

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains about the background of research, the statement of research problem, the objective of research, research hypothesis, significant of the research, the scope and limitation of research, and the definition of key term.

A. Background of Research

Language is a uniquely human trait. No other animal has the ability to communicate with anything like the complexity that humans do. The size and complexity of the human brain are also major distinguishing features of human beings. According to Mojtaba Eghlidi (2017), language cannot be separated from human lives because it encompasses almost every aspect of human life. One of the languages often used globally for communication is English. The English language is big business officially. There could be as many as a billion students learning English around the world. It is a very interesting and useful language that has many advantages for those who know it.

English as a foreign language is taught in Indonesia from primary school up to the university level. Despite this, some students in Indonesia are not aware that English is an important subject that should be learned, and they are not interested in learning it because they believe that English is hard to learn (Maxom, 2009). One important aspect of learning any

language is mastering vocabulary. If foreigners learn a new language without mastering the vocabulary of that language, they will find it difficult to understand it.

Vocabulary is the basic competence that students must reach in order to develop other competences such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening (Dwyer, 2009). In order to communicate effectively, students need to have an adequate vocabulary. It is difficult to master the other competences without a good understanding of vocabulary. In learning English, students should focus on building their vocabulary because by knowing words, they can learn how to use them to express their ideas and communicate effectively.

Realizing the importance of vocabulary in teaching and learning, a teacher should be able to create effective teaching strategies. The aim of using various teaching strategies is to help learners understand the lesson easily, thus keeping them engaged throughout the learning process.

Based on the writer's practical teaching experience (PPL) at MAN KOTA BLITAR, the writer found that the crucial factor causing students' reluctance to learn English is their weakness in vocabulary. When the writer explained the materials in English, the students remained quiet and did not respond. However, when the writer explained the material in Bahasa Indonesia, the students became interested, leading to a more communicative learning process. Additionally, when given assignments, the students did not understand the instructions when given in English, but they were able to

complete the tasks when the instructions were given in Bahasa Indonesia. The students were not even familiar with daily words such as "eat – ate – eaten," "find – found – found," and other common words. As a result, the target of the learning process for the day was rarely achieved due to the students' weakness in mastering vocabulary.

After observing classes at MAN KOTA BLITAR, the writer received feedback from the English teacher indicating that students found it difficult to learn or memorize new vocabulary and that the teaching-learning process was less interesting due to monotonous teaching methods and a lack of variety.

Therefore, the writer became interested in trying a method that could be used by teachers to enhance their teaching methods, especially in teaching English, and help students increase their vocabulary. The method chosen is the "Duolingo Application." The writer aims to investigate the influence of the Duolingo Application when implemented in classroom teaching for the students of MAN KOTA BLITAR. The study aims to determine whether this method will help students improve their vocabulary. It is expected that this approach will create a positive atmosphere in the classroom and provide an alternative way to expand students' vocabulary. Based on this explanation, the writer intends to conduct an experimental research study entitled: **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DUOLINGO APPLICATION TOWARD STUDENT'S VOCABULARY MASTERY AT MAN KOTA BLITAR.**

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of this study, the problems which are identified as follow:

Is there any significant difference score in between vocabulary mastery of students who are taught by using Duolingo and vocabulary mastery of students who are taught without using Duolingo at the tenth grade of MAN KOTA BLITAR?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based of the research problem, the objectives of research is formulated as follow :

- a. To know whether the students' English vocabulary can be improved by using Duolingo Application.
- b. To know the students' responds on the use of Duolingo Application in teaching English vocabulary.

D. Research Hypothesis

Hypothesis is a statement of research assumptions from a researcher about the relationship between two variables to be tested in the research framework of researchers. In this research, there are two variables that will be tasted.

- a. The null hypothesis (H_0)

There is no significant difference in scores between students' vocabulary mastery taught using the Duolingo application and without using

the Duolingo application at MAN KOTA BLITAR.LITAR

b. Alternative Hypothesis (Ha)

There is a significant difference in scores between students' vocabulary mastery taught using the Duolingo application and without using the Duolingo application at MAN KOTA BLITAR.

E. Significance of the Study

This research has some significance, there are :

1. The English Teacher

Based on this research, the writer expects that the Duolingo Application can be used as one of the teaching media by teachers to teach English vocabulary. It is hoped that this will help solve the problem of students' difficulties in memorizing the meanings of vocabulary words and make the learning process in the classroom more interesting and active, especially for the tenth-grade students of MAN KOTA BLITAR..

2. The students

For students, this research is expected to help them master English lessons. Using the Duolingo Application is anticipated to make learning exciting and enjoyable for students, both in the classroom and at home. This method is expected to solve their problems in understanding the meaning of words in sentences because teachers will use suitable media that will be new and engaging for them. As a result, students can use the Duolingo Application anywhere and at any time. These applications will help them

memorize vocabulary, which they can then use in daily communication.

3. The reader and the further researcher

This research is expected to provide new knowledge for readers and future researchers, enabling them to conduct better research on teaching and learning cases. It aims to offer solutions to students' vocabulary problems by introducing new methods. Furthermore, it aims to assist teachers who face similar problems to the ones addressed in this study.

F. Scope and Limitation of the Study

In this research, the scope is on Duolingo Application teaching strategies. This strategy is focused on investigating the effectiveness of the Duolingo application, this research is limited to vocabulary mastery and the Duolingo application at MAN KOTA BLITAR.

G. Definition of Key Terms

1. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is a method or effort that can be said to be effective if the effort and method is successful. So effectiveness is the effectiveness of the method or effort used.

2. Duolingo Application

Louis Von Ahn and Severin Hacker are the creator of Duolingo application as one of free language-learning application. Duolingo is supported by very advanced practical fun technology. Not only available in website but also in Android, IOS and Windows phone version is already

supported. Users are provided 100 different language courses available in 28 languages; there are 22 more courses that are still being developed. This imply that young learners can be easier to learn other language through this application. In this research focuses on English usage to increase the ability of the students especially in vocabulary mastery.

3. Vocabulary mastery

According to Hatch and Brown (1995: 1), vocabulary is a collection of words that are used in a particular language, or a list or set of words that an individual speaks. Mastery is the thorough understanding of knowledge or a particular thing (Oxford Learner's Dictionary, Edition 2005: 944). Vocabulary mastery can be defined as the students' understanding of the meaning, pronunciation, and usage of words. Vocabulary is an essential aspect to consider in listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. Vocabulary mastery is defined as the skill to comprehensively understand the meaning of words.