

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

English as one of the language in the world is very important to learn because it can be used in giving or receiving information and for the development of education, technology, and arts. Preparing a young learners to study English as early as possible is very crucial because their brain and memory is ready for learning and most of them can learn quite well.

In learning English, there are four related skills that should be master namely listening, reading, speaking and writing. Listening and reading are referred to the receptive skills, while speaking and writing are referred to the productive skills. In order to enable the students to communicate well in English, the students must be able to listen, speak, read and write well. To achieve these aims, students are expected to master a large number of vocabularies. Because, when students have mastery vocabulary they should be able to communicate well in English.

Vocabulary is all about words, the words in a language or a special set of words you are trying to learn.¹ Mastering vocabulary is the key to be success in comprehending the language well, speak better, or compose a good writing. The learneshave to increase their vocabulary by around 1000 words a year. The number of vocabulary will influence how well someone the language.

2

In addition, Elfrieda state that vocabulary is the knowledge of meanings of words.²We encounter new words in many ways. Such as reading, hearing, watching. Everyday, we see new words in text books or in the reading we do for pleasure. We hear new words in the conversations, in the classroom and on radio and we watching television. So that, we must know all about the meaning of the words that we listen or read. That's why learning and improving vocabulary is a very important thing to do.

One of the thing for comprehending the language well, good speaking and composing a good writing is vocabulary. Vocabulary has an important role in teaching and learning English as foreign language. At the present day, everybody approves the value of vocabulary in learning a language. Vocabulary as the basic element of language, is accepted as even the backbone of the language system. But unfortunately, vocabulary knowledge is not attached importance according to its

¹<http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/vocabulary>. Accessed on December 20th 2016 at 16.00 p.m

²Hiebert, Alfrieda H. II. Kamil, Michael L, (2005), *Teaching and Learning Vocabulary:Bringing Research to Practice*, USA: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc, page:3

deserts in language study area in the beginning. Vocabulary teaching was a matter of secondary importance in foreign language programs. Today, almost all second language theorists and practitioners admit vocabulary is crucial for a language teaching.

Vocabulary knowledge also plays a significant role in overall academic success. Students' lack of academic vocabulary ultimately translate into shallow interaction with print and spoken word, fewer job opportunities, and less income. Vocabulary is the basic unit of language form. Without a sufficient vocabulary, one can not communicate effectively or express ideas. If learner do not know how to expand their vocabulary, they gradually lose interest in learning.

3

Vocabulary is the stock of words in a language, or that is known or used by an individual, or that is associated with a particular activity. It supported by Pikulski that the learners have to increase their vocabulary by around 3.000 words a year. The number of vocabulary will influence how well someone masters the language.³ Many educational institutional did not give importance to the special vocabulary instruction in foreign language teaching all over the world. We can see the notable attention to vocabulary since the second half of 1901 few decades of 20th century. Today almost all second language theorists and practitioners admit vocabulary is crucial for language teaching.

Many techniques can improve the students' vocabulary mastery. One of that is clustering technique. Clustering technique is similar with brainstorming activity that we can use to generate ideas.⁴ Clustering technique here used to stimulate the students to think and write or even discuss more. It also as a method that maximize activities participation, affords immediate knowledge as to its understanding, and emphasize critical thinking. The English teacher must have a good techniques to deliver vocabulary to the students.

Based on the explanation above the researcher interested to improve students' vocabulary and try to apply Clustering Technique as a technique in teaching vocabulary. Because this technique will be easier for the students to figure the meaning of the target words, to memorize it, and to use it when they find the right situation based on the context clues they have known. It is also fun so that the students will find that learning language is enjoyable. Thus, this technique can effectively be used in teaching vocabulary. And this technique so easy to apply in teaching English. Through this

³John. J. Pikulski and T.Shane,(2004),*Teaching and Developing Vocabulary: Key to Long-Term Reading Success*. United State of America: Houghton MifflinCompany, Page:4

⁴AfriliaSuheni, (2011), *The Use of Clustering Technique to Improve Students' Ability in Writing Analytical Expositions for Senior High School*,Semarang:Semarang State University, page:32

technique, the students can improve their vocabulary mastery. The students can find many words that have related to one topic from this technique and memorize it.

When the researcher was observed to the VII grade students at MTs.Islamiyah YPI BatangKuis, the students' achievement in learning English is very low especially in vocabulary. Most of them have many problems in understanding, memorizing and pronouncing the words and it makes them lazy to study English because most of the students get the score below Minimal Completeness Criteria (KKM) of English lesson for Junior High School. The Minimal Completeness Criteria (KKM) applied for the seventh grade (VII) by school is 72.

The problems are most of the students still have limited vocabulary in English. The students felt bored with the teachers' way of teaching vocabulary, in which they were asked to find out the meaning of difficult words in the dictionary and then memorize the words. The teaching method is not effective and students need something different.

Based on the explanation above the researcher was interested to conduct the research entitled that is "THE EFFECT OF APPLYING CLUSTERING TECHNIQUE ON STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY IN SEVENTH GRADE AT MTSISLAMIAH YPI BATANG KUIS IN 2016/2017 ACADEMIC YEAR".

B. The Identification of Study

Based on the background of study, the identification of study:

1. The students have limited vocabulary in English
2. The students felt bored with the teachers' way of teaching vocabulary
3. The English teacher not teaching with good technique

C. The Limitation of Study

Based on the background above, this study limited to the effectiveness applying Clustering Technique in teaching vocabulary in seventh grade at MTs.Islamiyah YPI BatangKuis in 2016/2017 Academic Year.

D. The Problem of Study

Based on the background of study, the research problem of this study is formulated as the following : “ Is there any significant effect of applying clustering technique on students’ vocabulary mastery in seventh grade at MTs.Islamiyah YPI BatangKuis in 2016/2017 Academic Year?”

E. The Objective of Study

The objective of study is to analyze the effect of applying clustering technique on students’ vocabulary mastery in seventh grade at MTs.Islamiyah YPI BatangKuis in 2016/2017 Academic Year.

F. The Significances of Study

As the study concerns with the use of applying clustering technique to affect the students vocabulary mastery, the finding of this study are expected that:

A. Theoritically

1. For the English teachers, to improve the quality of students’ vocabulary.⁶
2. For the researcher, to use this study as reference for next researchers.

B. Practically

1. For the students, to improve their vocabulary widen their horizon about the function of clustering technique.

