

## DEVELOPING STUDENTS' VOCABULARY USING MONOLINGUAL DICTIONARY

**Deti Lismayanti**  
**Dosen Prodi Tadris Bahasa Inggris STAIN Bengkulu**  
**(e-mail: detti\_lis@yahoo.co.id)**

### Abstrak:

Aspek yang paling penting dalam menguasai bahasa adalah dengan menguasai kosa kata bahasanya. Sebagai tanda kita menguasai suatu bahasa yaitu dengan mempunyai kita berkomunikasi dengan merangkai kata-kata (vocabularies) menjadi kalimat. Akan tetapi yang menjadi kendala bagi pelajar, salah satunya adalah meningkatkan kosa kata mereka. Hal ini disebabkan pelajar dan mahasiswa menemui kendala ketika belajar kosa kata tersebut dan sulit untuk memilih kata yang sesuai kemudian dan pemilihan kamus yang baik.

**Kata kunci:** *developing, students' vocabulary, monolingual dictionary*

### INTRODUCTION

English is one of foreign languages taught in the formal system of education in Indonesia. Salch ( 1985:2 ) States that English has been chosen as the first foreign language to be taught as a compulsory subject from the first year of Junior High School up to college.

The Institutional objective of Teaching English as a Foreign Language found in the book *Petunjuk Pelaksanaan Proses Belajar Mengajar* (Guidelines' for the Implementation of Teaching Learning Process) states the objective of teaching English is to develop the four language skills. They are reading, listening, speaking and writing expected to assist the students' development of the systematic and orderly way of thinking (Depdikbud 1994 cited in Saleh, 1985:3). Mastering the four skills of English is not easy, because the systems used in English are different from those used in Indonesia. The four language skills must be supported by mastery of Vocabulary. It refers to the words of a language collectively.

According to Richard and Rogers (1986:32) vocabulary is one of the most important aspects in foreign language learning. It means that vocabulary should be mastered by learners to develop the ability to communicate in the language. Words are supremely important, Aitchison (1978:3) says that everyone need words and a normal person probably comes into contact with thousands in the course of a normal day. We would be quite lost without them. One of the ways to solve this problem that the students have to possess at least one good dictionary.

Dictionary is a book that gives the words of a language in alphabetical order and explains their meaning or translates them into another language (Hornby, 1991 : 321). Without dictionary, students may encounter some difficulties. The common mistakes made by students are in understanding the meaning. In teaching and learning English, the use of dictionary is most efficient.

There are two kinds of dictionaries; monolingual and bilingual dictionaries. In this thesis, the writer will use monolingual dictionary as a tool to develop students' competency in vocabulary. Monolingual dictionaries are books dealing with the words of language arranged in A, B, C, written in same language (Hornby, 1980 : 105). Examples:

<u>Words</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Antonym	Word that is opposite in meaning to another
Easy	Not difficult
Hearing	Ability to hear
Pen	Instrument for writing with ink
People	Person in general

Why the writer uses monolingual dictionaries because in fact it is widely used by the students and perhaps that it can enrich new vocabularies.



From the explanation above the writer formulated the problems as follows:  
 What is the influence for students in using monolingual dictionaries? And what is the effective use of monolingual dictionaries in developing students' vocabulary? And is it effective to use monolingual dictionaries to develop students' vocabulary?

## DISCUSSION

### The Concept of Vocabulary

English has very large number of vocabularies, because we should always improve our English vocabulary. We should learn English vocabulary continually and it needs long time. In others words, every time we should enrich our vocabulary stock. Hornby (1985 : 959) states that vocabulary is the total number of words which ( with the roles for combining them) makes up a language. It is clear that vocabulary plays a very important role in a language.

According to Webster (1991 : 1320), vocabulary is:

- 1) A list or collection of words or phrase are used alphabetically arranged and explained or defined.
- 2) A sum or stock of words employed by a language, group, or codes available for a use (as in an indexing system).
- 3) A supply of expressive technique or division ( as of an art form ).

Learning vocabulary is the main aspect for the student, realizing the importance of vocabulary in a language, the student should pay more attention on vocabulary. Vocabulary helps to expresses the ideas precisely, vividly without repeating a **certain word** and can not do well in comprehension question ( Burton, 1982 : 98). It is very important for the students to have a lot of vocabulary or to be rich in vocabulary, especially in learning English. If we want to use the language, we should have mastered the vocabulary first because in conversation sometimes we are unfamiliar with a new word.

Vocabulary can be divided in to major categories, namely function of words and content words.

### Kinds of Vocabulary

Vocabulary can be divided into two major categories, namely function of words and content words.

#### a. Function words

Wallace (1982 : 18) mentions function of words as structure words may be considered as part of the language of grammar ; they are almost 'empty' of meaning -v-.en considered in isolation. Function of words have little or no meaning by themselves, for examples, "to", "for", "by" ( preposition ).

#### b. Content words

Content words are noun, verb, adjective and adverb formed from adjective ( e.g. beautifully). There are so many words that can be categorized as content words.

### The Importance of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is important in a language. Learning a language means learning its vocabulary. Learning vocabulary is not easy. It often happens if today we **memorize a word** but the next day we will forget it. Because we should be serious in studying vocabulary. Dealing with it, Aitchison (1978) states that :

"...Realizing the importance of vocabulary mastery the students should learn English vocabulary seriously and not take for granted including those borrowed from other language in the world. In other side, the learners need to recognize not only spelling of English words, but also their meaning..."

Mastering English vocabulary is very important. We can't communicate without knowing it first. Mastering vocabulary is a significant asset. It allows us to use precise words to say exactly what we intend to say. It also enables us to use the language for communication.

Realizing the importance of vocabulary the students should improve their vocabulary stock every time. Wright ( 1980 : 11 ) says that a tool way to build up vocabulary is to learn words in groups :



1. Synonyms are words with similar meaning.
2. Antonyms are words with opposite meaning.
3. Homonyms are words with the same pronunciation but with different meanings.
4. Associated words are words dealing the same subject but different meanings.

To build up vocabulary is not easy, the students should seriously and continually learn vocabulary and the teacher should be more interested in the subject.

### **Expanding and Enriching Vocabulary**

According to Cooper, Warreke (2002) there are six types of word relationship that must be learned by the learners in order to expand and enrich their vocabulary knowledge, they are as follows : (1) synonym, (2) antonyms, (3) homonyms, (4) denotation and connotation, (5) multiple meaning, (6) analogies.

There are some techniques to enrich students' vocabulary. One of them is using bilingual dictionaries when they study English at school. In learning English vocabulary, the students have to read. Reading is a large part of study. In reading the students must be able not only to extract information but also to understand the material. The bilingual dictionaries will be useful in reading material in English and it also can be used as a tool for the students to build their vocabulary.

### **The Concept of Dictionary**

According to Martin ( 1999 : 32 ) dictionary is a book which contains words, which are arranged in alphabetical order. Hornby ( 1987 : 239 ) states that a dictionary is a book listing and explaining the words and arranged in A, B, C order. Moreover, Webster ( 1996 : 18 ) states that a dictionary is a book containing about spelling, pronunciation, derivation, meaning, and use of words.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that dictionary is a book containing information about spelling, pronunciation, derivation, meaning and use of words, which are arranged alphabetically and give some benefits for users to enlarge their vocabulary.

### **Kinds of Dictionary**

Based on the language, there are two kinds of dictionary, monolingual and bilingual.

#### **a. Monolingual dictionary**

Hornby ( 1980 : 547 ) states that a monolingual dictionary is a book dealing with the words of language arranged in A, B, C, written in the same language "Webster (1996 : 138 ) says that a monolingual dictionary is capability of using only one language and a monolingual dictionary is a source of many kinds of information about spelling, pronunciation, derivation and meaning in one language.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that a monolingual Dictionary is a book containing information about spelling, pronunciation, derivation and meaning which arranged alphabetically and written in one language.

#### **b. Bilingual Dictionary**

Bilingual dictionary is a source of many kinds of information about words in two different languages, e.g. ( The English-Indonesian or The Indonesian-English ). Dealing with it Hornby (1980: 105 ) states that a bilingual dictionary is a book dealing with the words of language arranged in A, B, C. written in two languages. Webster (1996 :120 ) says that a bilingual dictionary is a book containing a list of all or some of the words in a language with many aspects about their words.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that a bilingual dictionary means a book containing a list of words arranged alphabetically, giving information or particular class of words arranged alphabetically, giving information or particular subject or particular class of words and written in two languages. To study word, we are concerned with spelling, pronunciation, part of speech and meaning of the words.



### **The Advantages of Monolingual Dictionaries in Relation with Vocabulary**

Monolingual dictionaries are books that give the words of a languages in alphabetical order and explain their meaning, or translate them into same language. It can be used as a tool for teaching and learning English as a foreign language. The use of monolingual dictionaries helps the teacher teach and it facilities the students many kinds of information about words. For the reason, it is important for the students to use monolingual dictionaries in learning English vocabulary.

Using monolingual dictionaries in learning English vocabulary is a good measure to enlarge the stock of the vocabularies. To do that, it is recommended to have more than one dictionary ( Saleh, 1997 : 25 ). The monolingual dictionaries also tell the students a lot of the words. The words in a monolingual dictionary are listed in alphabetical order. The first words in a monolingual dictionaries begin with "a" and the last ones begin with "z". The words between are also alphabetical order. Words beginning with "p" come with words beginning with "q", and so on. Suppose two words begin with the same letter, then they are arranged alphabetically by the second letter. Suppose the second letters are the same, then they are arranged alphabetically by the third letter, and so on. The following words arranged in alphabetical order;

animal	man	chair
doll	mess	cherry
pocket	mitt	child
ran	mop	chip

It explains the meaning of words certainly, but it tells them much more. It tells what other words have meaning like the words. How can the history a word help the students, how can knowing other words with similar meaning help them.

Monolingual dictionaries help the students become familiar with words.

This means that the students can add another word to their growing vocabulary. They will be able to choose the best words to say what they want to say. To make the monolingual dictionaries help the students in learning vocabulary, they must learn to use it. It is clear that the learner can not help mastering the above requirements in learning vocabularies. The teacher can encourage the students to look die meaning of new words in a monolingual dictionary outside of the class as a follow-up activity of reading in class. As we know that using monolingual dictionaries can enrich new vocabulary words than bilingual dictionary that using two languages.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the discussion above, the writer draw some conclusion as follows:

1. Realizing the importance of vocabulary mastery the students should learn English vocabulary seriously and not take for granted including those borrowed from other language in the world. In other side, the learners need to recognize not only spelling of English words, but also their meaning..."
2. Vocabulary is the total number of words which ( with the roles for combining them) makes up a language. And it is clear that vocabulary plays a very important role in a language.
3. Dictionary is a book containing about spelling, pronunciation, derivation, meaning, and use of words.
4. Using monolingual dictionaries in learning English vocabulary is a good measure to enlarge the stock of the vocabularies. To do that, it is recommended to have more than one dictionary

## REFERENCES

- Aitchison Sean. 1978. *Word in The Mind*. Cambridge: Basil Blackwell, Inc.
- Burton. 1982. *Learning Vocabulary*. New York, NY: Prentice Hall.
- Cooper, J.W. 2002. *The Singleton Pattern: In Introduction to Design Pattern in C#*. Boston, MA: Addison Wesley.
- Hornby, A.S. 1985 Oxford *Advanced learner's Dictionary Current English*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Martin Hewings. *Advanced Grammar in Use with Answers*. Jakarta: PT. Erlangga.
- Richard, Jack C and Theodore S. Roger. 1986. *Approaches and Methods in Language Teaching*. Cambridge: Cambridge University press.
- Saleh, Yuzlizal. 1985. *Methods of Teaching English as A Foreign Language: Fundamental of Language Teaching for Indonesian Teachers of English*. Palembang: Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Sriwijaya University.
- Tim DEPDIBUD. 1994. *Kurikulum Bahasa Inggris SMU*. Jakarta: DEPDIBUD.
- Webster, A. Merriam. 1991. *Webster's School Dictionary*. New York: Merriam Webster's Inc, Publisher.
- Wright. 1980. *Build-Up Vocabularies*. New York: Mc Millan.