

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. This chapter consists of the discussion of the Background of the study, Statement of the research problem, objectives of the research problem, Significance of the study, Scope and the limitation of the study, definition of the key terms.

A. Background of the study

Language has an important role in daily life, especially in learning a foreign language that is often considered boring. In its various usages, language has specific meaning in each context (Nurhayati & Yuwartatik, 2016). Language is used to create a meaningful communication among human beings (Nurhayati, Djatmika, R Santosa, T Wiratno, 2016) It can't be avoided that education is affected by the advancement of technology, many of the benefits of the technology that can be used. For example, the teacher can easy to accessed the internet about the material that will be taught. The teacher used the media to make students interest, it is positive affects as the outcome of the learning objective. The teacher has a problem, especially in vocabulary training. The teacher has less time to teach vocabulary, so the teacher should be get an alternative to improve students' vocabulary. Duolingo can be a solution or alternative to improve the vocabulary of the students.

Vocabulary is one of the factors that play an important role in supporting students to master language skills, among others: listening,

speaking, reading, and writing. In listening, students may not understand the conversation well. In speaking they cannot communicate properly without vocabulary, in reading students may not understand the text they are reading, and in writing, students may have difficulty conveying the ideas they have. All because of the lack of vocabulary they have. We can conclude that vocabulary has a very important role in a language because vocabulary is one component of language in English. Supported by Wallace (1988: 9), "vocabulary is a vital aspect of language". Furthermore, Rivers (1970: 462) said that "it is not possible to learn languages without vocabulary". Vocabulary is the basis of language that makes a language meaningful. This means that the more vocabulary people learn, the easier they will convey their ideas. Learning the vocabulary of a new language is often challenging for many people who may feel discouraged because of the overwhelming amount of words to be learned (Nation, 2001). It's important to develop effective ways to understand and improve language patterns and also use the best methods available for learning vocabulary (Chen, Hsieh, and Kinshuk, 2008). The purpose of learning vocabulary is to improve, memorize, and use words obtained in various contexts of conversation that may arise (McCarthy, 1984, Teng, 2016).

It's difficult to master other competencies without the mastering and understanding vocabulary well. The competencies are very much important for teachers to be professional. To facilitate teachers develop their competencies, Indonesian government has launched a large number

of programs (Nurhayati, 2018) In learning English students should know about vocabulary because by understanding each word, they will start trying how to use it to express their ideas and communicate. Although, we know that vocabulary is an important component of language that must be mastered by students because there are still many students who still less of having vocabulary and less of motivation in learning vocabulary. In other words it can be said that motivation explains why people decide to do something, how hard they are going to pursue it and how long they are willing to sustain the activity (Nurhayati, 2014). Motivation is anything that encourages someone to act to do something. In learning, motivation is salient (Nurhayati, 2020). The less of students motivation can be caused the lack enthusiasm of students in learning the language or could be due to the teacher's role that has no been fully able to make student concentration when studying vocabulary. Having a lot of Vocabulary collections is very important to increase our ability to speak English. If our collection of vocabulary is only slightly, when we speak English we will have difficulty.

Learning or having a lot of vocabulary is very useful for students, because of the importance of vocabulary in learning English. It means that grammar and vocabulary plays important role to conduct communication or in other words the lack of practicing this skill arises some problems to the students (Stubs in Nurhayati, 2016). We tried using the Duolingo application to help Senior high school students improve their vocabulary.

This application carries the concept of “playing while learning” to feel more fun, and easy to use by all ages. This application can be self-made to support learning activities every day and can make it easier for the student to improve vocabulary.

Duolingo can be a media that will be used by teachers in terms of taught English especially in vocabulary and to solve problems of students' difficulties in memorizing the meaning of vocabulary, so it can make the learning process in first grade at MA At- Thohiriyah more interest and the student more active in the learning. Learning using Duolingo make the students them feel happy and enjoy when they are study English in the classroom or in their home. Then, it can solve their problems in understanding the meaning of words in sentences, because the teachers use the appropriate media in teaching them as if it were something new to them.

From previous studies, the Duolingo application is indeed very helpful for students to learn English especially to improve vocabulary. Because seen from some research in the classroom, a method that involves the Duolingo application has succeeded in increased students' ability to learn English and improve their vocabulary, because vocabulary is a must to learn in a language. Duolingo is one of the effective media in teaching-learning vocabulary for beginner level students. It is considerably interesting for students as they showed excellent responses toward this media, they are easy to understand the material, (Addal Muddin, 2018).

According to Gardner and McIntyre (1993 apud Brandl 2008, p. 21) A motivated learner wants to achieve a particular goal. In the present study, the application Duolingo was adopted as a tool to improve vocabulary knowledge in writing in English classes. According to Siti Niah (2019) The results of these studies indicate that duolingo can be used as a medium for language tests in speaking and listening skills.

From the Preliminary study conducted on February 7th, 2020, the problem that often occur in the process of learning english for first grade at MA AT –Thohiriyah Ngantru Tulungagung was improvement the students' vocabulary especially in aspects of vocabulary on meaning a word and also due to lack of time when the teacher taught in the classroom. While if outside the classroom, there may be many students who are less enthusiastic and motivation about learning vocabulary if not accompanied by the teacher. And certainly when teaching process in class there are still some students who less the attention when the teacher explained.

Therefore the author chooses the title "Using Duolingo application to improve student vocabulary for first grade at MA At- Thoiriyah Ngantru Tulungagung" because the researcher wants to apply Duolingo Application. In order to make the students of MA At-Thohiriyah can use Duolingo anywhere, anytime, and also that can help the students memorize vocabulary and they can use it to daily communication, and to motivate them to enjoyed learning vocabulary, without feeling bored.

B. Statement of the Research Problem

1. How can Duolingo Application improve students' vocabulary?

C. Objectives of the study

The purpose of this research is to improve students' vocabulary through Duolingo application in first grade MA At- Thohiriyah Ngantru.

D. Significance Of the study

1. Teacher

Duolingo can be a learning media that will be used by teachers in terms of teaching English especially in vocabulary and to solve problems of students' difficulties in learning and improving vocabulary so it will make the learning process in the class more interested and active for students MA At – Thohiriyah Ngantru.

2. Student

Learning to use Duolingo will make them happier and enjoy their compilation of learning English in class or at their home. Then, it can solve their problems in Improve vocabulary especially in meaning of words in sentences. Therefore, students can use Duolingo anywhere and anytime and that will help them improve their vocabulary in meaning word and that can also help them to communicate using English.

E. Scope and Limitation of the study

This study focused on Duolingo Application as a learning media, to improve students' vocabulary at MA At- ThohiriyahNgantru

The researcher limited the subjects used to improve vocabulary using the Duolingo application. This research was conducted for first-grade students at the MA At-ThohiriyahNgantru.

F. Definition Of the Key Terms

1. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the knowledge of words and word meanings (Steven Stahl, 2005). A vocabulary, usually developed with age, serves as a useful and fundamental tool for communication and acquiring knowledge. Vocabulary knowledge can be divided into productive and receptive knowledge (Nation & Meara, 2002). The teacher can help students in getting vocabulary in the learning process by using an attractive media, technique, and strategy in teaching English. In this study, teaching vocabulary can be measured by using vocabulary test.

2. Duolingo Application

Duolingo is a free language learning application created by Luis von Ahn and Severin Hacker. This application, in addition to being available in the web version, is also available in the Android, iOS and Windows Phone versions. In November 2016, the application provides 66 different language courses available in 23 languages; there are 22 more courses that are still being developed. Around 120 million users from all over the world have registered in this application. Duolingo can be used as a future application in learning languages and improving vocabulary. Because the Duolingo application is very

accessible and provides many languages, which is very helpful for anyone who wants to learn a new language. Duolingo has many features that can help learners easily learn languages, such as a list of words for each day, discussions with other users.

Duolingo is an application designed to help students easier to learn a new language and they can learn than one language using the Duolingo application. The Duolingo application is designed easily and comfortably, so users don't feel like they were studying, but like having fun with a game. Therefore the researcher tries to use Duolingo application at classroom activities as a medium for learning English, to facilitate students to improve their vocabulary