

CHALLENGES ON LEARNING ENGLISH VOCABULARY FACED BY STUDENTS

Fasaaro Hulu¹, Tisrin Maulina Dewi, Dirneti, Fitria Meilina

Program Studi Pendidikan Guru Sekolah Dasar, FKIP, Universitas Karimun, Indonesia

¹fashulu@gmail.com, tisrinmaulinadewi@gmail.com, dirnetiz@gmail.com,
fifit0305@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this studies is to explain the challenges faced by grade 10 students at SMK Yos Anugrah Batam. This studies applies a qualitative method using words, sentences and text to explain the research data. The data collection instrument used a closed questionnaire. The results of the studies are explained using the choice criteria for vocabulary mastery by category; excellent, better and poor and for vocabulary development applying selection criteria; always, often and never. The results of this study indicate that participants face challenges in mastering English vocabulary, namely lack of understanding all the meanings of vocabulary in each topic studied, lack of understanding conversations because vocabulary less, lack of getting used to read English texts, no having enough time to study, lack of motivation to learn, do not have friends as friends to talk to and do not use English outside of school.

Keywords: *English language, vocabulary mastering*

Background

English is one of the subjects that must be taken by each student at school. As a compulsory subject, all students must learn English because English has become part of the learning program every semester at school. English as one of the foreign languages taught in Indonesian schools (Utami, 2018: 338). One of the things related to language skills is vocabulary mastery of the language being studied. Vocabulary is an important factor in all language teaching (Utami, 2018: 342). Vocabulary mastery is a very important thing to be learned by everyone who learns a language. And it is important to develop language skills (Barnaba & Tou, 2014:81). As students who study at school, they are highly expected and required to master English vocabulary to be able to understand the material available in the English books they study. Students are expected to be able to master English vocabulary in each topic discussed. Students at least master the vocabulary they need when studying. If they don't understand the English vocabulary in the material being studied, they will not understand some of the content and purpose of a story and can make them not interested in learning English and create unsatisfactory quality graduates.

1. **Mastering vocabulary**

Vocabulary is the basic building of English language. Mastering English vocabulary, of course, it greatly supports the mastery of English as a whole and thoroughly. Vocabulary is important in learning language skills (Utami, 2018: 340). Thus, students can follow the lessons smoothly and in the end they also have a greater chance of continuing their studies at university and getting a job after they finished school. To find out the mastery of English vocabulary in grade 10 students at SMK Yos Anugrah Batam, it is needed to do research on vocabulary challenges. This is interesting to do because English vocabulary research has never been conducted. In addition, considering that there are a lot of textbooks used for each lessons which are written in English, it is possible that students will experience difficulties in following English lessons presented in English (Kartikasari, 2021).

2. **Problem identification**

Less interest in reading English texts

In English, current estimates indicate that learners need to be able to understand around 8,000-9,000 word families, that is, head words with their inflections and derivations (Bauer & Nation, 1993). There are still a few students who choose to learn English because of their desire and awareness of the importance of English. Students also have low motivation to speak English (Dwijayani, I., & Musigrungsi, S., 2022: 513). The lower of interest of grade 10 students at SMK Yos Anugrah Batam to learn English is due to a lack of interest in reading texts written in English. EFL learners who lack the urgency to learn English (Dwijayani, I., & Musigrungsi, S., 2022)

Study time is not enough

The limited time and place in using English as a communication tool is one of the challenges for developing language skills. the factor that causes the lack of English vocabulary are that interest in reading English texts is still low and lack of English literature to support reading interest.

English is not used outside of school

Students do not have a place to rehearse English outside of class hours. In this case, students cannot develop English skills because of unfavorable conditions outside of school. limited time to practice, lack of mastery of vocabulary (Hulu, Fasaaro, 2015:22). There is not enough time to study after school. So students don't seem to use English anymore. All students do not use English either when they are at home or they play with friends. This is quite difficult for students does not help the progress of understanding English that is learned at school.

Students are limited in mastering vocabulary

The weakness of vocabulary, some participants who speak English have to add Indonesian words in one sentence while speaking. Without having sufficient vocabulary it is impossible for someone to speak or communicate in English (Utami, 2018: 340). To

continue the conversation because of the limited English vocabulary. Students must stop talking in the middle of an ongoing conversation due to limited mastery of English words. Lack of vocabulary knowledge can make it challenging for EAL learners to use written texts to complete tasks and answer questions (Burgoyne et al., 2009). The best way to master vocabulary is to make lists of words you don't understand and memorize and learn more from many sources written in English texts such as reading books, newspapers, magazines, watching movies, listening to songs and listening to radio in English.

Lack of understanding

Students must spend enough time to think about what the teacher says using English in class. Students faced difficulties during a speaking class (Dwijayani, I., & Musigrungsi, S., 2022: 502). Even some students had to ask their friends again the words meaning were conveyed even though they were simple. Students got difficulties in material, grammatical usage and lack of vocabulary, lack of practice, noisy class and learning is not enough time (Hulu, Fasaaro, 2015:72). Students also often asked to the teacher to translate and explain in their own language so they can be understood. The best way to help students quickly understand what is being heard is students have to practice listening, practice speaking to increase vocabulary mastery and practice as much as possible in pronouncing the correct words.

Don't understand the meaning of the word

Vocabulary is central to the reading process, and learners who are unable to master the vocabulary of the texts that are being used in their classes often struggle to comprehend the required classroom reading (Coxhead et al., 2010). The vocabulary they hear or the words found in English books has difficulty understanding the meaning of the vocabulary. They have to make small notes on paper and ask their close friends to help them write the meaning of the words they write on the paper. Obstacle is something that prevents the way that makes the movement could not take the chance to go forward smoothly and the action is blocked or made more difficult (Hulu, Fasaaro, 2015: 70). English words are very complex and this complexity brings difficulties for students who try to learn it (Kustaryo, 1988: 16). In addition, it was found that students directly said "I did not understand or I did not know what this word meant, what did it mean, I did not understand at all. This is a serious problem for students who learn English because they do not understand the meaning of some vocabularies from the material being studied. Because of the various components involved in creating meaning from a written text, reading comprehension is a complex skill for EAL learners to master (Brooks, Clenton & Fraser, 2021). It is hoped that this weakness can be a note for the teacher to provide sufficient material and time so that students master vocabulary skills would be better. The right way to find out the meaning of a new word is to look up an English dictionary or look up the meaning of a word through a dictionary book, digital dictionary and online dictionary which can be found through online dictionaries such as Oxford learners' dictionaries or Cambridge Learner's Dictionary. the more English vocabulary is mastered

and understood by students, the easier for students to learn and understand English (Ayeh, 2016:91)

Studies formulation

This studies aims is (1) what are the students' challenges on learning English vocabulary? And (2) what should be prepared to face the vocabulary challenges? The importance of learning vocabulary is often forgotten when learning English. learners who know fewer than 3,000 word families are beginners who cannot benefit from word inferencing (Hamada, M., 2021: 638). The development of vocabulary mastery can be done by reading as much text as possible in English. indicate that a lack of reading comprehension in English is one of the main reasons why EAL learners consistently struggle academically in comparison to their FLE peers (Burgoyne et al., 2009)

Though this is not an obstacle. There are many ways to learn vocabulary in an easy and fun way. Here are several ways to learn vocabulary for students: first, read more English texts. Routinely read English text 2-3 paragraphs every day. When reading students will find new vocabulary, they will look for the meaning of the vocabulary. By reading students learn to remember, add and explore vocabulary. reading provides opportunities for lexical learning, intentional-learning tasks, especially output-production tasks performed during or after reading, significantly enhances vocabulary learning (Hamada, M., 2021) Start by reading from texts that are easy to understand and short. Such as advertisements, announcements and articles.

METHODS

In this studies, the method applied is a qualitative method. Data were collected using a closed questionnaire. The Questionnaire contained the first statements, (1) I master English words in each topic with 3 criteria (excellent, better and poor); (2) understood all word meanings with 3 criteria (excellent, better, poor); (3) I read a lot of text in English everyday with 3 criteria (always, often and never); (4) I have a lot of time to study English with 3 criteria (always, often and never); Of all these questions, the participants answered that they only chose one answer option. The following steps are used to collect data:

Data analysis according to (Berg, 2001),

- a. Data is collected and converted into text (field notes and transcripts)
- b. data are developed analytically or identified inductively in the data and contained in notes and transcript pages
- c. Data is transformed by categorizing, naming or describing.
- d. The data is categorized, the same phrases are grouped, forms, relationships and similarities or differences.
- e. Little data is analyzed to differentiate the process and its meaning.
- f. The data found is considered with previous research

Data were collecetd through the following steps:

- a. Create and compile the questionnaire

- b. Give the questionnaire to the participants
- c. Collect the result back the questionnaire from the participants
- d. Arrange the questionnaire base on the participants' responses
- e. Analysing the data

The data that has been collected through a questionnaire is carried out in several ways to analyze research data. Data analysis was carried out as follows:

1. Grouping research data
2. Arranging and sorting data one by one
3. Matching data according to research objectives
4. Comparing the data obtained between one data and other data
5. Describe data in table form
6. Explain the results of research using words, sentences and paragraphs

RESULTS

The research results will be explained in text form and the research results are presented in the following table

1. I master english words in each topic

Mastery of words in each material studied is explained in the following table

Table 1. I master english words in each topic

Excellent	Better	Poor
20 %	35%	65%

Students master at most 20% of each topic studied. Vocabulary is not mastered thoroughly because the English text on each topic and the material being studied is different from the material that has been studied before.

It was found that 35% of students could master the vocabulary of the entire text being studied or the exercises they were doing at each meeting. The new vocabulary they get is quite a lot so that they have to use a little time to find the meaning of a word they find.

Students show that it is quite difficult to be able to master English vocabulary. it was found that 65% of the participants could not master the overall vocabulary for each material studied. Students do not understand 25% of the material learned from books and other exercises

1. The new vocabulary from the material being studied is recorded
2. pronounce the new word correctly
3. Make sentences using the new vocabulary
4. memorize a new vocabulary of 5-20 words every day

2. I read a lot of text in English everyday

Reading English text everyday is displayed in the table below

Table 2. Reading English text everyday

Always	Often	Never
15 %	20 %	65 %

There were 65% of the participants in the category of never reading English books, the highest was that more than half of the participants did not read English from various sources every day. In a text composed of many vocabularies that compose sentences into paragraphs. Increasing vocabulary mastery can be done by reading books often. Reading can increase vocabulary richness. A new vocabulary list can be made using paper to increase your mastery of English vocabulary by repeating and practicing each new vocabulary in the list that has been made.

There were found 30% of participants who often read English texts. They pay less attention to give time to read books written in English but they read books written in their mother tongue or the language they master.

Many participants did not read English textbooks at all every day. Participants lacked motivation to read. In the era of technology that is currently developing, there are many sources of material that can be accessed via the internet to read but they don't take advantage of this opportunity to specifically look for and read English writing such as online newspapers, updated news and information that is happening around us and even around the world today. Vocabulary is very lacking due to lack of motivation to read English texts, lack of listening to English audio and not giving enough time to add to their new vocabulary. Reading texts written in English can improve mastery of new vocabulary. And often listening to audio or video in English can develop mastery of new words, correct pronunciation, grammar in stories and can adopt language fluency from every audio heard or video watched.

3. I have a lot of time to study English

Having a lot of time to study english will be explained below

Table 3. Having a lot of time to study english

Always	Often	Never
12 %	34 %	55 %

English learning time is very helpful in mastering vocabulary. Learning can improve mastery of English vocabulary. Learning English can be done by reading, listening, writing and speaking with friends who can speak English. there were 12% of participants who gave time to study English every day, 34% were found to be in the often study category. Meanwhile, participants who never gave time to learn English were found to be more than half of the other participants, namely 55%. Participants

should give time to learn English. the more time to study English, the more vocabulary mastery and fluency in English will increase. if the vocabulary is mastered and fluent in English, participants can understand the entire English text and can understand native speakers well or someone who speaks English.

CONCLUSIONS

Master english words; Vocabulary is the main element that builds a language. Vocabulary is the most important thing to master when learning a language. In this study, participants were only able to master about 65% of the English vocabulary for each topic studied. Other vocabulary is not mastered.

- a. The new vocabulary from the material being studied is recorded
- b. pronounce the new word correctly
- c. Make sentences using the new vocabulary
- d. memorize a new vocabulary of 5-20 words every day

Understanding all word meanings; makes it easier to be able to carry out an activity or pass on the correct message both orally and in writing to others. In the excellent category, it was found that 65% understood the meaning of the word and 35% were included in the better and poor group. Participants did not all understand the overall meaning of the material in English or in one topic discussed at each meeting.

Understanding the meaning of vocabulary can be done in a number of ways

1. Make a new word list, write the meaning into your own language
2. Review and recall
3. Using words from the list into sentences both orally and in writing

Reading a lot of text in English everyday; Reading can add a lot of new information and add to the richness of the vocabulary. In a text composed of thousands of words. From a very large number of words, getting used to reading directly can increase understanding because in a story there is a very large amount of vocabulary. It was found that 65% did not read books written in English every day. This can happen due to low student motivation, lack of time and learning resources.

1. Reading can add new vocabulary
2. Reading can understand the arrangement of words that form correct sentences
3. Reading can tell what is going on around us

Having a lot of time to study English; developing vocabulary mastery can be done by giving time to study. Writing, reading, speaking and listening are good ways to increase your fluency in English. it was found that 55% of the participants did not take the time to learn

English. they don't have time to study because they do other work, they don't have self-motivation to study and they don't get friends who can speak English because the living conditions don't support them, they don't have friends or people who become study partners.

1. Give study time even if only briefly
2. Train yourself by expressing everything you think using English
3. Practice independently without having English-speaking friends from YouTube, the internet, newspapers, articles and books

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