

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter is divided into several parts : Background of the Study, Reason for Choosing the Topic, Question of the Study, Objective of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Significant of the study, Definition of Key Term, Outline of the Research Report.

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

In Indonesia, English is still being learnt by the students as a foreign language since it is only taught and used in the classroom. Therefore, as an impact it is not easy for Indonesia students to master English because there are many components that must be studied from basic like vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and culture. In some countries, English has become the first language which is used in daily life. Hence, there is no difficulty for the learners to master it because they practice it daily. Since language is basically spoken which should be practice often, then without a regular practice and learning strategies, the objective of learning will not be reached maximally.

In English teaching learning process, the objective of learning must be about students who are eventually able to master English well. In order to master it, students must previously master both micro skills like vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation etc. as well as macro skills like listening, speaking, reading and writing. They should start from micro skills like vocabulary to ease them in

learning this foreign language systematically, so that they can finally communicate in certain level of English well.

In fact, vocabulary is a part of component that must be learned first. The students have to master vocabulary in order to improve their skill in language, because vocabulary is one of the elements that can not be separated from language as it links the four language skills. In other words, vocabulary mastery takes an important role in mastering four basic skills of English. By having a lot of English vocabulary, students would be able to communicate in English effectively. Vocabulary mastery is one of the important aspects in learning foreign languages. In order to communicate well in a foreign language, one should indeed have enough vocabulary and knows how to use them correctly.

Vocabulary is one of the major challenges foreign language learners face during the process of learning a language (Ghazal, 2007). One of the important aspect in learning English is mastering vocabulary. All four skills need vocabulary, so if the students do not have enough vocabulary, they cannot learn English successfully. Theoritically, they have to read, hear, understand and memorize vocabulary as much as they possibly can. They have to train everyday and apply it to their activities in daily lives. This condition pushed the student to learn English vocabulary hardly to make a better understanding of that word, so they can use it properly in order to improve the education quality in learning English, mostly for Indonesia.

Most of Indonesia students get problem about their limited vocabulary. There are many problems that the students can face in learning vocabulary, such as the lack of training, the lack of curiosity and the strategy to learn. One way to solve the problem is to help students in becoming independent learners during the course. Furthermore, Ghazal (2007) explains that this could be achieved through instructing learners to apply vocabulary learning and acquiring strategies as efficient as possible. The weakness in vocabulary as one of

language components makes the students have difficulties to express their idea or catch the meaning of words in paragraph or in oral expression. It is assumed that students will face some learning problems, which may due to the differences between English and Indonesian, grammatically and phonologically as well.

Based on the reasons above, some efforts must be done to solve the problems. The main objective of this research is to investigate the usage of different vocabulary learning and acquiring strategies among English foreign learners, because not all strategies have the same effect on all learners. Thus, there is a need for a research which seeks answers to a question of such problem that relate to what strategies which can be helpful to learn and acquire vocabulary of English as a foreign language.

## **1.2 Reason for Choosing the Topic**

This reseach which entitles “Investigating Indonesian EFL Learners' Learning and Acquiring English Vocabulary (A Case of the Tenth Graders in SMA N 2 Demak Acedemic Year 2018/2019)” is choosen based on the following reasons :

1. Most students still have difficulties for lacking of vocabulary mastery, so that they cannot convey their ideas clearly because of their limited vocabulary.
2. Learning vocabulary is one of the basic and most challenging tasks of any language which is why there is a need to help learners with the strategies which can be helpful to learn and acquire vocabulary of English as a foreign language.
3. In 2017 when conducted teaching practice in SMA 2 Demak, I asked my students to describe about their friend, but they could not express their idea. Actually, they knew about what they want to say in Indonesia but they got difficulty to convey it in English because of the vocabulary lacking.

### **1.3 Question of the Study**

There is one research question in this study:

“What is the most and least frequently used in vocabulary learning and acquiring strategies employed by the tenth graders in SMA N 2 Demak academic year 2018/2019?”

### **1.4 Objective of the Study**

In accordance to the research question, the objective of this research is to investigate the most and least frequently used in vocabulary learning and acquiring strategies employed by the tenth graders in SMA N 2 Demak academic year 2018/2019.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

This research limits its problems into some points, so it is not too wide and the research can be effective. This study is limited into 3 aspects : vocabulary learning strategies, vocabulary acquiring strategies and the tenth graders in SMA N 2 Demak academic year 2018/2019 especially class X MIPA 3 and X MIPA 4.

### **1.6 Significances of the Study**

The main outcome from this study is expected to be useful, worthed and motivating all parties involve in this research at following scopes :

#### **1. Pedagogical Significance**

The result of this study is expected in give contribution to English education. This study can give feedback in teaching learning process especially for learning vocabulary. This study may also help English teachers picturise students' strategy in learning and acquiring so it can be a reference for teaching and learning process dealing with English vocabulary.

## 2. Practical Significance

### a. For teachers

The result of this study hopefully lead the teachers to help the students more in recognizing and understanding their potential for vocabulary mastery during English teaching learning activity. The teachers can implement the findings of this study to support high proficient students and encourage weak students.

### b. For students

This study can give students more knowledge about English vocabulary learning and acquiring strategies. The students will realize and understand about it. Hopefully they can finally find the appropriate strategies for themselves in learning and acquiring English vocabulary.

### c. For Readers and Next Researchers

After reading this study, hopefully the readers will be well informed about students' strategy in learning and acquiring English vocabulary. Therefore, this study also can be a reference for others who want to conduct the similar topic research.

## 1.7 Definition of the Key Terms

The key terms of the study are as follows :

### 1. Vocabulary

According to Siriwan (2007), English vocabulary is a number of English words belong to EFL learners which they used as an element of language to ensure their communication process.

### 2. Learning

Wilson & Peterson (2006) claim that learning is a process of active construction involving social phenomenon and individual experience. Learning is also viewed as the conscious way to know something new of learners.

### 3. Acquiring

Acquiring is the process by which humans perceive and comprehend language, produce and use words and sentences to communicate (Altmisdort, 2016).

## 1.8 Outline of the Research Report

Systematically, this study is arranged into five chapters. The first chapter is an Introduction. It covers Background of the Study, Reason for Choosing the Topic, Question of the Study, Objective of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Significant of the study, Definition of Key Term, , Outline of the study.

The second chapter presents Review of Related Literature, which consist of Nature of Vocabulary, Definition of Vocabulary, Types of Vocabulary, Indicators of Vocabulary Mastery, Vocabulary Learning, Definition of Learning, The Importance of Vocabulary Learning, Difficulties in Learning Vocabulary, Vocabulary Acquiring, Definition of Acquiring, The Differences between Vocabulary Learning and Acquiring, Strategy in Vocabulary Learning and Acquiring, Strategy in Vocabulary Learning, Strategy in Acquiring Vocabulary.

The third chapter discusses Research Method. It contains Research Design, Variable, Subject of the Study that consists of population and sample, Instruments of the Study, Procedure of Collecting Data, and Procedure of Data Analysis.

Chapter fourth presents research finding and discussion. It describes the Analysis of the Result and Discussion of the Research Findings.

Chapter fifth presents conclusion and discussion. It describes a conclusion from the data that have discussed in the previous chapters and suggestion and suggestion that refers to the next action to do.