

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

English is an international language. Almost all countries have adapted English as compulsory subject in schools. The national education has decided that English should be taught as a foreign language in Indonesian schools. It is taught from primary school up to university. People realize that teaching English at this level becomes very important and need much attention. As an English teacher, he or she demands to explore effective techniques, method, and approaches. The students have to master the four basic language skills that are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Beside these basic skill, the student has to master vocabulary as well.

Vocabulary is an important aspect in learning a foreign language. In order to communicate well in a foreign language, student should acquire a sufficient number of words and know how to use them accurately. There are many factors which influence the student vocabulary. They are intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Intrinsic factors mean factors which come from inside of the students such as; motivation, intelligence, passion and interest. And extrinsic factors mean factors which come from outside of the students that affect their learning process such as; economic background, learning material, teacher's performance including their teaching method.

Vocabulary is a crucial component in acquiring and understanding language. With limited vocabulary anyone would have a limited understanding in terms of four basic skills (speaking, reading, listening, and writing). It is true that it might be impossible to learn a language without mastering vocabulary. Vocabulary is one of the problems faced by English language learners. Because of the limited vocabulary, the learners cannot communicate to others clearly. Sometimes it is difficult to group the idea transmitted to them. The acquisition of a large number of vocabularies can help the students read, speak, listen, and write.

A good vocabulary and ability to use words correctly and effectively can help the students make school work easier and more rewarding, and also many tests they take in school including vocabulary questions. The more vocabulary they know the better their chance to do well in an English test. Reading is a good thing in life because it is a factor of great importance in the individual development and the most important activity in school. It is needed at every level of field of study. Particularly in cases when students have to read English materials for their own special subject.

According to H. G. Tarigan (1986 p. 2), the quality of language skill depends on the quantity and quality of vocabulary. The more vocabulary we have, the bigger possibility to have a skill to use the language. Mastering vocabulary is the ability to get or to receive a lot of words. By having and mastering vocabulary we will know the meaning of vocabulary in the context. Measuring vocabulary helps to avoid making mistakes in understanding.

On the other hand, foreign students learn English reading text, those who lacks of vocabulary, whereas in fact vocabulary is the most important thing in reading skill. Nowadays, the ability to comprehend English is necessary for people and also to understand English, people should be able to communicate in English and also read many kinds of English text. The ability to read is crucial in contemporary society. People find many texts written in English, from holiday brochures to academic books, newspaper, advertisements, etc. Therefore, the ability to read English text in any form will give a great deal of advantage in our lives.

Reading is the act of interpreting written word. Through reading we acquire new ideas, obtain needed information, seek support for our ideas and broaden our interest. The ability to read distinguishes human being from animals.

Reading is good thing in life because it is a factor of great importance in the individual development and the most important activity in school. We know the success in reading is the most necessary because it is a basic tool of education. That's why reading in English is very important.

Most of us when we find a difficult word, would still just continue our reading in the hope that the word we read is not really important or that its meaning will become clear later on. But sometimes the word that we skipped is the key of our reading and understanding. We cannot catch and grasp the idea from our reading as well as possible. So looking up the difficult words in a dictionary is better for us, but the skillful reader understands as they read.

From the explanation mentioned above, the writer wants to publish this research with the title "*The Correlation between Reading Ability and Vocabulary Mastery towards Students' Achievement in Eleventh Graders of SMA HUTAMA, Bekasi*". The writer choose this title because from the early observation, the writer got information that the problem faced by the students in studying and teaching English is reading and vocabulary. And to get empirical data about it the writer will organize the test result to prove the influence of students' achievement in reading and vocabulary. By getting the graders, the writer tried to find an answer about students' achievement in reading and vocabulary.

B. Problem of the Study

To make the problem clear, it is necessary for the writer to limit the problem. The limitation of the problem is as follow: The Correlation between Reading Ability and Vocabulary Mastery in Students' Achievement.

Based on the statement above the writer formulated the problem, is there any correlation between reading ability and vocabulary mastery in students' achievement?

C. Objective of the Study

This research must find how to determine the correlation between reading ability and vocabulary mastery in students' achievement and how significant is the correlation between reading ability and vocabulary mastery in students' achievement.

D. Significance of the study

The research will give some useful information about reading comprehension and vocabulary achievement. This research will also present the description and

correlation between student's reading and vocabulary at eleventh graders of SMA HUTAMA Bekasi in the academic year 2012/2013. Hopefully, the result of this study is useful for principal of the school, students, teachers and all the readers. The results will be used for the following:

1. For the principal of the school, it is expected that the result will provide input to improve students' achievement in reading ability and vocabulary mastery.
2. For the students, the result of this study would improve their reading ability through vocabulary mastery.
3. For the readers, the result of this study will be guideline for further related research.

E. Scope of the Study

Due to the researcher time and budget constraint, the participants in this study will be limited to students at SMA HUTAMA only. The researcher will take sample of data according to the formula of cluster sampling. In addition, the data will be collected through a survey and use instrument test. Therefore, the findings may be valid only to students in the single study program. It cannot be generalized to other students in other institutions.

F. Operational Definition

1. Correlation refers to close relationship between reading ability and vocabulary mastery in student's achievement

2. Reading is a communication process between the writer and the reader utilizing written language. In this term reading is an activity to read descriptive text material.
3. Reading Comprehension means the ability of getting information and main ideas from a text, especially vocabulary.
4. Vocabulary refers to the list of words that student's mastery.