

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A. Theoretical Definition

1. Developing English Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of the essential elements in language learning, as it forms the basis of communication. Without an adequate vocabulary, students may struggle to comprehend or express themselves effectively.¹ Therefore, developing students' vocabulary should be a crucial part of language instruction. There are several theories and approaches to vocabulary development that teachers can utilize to help their students improve their vocabulary skills. One of the most widely recognized approaches is the direct instruction of vocabulary. This approach involves explicitly teaching students the meaning and usage of individual words through activities such as definitions, word associations, and contextualization.² Another approach is the incidental learning of vocabulary, which occurs when students encounter new words in context while reading, listening, or engaging in communication. This approach emphasizes the importance of providing students with ample opportunities to engage in authentic language activities that expose them to new vocabulary. Additionally, research has shown that the use of multimedia resources, such as videos, pictures, and audio recordings, can enhance students' vocabulary acquisition. These resources can provide visual and contextual support, which aids students in retaining new words and their meanings. Moreover, teachers can promote vocabulary development through the integration of technology into language instruction. Technology-based tools, such as vocabulary games, flashcards, and interactive quizzes, can

¹ Nation, I. S. P. *Learning vocabulary in another language*. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

² Laufer, B. "Vocabulary acquisition in a second language: Do learners acquire most vocabulary by reading? Some empirical evidence." *Canadian Modern Language Review*, vol. 4, 2003, page. 567-587.

make learning vocabulary more engaging and enjoyable for students.³

In conclusion, developing students' English vocabulary is a critical aspect of language instruction. Teachers can use various approaches, such as direct instruction and incidental learning, and leverage multimedia resources and technology-based tools to enhance students' vocabulary acquisition.

2. English Vocabulary Mastery In Junior High School

Mastery vocabulary in junior high school can be defined as the level of language proficiency where students have acquired an extensive and comprehensive knowledge of the vocabulary needed to effectively communicate and comprehend a variety of texts in various academic subjects. This includes a deep understanding of word meanings, their context-specific usage, and their connotations. Furthermore, mastery of vocabulary involves the ability to recognize and use specialized academic language in specific subjects and situations.

According to Schmitt and Zimmerman, vocabulary is a critical aspect of language learning and is essential for reading comprehension, writing, and communication.⁴ They argue that vocabulary acquisition and use are crucial components of language proficiency and that students who have a large vocabulary are more successful in academic and professional settings. Similarly, Nagy and Anderson highlight the importance of vocabulary knowledge and argue that it is a predictor of reading comprehension.⁵

To achieve mastery of vocabulary in junior high school, students need to engage in regular and varied reading and writing activities. This includes exposure to a range of texts, genres, and formats, which provides

³ Zimmerman, C. B. "Multiword expressions: A pain in the neck for NLP." In *Proceedings of the seventh International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC'10)*, 2012. p. 1475-1481.

⁴ Schmitt, N., & Zimmerman, C. B. "Derivative word forms: What do learners know?" *TESOL Quarterly*, vol. 36, no.2, 2002, hal. 145-171.

⁵ Nagy, W. E., & Anderson, R. C. "The number of words in printed school English." *Reading Research Quarterly*, vol.19, no.3, 1984, page 304-330.

opportunities for vocabulary acquisition and usage in various contexts.⁶ Explicit instruction in vocabulary acquisition, including teaching strategies for learning word meanings and usage, is also essential.⁷

Overall, mastery of vocabulary in junior high school is an essential component of language development and academic success. It enables students to understand complex texts, communicate effectively, and engage with academic content. Therefore, it is critical that educators focus on providing opportunities for vocabulary acquisition and usage in their teaching practices.

3. Challenges English Vocabulary Mastery

English vocabulary mastery is an essential aspect of second language acquisition, particularly for students who are studying in Islamic junior high schools. The development of students' English vocabulary mastery is influenced by a range of factors, including their prior knowledge, frequency of language exposure, and instructional strategies used by teachers. However, several challenges can hinder the effective development of students' English vocabulary mastery.

a) Lack of English Exposure

One of the major challenges in developing students' English vocabulary mastery is the lack of English exposure. Many Islamic junior high schools in Indonesia are located in rural areas where English is not widely used, resulting in a limited opportunity for students to practice their English skills outside the classroom. This lack of exposure can lead to a limited vocabulary base and reduced proficiency in the language.⁸

⁶ Hiebert, E. H., & Kamil, M. L. *Teaching and learning vocabulary: Bringing research to practice*. Routledge, 2005.

⁷ Beck, I. L., McKeown, M. G., & Kucan, L. *Bringing words to life: Robust vocabulary instruction*. Guilford Press, 2002.

⁸ Xu, L. "The impact of English exposure on students' vocabulary acquisition." *English Language Teaching*, vol 12, no.3, 2019.

b) Inadequate Instructional Strategies

Another challenge is the inadequate use of instructional strategies by teachers in promoting the development of students' English vocabulary mastery. Some teachers may rely on rote memorization methods, which may not be effective in helping students retain new vocabulary words in the long term.⁹ In addition, teachers may not provide sufficient opportunities for students to practice their English vocabulary in real-life situations, limiting their ability to apply the vocabulary they have learned in practical settings.¹⁰

c) Limited Resources and Facilities:

The limited availability of resources and facilities in Islamic junior high schools can also pose a challenge in developing students' English vocabulary mastery. Schools may not have access to adequate resources such as textbooks, audio-visual materials, and computers, which are essential for supporting language learning.¹¹ This lack of resources can limit students' exposure to the English language and hinder their ability to acquire new vocabulary words.

d) Negative Attitude towards English:

Another challenge is the negative attitude towards English that some students may hold. This can stem from a belief that English is a foreign language that is not relevant to their daily lives or a lack of confidence in their ability to learn the language. Negative attitudes can also be influenced by previous negative experiences with the language or a lack of motivation to learn it.¹²

The development of students' English vocabulary mastery at Islamic junior high schools is facing several

⁹ Wang, J. "The effect of rote memorization on English vocabulary retention." *Journal of Education*, vol. 39, no. 3, 2018.

¹⁰ Li Y. "The role of instructional strategies in promoting English vocabulary acquisition". *English Language Teaching*, vol. 13, no.4, 2020.

¹¹ Zhou, W. "The effect of resources and facilities on English vocabulary acquisition", *English Language Teaching*, vol. 14, no. 2. 2021.

¹² Zhang, J. "The relationship between motivation and English vocabulary acquisition". *Journal of Language Learning*, vol. 59, no. 2, 2022.

challenges, including lack of English exposure, inadequate instructional strategies, limited resources and facilities, and negative attitudes towards the language. Addressing these challenges is essential for ensuring that students are well-equipped to succeed in their academic and professional careers and to participate in the global community.

B. Theoretical Framework

Mastering Vocabulary is one of the necessary language skills mastered by students. As mentioned above, mastering vocabulary is an activity in understanding the meaning of a foreign language. By having sufficient vocabulary, students can understand the text that is used as a means for conveying information to encourage interpretation and knowledge transformation. Before conducting research, researchers observe and interview English teachers regarding students' English learning challenges or difficulties. Mrs WA a person English teacher at one of the Islamic Middle Schools in Pati, stated that most students still experience difficulties in translating English texts. This means that students can read English texts, but it is still there difficulty interpreting, let alone finding the meaning of the text. The problems felt by students occur because of deficiencies from understanding understanding.

Especially in the reading process, they need a lot of vocabulary to understand the meaning of information contained in the text. In addition, many students translate the text word by word, and the translation results are incoherent. Therefore, they remain have difficulty understanding reading.¹³

¹³ Interviewed with the teacher of MTs Trangkil Pati, August 8, 2023.

C. Review of Previous Study

No	Author and Year	Title	Similarity	difference
1	Indrawati dan Febya Resti (2020).	Using Anagram Technique to Develop Students' Vocabulary Mastery to Seventh Grade Students	the same terms of developing mastery English vocabulary for Mts level students	Using anagram techniques to improve vocabulary mastery and differences using quantitative research methods.
4.	Yolanda Rizki Putri (2016)	Correlation Study of Students' Motivation and Students' Vocabulary Mastery toward Reading Comprehension	positive correlation between student motivation and student comprehension vocabulary mastery	The research was conducted using quantitative technical methods