

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter, the writer presents the definition of vocabulary, the importance of learning vocabulary, difficulties in learning vocabulary, factors causing vocabulary learning difficulties, and strategies in learning vocabulary.

2.1 The Definition of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is an essential requirement that affects student's achievement when learning English. Without the slightest vocabulary knowledge, students will have difficulty in communicating, reading, listening, or writing in English. So vocabulary has an important influence in this regard. If students do not master enough English words, they will have problems reading and understanding the text. Almost every school has an English exam for the National Examination starting from junior high school. Vocabulary is an essential element to support crucial skills such as listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills in learning English (Nugrahini, 2019). Therefore vocabulary is essential to understand. Students who have limited vocabulary will have difficulty clearly understanding what the questions mean when answering exam questions. And if students don't know how to improve their vocabulary, they will most likely lose interest in learning English because they will feel confused when deciphering English into Indonesian. Someone is expected to continue developing Vocabulary to communicate effectively, both in oral and written form. Vocabulary is the total number of words needed to share ideas and express the speaker's meaning (Alqatani, 2015).

Learning from the teacher in the classroom also affects students' vocabulary during the learning process. When the teacher only detects without letting students think and memorize vocabulary, student's development will not develop and may even decline because students will feel pampered, lazy to learn, and afraid of making mistakes. Teachers also often need to provide opportunities for students to answer questions or invite them to communicate or memorize vocabulary so that they are not lazy to learn and practice English. Appreciating student learning outcomes is also essential because, with every mistake, students will think of the correct answer and will not repeat the wrong answer. Make the classroom atmosphere fun, active, and conducive. Learning a foreign language is not easy. However, if it is not applied early to learn new things, students will not develop and will be lazy to learn. Without vocabulary, learning English cannot create elements of other languages, both pronunciation, spelling, and grammar (Balqis, 2018).

Thus, Vocabulary is the first step for students. If they want to succeed in English language skills, they must master the Vocabulary well. Knowing enough vocabulary will allow students to communicate with strangers or understand the meaning of reading easily. In addition, students can more easily take English tests and understand English reading books. Suppose people lack vocabulary or have little vocabulary in this regard. They will have difficulty in communicating and achieving if their vocabulary is still not good enough. In learning English, they must master vocabulary first and understand some aspects of vocabulary. Another understanding of vocabulary is that people can quickly develop their vocabulary by continuously practicing and not being afraid of mistakes.

From the explanation, it can be concluded that vocabulary is a list of words that contain essential components of language skills that have a form of expression and manage aspects, namely meaning, word use, pronunciation, and spelling.

2.2 The Importance of Learning Vocabulary

Learning Vocabulary is considered a necessary task for students who want to learn a foreign language. Students who do not have vocabulary cannot express their ideas clearly and precisely as they want. They cannot understand books written in English. Students who are rich in the vocabulary will be able to understand the lessons given by the teacher. They find it easier to understand English reading texts and express their ideas and thoughts in English in written and spoken form. Therefore, improving vocabulary is very important in learning a foreign language. Learning grammar is also needed later. Students cannot speak without knowledge of vocabulary (Silarova, 2011).

As it is known that learning English in junior high school uses quite a lot of vocabulary. The vocabulary used is also a word often used every day to read and hear new sayings. Understanding vocabulary in learning at school is considered very important because the national exam passing standard is also filled with English exams. Students are required to understand and understand the contents of the exam questions to get good grades. In educational matters, the use of language for social students also has a significant influence. Technology is increasingly sophisticated, and students must also be able to keep up with it. Some parents cannot give English lessons to their children, so students must maximize their knowledge at school so that their abilities remain stable and develop outside of school.

Vocabulary knowledge is one of the basic components that have a crucial role among the four language skills. It contributes to students performing their skills better. Students cannot do their English speech properly if their vocabulary is lacking. In short, having too limited a vocabulary makes it difficult to master language skills because good word storage is essential for

understanding and communication. Therefore, control of vocabulary must be a top priority in teaching English.

Without having an adequate amount of vocabulary, students will have difficulty developing language skills. For example, students will not understand the meaning of the text in reading or listening, and they will also have trouble speaking because they do not have a vocabulary. So vocabulary lessons are essential to be given to students in English subjects. Students need to recognize any vocabulary to achieve success in their studies. Word retrieval allows students to cover any language skills. In other words, vocabulary can be the key to success in language learning. Teachers must be creative in teaching vocabulary so that students can easily remember or remember foreign words. Even though students have mastered English vocabulary well, it does not guarantee the ideal use of English because their vocabulary is only the basis for learning English.



2.3 Difficulties in Learning Vocabulary

There are some difficulties for students in mastering Vocabulary. The first is that it is easy to forget even newly learned words. Remembering English words as a foreign language depends on the student's abilities. Several factors make English Vocabulary challenging to recognize and fail quickly, such as pronunciation and spelling. Several aspects make English Vocabulary challenging to identify and promptly forgotten, such as pronunciation and spelling. The second is student interest. Many students don't pay attention when the teacher explains the material because the learning process will be tiresome, so students don't give their feedback. Third, teaching materials. In teaching vocabulary, suitable materials are also needed. Teaching material is essential in the learning process. Correct material makes students interested in learning, and lousy material will make students bored.

In addition, the primary source of student difficulties is recognition. Too many words are also a source of a problem in learning English. In the teaching and learning experience, it is not possible to speak, read, translate, and write English well without mastering many words. So to improve the ability to speak, read, write, translate, and soon in English correctly, one needs to master many words. Furthermore, students must use and practice it continuously.

According to Thornbury as cited in (Astatia, 2019) there are three factors that make some words more difficult as follows:

- a. Pronunciation

Words that are potentially difficult for students to learn are usually words that have never been heard before, as it is known that English is not a language that is generally used in everyday life.

b. Spelling

Sound-spelling mismatches are likely to cause errors, either pronunciation or spelling, and can result in word difficulties. For example, the words "left" and "lift" are almost the same in writing, and they are nearly the same spelling.

c. Meaning

The meaning of words can also be a factor in students' difficulties in learning vocabulary. Because students' knowledge is lacking, sometimes students will also be fooled by the similarity of the word's meaning. For example, the word "Right" can be interpreted as "Right" and "Right." So the placement of words in a sentence also needs to understand the connection meaning of each word.

According to Huyen and Nga as cited in (Aristya, 2019) identify that four factors cause problems in mastery vocabulary. First, most students only refer to the teacher's explanation for meaning, pronunciation, spelling and boring grammar. Second, only students think of vocabulary learning as a primary knowing of new words. Therefore, they ignore all other functions of words. Third, students usually only get new vocabulary through new words in the textbook or the teacher during class lessons. Fourth, students don't want to sharpen what has been learned. So there will be no progress.

2.4 Factors Causing Vocabulary Learning Difficulties

A difficulty must have a cause. Students having difficulty learning vocabulary must also have a contributing factor. Although learning a foreign language is not easy, and students must understand the essential parts of English, researchers must also know the factors that make students challenging to learn English. According to Harmer as cited in (Balqis, 2018) four factors make the students learning difficulties. The following explanation:

a. Meaning of the word

One of the factors of difficulty in learning vocabulary is the meaning of words. Students must know what the word means so that there is no misunderstanding in understanding it. In learning vocabulary, students need to learn several word classifications such as: Distinguishing various meanings of one word with several related meanings, antonyms: opposite meanings, or synonyms: words that are close to the meaning of other words.

b. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is one of the factors that often make it difficult for students to learn vocabulary. The pronunciation system of English words must be read clearly. Many spellings are similar when reading sounds the same. For example, the term "right" can be interpreted in two ways, namely (right) for right and (right) for right. English pronunciation is indeed quite difficult if we do not understand the writing and the meaning of the words. The way we pronounce vocabulary depends on how it sounds to our ears. Therefore, it is essential to listen to the correct pronunciation of English. The process of mastering a good accent is complicated. For that, the teacher must be a good model for students so that it is easy and happy to learn pronunciation. Articulation is clear and often repeated so that students better understand how to pronounce vocabulary correctly.

c. Motivation

Motivation is essential for success. Motivation is one of the factors that can affect the difficulty of learning English. Motivation is something that encourages someone to do something to achieve a goal. Without motivation, students will not know well. Therefore, teachers must use creative and effective ways to teach vocabulary and increase students' motivation. Make students love English lessons, so they are excited to learn English vocabulary. Something that is forced will not be optimal.

d. Learning Facilities

Facilities are factors that cause difficulties in learning vocabulary. Facilities help and support students to achieve success in teaching and learning. Good facilities support the teaching process and help increase student motivation. Without adequate facilities such as good audio or pictures, it will also hinder students' learning process. Having a dictionary or a book on vocabulary can also help students feel facilitated in the learning process.

2.5 Strategies in Learning Vocabulary

In overcoming learning difficulties, the teacher must have a strategy in learning vocabulary. Indeed, overcoming foreign learning difficulties is not easy. Requires the right approach, time, and planning to overcome the problems. Students have different characteristics. Teachers must have many strategies so that students feel helped in their vocabulary learning process. Some techniques that teachers can use in overcoming vocabulary learning difficulties:

- a. First, the teacher can create an activity that aims to learn a vocabulary.

b. Then, before starting the activity, the teacher prepares learning resources and makes vocabulary categories that they will master.

c. Next, the teacher gets a clear picture, either visually or auditory for new word forms. Students need media assistance to facilitate understanding in one category of vocabulary.

d. The teacher starts the action and asks each student to think of a word according to the selected vocabulary category.

e. After that, the teacher asked to write a few words on a piece of paper and gave them to the teacher to be checked and stored.

f. The teacher checking the students' work and distributes it to students. Learning the meaning of words is the essential point. In this step, it helps students avoid misinterpretation in understanding new vocabulary.

According to Hatch and Brown as cited in (Aristya, 2019) there are five strategies can use in overcoming vocabulary learning difficulties:

a. Encountering new words

The first strategy used in learning vocabulary is finding new words by reading books, listening to music, or watching movies.

b. Getting the word form

The second strategy in vocabulary learning is to get a clear picture. Pleasing visually or audio. So students are not confused in memorizing the vocabulary they have just learned. Therefore, if students can remember clearly, there will be no mistakes every time they are asked to write or say the vocabulary they already know.

c. Getting the word meaning

The third strategy by finding out the meaning of every word they have received. For example, they can see the meaning of the word from the Cambridge dictionary. Then they will match their answers, and they will know the importance of other words when reading in the dictionary.

d. Consolidating word form and meaning in memory

The fourth strategy can be done by making activities that sharpen the memories of the vocabulary studied. For example, playing crossword puzzles or matching flashcards to strengthen their memories.

e. Using the word

The last strategy is by using the vocabulary on learning directly, for example, by working on the question. This is because if it is not often honed, it will make it passive, not active.

