CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Mastery of English skills is very important for a student who needs a lot of insight. M. Alqahtani stated that language skills are an important part of learning a foreign language because the meaning of new words is often emphasized in books and class.[1] Therefore, students need to have sufficient knowledge to have difficulty understanding other people when communicating and expressing their ideas. In a broader sense, understanding English is necessary for a language to be used correctly. Vocabulary is not just words that are memorized; it also helps students in the learning process of composing words and making appropriate sentences. According to Crystal, English being an international language has greater opportunities for students after graduating in terms of higher education, travel, and a better career and life.[2] Therefore, students should prepare their English language skills at school well through speaking, listening, and reading, all of which require mastery of sufficient vocabulary to understand meaning in English.

A study conducted by Surmanov and Azimova found that vocabulary acquisition and retention are considered the most influential factors in language learning. This research focuses on the types of difficulties faced by five school students in learning vocabulary. The research results revealed that the problems or difficulties faced by students in learning vocabulary varied. The difficulties faced by students are that almost all students experience difficulty in pronouncing words, and differences in the grammatical form of words

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[1] Alqahtani M ,"The Importance of Vocabulary in Language Learning and How to be Taught", International Journal of Teaching and Education, 3 (3), (2015):21-34. doi:10.20472/TE.2015.3.3.002

[2] Zahra Akbari, "Current Challenges in Teaching/Learning English for EFL Learners: The Case of Junior High School and High School," Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences vol 199, August 2015, hal 395.

known as exaggeration are one of the causes of students' difficulties in pronouncing words.[3]

Another study conducted by Salawazo et al. was entitled "An Analysis of Students Vocabulary in Learning Vocabulary. This research analyzes students' understanding of learning English at the Pangeran Antasari Foundation Private Middle School, Medan, in the 2018–2019 academic year. that students' vocabulary difficulties in learning English are difficulties in pronouncing words. Grammatical form is also another cause of difficulty where students have difficulty identifying written and spoken forms. They are different in the British system. Other results show that students easily understand the newly learned understanding. This happens when most students do not pay attention to learning English seriously or because they have limited time to study.[4]

However, based on data that researchers obtained through interviews with English teachers at one of the Islamic Middle Schools in Pati, students had difficulty understanding the meaning of English vocabulary when the teacher asked to translate it into Indonesian because the students did not have sufficient knowledge of English. vocabulary when the class is studying speaking skills, which is one of the wrong skills in English. This makes the class inactive even though the teacher has tried to make students active, but it still does not work because many students do not have enough vocabulary.[5] Therefore, it is important to develop students' mastery of English vocabulary to improve their fluency in English and

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[3] Afidah Anissa'ul & Machfudi Imam Moch, "student's difficulties in vocabulary mastery", *Critical Review of English-Arabic World Journal*, No. 1 , (2022):3, diakses pada tanggal 07 januari, 2024 ,DOI:https://doi.org/10.35719/crewjournalvlil1.1359.

[4] Afidah Anissa'ul & Machfudi Imam Moch, "student's difficulties in vocabulary mastery", *Critical Review of English-Arabic World Journal*, No. 1 , (2022):3, diakses pada tanggal 07 januari, 2024 ,DOI:https://doi.org/10.35719/crewjournalvlil1.1359.

[5] WA, interview by mudrikah indah larasati, 18 january 2023, interview 1, transkrip.

prepare them to have fluent English language skills. According to Akbari, many people want to improve their English and are looking for ways to do so but do not know where to start or how to become fluent in it. Therefore, this case was formed by looking at the problems that emerged at the Islamic Middle School in Pati by looking at the existing factors, environment, and conditions from the perspective of teachers, students, and the school.[6]

Research conducted by Aristya in 2018 by interviewing junior high school students in the Madiun area of East Java showed that students had difficulty mastering vocabulary. Some students experience difficulties, for example, remembering the vocabulary of several verbs. They find it difficult to understand vocabulary and sentence structures. Some students also have difficulty understanding the meaning of words. Other students said that they had difficulty writing or pronouncing English words. It seems that each student has different difficulties mastering vocabulary.[7] Although previous research has similarities with this research in terms of difficulties in mastering English vocabulary, it also has differences. The difference between this research and previous research is that researchers focus on students' challenges and strategies in mastering English vocabulary, whereas previous researchers focused on students who experienced difficulties in writing and pronouncing English words.

B. Research Focus and Scope

The researcher will use qualitative methods by conducting interviews, observation, and documentation that focus on what problems students have experienced after learning to master English vocabulary for years at the junior high school Islamic language level and what the appropriate ways and methods are for students to master English vocabulary fluently. The author will convey this descriptively

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[6] Zahra Akbari, "Current Challenges in Teaching/Learning English for EFL Learners: The Case of Junior High School and High School," Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences vol 199, August 2015, hal 395.

[7] Aristya, K.,"Students' Difficulties in Vocabulary Mastery at SMP N 1 Kebonsari Madiun", (Thesis, IAIN Ponorogo, 2018), 5-6.

according to the results of the interviews that have been conducted later in the next discussion section.

C. Research Questions
Based on the background above, the research questions of the study are:
1. What are the challenges faced by students in mastering English vocabulary at Islamic junior high school?
2. What strategies are used by Islamic junior high school students to be able to develop their English vocabulary?

D. Research Purposes
The purposes of this study are as follows, based on the descriptions of the difficulties above:
1. To find the challenges faced by students in mastering English vocabulary at Islamic junior high school.
2. To explain strategies that are applied by Islamic junior high school students to be able to develop their English vocabulary.

E. Research Significances
By the background of this research, this research is expected to provide very good significance, including:
1. Theoretical significance
   This research is expected to be useful, add insight, and develop knowledge related to students learning English vocabulary mastery by finding methods and ways that are appropriate to students.
2. Practical significance
   Practically the results of this study are expected to be useful, as follows:
   a. For students,
      This research is expected to contribute to students' increased knowledge of language vocabulary.
   b. For teachers,
      This study aims to contribute to English teachers if in teaching they also have to pay attention to student complaints and apply appropriate methods for student involvement in mastering foreign language vocabulary.

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c. For Schools

Can improve the quality of learning to produce superior learning quality.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The following is an explanation related to key terms, to avoid misunderstandings:

Challenges are things that can inspire determination to improve problem-solving skills. With a challenge, someone becomes enthusiastic to have an appetizing ability.[8]

1. Developing is realizing It is an effort to improve one's technical, theoretical, conceptual, and moral abilities as a result of a process of maturity and experience. will increase your ability if you do.

2. English vocabulary is the total number of words in a language. It is also a collection of words that a person knows and uses in speaking and writing. The exact number of English vocabulary is currently uncertain, but a reliable estimate puts it at around 1 million.[9]

3. Mastery is the ability to understand learning material in the form of themes and topics so that it can form certain competencies in students so that they know the extent of one's understanding.

G. Thesis Organization

In writing this research, the author divides it into five chapters. The systematics is arranged as follows:

Chapter I: Introduction. It contains the research background, research focus and Scope, research questions, research purposes, research significances, definition of key terms and thesis organization.

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[8] Syahputra, Idham. "Strategi Pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris Sebagai Bahasa Asing Dalam Meningkatkan Kemampuan Berbahasa Siswa", *Jurnal Pendidikan* , vol. 17 No.1 2006, page 129.

[9] Susanti, Ratna. "Penguasaan Kosa Kata Dan Kemampuan Membaca Bahasa Inggris," *Jurnal Pendidikan Penabur* ,No.01, Maret 2002, page 89.

Chapter II: Review of related **literature**. It contains a theoretical definition, a theoretical framework, and a review of previous studies.

Chapter III: Research **methodology**. It contains research methods, research settings, research participants, instruments, data collection techniques, research data validity, and data analysis techniques.

Chapter IV: Research Findings and Discussion. It contains the Research Results and Discussion.

Chapter V: Conclusions and Recommendation. It contains Conclusions and Recommendations.

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