

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Research

Being an international language, English is spoken in the most international event and it used as the medium of the flow of information on science, technology, and culture. It learned started from primary schools up to university. People realize that teaching English at this level becomes very important and need much concern. As an English teacher, he or she demands to explore effective techniques, method, and approaches.

The students have to master the four basic language skills. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Beside such basic skill, the student has to master some vocabularies as well as possible.

Based on Standard Educational Curriculum that learning English aims to develop students' competence to communicate in English both orally and written. Vocabulary has an important position in language learning. It is also stated that language is a system of arbitrary conventionalized vocal, written that enable members of community to communicate intelligibly with one another. ¹With a limited vocabulary anyone will also has a limited understanding in terms of speaking, reading, listening, and writing. It is true that it might be impossible to learn a language without mastering vocabulary. Because of the limited vocabulary, the learners cannot communicate to others clearly. To achieve the success in language teaching learning process especially English, vocabulary is one of important factors in all language teaching.

According to Tarigan, vocabulary is one of the highest aspects in learning a foreign language. The quality of language skill depends on the quality and quantity of vocabulary. The more vocabulary we have, the bigger possibility to

¹H. Douglas Brown. *Principle of Language Teaching and Learning*. (New York: Addison Wesley Longman, 2000), p.5.

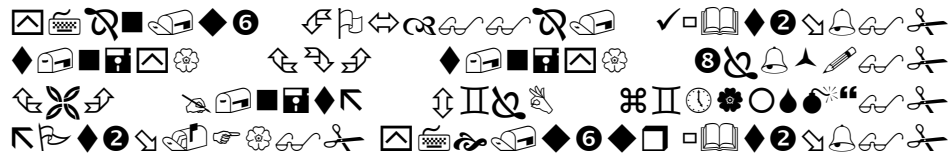
have a skill to use language.² By mastering vocabularies helps to avoid making mistakes in understanding. So vocabulary is the most important thing in reading skill.

Vocabulary as one of the language aspects have to be learned when people are learning a language. Good mastery of vocabulary is important for anyone who learns the language used in listening, speaking, writing, and reading besides grammar. The problematic issue of vocabulary it seems is meaning. What a words means is often defined by its relationship to other words. Words also have synonym that mean exactly or nearly the same as each other. Words do not just have different meaning, however. They can also be stretched and twisted to fit different contexts and different uses.³

Nowadays, the ability to comprehend English is necessary for people and also to understanding English, people have to able to communicate English and also able to read many kinds of English text. The ability to read is crucial in contemporary society. People find many texts written in English, from holiday brochures to academic books, newspaper, advertisements, etc. Therefore, the ability to read English text in any form will give a great deal of advantages in our lives.

Reading is good thing in life because it is a factor of great importance in the individual development and the most important activity in school. It is needed in every level of field of research. Particularly in cases when students have to read English materials for their own special subject.

Considering the importance of reading, Allah SWT, revealed the first surah for prophet Muhammad SAW about reading that is surah al Alaq verse 1 up to 5 (Q.S. al-‘Alaq/96: 1-5)



²Henry Guntur Tarigan, *Metodologi Pengajaran Bahasa*. (Bandung: Angkasa, 1991) p.4.
³Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Language Teaching*. (England: Longman, 2001) p.19.



“Read! In the Name of your Lord who has created (all that exists) He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood) Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous, who has taught (the writing) by the pen. He was taught man that which he knew not”.⁴

The word *iqra* 'in this verse is general in nature, which means the object is said to include everything affordable. Thus, the read command includes the study of nature, society and self, as well as reading the sacred well written or not.⁵

The difference between the commands reads the first paragraph and the third paragraph reads commands lies in the motivation in reading. The first verse describes the terms before reading the name of the Lord. While the third verse describes the benefits gained from reading even the repetition of the text.⁶ The verse above also describes two ways in which God taught man. First, through the pen (writing) to be read by humans, and the second through direct teaching without tools.⁷

Being able to read in English is very important as it is known that success in reading is the most necessary because it is a basic tool of education. All the subjects in Elementary School such as mathematics, science, language, and others depend on the ability to read. In high school and college reading ability becomes even more important. Through reading we acquire new ideas, obtain needed information, seek support for our ideas and broaden our interest. We can also get the message that the writer had expressed. The ability to read helps to distinguish human being from other animal.

Some of them say reading is the process to get, to understand, to catch the content of the reading. And also reading is a process to understand a written text which means extracting the required information from it as efficiently as

⁴M Taqiudin Al-Hilali and M Mukhsin Khan, *The Noble Qur'an*, (Madinah: Maktaba Darussalam, 1996), p.1202.

⁵M.Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Al Misbah: Pesan, Kesan & Keserasian Al-Qur'an*, (Jakarta: Lentera hati, 2002), p.393.

⁶M.Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Al Misbah*, p.400.

⁷M.Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Al Misbah*, p.402.

possible.

In many situations, reading receives a special focus. Written texts serve various pedagogical purposes. Extensive exposure to linguistically comprehensible written texts can enhance the process of language acquisition.⁸ Reading means a complex process of thinking in assigning meaning from printed materials which involve most of the reader's intellectual act such as pronunciation and comprehension in order to receive ideas or information extended by the text. It can be seen that reading is not only looking at word in the form of graphic symbols but also getting meaning from word to word or line to line to understand what we read. It means that reading is a process to understand the text content and to get information.

And one of the purposes of teaching English of a foreign language to Indonesian people is that they can read, grasp the idea and understand the book written in English. To achieve those purposes, students need a lot of words of English to master. Norbert said that vocabulary is one of the most important skills in a language. A person needs vocabulary to recognize and understand a word in a text or hear it in a conversation.⁹ So to achieve the success in language teaching learning process especially English, vocabulary is one of important factors in all language teaching.

Theorists have described two achievement goals in particular: the goal to develop ability (variously labeled a task goal, learning goal, or mastery goal), and the goal to demonstrate ability or to avoid the demonstration of lack of ability (variously labeled an ability goal, ego goal, or performance goal). Although there are some differences among achievement goal theorists regarding the exact nature and functioning of these two types of goals, for the most part there is considerable overlap among these different conceptions.¹⁰

⁸Jack C. Richards and Willy A. Renandya. *Methodology in Language Teaching*.(USA: Cambridge University Press, Inc), p.273.

⁹Norbert Schmitt, *Vocabulary in Language Teaching*, (USA: Cambridge University Press, 2000) p. 4.

¹⁰Ames, C. (1992). *Classrooms: Goals, Structure, and Student Motivation*. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, **84**, 261–271.

Based on the description of vocabulary and reading above, it shows that they have close relation. To get empirical data about it the writer will organize the test result to prove the influence of students' achievement in vocabulary and reading. By getting the grades, the researcher tries to find an answer that student's achievement in vocabulary influencing reading.

B. Questions of The Research

The specific questions addressed by the research are as follows:

1. How is the influence of students' achievement in vocabulary to reading ability at SMP N 2 Gringsing Batang?
2. How is the contribution of students' vocabulary and reading ability to the students' achievement at SMP N 2 Gringsing Batang?

C. Objective and Benefit of The Research

This research is intended to meet the following objectives:

1. To find out the correlation between students' achievement in vocabulary and reading ability at SMP N 2 Gringsing Batang.
2. To identify the contribution of students' vocabulary to students' reading ability at SMP N 2 Gringsing Batang.

After doing the research, the researcher hopes to get an insightful cognitive English achievement. Hopefully, the result will be used for the following:

1. For the teachers

This research is expected to give description how is the correlation between reading-vocabulary ability and students' achievement. Based on the information, the teacher will help students to enrich their ability of language to improve their achievement especially in English subject.

2. For the students

By answering the test, the students can take some information to identify their problems in mastering reading and vocabulary. Furthermore, it can be a device to evaluate the students in English subject.

3. For the readers

It is expected by reading the thesis the reader will have no find any

difficulties in understanding cognitive learning as the consideration of accomplishing students' achievement based test.

4. For the researcher

By doing the research, the researcher hopes to get an insightful knowledge of English proficiency, especially to identify the correlation between students' vocabulary and reading ability and students' achievement.