

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language is one of the most essential means of communication between communities and individuals. Anyone who wants to convey messages or feelings whether orally or in a written form should use language. It is known that the English language is considered by many people to be one of the important languages all over the world because it is an international one.

English is an international language that is very useful to obtain information about education, technology, religion, economics, and others. This makes us have to master the English language because the exchange of information can be done with all people in the world using the international language. In Indonesia, English has been taught in junior high schools up to college. Four skills in English that must be mastered namely Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Apart from these four skills, there are also components namely Grammar, Vocabulary and Pronunciation.

Both aspects are very important that you need to be mastered by the student to accomplish all those skills which can not be separated from each other. The students may be able to use English in communication better if they master all those language components. Scott Thornburg quoting the linguist David Wilkins who summed up the importance of vocabulary learning point out, "without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed".¹ From the statement we can know without the vocabulary we cannot communicate.

Vocabulary is one of the elements of language proficiency that become the basis of how well learners speak, write, listen and read. In the past, vocabulary teaching and learning were often given little priority in the second language program. Whereas, without a good mastery of vocabulary, learners may be discouraged in

¹ Scott Thornbury, *How To Teach Vocabulary* (Harlow: Pearson Educational Limited 2002), p.13.

making use of language learning change around them such as watching English program, listening to an English song, reading some kinds of English books, etc.

In communication, students need vocabulary which can support them to produce and use meaningful sentences because vocabulary is part of the sentence. Therefore, vocabulary is very important to be mastered. For this reason, the students have to develop their vocabulary and master it in order to be able to communicate with each other.

Vocabulary is not the only a symbol for ideas but also a part of how to improve language skills in the target language. The more vocabulary which students master the more ideas they could have, so they can communicate by using their ideas more effectively. Standard vocabulary that students have to memorize in junior high school is 700 until 15.000 vocabularies.² As is the case with most of the students in SMP 12 Negeri Parepare there is less talk when learning English, less in understanding the English text in because of the lack of vocabulary they have.

Problems faced by students while learning English such as English vocabulary that they are hard to memorize due to writing and how to read different, the methods used by teachers who are less interested in students and others. In teaching English vocabulary there are many methods we can use, one of which is the method of mnemonic keywords. The keyword method is a technique (a form of mnemonics) commonly used to learn vocabulary words. It takes unfamiliar information and makes it more meaningful and concrete and thus, easier to remember.³ With this method will make it easier for students to memorize new vocabulary.

Based on the problems above researchers interested in researching vocabulary students using the method mnemonic keyword by taking the title The Effectiveness

²Standard Vocabulary” Salamadian Muda & Berilmu. <http://salamadian.com/kosakata-bahasa-Inggris/> (Accessed on 08 March 2018)

³Intan Susana, “Enhancing For Vocabulary Mastery Through Mnemonics Keyword Method To The University Students”, (Journal Of English Teaching And Research 2, No.1, May 2017), p.3.

Of Mnemonic Keyword Method To Improve Students' Vocabulary Mastery At The First Year Of Smp Negeri 12 Parepare.

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the background above, the problem can be formulated as follows:

- 1.1.1 Is the mnemonic keyword method able to improve students' vocabulary mastery?
- 1.1.2 How the effectiveness of the mnemonic keyword method does improve students' vocabulary mastery?

1.3 Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is examining the effectiveness of the mnemonic keyword method to improve students' vocabulary mastery.

1.4 Significance of the Research

- 1.4.1 **Teachers:** As a source of information and reference in learning that is more attractive to students and effective in the classroom.
- 1.4.2 **Students:** Improving student learning outcomes and solidarity to enrich themselves with English vocabulary, improving the ability to analyze a problem through learning with innovative learning models.
- 1.4.3 **Researchers:** The results of this study can make a very valuable contribution to the development of the science of education, especially on the application of learning models to improve learning outcomes and learning outcomes in the classroom, especially on learning vocabulary.
- 1.4.4 **School:** As a means of learning to integrate knowledge and skills with a direct jump so as to see, feel, and observe whether the learning practices that have been done so far have been effective and efficient.