

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses the background of the problem. Then, it is followed by identification and limitation of the problems, formulation of the problem and purpose of the study. This chapter is ended by an elaboration of significance of the study.

Background of the Problem

Vocabulary mastery is a must for people who learn English. Foreign language learners cannot master all skills in English without vocabulary. Moreover, foreign language learners need enough vocabulary to express themselves and they will not get stuck when they read, write, listen and speak. Thornbury (2002) states that without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. It means that even someone can have good ability in grammar but it will be useless if they do not know some of vocabularies.

There are many ways to improve the students' vocabulary, one of them is using a dictionary. The use of a dictionary can be a useful tool for foreign language learners in the vocabulary acquisition. Dictionary as a description of the vocabulary used by members of the speech community and the starting point for this description is evidence of what members of the speech community do when they communicate with one other (Atkins & Rudell 2008, cited in Tum 2012). In fact, the dictionary is the very important tool for foreign language learners to

understand the meaning of word and mastering vocabulary, so that the learners can communicate with each other clearly.

Mastery is learning or understanding something completely and having no difficulty in using it (Porter, 2001). Mastering vocabulary is understand about meaning, word use, word formation and word grammar and having no difficulty in facing the four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Learners need a lot of vocabularies to communicate with other people. According to Schmitt (2001) as cited in Huang and Eslami (2013) language learners need a vocabulary size of 2,000-word families to maintain a conversation and at least 10,000-word families for reading comprehension of academic text. By this situation, learners need a lot of vocabularies to communicate with other people easily.

The use of dictionary not only to find unfamiliar word but also knowing the right pronunciation. There are some words which have similar pronunciation but different meaning. That is why people should know how to pronounce the word rightly.

Based on the researcher's experience and observation at EED of UMY, the students often found difficulties in understanding the vocabulary while reading a text. They used a dictionary to find the meaning of unfamiliar words. English Education Department (EED) of UMY has capita selecta on grammar and translation subject that needs student in mastering vocabulary by translating a lot of text. The researcher is interested in looking at the dictionary as a technique to acquire words to be conducted mastery of vocabulary. The researcher conducted

the research in EED of UMY batch 2013, because students batch 2013 have been done Capita Selecta on Grammar and Translating subjects.

From the explanation mentioned, it can be concluded that, the using of dictionary in mastering vocabulary is important. Students need to mastering a lot of vocabulary so that they can easily in learning English. The researcher wants to conduct a research to find the correlation between the use of dictionary and vocabulary mastery of students of EED of UMY batch 2013.

Identification and Limitation of the Problem

Based on the researcher experience in EED of UMY, the students read a lot of text then find the difficulties in understanding the vocabulary, students cannot catch what native speakers' said, and they find the difficulties in delivering what they want to say while speaking in front of the class. It happens because they have the only small size of vocabulary. The researcher also finds when the students found new vocabulary they did not try to find the meaning. The use of a dictionary can be useful tool for students in vocabulary mastery.

There are many factors that influence students' vocabulary mastery, so the research needs to limit this research. The researcher chose the use of English dictionary as a factor that influence students' vocabulary mastery. In the use of dictionary only discuss types of the dictionary, the purpose of using dictionary and benefits of using a dictionary. The use of English dictionary is independent variable (X) and students' vocabulary mastery is dependent variable (Y). The researcher assumed that the use of English dictionary can improve students'

vocabulary mastery. Then, the researcher is going to investigate that dependent variable (X) contribute to independent variable (Y).

Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background mentioned the researcher conducts a study concerning the correlation between using English dictionary and student's vocabulary mastery. The questions of this research are:

1. How is the use of English dictionary of the students of EED of UMY batch 2013?
2. How is the vocabulary mastery of the students of EED of UMY batch 2013?
3. Is there significant correlation between the use of English dictionary and vocabulary mastery of the students of EED of UMY batch 2013?

Purpose of the Study

1. To find out the use of English dictionary of the students of EED of UMY batch 2013.
2. To find out the vocabulary mastery of students of EED of UMY batch 2013.
3. To find out whether or not there is a significant correlation between the use of English dictionary and vocabulary mastery of students of EED of UMY batch 2013.

Significance of the Research

Hopefully, the result of this study is useful for students, teachers, and all the readers. The result will be used for the following:

For the researcher. By doing the research, the researcher hopes to get more information to identify the problem in mastering vocabulary by the use of English dictionary. Besides, the researcher will get new experience and knowledge about the use of dictionary for mastering vocabulary for the future of her life.

For teachers. The result of this study can give the teachers information about teaching vocabulary. The teachers can give suggestion to the students about the use of dictionary in learning vocabulary.

For the students. Students who have difficulties in mastering vocabulary, this research is expected to give information that dictionary can be a useful tool to help them mastering vocabulary.

Other researchers. This research can be one of the references for doing the next research related to the use of dictionary to improve students' vocabulary mastery.