

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes background of study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of study, variable of the study, hypothesis, scope and limitation, operational definition of key terms, and framework of discussion. Each point is presented as follows.

A. Background of Study

Language is the system of sounds and words used by human to express their thought and feeling. Language is also particular way or style of speaking or writing signs, symbol, gestures etc. used for indicating ideas or feeling.¹

English is more needed for communication, especially in our own country, it because English is decided to be the language of international communication now. English becomes a means of communication for different countries, including in Indonesia itself.² English is taught starting from the Junior High School until Senior High School or even until university level and English is one of the subjects which are included in the national examination. So, the students' must get good score in English subject. When learning English, there are four achievements that are needed for complete communication. Those are listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition, studying English means that we study the language about

¹Hornby, *oxford Advanced learner's dictionary*, New York :oxford
Lingualinks Library, *Listening Comprehension Skil*..

how to listen, how to speak, how to read, and how to write. These four achievements are related to each other. That is important point to communicate in English well.

Therefore, the student have to master that four basic of language skills, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Beside such basic skill, the Student has to master some Vocabularies as well as possible, vocabulary is one important aspect in learning a foreign Language. With a limited vocabulary anyone will also has limited understanding in terms of speaking, reading, listening and writing. It is true that it might be impossible to learn a Language without mastering vocabulary. is one of the problems confronted by English Language learner. Because of the limited vocabulary, the learners cannot communicate to others clearly. Sometimes it is difficult to group the idea transmitted to them. The acquisitions of a large number of vocabularies can help the student read, speak, listen, and write. A good vocabulary and ability to use words correctly and effectively can help the Student make School work easier and more rewarding, and also many test that they take in school in could vocabulary questions. The more vocabularies the know the better their chance to do well on an English test. ³

Mastering vocabulary is the ability to get or to receive a lot of words. By having and mastering vocabulary we will know the

³Daryanti, *Teaching Vocabulary Using English Crossword Puzzle as an alternative medium to improve vocabulary mastery* an action research at SDN 1Badakarya Banjarnegara, *Thesis*, Surakarta: Universitas Muhamadiyah,2008.

meaning of vocabulary in context. Measuring vocabulary helps to avoid making mistakes in understanding. Vocabulary has essential influence on the language skills. It connects the four language skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. All of the skills will not take place without vocabulary. To read, the students need vocabulary to comprehend the text, but it will be difficult if they lack of vocabulary. When students want to master a language, they must learn vocabulary. Sometimes students are doubtful to express their ideas because they have limited vocabulary.⁴

Vocabulary is the first thing that every student learns in their formal and informal education. It assumed that if the students learn English in earlier age, of course they have much vocabulary by now. But the fact is they still have problem in learning English vocabulary. Students have difficulties to memorize the vocabulary. They just memorize the word if in the classroom, but after that they sometimes forgot what they have learned before. It happened since most of the teachers did not give them an impressive lesson and no exposure to the language outside the classroom. So, they forget their vocabulary easily and it makes teaching and learning vocabulary needs developing. One way in learning vocabulary is by using mnemonic

⁴ Amin and Limpo, *Using Mnemonic Technique in Improving English Vocabulary Achievement of the Second grade Students (Quasi Experimental)* (Online), 2013, P. 1.

technique. It helps the students learn basic facts and new vocabulary, which they need to acquire when teaching a new subject.⁵ The use of mnemonic techniques has been demonstrated to be very effective in leading to the learning and retention of vocabulary.⁶

Learning new vocabulary is a principal issue in learning of a foreign language. Such issue has led to a wide range of research and pedagogical interest. Despite this interest there has been considerable debate about the most effective way to develop students' FL vocabulary. One such issue concerns the effectiveness of a range of possible cognitive strategies (e.g. mnemonic associations) involved in vocabulary learning and empirical validation over time of the strategies actually mentioned.⁷

Then, the English teacher has to be able to organize teaching and learning activities; they have to give materials by using a suitable technique and master the lesson effectively. Especially in learning vocabulary, teachers must make the student able to memorize such words in English Language and group of new words. The statements above mean, vocabulary is important to teach and teachers must try to find the most effective way to teach it. One of techniques to make the student enjoy and interesting in teaching learning is by using

⁵ *Ibid*, P. 2.

⁶ Dongmei Wang and Peter Kelly, Making Vocabulary Memorization Strategies More Effective and Enjoyable for first Year Chinese University Students, *The English Teacher in China*, Vol. XI, No. 2, August 2013, P. 76.

⁷ Fatemeh Anjomafrouz and Ghaffar Tajalli, Effects of Using Mnemonic Associations on Vocabulary Recall of Iranian EFL Learners over Time, *International Journal of English Linguistics*, Vol. 2, No. 4, July 2012, P. 101.

Mnemonic technique. By using mnemonics, a learner can develop better ways to take in information so that it will be much easier to remember and retrieve.⁸

Vocabulary is language component which very important in English competence. In the vocabulary English subject, students must have many of vocabulary for mastering English. Students are expected to be able to memorize vocabulary in the form of oral and written communication in daily context.⁹ Based on interview to one of the English teacher named R. Tunas in SMAN 3 of Palangka Raya¹⁰, researchers found that vocabulary is the hardest language component to be mastered, because the ability to memorize vocabulary in foreign language is important.

In the SMAN 3 of Palangka Raya, all students in the second grade especially in XIIS 3 and X-MIA 1 still have difficulties in memorizing vocabulary in English. Sometimes students feel bored in teaching and learning process without interesting technique to support and create a good atmosphere in the class. So, the writer tries a technique used to teach English vocabulary in the class. Mnemonic technique be used as a method or technique order that they interested to learn vocabulary English and to easy them memorizing vocabulary.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Mohammad Amiryousefi, Mnemonic Instruction: A Way to Boost Vocabulary Learning and Recall, *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, Vol. 2, No. 1, January 2011, P. 178-182.

¹⁰ On February 18th 2014.

Based on the background of the study above, the writer conducts the research entitled: **THE EFFECT OF MNEMONIC TECHNIQUE ON VOCABULARY RECALL OF THE TENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMAN 3 PALANGKA RAYA.**

B. Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the problem of the study are is follows:

“ Do the students who are taught using Mnemonic Technique memorize vocabulary better than those who are taught using another technique?”

C. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study based on the background of the study is to investigate the effectiveness of Mnemonic technique on Vocabulary.

D. Significances of the Study

The study has two significances. The first is theoretically significance and the second is practically significance. Theoretically, this study strengthen the existing theories on vocabulary memorizing ability in learning English.

Practically, the results of the study is to give scientific contribution both by the teacher and the students and it can enable the teachers to use Mnemonic technique besides of that this study

expected to be some beneficial information for further investigation. In addition, Mnemonic is technique of the pre memorizing strategies that can be used by teachers as an alternative technique of pre memorizing strategies to be applied in vocabulary classes.

E. Variable of the Study

In Quasi experimental research, there are two types of variable to be observed: independent and dependent variable. Independent variable is a variable that influences the dependent variable.¹¹ Meanwhile, dependent variable is the variable in an experiment, which changes as a result of the independent variable, the effect, in a study of cause and effect.¹² In the present study there are two variables, independent and dependent variable. The independent variable is using Mnemonic technique. Meanwhile, the dependent variable is students' vocabulary memorize ability.

F. Hypothesis

Hypothesis is a formal statement of what the researcher expects to find when he/she conducts experiment.¹³ The study hypothesis is stated as follow;

¹¹ Uma, Sekaran. *Research Methods for Business: A skill Building Approach*. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc, 1992) P. 366.

¹² Richard D. Parson, et al. *Educational Psychology: A Practitioner – Researcher Model of Teaching*. (Canada, Wadsworth Thomson Learning Inc., 2001) P. 489.

¹³ Jenifer, Larson Hall. *A Guide to Doing Statistics in Second Language Research Using SPSS*. (New York: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, 2010) P. 394.

Ha: The students using Mnemonic technique memorize have higher scores than those using another technique.

Ho: The students using Mnemonic technique memorize do not have higher scores than those using another technique.

G. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study belongs to experimental study: quasi –experimental study by applying counterbalance procedure to collect the data. The study is conducted at the class XIIS 3 and X-MIA 1 of the tenth grade students of SMAN 3 Palangka Raya. And the number of the subject of the study is 30 students.

The limitation of the study is using Mnemonic technique on vocabulary to memorize ability. In a more specific focused, this study is concentrated on investigating the effect of Mnemonic technique like the method of loci on vocabulary and only one technique will be used to increase the English vocabulary at SMAN 3 of Palangka Raya. In the study, researcher focused use simple words so that they are more easy to memorize vocabulary such as noun, verb and adjective.

H. Operational Definition of Key Terms

- 1. The effect:** The effect is a change caused by something.¹⁴ Related to the study, a change of something is the change of the students' English score of the tenth grade student of SMAN 3 Palangka Raya after given treatment; that is taught by mnemonic technique.
- 2. Content vocabulary:** Content vocabulary is the total number of words in a language, or all the words known to a person or used in a particular book, subject, etc, or a list of words with their meanings.¹⁵ Writer defines vocabulary as knowledge of words and word meaning in both oral and print language.
- 3. Mnemonic:** The word *mnemonic* is derived from the Greek word *Mnemosyne*, referring to the ancient Greek goddess of memory.¹⁶ Mnemonic strategies are systematic procedures for enhancing memory.¹⁷
- 4. Memory:** Memory is one of those words that everyone knows at an intuitive definition level but that is actually very complex and difficult

¹⁴ Karen E. Patzelt, *Principles of WL and Implication for ESL Learners*, Pall, 1995, P. 3.

¹⁵ A S Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, Oxford University Press, 1995. p. 1331.

¹⁶ Mohammad Amiryousefi, Mnemonic Instruction: A Way to Boost Vocabulary Learning and Recall, *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, Vol. 2, No. 1, January 2011, P. 179.

¹⁷ Margo A. Mastropieri and Thomas E. Scruggs, *Enhancing School Success with Mnemonic Strategies*, (Online), 1998, P. 1.

to universally capture the details of.¹⁸ While in this study, researcher focuses to measure of memorizing ability.

5. Recall: Remembrance of what has been heard, seen, or otherwise experienced, such as that of an advertisement, commercial, or demonstration. See also recall test.¹⁹ Based on the explanation above, researcher clarify that recall is the same meaning with memorizing ability.

I. Framework of the Discussion

The frameworks of the discussion of this study are:

- Chapter I : Introduction which consists of background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significances of the study, variable of the study, hypothesis, scope and limitation, definition of key terms, framework of the discussion.
- Chapter II : Review of related literature that consist of the related studies, definition of vocabulary, types of vocabulary, use of vocabulary, definition of mnemonic, types of mnemonic, advantages and disadvantages of mnemonic technique.
- Chapter III : Research Method that consist of research design, place

¹⁸ Dean Lori Shaw, *Learning Theory How we learn*, University of Dayton's Academic Support Program, 2007. P. 1.

¹⁹ Oxford Dictionary, Definition of Recall, 2014.
<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/recall.html>.

of the study, population and sample of the study,
instruments of the study, instruments try out, data
collection procedures.

Chapter IV : Research finding and discussions that consist of data
presentasion and the result of data analysis.

Chapter V : Clossing that consist of conclusion and suggestion.