

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language has very important rule our live, because language is a tool for communication. Human being uses language as means of expressing ideas, feeling, and acceptance to the others. In Indonesia English is foreign language and it has been taught to the students from the first years of junior high school up to university. English is also taught for elementary school as local content.

Mastering this language is not simple thing to do. There are some skills that should be learned and practiced. Such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. They are the basic language skill especially in teaching English as a foreign language at school, courses or other educational places wheter they are formal or informal.

Readingis considered the most important foreign language skills. This is in line with Harry Madox (1988) says that “Reading is the most important single

skill in study”. In addition to this statement the curriculum stated that out of the four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing, the main emphasis is only reading skill because it is believed that the acquisition of reading is a second of foreign language is a main priority.

In addition reading is a good thing in life because it is a factor of good importance in the individual development and the most important activity in school. It is also needed in every level of field of study.

Being able to read in English is very important. We know that success in reading is the most necessary because it is basic tool of education. All the subjects in elementary school such as mathematics, science, language, and others depend on the ability to read. In high school and college, reading ability becomes even more important because students are more active to gain written in university.

Nowadays the ability to comprehend English is necessary for millions of people. By understanding English, people are able to communicate in English and also able to read many kinds of English text. The ability to read is crucial in contemporary society. People find many texts written in English, from holiday brochures to academic books, newspaper, and magazines, therefore, the ability to read English text in any form will give a great deal of advantages in our lives.

One of the purposes of teaching English as a foreign language to Indonesian people is that they can read, grasp the idea and understand the book written in English. To achieve those purposes, students need a lot of words in English to master. As Norbert (1997) said, “vocabulary is the one of important skill in a language”, so to achieve the success in language teaching learning process especially English, vocabulary is the very important aspect to master.

Vocabulary is one of the important skills in a language. So to achieve the success in language teaching learning process especially English, vocabulary is very important language aspect to master. Vocabulary is one of the language aspects is to learn when people are learning the language. It is important to learn a language without vocabulary. So in a language learning vocabulary is necessary.

Vocabulary is a crucial component in acquiring and understanding language. When we read something it will sound good if we understand the words or vocabulary in our reading. Because it will help and guide us in pronouncing, reading, and grasping the idea from our reading, so we will understand. Vocabulary is the stock of words used in a language, the better it will make their performance.

Good mastery of vocabulary is important for anyone who learns the language used in listening, speaking, writing and reading. A learner of foreign language will speak fluently and accurately, write easily, or understand what he or she reads or hears if he or she has enough vocabulary and has the capability of using it accurately.

Mastering vocabulary is the ability to get or to receive lots of words. By having and mastering vocabulary we will know the meaning of vocabulary in the context. It can also help to avoid making mistakes in understanding a written or spoken text.

On the other hand, foreign students who learn English face a classical problem dealing with English reading text, lack of vocabulary is the major one, whereas in fact vocabulary is the most important thing in reading skill.

The English vocabulary often becomes a problem for most high school and university student although they have studied English since elementary school. Sometimes the student always get difficult to understand some words in context.

From the explanation mentioned above, we have known how important the vocabulary mastery in reading activity.

To test the correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension the writer conduct the research entitle **“A Study on the Correlation between Vocabulary Mastery and Reading Comprehension Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMA Negeri 1 Tasifeto Timur in the School Year 2015/2016.”**

1.2 Hypotheses

As have been stated above, there are two hypotheses that the writer would like to provide, namely:

H₀ There is no correlation between the mastery of vocabulary and reading comprehension ability.

H₁ There is a correlation between the mastery of vocabulary and reading comprehension ability.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the problem above, the objective of the study is to find out whether or not there is a correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading

comprehension of the eighth grade student of SMA Negeri 1 Tasifeto Timur in the school year 2015/2016.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to present some value contributions to the following persons:

1) For the Writer

The result of this study is going to be a good input to improve and enrich her knowledge on theory of the correlation between vocabulary and reading comprehension for writer's future when she becomes the real teacher.

2) For the English teacher

This research can be good input for the English that the correlation between vocabulary and reading comprehension is helpful in the student's second language leaning. Also the teacher can use this research to measure student's achievement in the classroom.

3) For the Readers

This research is expected to give information and knowledge about the correlation between vocabulary and reading comprehension.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study attempts to find out the correlation between the main skills and sub skills. To be more focus, the writer limits only on finding out the correlation between vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension of the eighth grade students of SMA Negeri 1 TasifetoTimur in the school year 2015/2016.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are terms used in this study that should be defined. The definition may help the readers understand the study as the whole. The terms that should be defined in this study are:

1. Correlation

Correlation is a statistical relation between two or more variables such the systematic changes in the value of one variable are accompanied by systematic changes in the other (Lewis, 2011). Here are the correlation between vocabulary and reading.

2. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is total number of words in a language (Hornby, 1945: 461). Vocabulary is teaching words from phrase and sentences and they have meaning and function.

3. Mastery

According to Hornby (1975: 126) it is a great skill or knowledge. For this study, it is great knowledge for the students of SMANegeri1 Tasifeto Timur.

4. Reading

Reading is an activity of directing the eyes on printed material by which a reader is led to record the information for the brain (Anderson, 1984). In this study reading refers to activity of directing the eyes on printed material that is done by Eighth Grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Tasifeto Timur.

5. Comprehension

It is the main act or power of understanding (Hornby, 1987: 2). In this study comprehension is a process by which the Eighth Grade Students of SMA Negeri 1 Tasifeto Timur understand the reading text they have read.

6. SMAN 1 Tasifeto Timur

It is a state of senior high school located in Kecamatan Tasifeto Timur, Kabupaten Belu.