

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter discusses several theories related to the research and explains the overall content of this thesis. The discussion is focused on vocabulary mastery, Quizizz, and related studies.

A. Vocabulary

1. Definition of Vocabulary

Learning vocabulary is one of the key components in learning a foreign language. Anyone with a limited vocabulary will also find it difficult to communicate effectively when reading, listening, speaking, or writing. Without understanding vocabulary, learning a language can actually be difficult. Vocabulary is the collection of words that a person knows or uses in a language. Vocabulary is one of the basic components in language learning because through vocabulary, a person can understand and convey messages effectively. Without sufficient vocabulary mastery, students will have difficulty developing language skills such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

In English language learning, vocabulary plays a crucial role because it serves as the foundation for students' ability to understand and use the language. Without sufficient vocabulary mastery, students will struggle to develop their language skills comprehensively. This aligns with the views of experts who emphasize the importance of vocabulary in the language learning process.

According to Schmitt (2000, p. 15), vocabulary is a fundamental component of language learning because learners cannot effectively use their grammatical knowledge in communication without having sufficient vocabulary. Therefore, mastering vocabulary is essential for students to understand, express, and communicate ideas effectively in English. Vocabulary is central to the language process because, through words, a person can understand and convey messages. Without sufficient vocabulary, students will have difficulty speaking, writing, reading, and understanding what they hear. Even if students know the rules of grammar, they still cannot communicate well if they do not have sufficient vocabulary. Therefore, vocabulary plays a very important role in helping students develop their language skills comprehensively and effectively.

According to Schmitt (2014, p. 3), academic vocabulary is essential for learners who intend to study in English, while technical vocabulary is important for learners who need English for specific fields or professional purposes. This is an important aspect because vocabulary is needed when language learners learn to speak, read, and write, and helps them understand what they hear when listening to the language. This means that learners may experience challenges when trying to master a new language due to their limited vocabulary. Vocabulary is a very important aspect because it is needed in all language skills, such as speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Without sufficient vocabulary,

students will have difficulty understanding what they hear, reading texts well, and expressing ideas orally and in writing. Therefore, limited vocabulary can be a major obstacle for learners when learning a new language, as vocabulary is the foundation that supports the entire communication process in that language.

Vocabulary can be rough, as the words people teach in a foreign language. It means vocabulary is a written or spoken unit of language as a symbol of an idea in a foreign language, introduced to learners. People can use language to communicate with other people to get knowledge. Vocabulary can be defined as the meaning that is expressed and the existence of a unit that stands alone in a language. It can be said that vocabulary is very word that exist in a language and enable individuals to speak, and vocabulary can be used to interact with each other.

According to Nunan (as cited in Syarifuddin and Novita, 2014, p.2) stated that vocabulary is word knowledge, referring to a person's collection of words. This means that vocabulary refers to the collection of words that a person knows, understands, and can use in language. Word knowledge does not only mean knowing the meaning of a word, but also includes how the word is pronounced, written, used in sentences, and understood in various contexts. Thus, the more words a person knows and masters, the greater their ability to understand and use language effectively.

Hiebert and Kamil (2005, pp. 2–3) explained that vocabulary is an essential element of reading comprehension and language development because students need sufficient vocabulary knowledge to understand texts effectively. This is because vocabulary is the basis for understanding texts; the more words students know, the easier it is for them to understand the content of what they read. In addition, vocabulary mastery also helps students develop other language skills, such as writing and speaking, because they have more words to choose from to express their ideas. Therefore, planned and systematic vocabulary teaching is necessary for students to improve their reading skills while developing their overall language skills.

2. Types of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is generally classified into two main types, namely receptive vocabulary and productive vocabulary. These two types are important in understanding students' vocabulary mastery because they show different levels of word knowledge and language use.

Based on McCarten (2007, p.19), there are two main types of vocabulary, namely receptive vocabulary and productive vocabulary.

a. Receptive Vocabulary

Receptive vocabulary is vocabulary that students can understand when they read or hear a word, but cannot necessarily use actively in speaking or writing. This means that students may know the meaning of a word when they encounter it in a text or hear

it in conversation, but they may not necessarily be able to use it in their own sentences. For example, students understand the meaning of the word “shoulder” when reading an English text, but they may not necessarily be able to construct a sentence using that word correctly. This type of vocabulary is closely related to reading and listening skills because the more words students understand, the easier it is for them to comprehend the content of texts and conversations.

b. Productive Vocabulary

Productive vocabulary is vocabulary that students not only understand, but can also actively and correctly use in speaking and writing. To master this type of vocabulary, students must know the meaning of the word, its pronunciation, spelling, and how to use it in the right sentence. This means that students not only recognize the words, but are also able to use them appropriately in context. For example, students can correctly form sentences such as “My shoulder hurts.” The ability to use words appropriately in communication shows that students have a higher level of vocabulary mastery.

3. The Aspects of Vocabulary

In vocabulary learning, there are several aspects that students need to pay attention to in order to master vocabulary. According to Thornbury (2002, p. 22), knowing a word does not only mean knowing its meaning,

but also understanding various aspects related to its use in communication. The following is an explanation of the aspects of vocabulary:

a. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is an important aspect of vocabulary mastery because it relates to students' ability to pronounce words correctly. Correct pronunciation helps students speak clearly, confidently, and understand what they hear. Pronunciation errors can lead to changes in meaning or misunderstandings. Therefore, in vocabulary mastery, students need to not only know the meaning of words, but also how to pronounce them correctly so that they can be used effectively in oral communication.

b. Spelling

Spelling is an important aspect of vocabulary related to students' ability to write words correctly. Good spelling helps prevent misunderstandings and makes written communication clearer and more effective. Therefore, in vocabulary mastery, students must not only understand word meanings but also be able to write them accurately.

c. Memorizing

Memorizing is the process of committing information to memory. In vocabulary learning, memorizing helps students

remember new words, but it is more effective when combined with practice, repetition, and use in context.

d. Meaning

Meaning is the understanding of the meaning of a word, both its basic meaning and its meaning in a specific context. A word can have more than one meaning depending on its use in a sentence. Therefore, students need to understand the meaning of words contextually, not just a single definition.

B. Vocabulary Mastery

Vocabulary is a skill that must be mastered by the student if they are going to understand the language. Understanding other people's words and being able to express our own views both require a strong vocabulary. According to Webster (as cited in Agustina, 2024, p. 732), mastery refers to several related meanings: first, it denotes having control or authority over something; second, it implies achieving superiority or dominance in a competition; and third, it indicates possessing or demonstrating a high level of skill and expertise in a particular.

In brief, vocabulary mastery refers to the knowledge of words in a language, including their meanings, forms, and appropriate use in communication contexts. It represents the fundamental competence that students need to acquire before developing broader English proficiency. As widely recognized, learning vocabulary is a central aspect of English

language learning because words serve as the essential components for constructing meaningful sentences.

Vocabulary mastery is not an instant or effortless process. It develops gradually, beginning from early childhood when a baby starts acquiring language through exposure to the mother tongue. Children initially learn simple words by listening to and imitating the words spoken by people around them. In the context of learning English, vocabulary acquisition cannot be separated from overall English proficiency, as vocabulary and language skills are closely interconnected and both play essential roles in the teaching and learning process.

According to the description given above, vocabulary mastery is the outstanding ability a person has to use words in a language and is developed depending on their own interest, necessity, and motivation. The four language abilities depend heavily on vocabulary mastery, and it must be remembered that vocabulary mastery is one of the crucial components of language.

C. Teaching Vocabulary in Junior High School

Teaching vocabulary is an important aspect of learning a language because basically language begins with words. As we know it is almost impossible to learn a language without using words; even communication between humans is based on words. Therefore, teaching vocabulary is not easy. According to Alqahtani (2015, p. 24), teaching vocabulary is a crucial aspect of learning a language. It is impossible to learn a language without vocabulary.

Thornbury (2002, p. 18) states that words are the basic units in forming meaning, so without adequate vocabulary mastery, students will have difficulty understanding and conveying messages. Grammar does help to construct sentence structure, but vocabulary provides the content or meaning of the message. Therefore, teaching words or vocabulary should be the main focus in language learning, because students' ability to communicate depends heavily on how much and how well they know words.

Vocabulary teaching is aimed at enabling learners to understand the concepts of unfamiliar words, gain a greater number of words, and use words successfully for communicative purposes. The conclusion from the statement above is, vocabulary becomes an important part of foreign language learning. The vocabulary that is taught in foreign language learning depends on the objective of the course and the amount of time available for reaching Teaching vocabulary is learning a second language because vocabulary is the basic material for mastering the four language skills and will help students to master the four language skills, namely speaking, reading, listening, and writing. In teaching vocabulary, the teacher must ensure that students understand new words, namely new words that are conveyed during the teaching and learning process. Teaching vocabulary needs the best way to keep students interested learn vocabulary.

According to Walters (as cited in Alqahtani (2015, p. 24), both teachers and students agree that vocabulary acquisition is a central factor in teaching a language. Vocabulary teaching is one of the most frequently discussed aspects

of teaching English as a foreign language. In the teaching and learning process, teachers often face various challenges, especially in determining effective ways for students to achieve optimal learning outcomes. Therefore, teachers need to design their lessons well and choose appropriate techniques to apply in the classroom. A professional teacher is required to continuously develop themselves by learning and applying the latest methods or techniques. In addition, a good command of the material is essential so that explanations are easily understood by students and can create an interesting and enjoyable learning atmosphere. Teachers also need to realize that vocabulary teaching plays a very important role in successful language learning.

D. Quizizz

1. Definition of Quizizz

Quizizz is an online learning platform that allows teachers to create interactive quizzes and learning activities in a game-based format. This platform is designed to make learning more engaging and enjoyable through the use of technology. Quizizz can be accessed via smartphones, tablets, or computers, making it flexible and practical for use in classrooms and distance learning. In the teaching and learning process, Quizizz serves as a digital learning medium that helps teachers deliver material interactively. Students can answer questions individually while receiving immediate results.

In vocabulary learning, Quizizz can be used as an online medium to support the learning process. Quizizz is an interactive medium for students to review their vocabulary. This medium has the potential to attract students' attention and increase their participation in the learning process. According to Boulden et al. (2017, p. 10), students are more focused and attentive to quizzes when using Quizizz.

According to Maria & Deli (as cited in Wahid, 2023, p. 25), using Quizizz game-based learning has been proven to improve students' vocabulary mastery. The results showed that students' vocabulary mastery is improving. This statement means that the use of Quizizz as a game-based learning platform has been proven to have positive results in improving students' vocabulary mastery. Through the interactive and competitive features provided by Quizizz, students become more engaged and motivated during the learning process. As a result, they are more active in answering questions, remembering new words, and understanding their meanings.

2. Teaching Vocabulary Using Quizizz

Teaching vocabulary using Quizizz refers to the use of a game-based digital platform to help students learn and practice new words in an interactive and enjoyable way. Quizizz allows teachers to create quizzes that include images, multiple-choice questions, and instant feedback, which can support students in understanding vocabulary more effectively.

According to Deterding et al. (2011, p. 9), gamification refers to the use of game design elements in non-game contexts, which can increase students' motivation and engagement in learning. Quizizz applies this concept by providing features such as points, leaderboards, and immediate feedback, making students more interested and active during the lesson. This is supported by Zhao (2019, pp. 40–42), who found that Quizizz can improve students' participation and learning outcomes by creating a fun and interactive learning environment.

Furthermore, Quizizz helps teachers monitor students' performance through automatic scoring and reports. This makes it easier for teachers to identify students' strengths and weaknesses in vocabulary mastery. As a result, teachers can adjust their teaching strategies to better support students' learning.

3. The Features of Quizizz

Quizizz is an online platform that facilitates quizzes, questions, or tests. In Quizizz, there are self-paced and gamification features. Self-paced is a feature that adapts to the student's pace. Furthermore, gamification is the platform trying its best so that students do not get bored with the questions. Quizizz is a free tool to teach and learn anything, on any device, in person or remotely. The quality and features in Quizizz are always developed to keep up with modern developments. Quizizz provides tons of free questions with features that are easy to use for both teachers and students. A full report feature also contains details

of the work and the results. Quizizz has a feature that can provide five types of questions: multiple-choice, checkboxes, fill-in-the-blanks, surveys, and essays. According to Brahmana (2022, p. 175), there are four main Quizizz features that researchers used in lessons and with participants in this study. These features include Lesson, Live Game, Homework, and Flashcard. Each feature is described as follows:

a. Lesson

The Lesson feature is used to deliver learning material before students take a quiz. Through this feature, teachers can display explanations in the form of text, images, or slides containing specific material, such as vocabulary about parts of the body. This feature helps students understand concepts before being tested. Thus, the learning process does not only focus on evaluation, but also on the delivery of material in a structured manner.

b. Live Game

The Live Game feature allows teachers to conduct quizzes directly in class. Students work on questions in real time using their own devices, and the results are displayed immediately. This feature creates a competitive atmosphere because there are scores and rankings (leaderboards). Live Game is very effective for increasing student participation, motivation, and enthusiasm in vocabulary learning.

c. Homework

The Homework feature is used when teachers want to give assignments that students can complete outside of class hours. Teachers can set a deadline for completion, so students can access the questions at any time before the deadline expires. This feature supports independent learning and gives students the opportunity to repeat and deepen their vocabulary mastery.

d. Flashcard

The Flashcard feature helps students learn vocabulary through digital cards that display words and their meanings. This feature is very useful for memorizing and understanding the meaning of words gradually. In vocabulary learning, flashcards can strengthen students' memory of the form and meaning of words, thereby supporting the improvement of vocabulary mastery.

4. The advantages and disadvantages of Quizizz

In the process of learning using media, there are certainly advantages and disadvantages in the application of these media. According to Kingsley & Hagen (as cited in Revina and Ria, 2023, pp. 163-164) explain that Quizizz offers several advantages in vocabulary learning. Interactive features and gamification can increase student engagement and motivation during the learning process. The availability of instant feedback allows students to immediately recognize and correct their mistakes, which supports more effective learning. In addition,

vocabulary repetition through quizzes and self-directed learning systems helps strengthen students' understanding and memory of new words. Data and reporting features also allow teachers to monitor student progress and provide targeted instruction based on student needs.

However, despite its advantages, Quizizz also has certain limitations. Vocabulary quizzes on Quizizz tend to focus on isolated word meanings and memorization, which can limit students' deeper understanding of contextual usage, word nuances, and broader lexical knowledge such as collocations and word groups. In addition, the individual nature of most Quizizz activities can reduce opportunities for collaborative learning and classroom discussion.

5. Related Study

There are several studies that have the same focus as this research, namely improving students' vocabulary mastery through the use of Quizizz as a game-based learning media.

The first research was conducted by a researcher who investigated the use of Paper-Mode Quizizz to improve the vocabulary mastery of eighth-grade students at SMP SSA Negeri Klopasawit 1 Candipuro. This research used a Classroom Action Research (CAR) design with two cycles. The subject of the research was class VIII-C students. The results showed that students' vocabulary scores improved from Cycle I to Cycle II. The average score in Cycle I was 72.4 and increased to 81.4 in Cycle II. In addition, students became more active, motivated, and enthusiastic

during the learning process. Based on the results, it can be concluded that Paper-Mode Quizizz effectively improved students' vocabulary mastery.

The second research was conducted at Madrasah Tsanawiyah Negeri 2 Asahan in 2023. The participants of this research were 32 seventh-grade students of class VII-A. The researcher used a Classroom Action Research (CAR) design and conducted the research in two cycles. The data were collected through qualitative instruments such as observation, interviews, diary notes, and documentation, as well as quantitative instruments such as multiple-choice tests. The results showed a significant improvement in students' vocabulary mastery. The mean score increased from 55.31 in the pre-test to 72.50 in Cycle I, and further improved to 91.87 in Cycle II. The findings indicated that Quizizz not only improved vocabulary mastery but also increased students' motivation, participation, and positive attitudes during the learning process.

The third research also examined the use of the Quizizz application to enhance students' vocabulary mastery at the same school and grade level. This research used Classroom Action Research with two cycles and involved 32 students. The results showed that the number of students who achieved scores above 75 increased significantly from the pre-test to Cycle II. Students' enthusiasm, confidence, teamwork, and responsibility also improved. Based on the findings, Quizizz was considered an effective tool to enhance vocabulary mastery and student engagement.

There are some similarities between this research and the three studies mentioned above. First, they all focus on improving students' vocabulary mastery through Quizizz as a gamification-based learning medium. Second, they use Classroom Action Research (CAR) as the research design. Meanwhile, the differences between this study and the previous studies lie in the research setting, research subjects, and specific vocabulary materials used. This research was conducted in a different school and focuses not only on vocabulary mastery but also on students' participation in the learning process. Therefore, this research is expected to provide additional evidence about the effectiveness of Quizizz in improving vocabulary mastery in a different educational context.