

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Teaching and learning process in this year is slightly different from the previous year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause disease in humans and animals. Due to the high viral contagiousness and the possible trans-mission during the pre-symptomatic phase, COVID-19 progressively spread to several countries and became a pandemic¹. Since the beginning of March 2020 COVID-19 has been confirmed in Indonesia. With the confirmation of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia, the government enforces social distancing and WFH (Work from Home) for all communities, and all educational institutions and teaching and learning activities are also enforced online. Teaching and learning process that should be done face-to-face now must be carried out online. This has an impact on students in terms of learning. In the school that the researcher will use for research, initially using the online learning method in learning, but due to limited facilities and also the area is still a safe zone, after the UTS this school no longer applies online learning.

In this school, face-to-face learning is applied 3 days in a week and 2 hours every day by complying with the health protocol implemented by the government. Teaching and learning activities that take place in a short time make students less effective in learning achievement. Especially in English subjects which incidentally are subjects that need a lot of time to make the students can accept and understand the material. Students become less enthusiastic because of the lack of direct learning time, and they get lots of assignments. This case may affect students' motivation to learn English language.

According to Edward as cited in Yuyun Azizah, language is purely human and non instinctive method of

¹ Andrea Gori et al., "Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Transplantation: A View from the Inside," *American Journal of Transplantation* 20, no. 7 (2020): 1939, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajt.15853>.

communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by mean of a system of voluntary produced symbols.² Language is very important in people's daily lives, and they use it to communicate with one another. The English language is one of the most well-known languages in the world, both then and now, and it is also an international language. It's very important to being learned nowadays.

Evidently, although English is important for being learned, it is also not easy for student to master and understand English well. Many students believed that English was one of the more difficult subjects to learn. It shows that students have a poor desire or motivation to learn English. On the other hand, they will easy to understand English if they have a desire to learn and the motivation to master English itself. Chunmei Long as cited in Retno stated Learners' motivation has been considered as one of crucial factor influencing the goals of learning.³ From the statement, it can assumed that students who have a high motivation and interest in learning English is more enthusiast and can mastered English well.

Students who are highly motivated to learn English would be better prepared for the classroom teaching and learning process. Nunan says that motivation and learning attitude are important predictors of achievement.⁴ In relation with that statement, Slavin says that students who are highly motivated to learn more are more likely than others to prepare their learning, carry it out, and remember what they learn.⁵ Students will be more motivated to take part in teaching and

² Yuyun Azizah, "The Correlation Between Students' Vocabulary Mastery and Their Writing Ability in Descriptive Text (a Study for the Seventh Grade Students of Smp Islam Sudirman 1 Bancak Semarang District in the Academic Year 2016 / 2017)" (STATE INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES (IAIN) SALATIGA, 2017).

³ Retno Puji Astuti, 'The Correlation Between Students' Motivation In Learning English And Their Vocabulary Mastery At The First Semester Of The Eighth Grade Of Smp Negeri 21 Bandar Lampung In The Academic Year Of 2019/2020' (State Islamic University Raden Intan Lampung, 2020).

⁴ David Nunan, "Collaborative Language Learning and Teaching" (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 22.

⁵ Robert E Slavin, "Educational Psychology: Theory and Practice" (NewJersey: pearson Education, Inc., 2009), 302.

learning process carried out in an interesting learning process in the classroom. An attractively designed classroom is able to make students' interested and enthusiasm for learning so that it is easy to understand the material presented, as expert opinion Slameto, because by creating certain conditions can generate learning motivation.⁶

In order to achieve a successful process of learning English, there are four skills should be mastered they are reading, speaking, writing and listening. So in the case of learning English, vocabulary is one of the most critical things that students must master, since a large amount of vocabulary will help a student's ability to read, write, speak, and listen. Hornby mentioned that vocabulary means total of words in language.⁷

In addition, the definition of vocabulary mentioned by Richards that vocabulary is one of the most visible components of language and one of the first things applied linguistics focused on.⁸ It can be difficult when people try to learn a language but don't have a lot of vocabulary. Vocabulary is crucial in the application of language, because no language is complete without vocabulary. The more words we understand, the more ideas we can have, and the more easily we can express our ideas.

Moreover, According to Thornbury : without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed; while without grammar very little can be conveyed⁹. From the statement, it can be concluded that vocabulary plays a larger role in teaching and learning English than grammar. They can easily understand English because they have a large vocabulary.

⁶ Sayyid Khairunas, RIZKY MIRANI DESI PRATAMA, and ARY ISWANTO, "The Effect of Learning Motivation and Vocabulary Mastery towards Students' Writing Skill in Argumentative Text at Private Senior High School in Kabupaten Serang," *Wanastra: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra* 11, no. 1 (2019): 38, <https://doi.org/10.31294/w.v11i1.5216>.

⁷ A.S. Hornby, 'Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary of Current English', fifth (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 461.

⁸ J.C. Richard, "Curriculum Development in Language Teaching" (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), 4.

⁹ Scott Thornbury, "How to Teach Vocabulary" (Harlow: Longman, 2002), 13.

On the other hand, to get success in learning vocabulary, students should have the willingness to master vocabulary. While many factors affect students in learning vocabulary, one of the factors affects students in learning vocabulary is motivation. Motivation seems to have an important role in developing students' vocabulary mastery.

There were some previous studies related to the important of motivation in language learning. The first study was conducted by Naila¹⁰. The study was showed that there is a positive correlation between students' extrinsic motivation and students' vocabulary mastery toward their speaking. In Naila's study was focus on extrinsic motivation but in this study focus on both extrinsic and intrinsic motivation, and also conducted in different situation causing of COVID-19 Pandemic.

The second study was conducted by Yolanda¹¹. The study was showed that there is a positive correlation between students' motivation and students' vocabulary mastery toward their reading comprehension. Based on the Yolanda's research, it is clear that motivation and vocabulary really affects students' achievement especially in learning reading. Yolanda's study was conducted in the general situation, while this study was conducted in different situation of COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Based on previous study above, it can be declared that all above mentioned studied reconfirmed the importance of students' motivation in learning English. But their study were conducted in general situation of the teaching and learning process. While, In this case the researcher wanted to know whether there is correlation between students' motivation in

¹⁰ Naila Salsabila, "THE CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS' EXTRINSIC MOTIVATION, AND VOCABULARY MASTERY TOWARD STUDENTS' SPEAKING ABILITY AT THE TENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF BOARDING SCHOOL SMA WALISONGO KARANGMALANG IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018" (State Islamic Institute of Surakarta (IAIN SURAKARTA), 2017).

¹¹ Yolanda Rizki Putri, "Correlation Study of Students' Motivation and Students' Vocabulary Mastery toward Reading Comprehension" (Universitas Lampung, 2016).

learning English and their vocabulary mastery during COVID-19 Pandemic situation.

Therefore, the researcher was interested to find out whether or not there was a correlation between vocabulary mastery and learning motivation. Thus, the researcher determines the topic entitled “**THE CORRELATION BETWEEN ENGLISH LEARNING MOTIVATION AND VOCABULARY MATERY OF THE 7th GRADERS AT MTS MH TEMPUR DURING COVID19 PANDEMIC SITUATION**”

B. Research Questions

According to the research background, there are many problems related to the titles. Some of them are formulated as follow:

1. How is the English learning motivation of the 7th graders of Mts in Jepara during COVID-19 pandemic situation?
2. What extent is the vocabulary mastery of the 7th graders of Mts in Jepara during COVID-19 pandemic situation?
3. Is there any correlation between English learning motivation and vocabulary mastery of the 7th graders of Mts in Jepara during COVID-19 pandemic situation?

C. Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are stated as follow:

1. To find out English learning motivation of the 7th graders of Mts in Jepara during COVID-19 pandemic situation.
2. To find out the vocabulary mastery of the 7th graders of Mts in Jepara during COVID-19 pandemic situation.
3. To find out the correlation between English learning motivation and vocabulary mastery of the 7th graders of Mts in Jepara during COVID-19 pandemic situation.

D. Research Significances

The expected benefits in this research about The Correlation Between English Learning Motivation and Vocabulary Mastery During COVID-19 Pandemic Situation (A Correlation Study of 7th Graders at MTs in Jepara), are:

1. Theoretical Benefits

By getting information and objective clarity on " The Correlation Between English Learning Motivation

and Vocabulary Mastery During COVID-19 Pandemic Situation (A Correlation Study of 7th Graders at MTs in Jepara)" it is expected can developed the English learning and teaching which correlates to learning motivation and vocabulary especially during pandemic COVID-19 situation.

2. Practical Benefits

a. For students

- 1) The expected outcome of this study can be used to increase students' motivation to learn English.
- 2) The expected outcome of this study can be used by students to improve their vocabulary mastery.
- 3) Hopefully the students have a high motivation to learn English especially during pandemic COVID-19 situation.

b. For teachers

- 1) The result of this study is expected can be used by teacher as they inspire to choose the most appropriate approach, method, strategies, or techniques in improve students' vocabulary mastery through improving their learning motivation especially during COVID-19 pandemic
- 2) This study can provide an understanding to improve self-quality so the performance of the teachers is getting better.

c. For the future researcher

- 1) The researcher hopes that the findings of this study will be useful to other researchers who will pursue the same subject in the future.

E. Definition of Key Terms

In this study, there are four key terms that will be used. They are:

1. Motivation is the process that explains an individual's intensity, perseverance, and direction in achieving a predetermined goal.
2. English language learning is the development of English language skills contextually and gratefully in accordance

with the context, conditions, and situations of the learner's daily life. This is to produce a type of English learning that addresses the language needs of students..

3. Vocabulary mastery is the ability to used knowledge of words when students are learning a foreign language and be able to identify, comprehend and create a vocabulary of terms and their meanings.
4. COVID-19 Pandemic situation is the situation of the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 worldwide for all countries. The disease is caused by a new type of coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2.¹² This situation give an impact on teaching and learning activities in Indonesia.

F. Organization of Thesis

The organization of the thesis is stated as follow:

1. The complementary pages
This section includes: cover, approval pages, declaration, abstract, motto, dedication page, acknowledgements, preface, table of contents, list of abbreviations/ tables/ figures/ illustrations/ appendices.
2. The contents of the research
This section stated as follow:
 - a. Chapter I: (1) research background; (2) research questions; (3) research objectives; (4) research significances; (5) definition of key terms; (6) organization of thesis;
 - b. Chapter II Review of Related Literature;
 - c. Chapter III Research Methodology;
 - d. Chapter IV Research Finding and Discussion;
 - e. Chapter V Conclusions and Recommendations.
3. The closing pages
This section contains: references, appendices, and curriculum vitae

¹² Alexander E. Gorbalenya et al., "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Related Coronavirus: The Species and Its Viruses – a Statement of the Coronavirus Study Group," *BioRxiv*, 2020, 2, <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.02.07.937862>.