

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This thesis presents a study of the effect of reading online newspapers as an authentic reading material toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally, especially on the third semester English education major students' incidental acquisition of unknown vocabulary while they read online newspapers. This chapter covers background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significances of the study, variables of the study, hypotheses of the study, operational definition of key terms, scope and limitation of the study, and framework of the discussion.

A. Background of The Study

Vocabulary is a central of the language, without any vocabulary nothing can be understood. According to Wilkins puts that without grammar very little can be conveyed, but without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed¹. Also vocabulary is an important factor that can determine the goodness of language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Vocabulary has been a neglected area for a long time, even though it is essential for the mastery of language. Rivers has also argued that the acquisition of adequate vocabulary is essential for successful second language use because without an extensive vocabulary, we will not be able to use the structures and functions we may have learned for comprehensible communication.² According to

¹ Scott Thornbury. *How To Teach Vocabulary*. (England: Pearson longman, 2007). p. 13.

² Fateme Moradian Fard and Samira Atefi Boroujeni. "Incidental Vocabulary Acquisition via Reading for Pleasure". (Iran:IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science. Vol. 11,

Zimmerman, Vocabulary is central to language. Furthermore, it is crucially important to the language learner. And Grabe state that in terms of reading process, vocabulary knowledge is the general component knowledge in the process, and has been recognized as a critical feature of reading ability.³ So, vocabulary is one of crucial element which has to mastery by language learners and they cannot comprehend what their read if they have no vocabulary. Because of that, the one way which English learners do is they have to learn how to acquired vocabulary.

In the field of vocabulary acquisition, according to Hasbun stated that reading is a strategy recommended for the learning of vocabulary. Reading is a main source of input for learners in the foreign language classroom.⁴ So, reading is necessary for our study and our life. It can open our knowledge about everything we want. Absolutely, from reading we can improve our ability. Allah in his Koran also asked to His adherent that they should reading. It has written in the first surah of Koran that is Al-Alaq in verse 1-5:

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ
 خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ
 اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ
 الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ
 وَالْإِنْسَانُ لَكَفُورٌ
 فَاقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ

Meaning:

1. Read! In the name of God who created.
2. He already created the human from a lump of blood.
3. Read, and Thy God who Merciful,

Issue 5, May-June, 2013). p. 69. (<http://iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/vol11-issue5/L01156973.pdf>) accessed on December 14th, 2015, 5:26

³ Wilaiwan Lebkatem. "Incidental Vocabulary Acquisition through Newspaper Reading: The impact of Content Familiarity". (Thesis to Prince of Songkla University, 2012). p. 1 (<http://kb.psu.ac.th/psukb/bitstream/2010/9278/1/361989.pdf>) accessed on December 14th, 2015, 5:25

⁴ Wilaiwan Lebkatem. *ibid.* p. 9

4. Who taught (human) with intermediate Kalam.
5. He taught them what they did not know.

Based on the surah above, Allah has ordered us to read. He said that he already taught (human) what they did know before. So, it is way to increase their knowledge and ability. Although, there are some of human still lack of their reading for many reasons. For example, some students do not realized that they get new vocabulary when they read a book or others English material. After they read book they got nothing or nothing happen except a bit comprehension but this is really central because when the students read a book there are a lots of vocabulary provided inside the book or text that they can get. As many books you read many vocabulary you get. Thus, reading has some role in our way to learn anything.

The role of reading, according to Day and Bamford, is that reading can develop not only a large sight vocabulary, but also a general vocabulary knowledge and knowledge of the target language, the world and types texts.⁵ So, by reading, people can develop their knowledge or ability whether it by conscious or unconscious processes.

According to Richards and Rodgers, acquisition is an “unconscious process that involves the naturalistic development of language proficiency through understanding language and through language for meaningful communication”.⁶ The acquisition in this study involves vocabulary in

⁵ Wilaiwan Lebkatem. *ibid.* p.2

⁶ Gabriella Torres. “The Task-Based Syllabus: Promoting L2 Acquisition and Learner Empowerment in an EFL Classroom”. (South Korea: International Journal of Education, Vol. 6, No. 2, 2014). p. 14

reading activity. Nagy et al. stated that the acquisition of vocabulary while learners are engaged in this activity is usually referred to as incidental learning.⁷

Based on the researcher's experience in reading class, students encounter new vocabulary in the reading material which given by lecturer. The lecturer gave the students text from her textbooks and asked them to found out the information which she wants the students found. She not gave the instruction to them to found out the new vocabulary, but naturally, the students encounter new vocabulary inside the text which given by her. Normally, to comprehend the text, the students guessed the new word in each sentences. But, any some of the students did not guessing it and only focused on the information which asked by lecturer without attention its vocabulary. Beside that, the students seem bored and uninterested to read it. So, to attract and help students to learn English is, by using authentic material such as newspaper, magazine or others authentic materials to improve their vocabulary acquisition incidentally. Afterwards, many researchers have agreed that the English newspaper has a variety of subject matter compared to textbook. This is because they reflect events of life in the world and this makes them real to students which textbooks are not.⁸

(<http://www.macrothink.org/journal/index.php/ije/article/viewFile/5254/4418>) accessed on March 4th, 2016, 18:00

⁷ Wilaiwan Lebkatem. *op. cit.* p. 9

⁸ Juhari Sham bin Jusoh. 2016.

https://www.academia.edu/28041647/USING_AUTHENTIC_READING_MATERIALS_TO_IMPROVE_STUDENTS_VOCABULARY_ACQUISITION

English-language newspapers are becoming increasingly available throughout the world, and today, more than eighty non-English-speaking countries produce at least one English-language newspaper.⁹ Any some of ways to obtain newspapers easily, one of them is from internet. Through the internet, we are now able to access thousands of newspapers worldwide, and this figure is increasing daily.¹⁰ Based on the explanation above, the researcher will use online newspaper as an authentic reading material in the classroom.

According to the facts above, it is commonly accepted that reading is one of major sources of vocabulary learning. Words can be acquired incidentally through reading. Then, reading authentic material such as newspapers or magazine can improve the students' vocabulary acquisition, so the researcher interest to present the study entitled:

**“INCIDENTAL VOCABULARY ACQUISITION THROUGH
READING ONLINE NEWSPAPERS BY THE THIRD SEMESTER
STUDENTS AT THE ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM OF
IAIN PALANGKA RAYA”**

B. Problems of The Study

The main problems of the study as follows:

⁹ Paul Sanderson. 1999. *Using Newspapers in the Classroom*. Cambridge University press: New York. p. 5

¹⁰ Paul Sanderson. *Ibid.* *ibid.* p. 7

1. Is there any significant effect of reading online newspapers toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally by the third semester students at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya?
2. What are the third semester students' attitudes at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya towards learning words incidentally to acquire vocabulary through reading English texts and online newspapers?

C. Objectives of The Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To measure the effect of reading online newspapers toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally by the third semester students at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya.
2. To describe the third semester students' attitudes at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya towards learning words incidentally to acquire vocabulary through reading English texts and online newspapers.

D. Significances of The Study

The study has two significances namely theoretical significance and practical significance. Theoretical significance of this study especially for the researcher is to provide more evidence and clarity of incidental vocabulary acquisition through reading online newspaper.

Practical significance of this study is the result of this study can give contribution to the teachers or lecturers, students and future researchers in learning. In order to convince the lecturers and students which vocabulary can acquire incidentally through reading online newspaper. So, the teachers or lecturers can use it as the additional reading material in the classroom and the students can use it as the additional resource to reading in classroom or outside the classroom. The last, for the future researchers, this study can give profit to investigating incidental vocabulary acquisition in reading with different method or approach.

E. Variables of the study

There are two variables here those are independent variable and dependent variable. Independent variable is an attribute or characteristic that influences or affects an outcome or dependent variable.¹¹ In experimental research, the independent variable is the manipulated variable and the effect of that manipulation is observed or measured on one or more dependent variables.¹² And dependent variable is an attribute or characteristic that is dependent on or influenced by the independent variable.¹³ Thus, based on seeing the title, from the variable side, it can be gotten that independent variable in this study is reading online newspapers and dependent variable is incidental vocabulary acquisition.

¹¹ John W. Creswell. *Educational Research: planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research*. 2012. Pearson: New York. p. 116

¹² Kathleen deMarrais and Staphen D. Lapan. *Foundations for Research Methods of Inquiry and The Social Sciences*. 2004. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers: London. p.332

¹³ John W. Creswell. *Op.cit* . p. 115

F. Hypotheses of the study

Linking the independent and the dependent variable is a hypothesis. A hypothesis is simply a conjecture or a hunch about the relationship between two variables, usually limited to the independent and dependent variables.¹⁴ Hypotheses are statements in quantitative research in which the investigator makes a prediction or a conjecture about the outcome of a relationship among attributes or characteristics. Traditionally used in experiments, they serve, like research questions, to narrow the purpose statement to specific predictions.¹⁵ In experimental research, traditionally, there are two distinct types of hypotheses: the null hypothesis (Ho) and the alternative hypothesis (Ha). The alternative hypothesis is the one we want to be true, the null hypothesis is the opposite.¹⁶ So, the researcher formulates the hypotheses in this study are follow:

1. Alternative Hypotheses (Ha)

- a) Ha₁: There is significant effect of reading online newspapers toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally by the third semester students at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya.
- b) Ha₂: The third semester students have positive attitudes at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya towards

¹⁴ Kathleen deMarrais and Staphen D. Lapan. *Op. cit.* P.333

¹⁵ John W. Creswell. *Op.cit.* p. 111

¹⁶ Daniel Muijs. 2004. *Doing Quantitative Research in Education with SPSS*. Sage Publications: London. p. 16

learning words incidentally to acquire vocabulary through reading English texts and online newspapers.

2. Null Hypotheses (Ho)

- a) Ho₁: There is no significant effect of reading online newspaper toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally by the third semester students at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya.
- b) Ho₂: The third semester students have negative attitudes at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya towards learning words incidentally to acquire vocabulary through reading English texts and online newspapers.

G. Operational Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of the concepts in this study, some definitions are provided as below:

1. Incidental Vocabulary

Incidental is accompanying, but not a major part of something, minor.¹⁷ Then, *Vocabulary* is the total number of words in a language.¹⁸ Thus, *incidental vocabulary* means that vocabulary is not a major part which the students attain while reading.

¹⁷ A.S Hornby. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. 1995. Oxford University press: New York. p. 601

¹⁸ A.S Hornby. *ibid*. p. 1331

2. Vocabulary Acquisition

Vocabulary acquisition refers to the unconscious process that involves vocabulary which acquired by learners during reading.

3. Incidental vocabulary acquisition

Incidental vocabulary acquisition means learners could acquire vocabulary by paying their attention to other things, especially information carried on by the language, and not to learn vocabulary technically.

4. Reading

Reading is a complex behavior decoding words, developing fluency, and improving comprehension.¹⁹

3. Online Newspaper

Online newspaper is a regularly updated online publication containing news articles and other content relating to current events.

H. Scope and Limitation of The Study

The study was focused on investigating the incidental vocabulary acquisition through reading online newspapers. Specifically, to measure the effect of reading online newspapers toward students' vocabulary acquisition incidentally by the third semester students at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya. Also, to investigate the students' attitudes towards learning words incidentally to acquire vocabulary through reading of

¹⁹ K. Michael Hibbard & Elizabeth A. Wagner. *Assessing and Teaching Reading Comprehension and Writing*, 3-5. Vol 4. 2003. Eye On Education: London. p. 1

the third semester students at the English education study program of IAIN Palangka Raya through reading English texts and online newspapers.

I. Assumption of The Study

1. The students can acquire vocabulary incidentally through reading online newspaper. Therefore, the number of vocabulary which their gain can be influenced by their level comprehension and the content of the text.
2. The students may access online newspaper because they able to access the internet.
3. The students give positive attitude toward reading English texts and reading online newspaper.

J. Framework of The Discussion

Framework of the discussion of the study as follows:

- Chapter I : Introduction consists of background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significances of the study, operational definition of key terms, scope and limitation of the study, assumption of the study, and framework of the discussion.
- Chapter II : Review of related literature consists of previous studies, vocabulary (nature of vocabulary, kinds of vocabulary, the importance of vocabulary, and vocabulary strategy), reading (nature of reading and the importance of reading), Newspaper (definition of newspaper, the importance of using newspapers in the classroom, and

access to newspapers), incidental vocabulary acquisition.

Chapter III : Research method consists of research type, research design, population and sample, time and place, research instrument (instrument, research instrument reliability and validity), data collection techniques, data collection procedures, and data analysis.

Chapter IV : Finding and Discussion

Chapter V : Closing