CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

The development of a more modern era especially in today's era of globalization requires a source of high quality human resources. Improving the quality of human resources is an absolute prerequisite for achieving development goals. One vehicle for improving the quality of human resources is education.

Academic achievement is a major measuring rod to determine the success of a person. The student who has the high achievement can be said that he has succeeded in learning. Academic achievement is the extent to which child's level of knowledge of the material received.

According to Hasbullah, a successful learning will be achieved if the absorptive capacity of students achieving at least 75% of subjects in the curriculum[1]. "The low students learning achievement are allegedly influenced by several factors both internal factors and external. Internal factors include: the concept of self, motivation, interests, habits, self study, and others. Meanwhile, external factors such as infrastructure, teachers, parents and others, included environmental factors and learning methods.

The self concept is an important part of personal development. Positive self concept will allow people to successfully develop themselves. This is as like with the opinion that the concept itself will greatly affect the overall behavior will be displayed by someone, so that learners who have a positive self concept will be easy

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[1] Hasbullah, *Kapita Selekta Pendidikan,* Makassar: Penerbit Fatiya, 2005, p. 85.

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to develop an interest in learning, recognizing that learning is a requirement.[2] Attention of parents simultaneously can also help and encourage children to be more successful in their education, the role of parents in children's education is to provide assistance, support or motivation and information about how to learn good and right.

Two things mentioned above will lead to confidence in the person of the students that this attitude will eventually bring independence to learn at them as well. The nature and positive attitude of self-concept refers to knowing about the advantages and weaknesses of themselves and accept both the advantages and weaknesses. Various traits of people who have properties such as the above tend to be proud of her ability, always fighting for his ability in management, never retreat, accept themselves and others what it is, and not run away from reality.

Result of the learning process is measured based on the results achieved by a student's learning is the result of interaction of various factors that affect and relate to each other among other non-cognitive character. Non-cognitive character that among others motivations, interests, attitudes, talents, self concept, parents attention, independence and so forth.

In the curriculum development, curriculum of Vocational High School is different with the other high schools. Philosophically, preparation curriculum of vocational school need to consider the psychological development of learners and the development or socio-cultural conditions of society life[3]. In general, people experiencing psychological development of mining in accordance with age and other

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[2] Muhammad Yaumi, *Pengaruh Perhatian Orang Tua, Konsep Diri, Dan Kemandirian Belajar Terhadap Prestasi Belajar Bahasa Inggris Siswa Kelas X MAN 2 Makasar (Survey Kausal),* Thesis, Jakarta: Universitas Negeri Jakarta, 2008, p. 5.

[3] Depdiknas, *Kurikulum SMK Edisi 2006*, Jakarta: Depdiknas, 2003, p.1.

factors is the educational background, family economic and social environment that lead to differences in physical dimensions, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual. In the age range of students at vocational schools, they have a tendency to seek the identity.

Vocational school students come from members of various communities that have cultural environment, values, and different social condition. So, it also considers the social condition. Therefore all efforts must always hold fast to the harmonious relations between individuals in a society that is based on morals and noble character, and the harmony between the education system with other systems (economic, social, political, religious, and moral).

Vocational education teaches and trains students to master the competencies and other competencies. It is needed as a capital to develop them in the future. This is what underlies the differences in the preparation and development of vocational education curriculum and other high school that conform to students' respective fields. However, the difference is a systematic curriculum that adjusts to their respective fields and supporting facilities. But in the general subjects are all the same because they are also the supporter of subjects and must be implemented in every educational institution, such as English, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, and others. However, problems often occur in subjects that are considered very difficult for students is learning English. Because of the difficulty for them is the first language differences they have. Whereas the English language lessons also needed to support their vocational program competencies.

Language learning is one of the important languages for human's social development, because language learning is a process of habit formation. The more often something is repeated, the stronger the habit and the greater the learning.[4]

One of the well known languages is english, because it is an international language. We can see that it looks like a primer language in many aspects; they are like trade, social cultural, science, and technology goals. In Indonesia english language is the one important of subject material. It is taught of the formal and informal education because English subject is an adaptive learning that purpose to provide the students skill to communicate English in communication material context which needed in their expertise program, either orally or written.[5] Therefore English becomes compulsory subject that is learned starting from elementary school up to university.

Nowadays a lot of educational problems occur at school. The problems faced are closely related to the students and learning. Students are given the learning at school. Most of the students `are more emphasized on the skill of English language. As a foreign language, there are four skills that must be mastered by the students, such as: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.[6] Moreover, all of them must be supported by mastering vocabulary and structure. By mastering them, they can be easy to understand and apply English well. Because without mastering them, they will be difficult and find problem to learn the four skills that must be mastered. This

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[4] Diane Larsen-Freeman, *Techniques and Principles in Language Teaching*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, p. 43.
[5] Depdiknas, *Model Silabus Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan SMK,* p. 51.
[6] Depdiknas, *Kurikulum 2004 Standar Kompetensi Mata Pelajaran Bahasa Inggris Sekolah Atas Dan Madrasah Aliyah*, Jakarta: Depdiknas, 2003, p. 6.

assumption relate to Chaer, the difficulties in learning English is influenced by three factors; (1) Morphology; (2) Phonology; (3) Syntax.[7]

Each student is unique, meaning that the physical condition, mentally and socially they are different from each other. The consequences of their acquisition is not the same in their learning and achievements of each student. Learning achievement of students would be better if there is willingness of students to study harder. This case is the power to choose and realize a goal. Strength will react if provoked by the efforts to meet the needs. If the will is emphasized on personal interests, the willingness to self-actualize as a driving force acts reaches the goal. In other words, strength of will of a person against the background by way of his learning experience.

Based on the observation, at SMK Kesehatan Maranatha Palangka Raya, beside lack of school facilities are still inadequate yet, this school has a variety of student characteristics and different social background, both contained in the state of being students themselves and their educational background origin. This certainly has the experience and different learning ways and can also affect their learning achievements. In the learning process they are required to achieve good results.

At the Tenth Grade Students of SMK Kesehatan Maranatha Palangka Raya, many students cannot understand anything about English learning. They have a problem in English learning especially in implementation their vocabularies. For example when they are given the writing assignment to make a simple sentence,

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[7]Abdul Chaer, *Psikolinguitik Kajian Teoritik*, Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2003, p. 253.

paragraph and others. From the few words they write, only one or two English words they can write. In classroom, most students cannot speak and read English anything as much as suggested and required by the curriculum or ordered by their teacher. They only speak and read when the teacher speaks before and the students just follow it. Even sometimes just silent and confusion on the place. Whereas the purpose of English learning for students are order to have ability as follow; (1) Master the basic knowledge and skills to support the achievement of English language competency skills program; (2) Applying the abilities and mastery of English language skills to communicate either verbally or in writing at the intermediate level.[8] But in fact, most of students are not able to understand and receive the lesson. Even the students often disconnect or miscommunication what the teacher asks them.

Based on the statement above that the students have a problem how to apply their vocabularies in English skills (listening, reading, writing, and speaking). This lesson implies that learning a foreign language course should have skills in the understanding of language transfer, L1 to L2 or L2 to L1. This is very influential on their prior learning experience. In comprehending and accepting the lesson, as for the students who may lack of educational background, usually they will be difficult to get the same result with the other their classmates; it is the problem for them, so it needs more time to help their problem and difficulty in guidance the lesson.

We have known that learning a foreign language requires the students to learn its vocabulary. It has an important element and important role in language learning

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[8]Depdiknas, *Model Silabus Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan SMK,* p. 51.

because learning vocabulary is the one of the first step of learning a second language. It is a process of helping learner to learn about words that have meaning for a particular language. Without adequate knowledge of English vocabulary, the students are not able to communicate well in English. How to communicate with other or how to develop the four skills in English learning is by vocabulary mastery, as it one of the language component in communicative competence. It is like Endang fauziaty states that vocabulary is central to language and critical importance to typical language learner. Without a sufficient vocabulary, one cannot communicate effectively or express his ideas in both oral and written form. Having limited vocabulary is also a barrier that precludes learner from learning a foreign language. When don't know how to enrich their vocabulary, for example, the gradually lost interesting learning.[9]

Based on the background above, the writer is very interested to conduct a research entitled **" Vocabulary Learning Problems at the Tenth Grade Students of SMK Kesehatan Maranatha Palangka Raya"**.

B. Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the problem of the study is what are vocabulary learning problems at the tenth grade students of SMK Kesehatan Maranatha Palangka Raya?

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[9] Endang Fauziati, *Teaching of English as a Foreign Language,* Surakarta: Muhammadiayah Universitas Press, 2002, p. 155

C. Objective of the Study

Objectives of the study are to describe and find out students' vocabulary learning problems at the grade students of SMK Kesehatan Maranatha Palangka Raya.

D. The Significances of The Study

The results of this study has two significances. The first is theoretical significance and the second is practical significance.

Theoretically, the result will be the additional information about vocabulary learning problems at the tenth grade students of SMK Kesehatan Maranatha Palangka Raya.

Practically: the first, for the teacher the result will give contribution in handling vocabulary learning problems at the tenth grade students of SMK Kesehatan Maranatha Palangka Raya. Secondly, the research will get and find out the vocabulary size and vocabulary aspects in learning English at the tenth grade students of SMK Kesehatan Maranatha Palangka Raya, while for the students this study can motivate them to improve and solve their problems in vocabulary learning. The third, this study can be refference to improve the knowledge and experience for the writer.

E. Scope and Limitation

Based on the problems and purposes of the study above, the writer would like to make scope and limitation of this research.

The scope of this study belongs to case study on vocabulary learning problems. Beside that, the study also discuss about how do the students learning

strategy to solve the problems in learning vocabulary. The object or participant of the study are the the tenth grade students of SMK Kesehatan Maranatha Palangka Raya. Especially the students who get low scores.

F. Definition Of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstsanding and misinterpretation in reading this study, the definitions of terms are described as follows:

1. Vocabulary is all the words that a person knows or uses[10]. Furthermore, According to Nunan states that Vocabulary is essential for successful second language learning, because without an extensive vocabulary the students will be unable to use the structure functions. The students have learner for comprehensible communication.[11]

2. Learning is to observe, to read, to imitate, to try something themselves, to listen, to follow direction.[12] In this study refers to language learning. Language learning is a process of habit formation. The more often something is repeated, the stronger the habit and the greater the learning.[13]

3. The problems are: (1) An emerging issue for study, consideration, or solution; (2) a source of confusion or difficulty; (3) a doubt that interfere with or complex, (4) the difficulties that need to be solved or confirmed (the difficulty which need

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[10] A.s Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, Oxford University Press, 1995.p. 1226.

[11] David Nuna*n, Second Language Teaching and Learning,* New York: Thomson Publishing Company, 1999, p. 101.

[12] Sardiman A.M, *Interaksi & Motivasi Belajar Mengajar,* Jakarta: PT. Grafindo Persada, 2000, p. 20.

[13] Diane Larsen-Freeman, *Techniques and Principles in Language Teaching*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, p. 43.

solved or made sure)[14]. A problem can be said an obstacle which makes it difficult to achieve a desired goal, objective or purpose. It refers to a situation, condition, or issue that is yet unresolved. In a broad sense, a problem exists when an individual becomes aware of a significant difference between what actually is and what is desired between one or more individual. In the presents study, problems refers to the students in learning vocabulary.

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[14] Komarrudin, *Kamus Istilah Karya Ilmiah, Artikel "Ilmiah"*, Jakarta: Bumi Aksara, 2002, p. 145.