

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

English is a universal language where English is used to communicate with people from different countries. Four skills must be mastered in learning English, namely reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The use of the four skills that must be mastered in English must be followed by the students' ability in vocabulary because the use of language, is always followed by the use of vocabulary. In speaking, the students must master vocabulary because students will easily convey their ideas with the support of their vocabulary skills, then in writing the students' vocabulary knowledge is very important because writing is a combination of vocabulary that will convey the author's message to their readers. Ability in the learning process is an intellectual ability. Kurniawan and Cahyaningtyas (2021: 297) "Intellectual ability is the ability to think, develop or control something and solve problems". According to the explanation above it can be concluded that the students will use the right target language if the students have the ability in their target language because the students can control their grammatical language that they use.

In addition, Richard (2002: 4) "states that vocabulary is a basic part of language use". Students' vocabulary ability is a basic ability that must be possessed by students to support students in mastering the four skills used in the use of English. Students' ability in the vocabulary will help students fluently in using the target language and students' vocabulary skills will make it easier for students to get information that will increase the students' knowledge about the target language.

Words are always combined with other words to become a sentence unit that has meaning and can transfer what you want to convey appropriately. The use of word combinations is called collocation. Collocation is a combination of words that appear together. In line with Paltridge (2012: 121) "collocation is a combination of two vocabularies that have the possibility to appear

Simultaneously". Collocation is a rule that regulates the combination of words that can collocate so as to produce meaning from the combination of words.

In addition, Handayani (2019: 23) "Collocation is a collection of words that have been structured." The collection of words collocates with each other so that they become a unity. Collocation is very important for students with English as their target language because collocation will help the students to use English naturally.

Furthermore, a study conducted in Vietnam by Bui (2021: 99) stated "collocation is an important part of English because the use of collocation is a factor in increasing students' ability in speaking and writing". The use of collocation in students' speaking and writing will make students' writing and speaking sound natural. According to Boers & Webb (2018: 4) stated "the use of collocation will show the level of students' ability in English writing or speaking". The use of collocation in writing or speaking will make students' writing or speaking look like native speakers because they use the right combination of words and it will make their speaking and writing sound naturally.

According to Tayibnapis et al (2021: 28) "student fluency in language use can be seen from their ability to use collocation". Collocation can help to improve students' abilities in their target language because the combination of words in collocation will help students in writing, and speaking and the students will use the right combination of words so that the real meaning of students' speaking and writing can be understood by other English speakers.

In addition, a study conducted by Ardy et al (2018: 9) found that "students in the English department have low abilities in the use of lexical collocation". Based on the research conducted by Ardy et al, found that students majoring in English were unable to use lexical collocation and this research supported by Moehkardi (2002: 61) stated "that students often have difficulty in using collocation and often the collocation is unacceptable" when the students using unacceptable collocation it means the students are unable in using lexical collocation. In addition, in the preliminary research conducted by the researcher, it was found that most of the students in the English department only knew about collocation in general and did not know the importance of collocation.

Based on the background above the researcher conducted the study about the students' ability in using lexical collocation. Although there have been many studies discussing collocations, there are still few that discuss the students' abilities in using lexical collocations in sentences.

1.2 The Identification of the Problems

Based on the research background above, there are main problem studied. The problem is:

1. The students' do not really know about collocation even though collocation has been discussed in discourse analysis course and collocation is always used in the students' writing and speaking.

1.3 The Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background above the researcher will identify about "Are the students' able in using lexical collocation in sentences?"

1.4 The Objective of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problems above the objective of this study is to find out the students' ability in using lexical collocation in sentences.

1.5 The Limitation of the Study

This research focuses on the students' ability in using lexical collocation on simple sentences. This research is conducted in English education department students in eight semester of state Islamic university of north Sumatra.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to be useful theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically
Theoretically, research can increase the reader's knowledge, especially regarding students' abilities in lexical collocation.

2. Practically

a. For students

This research is expected to show to the students about their ability in using lexical collocation. Through the result of the test, it is hoped that students can improve their abilities in using lexical collocation. This research is also expected to show students that collocation is an important thing to be applied and understood more deeply because in the future students are also expected to be able to teach the use of collocation to their students.

b. For next researcher

This research is expected to help further researchers to provide information about the students' abilities in lexical collocation.

