

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Presently, English is used as an International Language, it becomes popular in the world especially in Indonesia, and vocabulary is an important part of English study because the more vocabulary we know the better we can understand the meaning of the words.

Developing a strong vocabulary is a process that takes time. It involves learning new words, understanding their meanings, and using them in different contexts. It also involves learning new words and understanding their various forms and meanings. By developing a strong vocabulary, students can become more proficient in the language and more capable of engaging in meaningful conversations.

Nowadays, vocabulary teaching gets more attention. Vocabulary teaching needs to be implemented as early as possible since elementary school and should not be delayed though students have not mastered grammar. In fact, vocabulary is one of important components of English element which has to be learnt seriously by students in English. It is believable that vocabulary plays an important role in language use. Vocabulary is central to language and of critical importance to typical language learners. Without a sufficient vocabulary, students cannot communicate effectively or express their ideas in either oral or written form. (Fauziati, 2008:149)

Teachers often tend to prioritize teaching grammar, as noted by Uysal and Bardakci (2014). While grammar plays a crucial role in language formation, it is essential to recognize that vocabulary mastery holds the utmost importance (Alqahtani, 2015). Without a strong grasp of vocabulary, the intended meaning or message may not be effectively conveyed (Khan et al., 2018; Olinghouse & Wilson,

2013). Thus, in addition to emphasizing grammar, teachers must also focus on enhancing students' vocabulary skills.

Vocabulary is an important consideration for both teachers and students when learning a foreign language. The level of vocabulary knowledge will heavily influence one's comprehension of a text, whether written or spoken. They will easily comprehend the ideas supplied by the writer in a written text or messages delivered in spoken texts if they have a large enough vocabulary. Teaching vocabulary is an essential aspect for assisting students in becoming proficient in English. Nevertheless, numerous teachers have encountered numerous challenges when it comes to instructing and learning vocabulary within the classroom.

Wilkins (2010), one of the primary challenges in teaching vocabulary is deciding whether to teach the form of words before their meaning or vice versa. Another author also highlighted two significant facts that teachers occasionally overlook: a single form can have multiple meanings, and conversely, one meaning can be expressed by different forms.

When it comes to the actual implementation of vocabulary instruction, various matters might arise that present difficulties or complexities. Beltrán (2001) endeavored to explore certain challenges encountered while teaching vocabulary, including the difficulty in identifying wrongly taught vocabulary, using words in a context devoid of meaning, improper utilization of dictionaries, erroneous deployment of grammatical forms, spelling errors, as well as pronunciation or stress errors. Consequently, she recommended that teachers should exercise caution in their word selection and deliberate on effective strategies to guide their students towards comprehension.

Sedita (2005) identified a number of issues that English teachers face in developing sufficient vocabulary in the classroom. The challenge seemed to happen if the students are lack of knowledge

of English, do not read outside of school, having reading and learning disabilities, and are lack of vocabulary knowledge.

Suardi and Sakti (2019) states that challenges in teaching vocabulary are difficult in selecting vocabulary to be taught because there are many words in English and the students do not have same ability. Moreover Kamsinah, K., Nurasik, N., & Said, A. M. (2021) concluded that the challenges in teaching vocabulary are laziness; lack of motivation; lack of vocabulary; student's lack of pronunciation and student's lack of confident when learning English.

When it comes to teaching English to young learners, particularly in regard to vocabulary, it is crucial to provide comprehensive coverage of specific areas that pertain to English vocabulary instruction and learning. This comprehensive coverage should encompass the definition of vocabulary, different categories or types of vocabulary, the significance of vocabulary, general principles that promote successful vocabulary teaching, the challenges associated with teaching vocabulary within the context of English as a foreign language (EFL), techniques for effectively teaching vocabulary, and the necessity of prioritizing vocabulary instruction.

Teachers have the important role to build students vocabulary, to improve and enrich student's vocabulary. They need to be aware of the different strategies for teaching vocabulary and select the most suitable one for their students. The effectiveness of the strategy also depends on how teachers present it to the students and how they combine different strategies for best results.

Dastjerdi and Amiryousefi (2010) stated that one should concern about what it is to know a word and how to teach a word. They demonstrated that when teaching vocabulary, students, mostly low-level students, are frequently frustrated because guessing meaning from context does not result in long-term retention.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested to conduct the research entitled *The Challenges of Teaching English For Young Learners : A Case Study Of Teaching Elementary School*.

1.2. Reasons for Choosing the topic

Firstly, the significance of vocabulary within the process of learning English is addressed. Few instructors give sufficient consideration to the factors involved in vocabulary instruction. Nevertheless, vocabulary constitutes a fundamental element within the realm of English education, demanding earnest attention from students. Vocabulary serves as a foundational aspect for cultivating all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Insufficient vocabulary knowledge can impede proficiency in these four skills.

Secondly, numerous educational practitioners, encompassing curriculum designers, textbook creators, and teachers, tend to disregard the critical role of vocabulary instruction. The English curriculum and accompanying textbooks often lack comprehensive materials focused on mastering vocabulary. Instructors seldom prioritize vocabulary teaching, despite the recommendation for students to acquire vocabulary knowledge from their teachers. Recognizing the pivotal importance of vocabulary, it is imperative that vocabulary instruction receives a suitable share within the English teaching and learning process.

1.3. Statement of the Problem

Based on the problematicities which are stated in the background of the study above, the statement of the problem will be formulated as follows:

1. What are the challenges faced by the English teacher in teaching vocabulary at Elementary School?

2. What are the factors causing difficulties faced by the English teachers in teaching vocabulary at Elementary School?

1.4. Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of the problem above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the difficulties faced by the English teachers in teaching vocabulary at Elementary School.
2. To analyze the factors causing difficulties faced by the English teachers in teaching vocabulary at Elementary School.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The research is anticipated to hold importance for educators, students, creators of educational materials, and fellow researchers. Primarily, English teachers in the Losari District can gain value from the study's findings as they enhance their instructional approaches, particularly when teaching vocabulary, to enhance their students' vocabulary learning capabilities. Furthermore, the outcomes will offer value to textbook creators, enabling them to integrate the significance of vocabulary instruction into their materials.