

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Vocabulary is one of the most important components in learning English. Cause in listening we need vocabulary, in reading we need vocabulary, in speaking we need vocabulary, in writing we also really need vocabulary. That is the reason why we have to master the vocabulary in learning English. A vocabulary is a set of words that are familiar in someone's language that has meaning that aims to convey or explain something. Vocabulary that usually develops with age, serves as a useful and fundamental tool for communication and gaining knowledge. Obtaining extensive vocabulary is one of the biggest challenges for learning a second language.

David Wilkins summed up that vocabulary is very important cause without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. His view is echoed in this advice to students from a recent course book.¹ In learning English, vocabulary is also a big problem when we only know little vocabulary. Cause we cannot communicate with other people when we do not know the vocabulary. Vocabulary help the students in process learning or they can use in their daily activity.

The researcher found one of the courses English in Pinrang where students were very enthusiastic about learning English. Every Saturday and Sunday they learned English at Rumah Bambu Pintar (RBP). There were many students there, start from elementary school until senior high school. At Rumah Bambu Pintar (RBP) the researcher found one of problems that students have in learning English. One of their problems were they had few vocabulary, so it made them difficult to

¹ Scott Thornbury, *How Teach Vocabulary* (England: Longman, 2002) p.13

speak or write in English and difficult to understand when their teachers speak in English.

In RBP, the students got some vocabulary from every material. Every material will be delivered by the teachers for three meetings. Such as material about pronoun, shape and size etc. Teacher gave the students 10-20 vocabulary from one material and they memorized it. Before the students memorized the vocabulary, the teacher explained how to pronounce the words correctly and the students followed it.

The problem of the students' RBP was difficult to memorize the vocabulary and difficult to remember again words or vocabulary that they have memorized. Some of them also needed much time to memorize the vocabulary. In the first meeting they memorized the vocabulary but in the next meeting some of them forgot the vocabulary that they have memorized.

Some of the students easily to memorize the vocabulary but easily also forgot the vocabulary that they have memorized. If the students had difficulty to memorize or remember the vocabulary, it made them difficult to communicate with their teachers and their friends by using English. It made them also difficult to answer the question or exercise that their teacher given.

There were many technique to enhance vocabulary, one of is mnemonics technique. A mnemonic is an instructional strategy designed to help students improve their memory of important information. Cause we knew that function of memory is as a place of deviation. So, when we stored vocabulary in our memory, it helped us to remember the vocabulary that has been memorized. This technique connects new learning to prior knowledge through the use of key words, rhyming words, or acronyms. Teacher may developed mnemonics technique or have students come up with their own.

Based on background above, the researcher was interest in conducting research on *“Enhancing Students’ Vocabulary Mastery Through Mnemonics Technique at Rumah Bambu Pintar Kec. Suppa Kab. Pinrang”*

B. Research Question

Based on the background, the researcher would like to formulate the problem as follows:

1. Is mnemonics technique able to enhance the students’ vocabulary mastery at Rumah Bambu Pintar?
2. Are students interested in learning English through mnemonics technique?

C. Objectives of the Research

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out whether or not mnemonics technique is able to enhance the students’ vocabulary mastery at Rumah Bambu Pintar.
2. To find out wheter or not students interested in learning English through the mnemonics technique.

D. Significance of the Research

The significance of the research are:

1. For the Teachers

The mnemonics technique can be used by the teachers as a reference in teaching activities in the classroom. This technique helped the students to memorize the vocabulary and to remember the vocabulary that they have memorized easily. So, the teacher touch vocabulary easily by using mnemonic technique.

2. For the Students

The students enhanced their vocabulary through mnemonics technique. With mnemonics technique they memorized new vocabulary and remembered again

vocabulary easily that they have memorized. So, it made the students communicated with the other people by using English. It made them able to answer the question that their teacher gave.

3. For the Researcher

The researcher was able to get experience and knowledge about teaching and learning vocabulary with mnemonics technique and it could useful information for the next researcher in teaching vocabulary by using mnemonics technique, the researcher touch vocabulary easily and helped the students to memorize and remembered the vocabulary easily.

