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IMPROVING STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTERY BY USING PERSONAL VOCABULARY NOTES TECHNIQUE AT SEVENTH GRADE OF MTS HIFZHIL QURAN MEDAN

Fauziatul Husna

Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara Medan

Email: fauiatulhusna@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research was aimed to find out the improvement of Students' Vocabulary Mastery by Using Personal Vocabulary Notes Technique which was observed and analyzed from students at seventh grade of MTs Hifzhil Quran Medan. In this research the method applied was the classroom action research. The data of this research was obtained from 38 students and English teacher at MTs Hifzhil Quran Medan. The instrument of collecting the data in quantitative was test and to complete the data qualitative were taken by interview, observation sheets, and documentation. From the result of pre-test, the number of completed are 5 students and the number of uncompleted are 33 students, furthermore the class percentage obtained is 13% which the average value is 63. From the result of post-test I, the number of completed are 16 students and the number of uncompleted are 22 students, furthermore the class percentage obtained is 42% which the average value is 70. From the result of post-test II, the number of completed are 31 students and the number of uncompleted are 7 students, furthermore the class percentage obtained is 81,5% which the average value is 77. It can be concluded that Personal Vocabulary Notes technique can improve students' vocabulary mastery.

Keywords: Vocabulary, Vocabulary Mastery, and Personal Vocabulary Notes technique.

INTRODUCTION

Communication is a thing that can't be avoided from the social interaction of human's lives. In doing communication everyone uses a language. Language is system of communication used by a particular community or country.¹ Language is a tool of communication that has a function to express someone's idea, feelings, or emotions.

English as an international language has been taught in Indonesia in various level of education. English has four skills that have to be mastered by the students. They are: writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The four skills of English have aspect such as pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and the other elements of language.

Therefore, vocabulary is one of the language elements that are very important in mastering foreign language. It is the basic and very principle requirement to learn English. Many people who learn English especially for the Junior high school levels are often faced with the problem of vocabulary mastery. It means that learning vocabulary is very important for us, especially for students in junior high school. They have to master English vocabulary and it's the first steps to communication to another people, because without vocabulary mastery we will not understand what people say, what people write, what we read, and what we listen.

¹ A.S Hornby, (2000) Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary, 6 th Edition, New York: Oxford University Press, p. 752.

Vocabulary is a total number of words that make up a language.² It means that vocabulary is list of words with a brief explanation of their meaning of language of a particular person in a country. In doing communication we need vocabularies to express our idea both orally or written.

Learning vocabulary is not easy for the students who are considered as young learners. Fardhani stated in Hendri Antoniosyola, Musli Ariani, Sudarsono's journal, if the students did not master enough vocabulary, they would experience difficulties to express and transform their ideas in spoken and written forms.³ Therefore, the researcher is trying to use Personal Vocabulary Notes as a technique of teaching vocabulary meaning and form in her teaching and learning interaction.

Personal Vocabulary Notes technique gives an unlimited way to students in learning new vocabulary. Where, the teacher first provides them with descriptive text. From the descriptive text, the students note every single new word as much as they do not know the words' meaning in their notebook. After they finish to read and take-note, the teachers ask them to collect the notes and it is discussed together. In discussion, the students interact and ask their friends in finding word's meaning.. In taking-note, when students do not know the word's meaning in English, they can write the word meaning in their own language to let them understand and master it easily.

² Martin H.Manser, (1991) *Oxford learner's Pocket Dictionary*, Hongkong: New Oxford University Press, p. 71

³ Fardhani, A.E. 1994. *How to Learn Vocabulary*. Jember : FKIP Universitas Jember (unpublished) textbook, p.3

However, in reality, based on the researcher's observation at private Islamic Junior High School in Islamic Center Medan, the researcher found out some problems in the students' vocabulary mastery. When they were describing something and writing on the book, almost all of the students asked the teacher about the vocabularies, the students' have low ability to memorize vocabulary, the students have less practice their vocabulary, the teacher still applies a traditional strategy. This problem is most common when learning English in the class.

There are many strategies which be used to improve the students' vocabularies. One of them is "Personal Vocabulary Notes" technique. Personal vocabulary note is one of the tools/instructional media to easy memorize vocabularies.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of the components of English that important to be learned, we can communicate effectively if we mater a lot of vocabulary. The vocabulary is the most important component language because it affects the four language skills, there are writing, speaking, reading, and listening. Related to the importance of vocabulary learning is central to language acquisition, whether the language first, second, or foreign.⁴

Averil stated that vocabulary is a central part of language. The more words students know well and can use, the more meaning they can communicate in a

⁴ Marianne Celc e-Murcia, (2001), *Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language*, USA: Heinle & Heinle, p. 285

wide variety of circumstances.⁵ Vocabulary helps people to understanding English, and also enhancing the process of transferring the knowledge. Vocabulary is one of important thing to improve in language learning process.

Next, David L. Shepherd “Vocabulary is one of the most significant aspect of language development”.⁶ It means that the development of language depends on vocabulary. Based on the explanation above, the researcher concluded that vocabulary is one of the important aspects to improve students’ vocabulary mastery.

Vocabulary Mastery

According to River, vocabulary mastery refers to the great skills in processing words of a language.⁷ Vocabulary mastery is competence to know words and meaning. The students are not only hoped to know the words but also their meaning. It is the duty of the teacher to select with what words are suitable to be taught to the students, so the students will learn more easily.⁸

From the definition above, the researcher conclude that vocabulary mastery is skills to understanding words and meaning in processing words of a language.

Personal Vocabulary Notes

⁵ Averil Coxhead, (2006), *Essentials of Teaching Academic Vocabulary*, USA: Houghton Mifflin Company, p. 1

⁶ David L. Shepherd, (1973), *Vocabulary Meaning and Word Analysis*, Comprehension High School Reading Methods, USA: Bell and Howel Company, co, p. 39.

⁷ Mofareh Alqahtani, (2015), *The Important of Vocabulary in Language Learning and How to be Taught*: International Journal of Teaching and Education. Vol.III NO.3, P. 25.

⁸ Martha. 2010, Definition of Vocabulary Mastery, Accessed on 8th December 2016

Personal Vocabulary Notes (PVN) is a way of developing student's vocabulary in a personalized way while encouraging them to become autonomous learners. This application was introduced by Joshua Kurzweil in Kansai University Osaka, Japan. The basic activity is very straightforward. In and out of class encourage students to write words in their native language when they do not know how to say the English word.⁹

Personal Vocabulary Notes technique gave an unlimited way to students in learning new vocabulary. Where, the teacher first provided them descriptive text. From the descriptive text, the students noted every single new word as much as they did not know the words' meaning in their notebook. After they had finished to read and take-note, the teacher asked them to collect the notes and it was discussed together. In discussion, the students interacted and asked their friends in finding word's meaning. In taking-note, when students did not know the word's meaning in English, they could write the word meaning in their own language to let them understand and master it easily.

Allah The Almighty says in the Qur'an An-Nahl: 125:

أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَادِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ
عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ

“Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and goodly exhortation, and argue with them in a way that is best. Surely, thy Lord knows best who has strayed from His way; and He knows those who are rightly guided”.¹⁰

⁹ Joshua Kurzweil, (2002), *Personal Vocabulary Notes*, The Internet TESL Journal, Vol. VIII, No. 6, p. 1.

¹⁰ Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, *The Holy Quran with English Translation and commentary volume 3*, Pakistan: 1949, Islam International Publications Limited, an-Nahl 125.

From the verse above Allah asks to all moslem to teach the students by using suitable strategy or technique in learning process.

The importance of learning process is supported by teaching of Islam. Islam is a religion which establishes compulsory education with the following hadith:

عن انس بن مالك رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه و سلم: طلب العلم فريضة على كل مسلم

The meaning in indonesia: dari Anas bin Malik RadhiAllahu'anhu berkata: Rasulullah SAW bersabda “Menuntut ilmu adalah wajib bagi setiap muslim”

Translate in English: from Anas bin Malik, he said : Rasulullah SAW said “ Seek knowledge is obligatory for moeslim.”¹¹

Based on the Hadith above, the Prophet Peace Be Upon Him confirms obligation to see a knowledge. It can be said that the study is very important for humans and it became clear that learning or studying is obligation for every moeslim, with the knowledge we can share our knowledge to others, it can be useful for others that will lead us to happiness both in this world and here after. Therefore there is no reason for any individual Moeslim to be lazy in learning that makes them not knowing anything about science.

Vocabulary memorization technique

According to Rivers the vocabulary strategies normally used by the language learners as follow:¹²

¹¹ Ibnu Hajar Al-Asqalani, (2006), *Ringkasan Taribghib waTarhib*, Jakarta: Pustaka Azzam, p. 27

1. Some make lists and memorize them.
2. Some read a great deal and mark with an asterisk, a word they do not understand each time they meet, thus creating their own frequency counts.
3. Some note down words in a short context, repeatedly writing down the same words until their meaning and use are assimilated.
4. Some make association with words that sound or look similar in their native language, even though the meaning may be different.
5. Some practice using new words as they talk to themselves in order to commit them to long-term memory.
6. Some read dictionaries.

METHODE OF THE RESEARCH

This study was categorized into action research. It is a method for solving the problems of teaching objectively and systematically. The aim of this study was to show the process of improvement of the students' vocabulary mastery. In this study, the researcher collaborated with all of the other research team members. Action research is research carried out in the classroom by the teacher of the course mainly with the purpose of solving a problem or improving the teaching/learning process.¹² Classroom action research consisting of three words that could be understood as follows understanding. Research: examine the activities of an object, use the rules of a particular methodology to obtain data or

¹² Rivers, W. M, (1983), *Communicating Naturally in a Second Language*: Cambridge University Press

¹³ Burns, (2010), *Doing Action Research in English Language Teaching*, New York: Routledge, p.5.

information useful to improve the quality of a thing that interest and important for researchers.

Methodology in this research will be designed as classroom action research. Class action research is utilized because it is aimed to improve outcomes of teaching and learning. It will help the teacher be ware process. Moreover the process in this research is continuous and cyclical or spiral process involving steps of planning, acting, observing with each of activities being systematically and self critically and self critically implement and interrelate.

RESEARCH FINDING

Based on the results of the research, the researcher has been conducted the discussion of English subject about Improving Students' Vocabulary Mastery by Using Personal Vocabulary Notes (PVN) technique at Seventh Grade of MTs Hifzhil Quran Medan. The completeness of the student learning result test in cycle I shows the class average value of 70 with students who completed 16 students from 38 students in class VII-4 MTs Hifzhil Quran Medan, so that the percentage obtained is 42%, because students are less active in learning process so that the students' scores have not reached KKM, namely 75. In the second cycle improvement students begin to get used to this learning method, so that it can improve students' learning outcomes. It can be seen from class average score in cycle II, namely 77, which has reached the KKM with students who have completed, namely 31 students from 38 students of class VII-4 MTs Hifzhil Qur'an Medan. The percentage of learning outcomes in cycle II obtained 81.5%.

The discussion above shows that learning Personal Vocabulary Notes (PVN) technique can improve student learning outcomes and active in the learning process so that students can achieve the minimum completeness criteria in English subjects. From the results of research conducted that researchers have experienced success.

CONCLUSION SUGGESTION

The implementation of Personal Vocabulary Notes Technique in the seventh grade of 7-4 class of Mts Hifzhil Quran Medan can be concluded that PVN technique can improve students' vocabulary mastery. It can be proved from the following fact. First, the improvement could be seen from the increase of students' vocabulary mastery score from 63 or 13% of the class percentages which Standard of Minimum Completeness- Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimal (KKM) in the preliminary study, and 70 or 42% of the class percentages which Standard of Minimum Completeness - Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimal (KKM) in the first cycle, to 77 or 81.5% of the class percentages which Standard of Minimum Completeness - Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimal (KKM) in the second cycle.

Second, from the result of field notes, it showed that Personal Vocabulary Notes (PVN) technique can improve students' vocabulary mastery and also that students gave positive responses to the implementation of Personal Vocabulary Notes (PVN) technique in the teaching learning process vocabulary mastery. Moreover, Personal Vocabulary Notes (PVN) technique would be alternative strategy in teaching vocabulary.

After the writer carried out the research, the writer concludes that the Personal Vocabulary Notes (PVN) technique could improve students' vocabulary

mastery. Regarding to the subject of the CAR, the writer suggests that the teacher should use various techniques in the classroom because it can motivate their students and they will not get boring easily especially implement Personal Vocabulary Notes (PVN) technique as an alternative strategy in teaching vocabulary.

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