

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Language is a tool used by people for their communication. The communication between people both as individuals and as groups in one area and from one to another can only be built up through language. Communication is seen as a process of sharing with other person, one's knowledge, interest, attitudes, opinions, feelings and ideas. So, without the ability to communicate, each of us would live in isolation, set apart from our fellow human beings.

There are many languages in the world. One of them is English. Learning English is very important because English has become an international language which is used by most communities in the world. Many countries use English as their second language. English is not only used in communication but also in transferring information. Considering that English is the language of the international communication, students have to master English well both oral and written forms.

The objectives of teaching English is to develop English communicative competence in the four language skills namely: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The four skills are supposed to be supported by other language subskills. They are structure, pronunciation, vocabulary, and spelling. Therefore, vocabulary is one of the important language elements that students should master on because vocabulary includes collection of words that can form a meaning and can be connected to each other to be a sentence to convey the meaning. Without having

enough vocabulary students are not able to develop their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Napa (1991: 6) says that vocabulary is one of the language components and that no language exists without word. Dickey (1980: 150) states that a good vocabulary is important tool for effective communication. Hatch and Brown (1995: 1) state that vocabulary refers to a list or a set of words that individual speakers of language might use. In addition, Richek (2006: 2) states that students have difficulty in learning English at school without having adequate vocabulary.

In senior high school English teaching, vocabulary learning is an important component. According to Bauman (1991: 7) words are the tools we use to access our background knowledge, express ideas, and learn about new concepts. This means that students need enough vocabulary to build up a new concept. So, it is the teacher responsibility to make sure that the students have very good vocabulary mastery. The students need the instructions which can help them to acquire the vocabulary mastery. In preparing the instructions, firstly the teacher should know the students' vocabulary mastery. It can be done by conducting a vocabulary test. The result of the test can be used by the teacher to prepare the instruction.

Considering vocabulary as an important component in learning English the writer wants to know what is the ability level of students in senior high school. So, the writer would like to conduct a study under the title **“A Study on the Ability in Using Vocabulary of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the School Year 2014/2015”**.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The main problem of this study is to know the students vocabulary ability. The problems are formulated in two questions as follows:

1. Are the eleventh grade students SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 able to use the vocabulary or not?
2. What is the ability level of eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in using vocabulary?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the questions as stated above, the objective of study are stated as follows.

1. To find out whether or not the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 are able to use the English vocabulary?
2. To find out the ability level the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in using vocabulary.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is actually the usefulness or the benefit of a study for human beings. Thus, this study has some benefits for the following persons:

1. The Teacher

This study can help the teacher in the researched school to know their students ability on vocabulary. The result of the study will be a reference for teachers to improve their vocabulary teaching to help their students in mastering English vocabulary.

2. The Students

Through this study the students of the researched school are able to know their level of ability in vocabulary. This study will help the student to develop and improve their ability in using vocabulary.

3. Other writers

The result of the research can be used as a reference for the students who will conduct the same research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are some basic skills and sub-skills of learning language including English. The basic skills cover listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The sub-skills cover vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and spelling. This study focuses on vocabulary, one sub-skill in learning language, in this case learning English. There are some types of vocabulary in English, namely nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. In this study, the writer focuses on nouns and verbs.

1.6 Definition of Term

To assist the reader's understanding this writing, the writer would like to present some definitions of term:

1. Ability

Ability is a level of skills or intelligences (Hornby, 1978: 2). Ability in this study is the level of skills of the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in mastering vocabulary.

2. Vocabulary

Hornby (1995: 985) states that vocabulary is the total number of the words (with their meaning and with rules for combining them) making up the language. In this study, vocabulary refers to the words (noun and verb) which have been learned by the students of SMA Negeri 6 Kupang

3. SMAN 6 Kupang

SMAN 6 Kupang is one of state Senior High Schools in Kupang. It locates on Jln HR. Koroh Sikumana, Kupang municipal.