarang.

Chapter five describes the conclusion and suggestions of the research.

