

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Vocabulary is the most important aspect in English, because vocabulary must appear in every language skills which are reading, speaking, listening, and writing. In addition to grammar, pronunciation, and spelling, vocabulary is regarded as one of the key components of language learning. Additionally, learning a second language (L2) requires a solid vocabulary (Barkat and Aminafshar, 2015; Reynolds and Shih, 2019). As Linse (2006) stated Vocabulary is a collection of understanding words by someone, it means vocabulary is all the words that people knew in English. Lehr (2004) stated that vocabulary is knowledge of words and word meanings in both oral and written language and in productive and receptive form. Accordingly, the low language ability of someone caused by the amount of vocabulary the people have is very low. It means before we learn about the important things in English Grammar, we must start with vocabulary mastery because more vocabulary we have means easier for us to acquire English.

In fact, vocabulary mastery for Junior High School in our Country is very low. Based on a report by the educational institution Education First (EF), Indonesia has an English proficiency index of 466 in 2021, it is proven with the Indonesian Rank in South East Asia stuck in rank 5 from 11 countries. And it's very far from our neighboring countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Filipina, and

Vietnam. This score is low ability category and places it in fifth place in Southeast Asia. It's become a problem case to us to find other ways how to improve student ability in English, especially for Junior high school students.

This research exists based on the researcher's experiences when became a teacher's assistant in the PLP 2 program at SMP N 15 Medan. When the researcher tries to teach English, many of the students can't follow the lesson because they don't have the basic skills which is vocabulary mastery. As an example in class VIII from 29 students just 8-10 students can follow the lesson well. It is proven by the report score average, in class VIII-4 the English score average is 72.00 meanwhile the standard of minimum competencies is 75.00 and just 2 students have scored more than 85.0.

When the researcher taught in the class many students didn't know the meaning of familiar/simple words like smart, lazy, change, diligent, and many words students should be understand in Junior High School level. Even though learning vocabulary can use a dictionary but for the millennial student it's very boring, because they learn monotone or in one direction without interaction. They just read the vocabulary in the dictionary and try to memorize it with the dull dictionary. So many student's lazy or not interested in using dictionaries to improve or develop their vocabulary. They just use a dictionary if they have difficulties in finishing their homework and It's not called learning but finishing the task.

From this problem, the researcher has an idea to give student innovation in increasing their vocabulary mastery. To find the other way how to improve the

vocabulary mastery of junior high school students we must follow the era, Now all aspects of education have connectivity with the Digital Internet, and also students are now more interested in digital education than conventional education. So it means we need some ways to interest the student to learn about vocabulary mastery. We can make an alteration about how to develop student vocabulary mastery in the digital era, and the answer is using an application or platform that is using the Word Up application. This application have many differences with the other vocabulary builder application. Like Elsa application that have same function with Word Up that is Vocabulary Builder. But, eventhough Elsa have same function with Word Up they have some differences. Word Up is a platform/application from Geeks Ltd company that have many features to help student in increasing their vocabulary. Features like pronunciation records, similar words, daily activities, and many of features can students get from the Word Up application. And then, the researcher will analyze the student's improvement before and after using the Word Up application relate to their English weekly score.

B. Problem of The Study

There are two problems of the study :

1. How is the student's vocabulary mastery progress using the Word Up application?
2. How are Student's Vocabulary mastery in Grade IX at SMP N 15 Medan in the academic year 2023/2024?

3. What is student's perception about Word Up application?

C. The Objective of the Study

There are The objectives of the study :

1. To what extent of effect by use the Word Up application for student vocabulary mastery in Grade IX at SMP N 15 Medan in the academic year 2022/2023.
2. To Investigate Word Up application as a media for vocabulary mastery students in Grade IX at SMP N 15 Medan in the academic year 2022/2023.
3. To analyze the student's perception about Word Up application.

D. The scope of the Study

In this study, the scope of study was Word Up as media for students vocabulary mastery on Grade IX-4 at SMP Negeri 15 Medan.

E. The Significance of the Study

1. Theoretically

- a. This study expects that teachers can be more creative in finding and solving the student's difficulties in learning English, especially vocabulary.
- b. This Study expects that the others researcher can make this study as a reference to support their study too.

2. Practically

- a. The result of this study expects that students can be more active in learning English especially vocabulary not just by using a dictionary but also digital platform/applications.
- b. The result of this study expects that using an application to learn vocabulary can be an appropriate strategy in developing the student's vocabulary mastery.

