

Non-English Students' Difficulties and Challenges in Learning Vocabulary

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the problems faced by students in majoring in Indonesian language and literature education of third semester at University of Islam Malang in vocabulary and their strategies used by students to solve their problems in vocabulary majoring in Indonesian language and literature education of third semester at University of Islam Malang. The research problems were formulated as follows: (1) what are problems faced by non-English students in vocabulary? (2) What are the strategies used by non-English students in vocabulary?

This research belongs to descriptive qualitative research. The researcher took one student who got highest score in vocabulary test, one student who got lowest score in vocabulary test. They came from third semester Indonesian language and literature education major Indonesian language and literature education major. Interview guide consisting to 7 items related to problems and strategies. The data were analyzed in the form of descriptive qualitative analysis through by using coding, display data, and drawing conclusion by narrating the information taken from the interview guide for students.

The findings of the study that the problems faced by English students from third semester in Indonesian language and literature education major of University of Islam Malang were same. The mainly found problems in difficult find new vocabulary collected in memory, difficult in writing and memorizing of vocabularies in activity class. And then the researcher also found strategies used as solution for the their problems including memory strategies and cognitive strategies.

Therefore, future researcher is suggested to find new great strategies to help students face to problems especially in vocabulary by using more than one instrument and involve more than two participants with different level by means of providing better generalization. In addition, it is worth to recommend that more detailed issues related to the students' problems and strategies to solve problem in vocabulary are discussed in the next research.

Keywords: Difficulties, Challenges, Learning Strategies, and Learning vocabulary.

INTRODUCTION

According to Al-Qahtani (2015), the importance of vocabulary is demonstrated daily in and out of school. In classroom, the achieving students possess the most sufficient vocabulary. So it can be concluded that the learning of vocabulary is very useful to do in the classroom for example by doing some activities such as presentations accompanied by discussions with fellow students in the class then given an evaluation by the lecturer, reading the material then discussed together between students and lecturers, working on listening problems through recordings given by the lecturer after being instructed by the lecturer and writing scientific papers accompanied by guidance between students and lecturers.

So, students are learning in the class covered all skills in English. For learning outside the classroom can be done by doing some activities for example, an English language course English.

Students are learning vocabulary outside the classroom then; students can choose a specific place to study the focus on vocabulary.

With no vocabulary, the four skills of English language learning may not be successfully achieved (Susanto and Fazlinda, 2016). That to develop 4 skills in English, it is very necessary to master vocabulary first, because the vocabulary is the biggest component in English, without mastering the vocabulary properly, it will be difficult to improve student achievement in English, especially in vocabulary.

Rahman (2016) said that there are some difficulties of students in mastering vocabulary. The first are forgetting words easily, the second student's interest, and third teaching material. From this statement it can be explained that there have been three difficulties that become problems for students including the first being easy to forget in remembering vocabulary. Some students have difficulty in remembering vocabulary because it is difficult to understand the meaning in vocabulary.

The second is interesting, some students have a lack of interest in learning English especially in vocabulary because students make something foreign so there is no sense of interest in learning English especially in vocabulary and the third is teaching material, in the teaching material given to students from the lecturer is impressed too serious, less creative so it makes it difficult for students to understand the contents of the material being taught.

Previously, researchers found two studies that were shaped differently in the type of research, was the first study conducted by Guma (2018)). The title of the study is "Thai Students' Strategies in Learning English Vocabulary at English Language Education Department of Iain Salatiga in the Academic Year 2018/2019".

This research have aimed to identify problems and learning strategies English vocabulary at English language Education Department at state Institute for Islamic Studies of Salatiga, Indonesia. This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods.

The participant were two students of fifth semester, three students of fifth semester, and five students of seventh semester. The study used interview as tool to collect data. Those students had problems in learning English vocabulary namely: Advanced lexicon, Forgetfulness, Synonym of a word, Pronunciation, British or America lexicon and Feeling lazy.

The finding it can be concluded that that the same strategies are used to solve different problems in learning vocabulary by Thai students meanwhile the different strategies might be used by Thai students to solve the same problems.

Was the second study conducted by Liang (2010) the title of the study is "A Study on English Vocabulary Learning Strategies for non-English Majors in independent College". This study aimed to

investigate the related effectiveness and importance of each particular strategy in a more actual, controlled and systematic way.

This research uses quantitative research. Participants in this study are 390 non-English majors or English for Specific Purposes (ESP) from grade one to grade three, studying in Beulah college of Beihang University. Data for this study were collected through questionnaire.

The results show that non-English major learners in independent college have an active attitude about English vocabulary learning and usually employ a large variety of learning strategies when they come across new words or to consolidate the words but did not form effective vocabulary learning strategies.

Can be seen from previous research that there are two types of research, the first is qualitative descriptive which has described that the same strategy can be used to solve different problems and then different strategies can solve the same problem.

Then the second type of research is quantitative which has described that students have been active about learning English vocabulary besides students also use various strategies to find new vocabulary.

In addition, especially in the ESP context since it did not explore the student's problems well as the strategies to cope with the problems. The findings are still not proving something. Then, a research is needed new version is done now. In an effort to describe the problem of non-English students in learning vocabulary and find out the strategies they use to overcome these problems.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted qualitatively through descriptive research design. Descriptive research method is used to obtain information about existing conditions and have been widely used in educational research.

According to Nassaji (2015), the goal of descriptive research is to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics. It can be concluded, descriptive have function to define in detail something which occurred in real life by investigating more about phenomenon which happened.

This case the author selected of the third semester students at Indonesian language education and literature of University of Islam Malang as the population. Determine the method most used for this study through tests that focus on multiple choice vocabulary in the form of 20 items guided by the material used as lecturers to teach.

Through test from students as many as 38 people The subjects are one student who has a low grade and one student who has a high grade in learning English in order to investigate how English skills in vocabulary directly through student responses directly face to face with researchers in interview.

Techniques for collecting data including interviews. In this study researchers conducted research on students one person who has a high grade and one person who has a low grade. It can all be seen from the results of them doing the test. In this interview the author has made by herself question Consists of 7 items created by linking the topics discussed in this study.

In this interview discussed vocabulary problems that occur in students. For validating questions, the interview will be used by researchers asking for help from the expert in grammar. In addition to making small notes the researchers also recorded directly to students at the time the interview took place so that the data taken was clearer, completer and more accurate.

First of all, the researcher asked permission to the lecturer to do the research. Then, the researcher was distributed vocabulary test personally to the students in the classroom. At last, explaining the purpose of the research and answering the questions technique is delivered by the researcher.

The interview session was conducted outside of the classroom; the researcher took one student who got the lowest score and higher score to be interviewed. The questions focused on problems faced by students and strategies used by students in vocabulary. The researcher used the Indonesian language in avoiding misinterpretation and misunderstanding then, recorded their voice during the interview and write done in notebook.

According to Nassaji (2015), his analysis involved segmenting the interaction data into different focus on form episodes (FFE), coding them according to the type of language used linguistic focus, and calculating their frequencies.

So, it can be concluded that the way to analyze them related to interaction each other between researcher and participant so after that steps taken by a researcher to get of facts as a whole qualitative and data analysis.

Current research through coding, the first is to provide raw data based on the instruments used, the second is, reconstructing subject sentences, and the third is investment Interview questions continue so researchers will get deeper data into sentences that are well ordered and can make it easier for researchers to understand the meaning of narrative subject, fourth is the collection of similar facts to find out the quality of facts psychologically already obtained from the data, the fifth is a diagnosis from the initial symptom of the fact obtained. The last is presenting a descriptive narrative that is attract and amaze the reader because it serves the research findings really provides original psychological theory information.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on findings and discussion of the research some conclusions can be accepted there are several problems faced by students from the Indonesian language and literature education department of the third semester of University of Islam Malang including difficult communicate with foreign when

visiting abroad, difficult find new vocabulary collected in memory, difficult to understand the best tips for writing the right sentence and difficult to remember some of the vocabulary obtained.

Then, that the learning strategy is a way to help others practice directly using English, based on the opinion of the two students the strategies that have been used are memory strategies and cognitive strategies.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This study aims to find strategies used by students to solve problems in English, especially vocabulary and problems that occur in students in English in vocabulary. The researcher investigated the problems experienced by students in vocabulary through interviews of one student who scored high and one student who scored low in vocabulary from Indonesian language and literature education majors at University of Islam Malang.

Based on the findings obtained from two opinions of non-English students at Malang Islamic University, the researchers concluded that the problems they there are several problems faced by students from the Indonesian language and literature education department of the third semester of University of Islam Malang namely difficulties difficult communicate with foreign when visiting abroad, difficult find new vocabulary collected in memory, difficult to understand the best tips for writing the right sentence and difficult to remember some of the vocabulary obtained.

Based on the opinion of the two students the strategies that have been used are memory strategies and cognitive strategies. From the explanation of the two students above, it can be concluded that student's problems and students' strategies in learning vocabulary at third semester of Indonesian language and literature education major at University of Islam Malang

It can be seen that there are many problems face by some students in learning vocabulary. Based on the findings the researcher wants to give suggestion to the lecturers, students, and further researcher.

For the lecturer expected to found new invention some great and interest strategy so that could be increase student's achievement in vocabulary learning strategy. For their easy understanding in learning English in the vocabulary it can be obtained by using an interesting strategy.

For students, they must master a lot of vocabulary to help develop student's ability to practice all skill in English, so that could be master English well. Therefore, students must be more active in deepening teaching English in particular vocabulary.

The next researcher expected to get invention in student's strategy so that can solve student's problems well in the future and perfecting limitation in previous research. Therefore, future researchers are expected to conduct research in the latest way so that it can be better than previous researchers.

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