

Chapter One

Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher shows several things underlying the research. This chapter also serves some points; they are background of the study, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the study, and significance of the study.

Background of the Study

The process of learning English is absolutely not easy, especially as an Indonesian. English is reputed as a foreign language in Indonesia and of course many things needed to be considered and learned to become proficient in English. Learning a language means learning the vocabulary. Susanti (2002) found that language cannot be separated from the vocabulary. Vocabulary is the words that are understood by the people, either the meaning or use. In addition, English has four language skills that consisted of listening, speaking, reading and writing. To do those language skills, the English learners need to possess good vocabularies. So it is important for learners to master the vocabulary because vocabulary has important roles in learning language.

Furthermore, to learn English language, the learners surely need to master the vocabulary. Mastering the vocabularies means that learners need to memorize thousands of words and they should understand the meaning of the words.

Vocabulary is all the words that exist in a particular language or subject (Cambridge Dictionary). Vocabulary was also one of the most important parts of communication in terms of conveying something to others. Without vocabulary,

communication would not run properly. In addition, someone who obtain more vocabularies would surely able to deliver something well and also can understand something faster than someone who mastered vocabulary poorly. This is supported by the statement of Nhung (2011) that without vocabulary, someone would have difficulty in delivering anything. The use of inappropriate vocabulary might cause misunderstandings between the parties who communicate and also give a bad impact on achieving the objectives of communication in terms of use, meaning, and pronunciation. In short, mastering vocabulary is very important to facilitate the learners to deliver something to someone else.

There are many ways to be conducted to master the vocabulary like listening the English song, watching English movie, using dictionary and thesaurus, playing word cards, and also reading. In this research, the researcher is interested in using reading as one way to master vocabulary. One of the effective ways to master the vocabulary was through reading. It was supported by Susanti (2002) who maintained that students, who had a good ability in reading, will master the vocabulary well. Hence, by reading frequently, the acquired knowledge and vocabulary would be increased automatically.

Based on the background that has been described previously, the researcher is interested to conduct the research in EED UMY. EED UMY is a major that devotes to learn English. According to the researcher observation EED UMY students do read rarely and they only have small numbers of vocabulary. In the view of the researcher, students possess problems whether there was a correlation between the students' reading habit and their vocabulary mastery. Therefore, the

researcher makes a study with the title “The Correlation between Reading Habit and Students’ Vocabulary Mastery at EED UMY”.

Limitation of the Problem

Based on the researcher experience, identifies that EED UMY students have difficulties faced by students in learning vocabulary. The difficulties are here addressed to the students who rarely read books, so that they have only small number of vocabulary. Frequently, the researcher finds when the students found new vocabulary they did not try to find the meaning. Moreover, the students were less in practice. When they had a new vocabulary they should have tried to use the vocabulary in their activity. Mastering the vocabulary could be done through several ways, such as listening to the songs, watching English movies, using dictionary and thesaurus, playing cards games, or reading. The researcher is interested to use reading as a technique to master vocabulary. The researcher is curious to focus in limited the research only in finding the correlation between students’ vocabulary mastery through reading.

Formulation of the Problem

This research is conducted to identify the correlation between reading habit and students’ vocabulary mastery at PBI UMY. In this study, the researcher has three following research questions:

1. How is the reading habit of the EED UMY students?
2. How is the vocabulary mastery of the EED UMY students?
3. What is the correlation between EED UMY students’ reading habit and their vocabulary mastery?

Objective of the Study

In order to answer the research questions, the researcher presents the purposes of the study. The purposes of this research are:

1. To find out the reading habit of the EED UMY students.
2. To reveal the vocabulary mastery of the EED UMY students.
3. To identify the correlation between the EED UMY students' reading habit and their vocabulary mastery.

Significance of the Study

This research hopes that this study can give some advantages for several parties including the researcher, students, teachers, other researchers and the institution.

The researcher. The researcher is attracted to apply reading as the ways to master the vocabulary. The researcher tries to acquire new vocabulary while reading; so that researcher can have a good vocabulary mastery. The results of this research may help the researcher add knowledge on whether there is a correlation between students' reading habit and their vocabulary mastery.

The students. Referring to this study, students can undertake reading as an effective way to acquire new vocabulary or master the vocabulary. The students who are interested in learning language should have good vocabulary, so through reading the students can gain many vocabularies.

The teachers. This research gave recommendation for the teachers to implement reading to develop students' vocabulary mastery in teaching and learning process.

Other researcher. This research will give advantage for other researchers. It can be one of the references for doing next research which has a related topic to this research.

The institution. This benefit is addressed to PBI UMY where the research was conducted. It is important for the institution to increase quality in the teaching and learning process. The institution can serve reading material, so that the students can build the habit of reading and the students' can master the vocabulary through reading.