

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about the background of the study, formulation of the research problem, purpose of study, formulation of hypothesis, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Language has a central role in students' intellectual, social, and emotional development. Language is also the key to success in all the different fields of study. In addition, language has a very significant contribution to the way people think. Siahaan (2008) stated that language is a set of rules used as a tool of human communication. It means that communicating with others will be simple because of the language people use. Therefore, it can be said that language is one of the main tools that can help people think well based on their understanding. English is becoming increasingly important in this age of globalization, particularly for students of the millennial generation. This is true because they are growing and living in a rapidly evolving and changing technological era where English is primarily used as a means of international communication by the majority of people in the world. In addition, some Asian countries such as Singapore and India use English as their second language in their respective countries unlike in our country, Indonesia. Apart from the difficulties of learning English, it is very important and good for

people to learn English because it does have an important role in most aspects of life for examples in the fields of communication, trade or commerce, economics, politics, education, science, technology and among others.

Language is a global area that has a specific area, one of which is called vocabulary. Language relationships include vocabulary. It is the main element of language because humans will do nothing to increase their language skills without any words or vocabulary. Further Nation (2001) explains the relationship between knowledge of vocabulary and language use as complementary each other, in which knowledge of vocabulary enables language use. Conversely, language use leads to an improvement in vocabulary knowledge. Thus, students need to have abundant vocabulary knowledge in order to produce a variety of language functions to express their thoughts. Nation (2001) states that vocabulary is one of the parts required in developing language and should be deliberately learned by students. In language, vocabulary has a major role because vocabulary can be used in all language skills. Vocabulary is one of the important pieces of knowledge in languages that has a beneficial role for learners in improving their language skills. Vocabulary in language learning is very important and therefore needs to be taught to students. When some people learn about vocabulary, they automatically improve their skills step by step because vocabulary is a tool to connect with all skills. Vocabulary focuses on words, so that's why it has such an important role in all language skills. However, learning vocabulary is more than just learning the meaning of words; we should also understand how

words work and when to use them in appropriate situations. If we know the meaning and function of words, it can make people happy to express their ideas. If students are still confused and have their own vocabulary limitations, it will be a big deal.

The importance of vocabulary is to increase their knowledge of words from childhood on so that they can develop their language, as it has an effect on their reading comprehension as well as their academics. In addition, teaching vocabulary helps students grow their words before learning about skills. This era is called the era of technology. Technology is a central part of our lives now. With the development of technology, life changes in return and becomes more practical, easy, and fast. The same thing happens in the education sector. Technology advances in education, and it starts to adapt to student demands. Tablets, laptops, smartphones, and iPads have taken the role of books and notebooks. As a result, using these new technical tools by teachers is inevitable.

Some of the students at MTs Imam Al Ghozali Tulungagung still struggle with vocabulary. Due to a number of causes, students appear to lack language mastery. First, because these strategies are not used, children lack vocabulary knowledge and show less interest in English-related subjects. Student motivation to learn English is another issue. Third, the students become weary of learning English; they frequently seek permission and engage in extramarital relationships with their acquaintances. Additionally, because English teachers are unable to effectively employ media, particularly when

teaching vocabulary, pupils become easily bored, more passive, and anxious about learning English. Only textbooks and whiteboards are used by English teachers during the teaching and learning process. They solely focus on the teacher's explanations or rewrites.

To make teaching and learning conditions fun for students, the right strategies are needed to keep students motivated when they are in class. One strategy that can be used is to choose the right media to facilitate teachers and students in the teaching and learning process. Heinich (1993) states that media when they carry messages with an instructional purpose, to facilitate communication. Media can be used to help students in their study in order to make the teaching and learning process more effective and efficient. PicVoc-English Vocabulary by Pictures is one of media that can be used by both teacher and students in teaching and learning process. The use of PicVoc-English Vocabulary by Pictures application is very helpful for students since they can find any kinds of words they need. PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures is an application used to improve vocabulary skills. This application includes a new application, as it was only released in 2018. This application contains pictures of animals, fruit, and objects around us. In this application there are approximately 100 topics and 3000 vocabulary with images. PicVoc-English Vocabulary by Pictures can also be used to learn about pronunciation. The app provides a dictionary for searching and translating words into mother tongue.

In the PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures application, there is also a random word order. In the PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures application, there are several options that users can choose according to their abilities. We can sort random words into whole and correct words, connect words according to the image, sound words if we cannot pronounce them according to the correct pronunciation, and contain example sentences as well. There are also multiple choices in which we have to choose the correct answer according to the displayed image. With the application, students can become more familiar with vocabulary and become happier because the application does not bore them.

This is the previous study to be used as a reference by researcher. Setiawati (2018) through her journal stated that using cue cards had a significant impact on the vocabulary mastery of students in grade 7 junior high school. Cue cards are used as a medium that can help establish the conditions for students to identify or describe someone or something in the learning process. Cue cards make it easy to add new materials, since completely new cards can be prepared, and slip between others. Using cue cards in the learning process has many advantages. The conclusions of this study show that using cue cards is effective in vocabulary mastery of grade 7 students. It can be seen from the post-test value which is higher than the pre-test value. Ismiati and Kurniawan (2019) through his journal stated that the online media application "Hello English" can increase the vocabulary of students in Multimedia SMK INSAN AQILAH 1 SERANG KOTA. This means students who are better at

vocabulary. The "Hello English" online media application in the teaching and learning process has several benefits for students. It can be used as an excellent teaching tool for developing communication skills and active thinking. The researcher chose the PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures application because it can assist students in improving their understanding of English words and increase their motivation when learning English especially vocabulary. The researcher also hopes that by using the PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures application, the teaching and learning process can be interesting and fun for students. These reasons encourage the author to conduct research related to the theme with the research title are as follows:

“The Effectiveness of Using PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures Application toward Students’ Vocabulary Mastery of the Seventh Grade at MTs Imam Al Ghozali Tulungagung”

B. Formulation of the Research Problem

From the background above, the formula of this research problem is: Is there any significant difference of scores on students’ vocabulary before and after being taught PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures application?

C. Purpose of Study

Based on the formula above, the purpose of this study is: to find out differences of scores on students’ vocabulary before and after taught PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures application.

D. Formulation of Hypothesis

Based on the research problem above, formulation of hypothesis of this study is:

1. Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no significant difference scores on students' vocabulary before and after taught PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures application.
2. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha): There is a significant difference scores on students' vocabulary before and after taught PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures application.

E. Significance of the Study

The researcher hope that this study can be useful for:

1. The Students

The students realize that technology is very beneficial in learning, because nowadays abundant teaching and learning materials can be easily found on the internet, so they can use it in improving learning especially in their English vocabulary. And with this study, researchers hope students can use the PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures application to add even more vocabulary.

2. The English Teacher

The researcher hope that this research can be an inspiration for English teachers in teaching vocabulary through PicVoc- English

Vocabulary by Pictures or other applications. Because through this application, students will learn casually and not easily confused. In addition to vocabulary, students can also learn other things related to the English language, such as pronunciation.

3. Other Researchers

This research is far from perfect. The researcher hope that this research can be a reference for readers in writing their research related to English vocabulary. And the shortcomings in this study can be an advantage in later studies.

F. Scope and Limitation of Research

This research is limited to the seventh grade of MTs Imam Al Ghozali. This study will focuses on the using PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures toward students' vocabulary.

G. Definition of Key Terms

To make it easier for readers to understand this research, researchers will describe the terms used in this study as follows:

1. PicVoc-English Vocabulary by Pictures

PicVoc- English Vocabulary by Pictures is an application that can be used to add vocabulary, facilitate pronunciation, and help remember words easily. English vocabulary with more than 100 topics, 3000 vocabularies with pictures, pronunciation and meaning. App provide dictionary to look up and translate word into your mother language, we can test our vocabularies with test function.

2. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of the components of the language that must be mastered first by students if they want to learn or master English. Therefore, it is important to note that vocabulary mastery should be taught to students so that they can own and recognize more words. Having or knowing more stock of words makes it easier for students to know and choose what words they will use appropriately both in learning and using English.