

**THE CORRELATION BETWEEN VOCABULARY MASTERY AND
READING COMPREHENSION OF THE ELEVENTH GRADE
STUDENTS OF SMA NEGERI 1 INDRALAYA**

A Thesis by

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PERNYATAAN

Saya menyatakan dengan sebenar-benarnya bahwa seluruh data, informasi, interpretasi serta pernyataan dalam pembahasan dan kesimpulan yang di sajikan dalam karya ilmiah ini, kecuali yang disebutkan sumbernya merupakan hasil pengamatan, penelitian, pengelolaan serta pemikiran saya dengan pengarahan dari pembimbing yang ditetapkan.

Apabila ternyata didalam naskah skripsi ini dapat dibuktikan terdapat unsur-unsur jiplakan, saya bersedia skripsi ini digugurkan dan gelar akademik yang saya peroleh (S-1) dibatalkan, serta diproses sesuai dengan peraturan perundang-undangan yang berlaku (UU) No.20 Tahun 2003, pasal 25 ayat 2 dan pasal 70.

Palembang, 18 April 2020
Mahasiswa



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ABSTRACT

Vocabulary mastery is an individual's great skill in using words of a language. It means complete knowledge or great skill that makes someone a master in a certain subject. Reading comprehension is the act of understanding of a text. Reader can understand the meaning, main idea, topic and summary of the text by mastering vocabulary. The objectives of this study were to find out whether or not there was a significant correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension of the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya and to find out in how much the vocabulary mastery contributes toward reading comprehension of the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya . This study involved 65 students as the sample, chosen by using cluster random sampling. The data were collected by vocabulary mastery test and reading comprehension test. After analyzing and calculating the data, it was found that there was significant correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension of The Eleventh Grade Students at SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya since the p-value (0.049) was lower than 0.05. Then, the r_{value} was 0.245 that showed as the weak or low correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension of The Eleventh Grade Students at SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya. Then, vocabulary mastery gave contribution to reading comprehension as much as 6 %

Keywords: vocabulary mastery, reading comprehension, explanation text

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents : (1) background, (2) problem of the study, (3) objectives of the study, and (4) significance of the study .

1.1 Background

Learning English becomes a necessity because it is considered as international language. Therefore, English language is used as an official language almost all around the world. According to Nunan (2010) as the foreign language, English is an important language in the world. As different people from different parts of the world speak various languages, English has become the global language as it the language spoken by the people of all the countries in the world. It is recognized to be universal in all the countries . It had become so popular that it has even become the language that each and every person must know. By having an international language like English, people from different parts of the world can communicate with each other easily.

There are four skills that should be mastered in English. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading is process of interpreting a message. Everyone needs this skill to get the information from book, letter, novel, newspaper, magazine and others. It means that reading can help the students to expand their comprehend about text and get much information easily. Besides, English consist of some language components which can be taught to students. Those components are vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, structure,

phonetic/phonology. Students can get much information from those above components. In education, English is one of the foreign languages used to improve students' ability. As quoted in Law on The National Education System (2003, p. 13), "Foreign language can be used as the language of instruction in a particular educational unit to support foreign language learners". That is the most important reason why English is learned at school.

In Indonesia, English is learned and used as a foreign language (Lie, 2007). It means that in Indonesia, first language is Indonesian language and English is foreign language. In Indonesian, English language is neither the first nor the second language, it is taught or learned as the foreign language for practical necessary uses of communication. However, people using English for communication especially between two speakers who have different native language. English is taught from kindergarten level up to university level. Therefore, English is very important to be mastered by all people who want to be success in life.

Vocabulary is one of the aspects in English language that should be mastered by the students in learning English. And actually, everyday life experiences enhance vocabulary development. Vocabulary is one component that links the four skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing. In order to communicate well in English, students should master a number of words and should know how to use them accurately. Students' vocabulary affect the ability of students to understand the text and get the important information from the text. As stated by Ratnawati (2006), vocabulary consists of the knowledge of meaning

as the main component of a language, it should be taught together with reading, structure and conversation. So, ideally vocabulary should be part of reading course because one needs the mastery of vocabulary to comprehend the reading passage.

Naturally, vocabulary mastery in most cases can help students to learn other language skills, e.g., listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. This stands to reason for vocabulary mastery was used to know the meaning of the text. To get the meaning of the text and to read easily, the students should know the structure and vocabulary items. In learning vocabulary, it does not mean that the learners only memorize an amount of the words, but they also should be able to use them for communication and how they summarize their sentence in a good language. Vocabulary is one of the aspects in English that should be mastered by the students in learning English. Mastering vocabulary requires the students to comprehend the text. In other words, lack of vocabulary in learning English will cause difficulties in comprehending the text (Willis, 2008).

Reading is one of the important language skills. By reading, people may get a lot of information. The more he/she reads, the more information he/she will get. Reading makes someone smarter and creative (Furqon, 2013). Students' achievement in all subjects depends on their ability in reading. In high school and university, reading ability becomes more important because students are more active to gain written information. That is why reading comprehension is an access to get succes in future. Laddoo, (2007) assumed that reading forces the reader's brain cells to work on a regular basis as this will keep the reader sharper

and smarter. It means that reading comprehension can be obtained in multiple ways. In case of English in Indonesian, it is first read and written, and then some attention is paid towards the speaking of it. The global need of communication however emphasizes that one should be fluent in speaking and to listen to it with full comprehension (Mayasari, 2012).

As Kimberly (2014) said that comprehension is a process in which information from the text and the knowledge possessed by the reader act together to construct meaning. In other words, reading comprehension is incredibly complex and multifaceted. Because of this, readers do not develop the ability to comprehend texts quickly, easily or independently. Reading comprehension strategies must be taught over an extended period of time by parents and teachers who have knowledge and experience using it.

Based on preliminary study and interview to the teacher of English at SMA N 1 Indralaya on 13 November 2019, it showed that the students faced difficulties in reading comprehension and had lack of vocabulary mastery. It because some students did not know how to identify the main idea of the text and not able to identify word meanings. It could be seen from the result of students' exam. Reading comprehension and vocabulary mastery have a strong relationship. It is in line with Sedita (2005) who states that vocabulary knowledge is crucial in reading comprehension and determining how well students are in comprehending the texts. In the regard to this matter, this study attempts to find out the correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension.

Reading comprehension strategies must be refined, practiced and reinforced continually throughout life. Even in formal or informal school, they need to help children to develop reading comprehension strategies. As their reading materials develop into diverse and challenging, children need to learn using new tools for comprehending texts. It is such as textbooks and newspaper, magazine and journal articles. Therefore, different reading comprehension have need different comprehension strategies.

Based on the above explanation, the researcher was interested in conducting a study titles “The Correlation between Vocabulary Mastery and Reading Comprehension of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya”.

1.2 The Problems of Study

The problems of study were formulated in the following questions :

1. Was there any significant correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension of the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya?
2. How much did vocabulary mastery contribute to reading comprehension of the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions above, there were two objectives of this study as stated below :

1. To find out whether or not there was any significant correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension of the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya .
2. To find out how much the vocabulary mastery contributed toward reading comprehension of the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya .

1.4 Significances of the Study

The result of the study is hopefully beneficial for the teachers of English, for the students, for the school, and for the researcher herself.

1. Teachers of English

This study is expected to give information about the importance of vocabulary mastery in reading comprehension.

2. Students

This study is expected to increase the students' awareness about vocabulary mastery contributes toward reading comprehension and to more expand their background knowledge by reading a text.

3. School

This study can be used as reference in guiding the teacher to know more about influence of vocabulary mastery in reading comprehension.

4. The researcher herself

This result of the study is expected to give valuable information to the researcher about the importance of vocabulary mastery and its influence to the reading comprehension

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