

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, the problem of the research, the objective of the research, the operational definition of terms, the significance of the research, and the scope of the research.

### 1.1 Background of the Research

One of the important components of language is vocabulary. In learning a mother tongue or any foreign language, vocabulary is the most significant component. Vocabulary is one of the most essential parts, along with phonetics/pronunciation and grammar, required to learn a foreign language (Pan & Xu, 2011). In addition, vocabulary is the basis for language skills, namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. (Hatch & Brown, 1995) state without learning the vocabulary, it is difficult to attain any language proficiency. The more people master vocabulary the more they can speak, write, read and listen as they want. It means that by mastering vocabulary give a contribution for learners perform their skills better.

In learning vocabulary students may face the difficulties especially for EFL learners. Due to the difference between the original language and the target language. In addition, (Afzal, 2019) state that vocabulary learning is difficult, especially for non-native English speakers who have problems with new word meanings, spelling, pronunciation, correct use of words, and inference of meaning from context. The

same problem might happen to Thai students who study at Universitas Muhammadiyah Jember especially in English Language Education Program. They faced some difficulties in learning English vocabulary, such as pronouncing a words, don't know meaning of a new words etc. This problem may happen due to many factors such as differences between mother tongue and English, lack of motivation to learn and so on.

In previous study, several researchers discussed about students difficulties students in learning English vocabulary. There is a research with almost have same title from Afzal, N. (2019), entitled A Study on Vocabulary-learning Problems Encountered by BA English Majors at the University Level of Education. In this research aims at investigating the problems faced by English majors in learning the vocabulary at Prince Stattam bin Abdulaziz University (PSAU) in Saudi Arabia.

Another researcher conduct the same research about difficulties learning English vocabulary from Paduttungi, A. P. (2020) a study on eight grade Students' difficulties in learning vocabulary at SMP NEGERI 2 Nglegok. In this Study the purpose of his research was to know students' difficulties in learning Vocabulary of the eighth gradestudents.

From the two previous study, it can be seen that the researcher focuses on the difficulties faced by students and the factors that enable difficulties in vocabulary. The researchers did not explain how students overcome difficulties in vocabulary. From the explanation above, this study focused on what kind of difficulties faced by Thai students in learning English vocabulary, factors caused the difficulties, and

their strategy to overcome the difficulties.

## **1.2 Problem of the Research**

Concerning the conditions where the students are involved in this situation and the area of effects, some questions come up.

1.2.1 What difficulties are faced by Thai Students in learning English vocabulary?

1.2.2 What factors causes the difficulties in learning English vocabulary?

1.2.3 What strategy used by Thai students to overcome the difficulties in learning English vocabulary?

## **1.3 Objective of the Research**

According to the research questions above, the purpose of the research as follows:

1.3.1 To describe the difficulties faced by Thai students in learning English vocabulary.

1.3.2 To find factors causes the difficulties in learning English vocabulary.

1.3.3 To find out the strategy used by Thai students to overcome the difficulties in learning English vocabulary.

## **1.4 Operational Definition of the Terms**

The following terms were defined to avoid mis understanding and mis conceptions.

1.4.1 Student's difficulties are the obstacles that are faced by students in

accepting and understanding the incoming information or lesson materials during the learning process. Such as pronunciation, meaning of the word, and spelling.

1.4.2 English vocabulary in this study is ability of EFL students to use words in the language both written and spoken. Vocabulary plays an important role in the four language skills. It should be kept in mind that vocabulary acquisition is one of the necessary elements of a language.

1.4.3 Thai students who are learning in Indonesia, more specifically at the English Language Education Program in eight semester of the Universitas Muhammadiyah Jember.

## **1.5 Significances of the Research**

There are two kind of significances that can be found from this research, that are theoretical and practical:

### **1.5.1 Theoretical significances**

The result of this research are expected to be a reference for development English teaching and learning process of EFL learners, especially in teaching and learning vocabulary.

### **1.5.2 Practical significances**

The result of this research are expected to give some information or reference to improve teaching strategies in vocabulary learning process.

## 1.6 Scope of the Research

This research dealing with four Thai English Department students of the Universitas Muhammadiyah Jember. They are in eight semester. The researcher conducted an analysis of difficulties in learning vocabulary.



