

Challenges in English Vocabulary Mastery for Education Program Students at STKIP PGRI Lubuklinggau

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Abstract: the aimed of this research was to describe how many word students able wrote English vocabulary in short time and to describe the students' difficulties in mastery English vocabulary. This research designed in qualitative descriptive method, the data collected through written test and unstructured interview by using Focus Group Discussion. The subject of this research was twenty students grade two of Bahasa Indonesia Study Program at STKIP PGRI Lubuklinggau. The results showed: in the writing English vocabulary test in three type Noun, verb and Adjective, students able to wrote avarage10 word in each part and the students' difficulties such as: Students seldom reading English text so their vocabulary mastery very low, Students has low ability to remember new English word caused of never practiced in the daily life and students confuse in using irregular word in arrange the sentence both writing and speaking.

Keywords: *Investigation, students, English, Vocabulary*

INTRODUCTION

Language as communication system used by people to create relationship, without language people cannot do anything between one to other. Language gotten by someone since he or she born in the world by listen the parent's language, her or his parents ask to talk with child in their language so the child record a word by word and tries to communication with parents. Example when baby cries the parents say "Do you hangry?" and then give a food or milk. Baby will record word directly when he/she feel something and all the language can start used average seven years by says one word. So it mean that language mastered by people since born in the world starting by word.

The language that gotten by children are different between one to other, such as mother tongue and nationality. In Indonesia there are lot of mother tongue in every district that make one to other do not understand the meaning, so used Indonesia as language unity. Mother tongue learn by children in the family and society around they live and National language, Indonesia learn by children in the school since play group and public place or environment.

Recently, In the society find several English that effort people to understand the meaning, for instance electronic that buy and used almost the instruction using English, sometime it has bilingual language between English and Indonesia or all in English. Mobile phone the first language used English although any several language option but people also try to understand how to operate it. Advertising a product used slogan in English both at printing and show at the side of road or in the television. Based on the sample above, it means that English has enter in the Indonesian social life so they try to learn English step by step.

There are lot of language in this world that different between one to others, so it also need language as bridge to communicate. English choose as one of language that used by Unity of Nation as international communication, so by English it helps people to communicate cross of the sea. People feel easy to create relation in all aspect such as education, economic, military and other. English is the unity language from the different language background in communication. English is the principal language of Great Britain, the US, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries. It is the second most commonly spoken first language, with some 400 million native speakers, and is the world's most widely used second language. (Press, 2019). From the quotation above can be seen that almost Europe and America used English as the main language, So it is the biggest language used in this world. Saud (2014) stated that four language skills in English are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is one of the important skill that must be mastered by the students. They have to be able to express their thoughts in writing to develop their ideas. Through writing, students also can transfer information and knowledge to others. In the other words, writing can be said as a mean of communication between the writer and the reader.

English also teaches in the school since elementary school until university level. In the junior until senior high school, English as the one of main subject lesson that teaches, and in the university especially non-English education study program, English as the supplementary lesson to add their skill that support them in the work area. In the work field English also important mastery because used to communicate with other partner in the world with different language background. Learning is process in comprehend a new knowledge. There are lot of strategies and obstacle in mastery new knowledge for instance new language. Language be one oh human needed in daily life, by language they can do relationship bet ween one to other. People basically have language in their life that call by mother tongue, and they need to communicate with other people in different language mastery so they learn a new language to communicate well. One of the first used in learning language is learning word or called by vocabulary. Second, People know about new word and try to practice in one of situation in continues. In learning of course there are lot of obstacle that be faced. According to Alizadeh (2016) says that Learning vocabulary is likely to be one of the biggest challenges that student will face in their studies. Among all language skills vocabulary learning is as significant in language learning as its challenging.

The statement above it is true because new language has different from first language both of in grammatical and meaning, so in learning new language people must strong motivation to mastery well. As Wilkins puts it without grammar very little can be conveyed; without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed (Wilkins, in Alizadeh 2016). These statement above is right, by mastery vocabulary people easy to convey what that they need to other people although the grammatical not in perfect. Vocabulary is central to language and of critical importance to the typical language learners Lack of vocabulary knowledge will result in lack of meaningful communication (Boyd :1997). Based on the statement above can be concluded that in learning vocabulary is not easy, people must understand the aspect of word in communication.

So in this research, the researchers try to Investigation The Students' Mastery of English Vocabulary At Indonesia Education Study Program In STKIP PGRI Lubuklinggau, in this research have two research's question namely how many students' able to write in English vocabulary in short time? And What the students' difficulties in enlarge English vocabulary?

METHODOLOGY

In this research, researchers had designed in qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative method is understanding human habitual in the daily life. Qualitative research is a process of inquiry aimed at understanding human behaviour by building complex, holistic picture of social and cultural setting in which such behaviour occurs (Angrosino, 2007:1). According to (Stangor, 2011:15) said that qualitative research is descriptive research that focuses in observing and describing events as they occur, with the goal capturing all the richness of everyday behaviour with the hope of discovering and understanding phenomena that might have been missed if only more cursory examination had been used. The subject of this research had twenty students of Grade two at Indonesia Education Study Program in STKIP PGRI lubuklinggau.

To get the data naturally, this researcher collected the data through unstructured interview and test. These are conducted with more than one respondent at a time, i.e., in a group setting. (Cropley, 2015) Focus groups are sometimes referred to as “group interviews”, the moderator does not ask question of each focus group participant in turn, but, rather facilitates group discussion, activities encouraging group member to interact with each other. (Silverman, n.d.(Triyogo, 2018)).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this research, researchers got the data needed through test and written interview about students' master of English Vocabulary and Students' obstacle in mastery English vocabulary, the data can be seen as below:

1. Students' Mastery of English Vocabulary

English was very important for students used in daily activities both reading and writing text. Those skills almost face by students' when they used mobile phone or computer because English as basic language, especially when it's connected to the internet Network there are lot of English word found and enforce to read them. In Indonesia, English replaces as Foreign Language, it taught at school but not practiced at home or society because English there were no place to practice, so they felt that English was difficult language to learned.

At university level, English also be one of difficulties lesson for students' non English education study program, in this research, researchers investigated the students' of Indonesia study program semester two to know how far they mastery English vocabulary by asked them to wrote verb, adjective and noun which is each of them wrote in three minutes and the result as below:

Verb

Verb was words to express the subject do something; it was important point in communication to give information to other about activities that do in present, past and future. From the test showed from twenty students, the word that able written by students average 10 word. It was very low vocabulary mastery, the higher 29 word wrote by Egy and the lowest dia 2 word.

Egy was one of boy in the class that able to speaks English well depend on other although miss grammatical construction in their speaking and Dia very passive in in the class, based on the information gotten by researchers, she missed understanding in receive instruction.

Noun

Noun was a word that play as subject and object, this function give the information that do action and what action do by subject. Limited noun also made students' difficulties in

Mastery English. In this the test students able to wrote in three minutes average 10 words, the higher was wrote by Egy who able wrote 28 word . The lowest word wrote by 3 students, they were low in giving respond in the class both worked the task or answer the question orally.

Adjective

Adjective was explained or modify of noun. In the result of the test showed average 5 words that able wrote by students. The higher wrote by two students in ten word and the lower word 2 word.

From the result of test showed us that vocabulary was key for communication, minimum vocabulary mastery slowly the students' in communication both writing or oral, and this result obvious that students low in mastery English vocabulary.

2. Students' Problem in Mastery English Vocabulary

At the second questions, about the students' problem in mastery English vocabulary, the researchers took the data through free interview, researchers asked about the problem that faced by students in mastery English vocabulary and the result lot of problem that faced by students such as bellow:

a. General

Students' said that they less read English sentence so they did not have the new vocabulary. Such as conveyed by Dina, she said that :

"I have difficulty in memorizing English vocabulary because of minimum in done exercise to practice in the daily activities".

Language is habitual, it need to be practices every time and every day, so the language never lose in human brain. Management of time in learning also be one of obstacle students in mastery English vocabulary, it conveyed by Meli, she said :

" I hard to memorize vocabulary because of I have not free time to learn vocabulary. Learning vocabulary just at the school, so it made me low mastery of English vocabulary."

Time management was become important for students who learn English, the must smart in using the time.

b. Remembering word

One of problems conveyed by subject based on answered sheet was remembering word. They felt very hard in remember word in English, as conveyed by Hamid, he said:

"My brain is less able to remember foreign words that are rarely used in daily life"

He felt difficult in remembering new foreign word especially English because he never used in daily activities. Other reason also conveyed by Alan, he said that he sometime forgot the word; he also sometime did not know the meaning of word.

“Sometime forget the word and I do not know what the meaning of both in English to Indonesia and Indonesia to English.”

Both of sample above showed us that English word was very difficult to remember in our brains because of it never used in daily life, there were no word able to spoken in the public place so word that found not remembering well. It made students difficult in mastery four English skills.

1. Writing

The problem in writing English word was conveyed by subject in their answered sheet. They felt difficult in writing word, they know the meaning but difficult in writing. Samroh said that :

*“English word has differences between utterance and written for example : The word **tahu** in written **know** spoken **now**, I always wrote suitable with the utterance”*

It evident that English and Indonesia was different in several aspects, so students faced difficulty in writing mastery English. Other sample also convey by Desti, he said :

“My difficulty in mastery English vocabulary was differences between how to utter and writing, and it made me afraid in spoken and writing in English.”

From these sample showed us that students' have difficulties in writing English vocabulary, they made mistake in writing word different with the utter and make they afraid in practice English.

2. Word formation

Word formation happened in English, there was change the form from verb 1, verb 2 and verb 3. The word formation occurs at irregular and regular word that never found in Indonesia. This part also conveyed by students in learning English, such as conveyed by Egy, he said that:

“I faced the difficulties to memorize the irregular word because it very different between verb 1, verb 2 and verb 3”.

He felt confuse in using and memorizing irregular word.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Based on the explanation briefly above, the researchers concluded as bellow:

1. Students grade two at Bahasa Indonesia study program in STKIP PGRI Lubuklinggau has low ability in mastery English Vocabulary.

2. Students' problem in mastery English vocabulary generally low English vocabulary mastery that caused by less reading article of English text, They difficult in remembering English word and difficult in using irregular verb in the sentences.

Suggestion

This research as the basic research to begin and developing a research in vocabulary, from the result in this research, researchers have plan to continue take the research in English vocabulary such as 1). Designing new strategies to teach English vocabulary, 2) teaching vocabulary through ICT and 3) involving local content in teaching English vocabulary.

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