THE CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS' VOCABULARY MASTER AND THEIR ABILITY IN COMPREHENDING NEWS ITEM AT THE SECOND SEMESTER OF ELEVENTH CLASS AT SMA NEGERI 1 TANJUNG BINTANG LAMPUNG SELATAN

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of teaching and learning English as foreign language is to enable the students to communicate in English both in readers forms in real communication and understand the foreign culture. There are skill that should be learnt by the student, they are listening, reading, writing and speaking. The students of the eleventh class should be able to master vocabulary and comprehend news item. In achieving the goal of curriculum, there are many students find difficult. They also make errors when they comprehend news item. It means that vocabulary is very important for the students to learn English.

The objective of this research is to know and describe the students' vocabulary mastery and their ability in comprehending news item and to know describe the correlation between students' vocabulary mastery and their ability in comprehending news item. In taking the sample of the research, the writer used stratified proportional random sampling technique because the student's ability was heterogeneous. The population of the research is all the first semester in the eleventh class at SMAN 1 Tanjung Bintang Lampung Selatan. The writer took one class from seven classes and the class consisted of 37 class students. In collecting the data, the writer used objective test that were multiple choice, consisted of 50 items. In this research, product moment formula was used to analyze the data of the research.

Based on the result of the research showed $r_{count} = 0.670$ is higher than $r_{table} = 0.630$ by n =37, there was correlation between vocabulary mastery and comprehending news item. $X^2_{ratio} < X^2$ (1-a) (k-3), n=37 there was significant correlation.

Keywords: Correlation, Vocabulary, Comprehending, News Item

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool for communication. By using language people will get easy in their activity. In communication, language has very important role to send and transfer message, ideas and feelings and opinion. Language is used by people in their daily activity. People will be able to communicate well if they master the language, because without language we cannot express anything in our mind to another person. Therefore language is an important thing in our lives.

Language is a fundamental part of total human behavior, and behaviorist have examined it as such and sought to formulate insistent theories of first language acquisition. In Indonesia English is the first foreign language that should be taught officially to students from elementary school as a local content subject. We may therefore say that language includes four skills are: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

English is an international language that is used by all most people in the world. By mastering English people can communicate with other people from other county and also can learn science and modern technology. In the actual reason, we know that English is very important to be learned. English is also language of science that should be mastered by the people who want to develop their knowledge because there are many books of science, technology, economic, and cultures are written in English. While in Indonesia, English is the first foreign language that should be mastered by the people to communicate with all of people in the world. Furthermore, as developing country, Indonesia really needs English because Indonesian Government tries to increase all aspects that are usually phased by all countries. Two of them are education and economic.

There are four language skills, namely listening, reading, speaking and writing that should be thought integratedly, vocabulary is the most important part of English that should be mastered by students if they want to get the four skills of language namely listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Reading is one language skill, which should be given to students. They are expected to write grammatically using acceptable English sentence. Each language has its own distinct structure. In learning reading at the school, English teacher hopes that the students have good reading ability, the students are expected to be able to read about something.

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Harmer (2004:50) states, reading text also provides opportunities to study language: vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and the way we construct sentences, paragraph, and text. It means that reading text can be used to increase students' vocabulary because by reading text can help the students to improve their English. Catherine (2003;5) also states "Reading is so much a part of daily life for those of us who live in literate communities that much of the time we hardly consider other purposes or process involved. Reading comprehension is the ability to understand the object and comprehension is the most important aspect in study. Comprehension is the mind act or power at understanding (Hornby, 1982:173). Wallace (2006:4) supports "Reading as interpreting means reacting to a written text as a piece of communication; in other word, we assume some communicative intent on the writer's part which the reader has some purposes in attempting to understand". It is clear that the purpose of reading is to understand and find out a lot of information and knowledge from the reading text itself.

Vocabulary is very important thing and one of language aspect that should be mastered by the student in learning English. Mastering vocabulary is required to make the students easier in comprehending to the text or speaking in English. Vocabulary is one of the English components. Learning vocabulary does not mean that the learners only memorize an amount of the words but also their meanings and how they are constructed and used in language. Cameron (2001:95) states "Vocabulary is the fundamental to using foreign language as discourse and is essential to practicing in it". A is also supported Thornbury (2002:75) sates "We learn vocabulary to know the meaning of words. To understand the meaning of the word, we do not just memorize or write the words but we also need to know the function of the words itself so in learning vocabulary whether in learning speaking or writing. Wain Wright (2006: 33) states, "The large vocabulary is the easier to make sense of text. Without vocabulary, it is difficult for the students' to obtain any kind of news and information that is stated in any printed materials like newspaper, magazine, novel, book, and so on. By having the number of vocabulary, the kind of difficulty will be solved. The other hand, Cameron (2001:72) states "Building up a useful vocabulary is central to learning of a foreign language at preliminary level". It means that, the students are able to learn foreign language words through participating in the discourse of classroom activities. Vocabulary can help the students have

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good speaking, reading, listening, and writing ability. The students that have enough vocabulary will not be difficult to understand the meaning of words so that they are easier to know the meaning of the text. To get the meaning and read easily the students should know structure, pronunciation and vocabulary.

The students should and realize that mastering vocabulary is needed in understanding the content of reading text easily. From the statement above, the writer realizes the importance of vocabulary. Learning vocabulary does not mean that the learners only memorize an amount of the words, but also their meanings and how are they used in language.

News item is a text which informs readers about event of the day. The events are considered newsworthy or important. A text genre writing in the English language that aims to informs about an incident which in fact is the case, meaning that the incident has just occurred or happened a long time but still much talked about. According to Yudistira (2006:83) that the purpose of news item text is to inform readers, learners or viewers about events of the day which are considered newsworthy or important. Yudistira also added that significant lexicogrammatical features of news item are:

1. Short, telegraphic information about story capture in headline.
2. Use of material processes to retell the event.
3. Use of projecting verbal processes in course stage.
4. Focus on circumstances (e.g. mostly within qualifiers).

According to the statement above, reading is one of the important skills from the four language skills that students must master. The students are able to develop their knowledge by mastering English; they can get knowledge from the books they read because they have competency in reading. The students can express their idea, thought and opinion. According to 2006 English curriculum, the aim of learning and teaching English involves: reading, listening, speaking, and writing, which is presented interestedly. However it focuses on reading skill.

Based on the writer's preliminary research, at the second semester of eleventh class of SMA Negeri 1 Tanjung Bintang. The writer found that the students ability in comprehend news item need to be improved. The writer also found that students' vocabulary mastery needs to be improved. They found difficulties in mastering vocabulary. Based on the statement above, the

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writer conducted a research entitled: **"**The Correlation between Students' Vocabulary Mastery and their Ability in Comprehending News Item at the Second Semester of Eleventh Class at SMA Negeri I Tanjung Bintang".

The conclusion is for English students, learning vocabulary is needed because if they do know vocabulary, they can understood what they read and they will be quite confused as to their meaning. The problem in this research can be formulated as follow:

"How is the correlation between student's vocabulary mastery and their ability in comprehending news item".

The result of research may give information to the English teacher about the correlation between student's vocabulary mastery and their ability in comprehending news item and to improve the students' vocabulary mastery and their ability in learning and teaching process.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In conducting the research the writer used descriptive quantitative method. Descriptive method is the main technique used in conducting the research. It means that the researcher used some techniques in doing research to take them as the foundation of the research. This research method was used to investigate the data from sample of research object.

The population of the research is all of the students' at the second semester of the eleventh class at SMA Negeri 1 Tanjung Bintang, consists of 242 students in seven classes. Based on the total of population the sample of the research, the writer took one class that was XI IPA 3 as the sample of this research. The class consisted of 37 students. In conducted the research, the writer got the sample by using cluster random sampling technique because the students' was homogeneous.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The Analysis Invariant Frequency Distribution of Vocabulary Mastery

From the data analysis, the highest score for vocabulary test is 82 and the lowest score is 42. While the criterion is divided into three, namely high, fair and low. From the result of interval, the invariance frequency distribution of the student's vocabulary as follows:

1. There were 15 students or 40.54% who got high score.

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2. There were 13 students or 35.13% who got fair score.
3. There were 9 students or 24.32% who got low score.

The Analysis Invariant Frequency Distribution of Comprehending News Item

From the data analysis, the highest score for comprehending news item test is 82 and the lowest score is 46. While the criterion is divided into three, namely high, fair and low. From the result of interval, the invariance frequency distribution of the students comprehending news item test as follows:

1. There were 9 students or 24.32% who got high score.
2. There were 15 students or 43.24% who got fair score.
3. There were 13 students or 32.43% who got low score.

The Correlation Between Students' Vocabulary Mastery (X) and Their Ability In Comprehending News Item (Y)

From the calculating, the result is rcount 0.670 with N= 37 for significant level 5%, it is got 0.325. It is known that 0.627 > 0.325. The result between 0.600-0.800 is high correlation. It means that there is significant correlation between students' vocabulary mastery and comprehending news item.

Based on the result of the test above, the writer found that there is correlation between students' vocabulary mastery and their ability in comprehending news item at the second semester of the eleventh class at SMAN 1 Tanjung Bintang Lampung Selatan. From the data analysis of the hypothesis and the result of calculation, finally the writer concluded that the hypothesis proved true. Therefore in this case the writer would like to say that the students' can increase their vocabulary mastery to improve their ability in comprehending because vocabulary is one of the important elements in supporting the comprehending news.

From the calculation, the writer got $r_{count} = 0.670$ and with n = 37 at significant level 5%, the writer got $r_{table} = 0.325$ which means $r_{count} > r_{table}$ it indicates that there is significant correlation between students vocabulary mastery and their ability in comprehending news item.

The result of the data analysis also showed that the score of student's vocabulary mastery is fair. It occurred because in lack of vocabulary mastery. Therefore, the students have to master about vocabulary. Their motivation in learning vocabulary must be stimulated continuously.

The score of students' ability in comprehending news item is in range of fair. They are less to understand comprehending news item questions. Students are generally lazy in reading English especially about comprehending news item. Therefore, the students should be able to improve their reading especially in comprehending news item. From the research, the writer could prove by statistical calculation that there is significant positive correlation between students' vocabulary mastery and their ability in comprehending news item. It means that the ability of mastery vocabulary has close correlation in comprehending news item.

CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the research, the writer concluded that:

1. There is high correlation between students' vocabulary mastery and their ability in comprehending news item at the second semester of the eleventh class at SMAN 1 Tanjung Bintang Lampung Selatan. It is due to the result of the students test showed that r_{count} 0.670 is higher than $r_{table} = 0.325$.

2. There is significant correlation between student's vocabulary mastery and their ability in comprehending news item at the second semester of the eleventh class at SMAN 1 Tanjung Bintang Lampung Selatan. It can be seen $r_{count} = 0.670$ is higher than $r_{table} = 0.325$. With N= 37 by using 5% significant level is gained the score = 0.670 it means that 0.670>0.325.

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