

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction chapter covers six important points; the first is background of the research that describes the reason why the researcher intends to conduct the research. The second is statement of research problem which states the problem that the researchers try to solve, then objective of the research which explains the answer of the research problem stated by the researcher. Next is significance of the research which explains the research's advantage, then scope and limitation to define the focus of the researcher, and the last is definition of key terms as the researcher expects the readers to have the same interpretation in understanding the research.

A. Background of the Research

As time goes by, students of this era have many kinds of interest which influence their way of learning English as a foreign language. Every student has their own kind of interest that will effect their learning. Their kind of interest can be in book, music, movie, game or any kind. Talking about music, there is this very popular one, called K-Pop (Korean Pop). K-POP culture has become a popular interest around the students. Undeniably, K-POP culture has become a phenomenon that most of the countries in the world are experiencing for the past few years. This very culture has been around since decades actually. It just gets even bigger and wider through year by year. The massive development of this culture has made the people, including students, around the world to make a certain community which they usually call it as fandom. The huge demand of

their addiction of K-POP has also led to the appearance of many English websites providing those so-called fans of K-POP with many current issues and news related to K-POP.

The phenomenon of K-Pop has unconsciously brought impact to those non-English-speaking countries students to develop their proficiency in English, specifically in term of vocabulary. It is because those who have interest in certain K-POP singer tend to follow every news and information from the singer and to always being updated with their daily activities. Therefore, they often access and read articles on those English websites that provide news regarding all about K-POP. This kind of habit will lead to the students' success in language teaching and learning especially in term of vocabulary mastery as Zimmerman (1998) stated that vocabulary is central to language and of great importance to typical language learner. Schmitt (2000) stated that the centre of learning and communication is vocabulary. Without a sufficient vocabulary, one cannot convey his message effectively or express his ideas in both oral and written forms (Fauziati, 2005).

Aside of reading the websites containing with anything about K-POP, the enhancement of students' vocabulary mastery is also supported with the trend that most of K-POP songs are provided with English title and some English phrases and sentences inside the lyric. Moreover, the companies of the K-POP singers which distribute their songs usually also provide English translation of the song lyrics in every of their music video. In consequence to the fact that K-POP has gone global and been enjoyed by many people in many parts of the

world. This way, it is obvious that hyping into certain K-POP songs will consciously or unconsciously increase the students' vocabulary mastery. As Cameron (2001) stated at the primary level, vocabulary is a core to the learning of a foreign language to building up the useful words to the students.

K-POP culture phenomenon should not only be considered as an entertainment but it can also be seen from an education perspective. This kind of interest cannot be ignored as a merely interest since it can contribute to the students' enhancement in learning foreign language. It can be considered as one of the strategies in learning. In the area of vocabulary mastery, learning strategies can be defined as various ways of all language learners to learn new vocabulary items in accordance with the learners' needs and preferences (Yusak, 2009). Moreover, it is also supported with the fact that several students join certain international fans community through particular social medias with English as the language of communication. This way, students can directly make practice of what they have learned and understood. As Sadtono (1995) stated that learning a foreign language requires several aspects, which is one of those is a great deal of practice, then their communication in those group can be considered as a practice.

There have been some previous studies regarding the way to improve students' vocabulary mastery using many kinds of media and activities such as Realia, flashcard, story- telling, newspaper articles etc. A study of improving students' vocabulary mastery using story-telling was conducted by Fadila Lamante (2020) found that story-telling could make students became more

active and enthusiastic, they easily remembered the words, thus it improved the vocabulary mastery. In line with this, other study has proved that another media such as newspaper article (Khoirul, 2010) was also effective in improving the vocabulary mastery. A study using online media or ICT (Hussain, 2017) has also showed improvement in students' vocabulary. However, the researcher hasn't found a study about improving students' vocabulary mastery based on the students' own preference and interest in their daily life or interaction, which means that they learn by their own will not because other's dictation or command.

In response to this gap, this research is intended to portray the impact of students' interest in Korean pop songs or mostly known as K-POP towards the enhancement of their English proficiency especially their vocabulary mastery. Accordingly, this paper investigates the EFL students' interest in K-POP and its contribution towards their English vocabulary mastery. This is going to be carried out based on the massive phenomenon of K-POP and the researcher previous chit-chat or conversation with some students who stated that having interest in K-POP have enhanced their English proficiency especially in term of vocabulary mastery. It is also based on an argument that the students who have interest in K-POP have more English vocabulary than those who do not.

B. Statement of Research Question

Referring to the background of the study above, the researcher formulates one significant research question, “How does the students’ interest in K-POP contribute to their enhancement in vocabulary mastery?”.

C. Objective of the Research

This research was conducted to investigate the activities that the students do related to their interest in K-Pop and its contribution to their improvement in vocabulary mastery.

D. Significance of the Research

This study is expected to give some contribution to several related parties.

1. Readers

By reviewing this study, the readers will acquire valuable information related to students’ kind of interest and its surprising contribution to their vocabulary mastery. The researcher hopes it will help them understanding this today’s phenomenon called K-Pop and make them learn that it is not merely a useless interest because it indeed is contributive to their knowledge of English as their foreign language specifically in the field of vocabulary.

2. Other researchers

Other researchers may use the findings of this research as a reference in conducting further studies about students’ vocabulary mastery. That there are many media that need to be explored in investigating students’

vocabulary mastery enhancement. One of those is the students' own interest which is sometimes still odd to other people who have not understood it yet.

3. The body of knowledge

As for the EFL students in general, it can motivate them that the exposure of English vocabulary can be from anywhere, even from a certain interest in this case is K-Pop. For the students who are already into K-Pop, they will be more aware of what they are doing that their kind of interest can be related to educational context. While for the teacher, the website providing the articles related to K-Pop can be used as learning material. As it can increase the students' enthusiasm during teaching and learning. And for the parents, they will not see this kind of interest as a useless interest if they can be exposed to the beneficial and educational side of it.

E. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is the EFL students who have interest in K-Pop. It is limited to the subject and object that is investigated. The limitation of this study is a group of EFL learners in their teenage ranging from the age 10 to 20 who share the same interest, as in this case is K-POP. They were involved in order to find out how their interest in K-Pop makes a significant contribution to their vocabulary mastery. The object is the EFL learners' K-Pop related activities that contribute to their vocabulary mastery.

F. Definition of Key Term

To avoid misunderstanding or wrong interpretation to the substance of the title, the researcher considers the key terms as follows.

1. Interest

Interest is the feeling of wanting to give your attention to something or of wanting to be involved with and to discover more about something. Your interests are the activities that you enjoy doing and the subjects that you like to spend time learning about.

2. Contribution

Contribution is something that you contribute or do to help produce or achieve something together with other people, or to help make something successful.

3. K-Pop

K-Pop or short for Korean popular music is popular music originating in South Korea as part of South Korean culture. Includes styles and genres from around the world, such as pop, hip hop, R&B, experimental, rock, jazz, gospel, reggae, electronic dance, folk, country, and classical on top of its traditional Korean music roots.

4. Vocabulary mastery

Vocabulary mastery is one of the factors to master English as foreign language. It means that the students have the ability in understanding and using the word and meaning. The larger vocabulary the students master, the better they perform their language.