

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is a communication device which is not separated from the human being life. All people have a language to interact with each other. By using the language, they can convey a message, express ideas, thoughts, and feelings either directly or indirectly. And also by the presenting of language makes the human being more perfect than other creatures in the world.

Language is “a cultural product subject to laws and principle that are partially reflective of general properties of the human mind” (Finocchiaro, 1974, p.3). Because language is cultural product of human being, so there is a significant relationship between language and human being. It means that language is a media to deliver information to the other which has symbols as reflection of human mind and it passed the process of agreement in society.

The importance of language in human life is not realized, although it becomes crucial media for creating a good relationship and having many functions in society. Language can create different condition that described it users. For example, language that used in happy condition is different with sad condition. Language is a crucial component which should be learned and improved. The featured of language is it can be learnt “language means that the rules and practices handed down through the teaching and learning activities, not

gene-gene inborn”. (Nababan, 1992, p.6). It is also presented in Holy Qur’an, 43rdverse of surah Al-Ankabut.

﴿الْعَلْمُونَ إِلَّا يَعْقِلُهَا وَمَا لِلنَّاسِ نَصْرُهَا إِلَّا مَثَلُ مَا تَلَكَ﴾

The verse above defined that it is very important to learn what have been created by God for human being so that it can be understood to each other, one of them is language. All languages have words, language emerges first as words, both of historically and in terms of the way each of us learned our first and any subsequent languages. “A word is a microcosm of human consciousness”. (Vygotsky).

In mastering vocabulary, the simple way to study is by memorizing vocabulary little by little. For example, the students memorize 2 until 5 words every day and it is done continuously, even it becomes habit for them. In Holy Qur’an, 31st verse of surah Al-Baqarah, Allah taught to Adam about the name of things. In other word, it means that Allah taught and ordered us to memorize vocabulary. The verse as follow:

﴿نُكِّنْتُمْ إِنْ هَتُّوْا بِأَسْمَاءِ أَنْبِئُونِي فَقَالَ الْمَلٰٓئِكَةُ عَلٰٓى عَرَضِهِمْ ثُمَّ كُلُّهَا أَسْمَاءَ آدَمَ وَعَلَّمَ

صَدَقِي ﴿٥٦﴾

A habit in memorizing vocabulary can help the students to improve their vocabulary ability in reading skill. If they are able to master in reading, not only they will be easy to understand the English text, but also they can answer easily the exercises that related to the text. Vocabulary is an inseparable part of any language learning process. It would be impossible to learn a language without vocabulary. “if language structures make up the skeleton of language, then it is vocabulary that provides the vital organs and the flesh” (Harmer, 1993, p. 153). We should keep in our mind, as Ur (1996) stated, one item of vocabulary can consist of more than a single word, e.g. ‘mother-in-law’ consist of three words and still expresses one idea.

Research which the writer found suggests that vocabulary enormously important to children’s development, especially in reading. Research clearly indicates that children with larger vocabularies have higher school achievement in general (Smith, 1941; cited in Beck, McKeown, and Kucan 2002) and higher reading achievement in particular (Anderson and Freebody, 1981; Graves, 1986; Stahl, 1998). In fact, people with larger vocabularies even have higher IQs (Bell, Lassiter, Matthews, and Hutchinson, 2001; Hodapp and Gerken, 1999).

Educational researchers also have found a strong correlation between reading and vocabulary knowledge. In other words, students who have a large vocabulary are usually good readers. This is not very surprising, since the best way to acquire a large vocabulary is to read extensively, and if you read extensively you are likely to be or become a good reader!.The National Reading

Panel states that the larger the students' vocabulary, the more adept they are at understanding text (NRP, 2000). When students build vocabulary mastery, they can more effectively communicate their ideas, knowledge, and voice. Vocabulary knowledge in young children directly affects their later success in learning to read (Roit, 2002). Children who enter school with limited vocabulary knowledge fall even further behind over time in reading fluency (Baker, Simmons, & Kame'enui, 1997).

Research findings in applied linguistics and reading research consistently show a strong correlation between reading proficiency and academic success at all ages, from the primary school right through to university level: students who read a lot and who understand what they read usually attain good grades." (Pretorius, E.). So, the writer can conclude that if someone has large vocabulary, he or she will be a good reader and their academic will success. Fortunately, a child's vocabulary is not predestined. Rather, teachers can have a real impact on children's vocabulary knowledge. Research show that teachers can do things that significantly increase children's vocabulary (Baumann, Kame'enui, and Ash, 2003; Blachowicz and Fisher, 2000; National Reading Panel, 2000; Stahl and Fairbanks, 1986).

While in the school of MTs Thalabullrsyad the writer found that students' ability in reading is still lacking and that is because they do not have much vocabulary which they memorized. So, based on this fact, the writer thinks that

there is a relationship between students' habit in memorizing vocabulary and the ability of students in reading.

Based on these reasons above the writer is interested in lifting a title of this research about the habit of the students at the eighth grade of MTs Thalabul Irsyad Sei Tatas Kapuas Regency in memorizing vocabulary and their ability in reading and also the correlation between them. The writer conducts a research entitled: **THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE STUDENTS' HABIT IN MEMORIZING VOCABULARY AND THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN READING AT THE EIGHTH GRADE OF MTs THALABUL IRSYAD SEI TATAS KAPUAS REGENCY ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014.**

B. Statement of Problem

1. How is the students' habit in memorizing vocabulary at the eighth grade of MTs ThalabullrsyadSeiTatas Kapuas Regency academic year 2013/2014?
2. How is the students' ability in reading at the eighth grade of MTs ThalabullrsyadSeiTatas Kapuas Regency academic year 2013/2014?
3. Is there any correlation between the students' habit in memorizing vocabulary and the students' ability in reading at the eighth grade of MTs ThalabullrsyadSeiTatas Kapuas Regency academic year 2013/2014?

C. Objective of Study

Based on the reasons above, the purposes of this research are:

1. To know the students' habit in memorizing vocabulary at the eighth grade of MTs ThalabullrsyadSeiTatas academic year 2013/2014.
2. To know the students' ability in reading at the eighth grade of MTs ThalabullrsyadSeiTatas academic year 2013/2014.
3. To know the correlation between the students' habit in memorizing vocabulary and the students' ability in reading at the eighth grade of MTs ThalabullrsyadSeiTatas academic year 2013/2014.

D. Significance of Research

This research has significances as follows:

1. This information is important for the English teacher, especially at MTs ThalabullIrsyadSeiTatas to improve their ability in English skill.
2. This research enriches the writer's knowledge and experience in this specific research.
3. The result of this research will improve the students' ability in reading and give the motivation for students to memorize more vocabulary that very useful for them in English learning.
4. Enrichment of Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin library's literature.

E. Assumption and Hypothesis

1. Assumptions

- a. The students' ability in reading at the eighth grade of MTs ThalabullIrsyadSeiTatas Kapuas Regency academic year 2013/2014 can be influenced by their habit in memorizing vocabulary
- b. The students' habit in memorizing vocabulary at the eighth grade of MTs ThalabullIrsyadSeiTatas Kapuas Regency academic year 2013/2014 is different with each other.

2. Hypothesis

Based on the assumptions above, hence there are two possibilities of hypothesis:

a. Direction or alternative hypothesis (H_a)

There is a significant correlation between the students' habit in memorizing vocabulary and the students' ability in reading

b. Null Hypothesis (H_0)

There is no significant correlation between the students' habit in memorizing vocabulary and the students' ability in reading.

F. Definitions of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation of the title above, the writer needs to explain some terms, that are included in the title:

1. Correlation, derived from word "correlate" means there is a mutual relationship or connection" (Hornby,1995,p.261). In statistics term, correlation is "the relationship between two or more variables" (Sudijono, 2000, p.167). The correlation in this title means is the relationship or connection between the students' habit in memorizing vocabulary and the students' ability in reading.
2. Habit is an activity done regularly and repeatedly or something that we do often or regularly. Habit in memorizing vocabulary in this title means that the frequency of memorizing by the students at the eighth grade of MTs ThalabulIrsyadSeiTatas Kapuas Regency academic year 2013/2014. It is

relevant with this statement “the simple present tense expresses habit and it can be defined using adverb of frequency; Always, usually, often, sometimes, seldom, rarely, and never. (Azar, 1995, p.44)

3. Vocabulary is the collection of words that you use on a daily basis. This word is used in schools for the study of words that you should know or learn.
4. Ability is the mental or physical capability, power or skill required to do. (Hornby, 1995, p.2). The ability in this research means that the power or skill of the students at MTs ThalabulIrsyadSeiTatas Kapuas Regency in reading with their vocabulary that they have been memorized.
5. Ability is the quality or skill that you have which makes it possible for you to do something.
6. Reading is to take the meaning of written or printed words through the eye and mind (Taylor, 1997, p.452).
7. Reading is similar with thinking by using other mind, not the reader’s mind. By reading, the readers able to dip into the other mind and add the idea and also the experience (Herwono, 2005, p.35).