CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter background of the study, the formulation of the problem and the significances of the study.

1.1. The Background of the Study

Language is one of the ways to communicate each other. One of the language is English. English is a foreign language for Indonesian learner. This is not even surprising us why it's hard to speak English in our country. Foreigner who learn English must be mastering in vocabulary. When learning a new language, such as English, one of the elements that must be taught to children is vocabulary because we utilize word every time we speak. Furthermore, if your audience can understand what you are saying even if your grammar is incorrect, it doesn't matter, according to some experts, vocabulary is more important than grammar. The definition of vocabulary given by Hornby (2006:1625) is "all the words a person knows or uses, as well as all the words in a specific language."

Mastery of vocabulary entails that students possess a deep understanding of words, encompassing their meanings, spoken and written forms, grammatical usage, word collections, register, associations, and word frequency (Thornbury, 2002). Proficiency in vocabulary not only enables students to speak a language fluently but also plays a crucial role in their acquisition of other language competencies such as reading, writing, and listening. Effective communication hinges on a sufficient vocabulary, and acquiring other language skills becomes challenging without a firm grasp of terminology. Familiarity with vocabulary enhances students' comprehension and their ability to express themselves during communication. Indeed, setting learning objectives for language vocabulary is paramount because vocabulary closely intertwines with other language components like writing, listening, speaking, and reading.

Utilizing technology for English language learning offers a more engaging experience compared to traditional methods involving only whiteboards and markers in the classroom. As Larsen-Freeman (2011: 72) suggests, technology serves as an educational resource that enhances the learning process positively in the classroom. The incorporation of audio, visual, and animation effects yields significant benefits in English language instruction, thanks to the rapid advancement of technology and the application of multimedia in teaching. Technology enables the delivery of diverse learning materials to students, stimulating their interest in acquiring a new language.

Neni Mulyani (2014: 24) defined mobile learning as the integration of information and communication technology into the educational setting. The transmission of interesting instructional content and the availability of easily accessible educational resources are two benefits that the theoretical conceptual framework of mobile learning potentially offers. By utilizing the features of mobile devices, it provides engaging learning resources that can be easily accessible, regardless of time or location, thereby improving the educational prospects for students.

As a smartphone app to aid with language acquisition, Hello Talk places a strong emphasis on encouraging dialogue. Its primary goals include boosting language learning, facilitating cultural immersion, and offering a platform for language practice in a user-friendly, engrossing, and intuitive way. Users of the application can interact in real time with native speakers who come from various geographical backgrounds. These exchanges use a variety of communication channels, such as voice calls, video chats, audio messaging, and written text messages (Rivera, 2017).

Hello Talk serves as a platform for connecting with people from different countries. It offers features like messaging, video calls, live interactions, status updates, voice calls, and image sharing. It specifically caters to language exchange, especially for English learners. Moreover, the app provides various features to aid students, such as vocabulary games, translation tools, grammar assistance, pronunciation guides, and speaking

exercises, among others. Based on the teacher in junior high school find the issue that some of the students lack of vocabulary. They don't want to learn English that's one of the reason limited in vocabulary. They think that learn English is boring and difficult. We can see from the pronunciation is different from their first language. That's make them hard memorize vocabulary , they know only few words. Based on the background description above, the researcher intends to conduct a research with the tittle "**The Effect of Hello Talk Application on Students' Vocabulary Mastery at Seventh Grade Al-Abrar Sihuik Huik Tapanuli Selatan**

1.2. The Identification of the Study

Based on the researcher's background information, the study's identified problems are as follows:

1. Students struggle with memorizing English vocabulary.

2. Students typically memorize only a limited portion of English vocabulary and have difficulty understanding the language.

3. Students often mispronounce English words.

4. There is a lack of interest among students in learning English.

5. Teachers are not utilizing current media and engaging teaching strategies in English instruction, leading to a monotonous learning process.

1.3.The Formulation of Study

Based on the research problems above, the researcher formulated into a research question as follow : "Is there any significant effect of using Hello Talk application on students' vocabulary mastery?"

1.4.The Objective of Study

In accordance with the problem we discussed earlier, the main goal of this study was to determine whether using the Hello Talk application has a significant impact on improving students' vocabulary skills.

1.5. The Significance of Study

The researcher expected the result of this study can give significance as follow :

1. Theorical Significance

In theory, the researcher anticipated that the outcomes of this study would yield valuable insights and in-depth knowledge, particularly regarding the impact of the Hello Talk application on students' proficiency in vocabulary.

2. Practical significance

a. For Students

The findings of this study are expected to provide significant benefits to the first-grade students at MTs Al-Abrar Sihuik-huik.

b. For teachers

With optimism, this research has the potential to enhance teachers' understanding of crafting innovative teaching tools and approaches. Additionally, if the Hello Talk application proves effective in enhancing students' vocabulary proficiency, educators can consider integrating this application into their teaching methodologies.

c. Researcher

It is expected that the results of this study can offer valuable and references for other researchers interested in conducting further studies in the same field.