

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents about background of the study, formulation of research problem, purpose of the research, significance of the research, and definition of key terms.

#### **A. Background of The Study**

Mastering communication in English is one of the points that needs to be developed by every individual in this digital era. Habituation can start early and needs development, including during adolescence. Mastery English includes four skills, namely listening, reading, speaking, and writing. So that to be fluent and master these four skills, students must first master the vocabulary or meaning of each word. Hornby (2010:1662) stated that vocabulary includes all words that individual knows or employments. Vocabulary can be said as the main capital to compose sentences that we want to communicate. Without vocabulary, students will have difficulty using grammar and language functions. We ought to remember that according to Wilkins (2004:13), “without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed”.

Related to the importance of vocabulary in language learning, Alqahtani (2015) explained that vocabulary knowledge is often viewed as a critical tool for second language learners because a limited vocabulary in a second language can be impedes successful communication. There are several components that must be considered when students want to master

vocabulary such as spelling, pronunciation and meaning. Mastering vocabulary is not easy, it takes patience and perseverance so that students get good results. Mastery vocabulary also had an impact on students' communication skills, students are able to express more idea and had a good communication because students understand the word and the concept of using the word. Rozakis (2003) stated that having good vocabulary strengthens the students' communication skill. Therefore to get good communication skills vocabulary teaching should be done frequently to get maximum results. Vocabulary teaching aims to develop students' language skills such as reading, writing, listening and speaking so that students are able to apply them in the learning process.

In the learning process, the teacher plays an important role as a guide to realize the learning objectives. Based on the results of observations at school, the researcher conducted interviews with the English teacher for class VIII MTsN 1 Kota Blitar. The teacher said that some students still had many problems in mastering English vocabulary. The teacher stated that some students did not know the meaning of vocabulary, so students were not able to answer the questions and exercises given by the teacher properly and correctly, they do not also give their full attention in the task and without that attracting and interesting the process of teaching vocabulary can not run well. Then in reading activities, some students are not able to pronounce vocabulary correctly, and in writing activities some students are not able to write vocabulary according to the correct spelling,

because in English each word has a different spelling and reading. In addition, some students also felt that they were not interested in learning English vocabulary in class, because the process of learning English in class was still not interesting.

This situation happened because the methodology or the strategy which is used maybe not suitable. The teacher has still used old method in teaching English vocabulary, most of the teachers teach English vocabulary through translation or the vocabulary wordbox found at the end of the chapter in the student book. They usually apply too many new words and ask the students to translate and then to make sentences by using the given words. The teacher usually gives many words to the students and asks them to open their dictionary book to find the meaning of those words, after finding the words, the students forget. In fact, the students may become confused and discouraged in the process of learning because students feel that they are forced and they would get bored. Lewis and Hill (2000) state that students will not achieve success in learning unless they enjoy the process. It can be seen that students will feel toward a learning process will affect their achievement. That's what should be a special concern of a teacher.

From the problems above, the researcher realizes that students need new media to improve their vocabulary skills. In this modern era, technology has become a part of human life. One of the familiar technologies that humans often find and use is smartphones. Usually

smartphones are only used to communicate, without realizing there are many benefits from using smartphones that can be used as learning media. One way is to install the U-Dictionary application on your smartphone. The U-Dictionary application is a word translator that can help students improve their vocabulary skills. Students can learn by using the features provided by U-Dictionary application. This application is a solution that can help students overcome their problems.

Several studies showed the effectiveness of the use of U-Dictionary Application in English teaching and learning process. Putri (2021) who conducted research on the use of the U-Dictionary application as a medium to improve students' listening skills at SMPN 35 Makassar, in her research the application of the U-Dictionary had a significant influence on students' listening skills. This can be seen from the significant difference between students' listening skills before and after being given treatment using the U-Dictionary application as a method of teaching listening. Then, Wulandari and Cici (2020), who conducted research on using the U-Dictionary application to increase students' vocabulary in teaching speaking at SMAN 1 Medan. In their research, the U-Dictionary application acts as a learning tool and media. U-Dictionary has a positive or good effect as a learning medium in teaching speaking.

Here, the researcher interested in using U-Dictionary, since there was a theory from (Pourhossein, 2017:32) There are various reasons why all English learners as well as teachers should know how to utilize modern

technology. Which indirectly U-Dictionary is a form of utilizing modern technology that can be used in learning. However, the variety of research designs made it difficult to generalize the results. Then the research object is different (previously researchers used U-Dictionary application to improve listening and speaking skills.), so in this study the researcher tried to test the U-Dictionary application for students' vocabulary mastery to decide the degree of effectiveness. In addition, the reason why the researcher choose MTsN 1 Kota Blitar as the subject of the study it is because in this school, students still have difficulty achieving learning indicators due to low vocabulary mastery. This is caused by the low interest in learning English. Teachers still use the search and memorize method, which may someday be irrelevant to the material and boring. Besides, MTsN 1 Kota Blitar has not applied the method of teaching vocabulary through U-Dictionary application in learning. In other words, conduct research about using U-Dictionary applicaton as a method to teach vocabulary in this school is an update. Therefore, this research is interested in effectiveness students' vocabulary mastery taught using the U-Dictionary application in class VIII at Mtsn 1 Blitar City. Considering the research gaps identified from the explanation above, the researcher conducted research with the title: "THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING U-DICTIONARY APPLICATION IN STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY OF EIGHT GRADE AT MTsN 1 KOTA BLITAR.

## **B. Formulation Of The Research Problem**

Based on the explanation above, the researcher formulated the problem as follow :

“Is there any significant difference in the eighth graders’ vocabulary mastery scores before and after being taught using the U-Dictionary application?”

## **C. Purpose Of The Research**

Purposes of the research as follows, were made based on the research problem:

1. To know the significant difference scores of the eighth graders vocabulary mastery before and after being taught by using the U-Dictionary application of eighth grade at MTsN 1 Kota Blitar.
2. To measure the effectiveness of vocabulary mastery by using U-Dictionary application of eight graders at MTsN 1 Kota Blitar.

## **D. Significance Of The Research**

Consistent with the research objectives above, we hope this research can provide great benefits and influence on students' learning abilities in school both theoretically and practically for students, teachers and researcher.

The importance of this research is as follows:

### **1. Theoretically**

The benefit of this research is that it has a positive impact on smartphone use. In addition, the use of this application can help students improve their vocabulary mastery skills more easily using the

U-Dictionary application. The use of the U-Dictionary application is considered very effective for students who want to learn English.

## 2. Practically

### a. For the students

The students can use U-Dictionary application as a learning media to improve many skills in English language and than using the U-Dictionary application to learning tool that is very easy to use anywhere and anytime.

### b. For the teacher

The results of this study are expected to provide a strategy and solution for teachers to provide interesting learning models for students by using a very effective translator application.

### c. For the next researcher

The results of this study are expected to be a reference for other research in using translator applications. To facilitate and improve students' vocabulary skills in learning English.

## **E. Definition Of Key Terms**

To prevent misunderstanding regarding the subject terminology and content of this study, researchers should define key terms used in this study:

### 1. U-Dictionary application

U-Dictionary is a word translator application, which can be downloaded to a smartphone that is capable of translating words into various languages. U-Dictionary can also translate words or sentences offline and online mode, which makes it very easy for users. With U-

Dictionary everyone can translate difficult words into the language they want, then they can also access quickly and briefly to practice the language they want. There are also many features of the U-Dictionary application that can be used to increase the vocabulary used, namely kius, direct scanning of words, and voice translation.

## 2. Vocabulary Mastery

Vocabulary mastery is knowledge of word meaning, how to pronounce it and use it. It points to all words in a language used by a particular individual or exists. Those are all words that the person knows. Vocabulary refers to a primary knowledge in learning a language. A student with a good vocabulary will have less difficulty than a student with a small vocabulary. Knowing it integrates with four English skills, so it must be mastered well by the learners.