

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter is deal with the background of the research, the research question, the research purposes, the research significance, the limitation of the research and terminology. The researcher will explain the background of this research from general into specific.

A. Research Background

English is an international language that is used as a means of communication between countries and all nations the world. The ability to speak English is one of the most important skills for students because English has become a universal language used in the world of technology, education, politics and trade. In this era, everything will be more developed, as well as the language used. As a student in the current era, the students, are indeed required to learn English, because English is a foreign language that is used as a means of communication after the mother tongue and Indonesian itself, English is also the language use as an International language and a means of communication with other countries. So, it is very important for students to learn English in this era.

In English, there are several skills that must be improve by students. These are receptive and productive skill. The receptive skill include reading (understand written language), and listening (understanding spoken language), productive skill includes speaking (producing spoken language), and writing

(producing written language). In order to support those skills, it is essential to learn vocabulary.

Vocabulary is one of the important skills in language. We use words and arrange them together to make sentences, conversation, and discourse all things. We cannot express our ideas if we do not master it. Vocabulary is one of the components in English that has to be learned by learners in building receptive and productive skills. Vocabulary is the most important factor in the language learning and teaching especially in English because words are very important to communicate, someone who has limited vocabulary will find it difficult to understand English. Without having a large vocabulary, learners will find it difficult to communicate well with other people. In learning English, vocabulary is one of the most important things that students have to improve well.

In improving students' English vocabulary, students also find it easier to use grammatical structures and functions. So, vocabulary is very useful in helping students to master the four skills and grammar in English. Second, learning English vocabulary is very useful to help students communicate with good vocabulary. With a lot of vocabulary students can easily learn English. Third, by improving English vocabulary, students can master English easily, it can be concluded that vocabulary is the beginning to make it easier for students to understand and apply English in the world of education and communication.

Based on the explanation above, the first thing that be learned in language is vocabulary, because if students do not have a broad vocabulary or have low

vocabulary, it will be the cause of difficulty in communicating with other people, especially in learning English students must be able to reading, listening, writing and speaking. To master these four skills of course students must have a lot of vocabulary, therefore the first thing that must be improve by students is vocabulary, by having a lot of vocabulary students will be easier to communicate in English.

The importance of learning vocabulary is to help students in mastering the language itself. But sometimes students have difficulty in learning vocabulary because there are several obstacles faced by students when learning vocabulary. Based on the pre-observation, from the results of interview with English teacher at SMK Negeri 1 Belimbing Hulu. The teacher said that student's English skill were still very limited, especially in class X. They are also not interest in learning English because they find it difficult. The researcher also gave a mini test to the students, namely by mentioning the vocabulary that was around them, some of the students could only mention five until six vocabularies, from the given target of twenty vocabularies. Therefore, it can be concluded that the researcher found some students' problems, especially in learning English. These problems are as follows: first, they had lack of vocabulary. Second, lack of motivation in learning because they felt learning English was difficult, for students learning vocabulary is not important. Third, they find it difficult to memorize the meaning of the words and remember new vocabulary, and the spelling and pronunciation of students'

English vocabulary are still very low. So that vocabulary is still big problem in learning English at this school.

In this case, the teacher must change the students' mindset about learning vocabulary. Teachers should emphasize that learning vocabulary is the first and very important thing when learning a language. When students have to improve vocabulary well, students will find it easy to learn a language. Especially when students learn English, where English has a lot of vocabulary that must be improving. Students will be able to improve vocabulary first, because improving other skills is a development after learning vocabulary.

The reasons researcher is interest in conducting research at SMK Negeri 1 Belimbing Hulu is because researcher is interest in improving students' English vocabulary in this school. Researcher want to help students deal with its problem of learning English. The researcher also wants to help the teacher to design the right techniques that appropriate to apply in the classroom to solve the problems in teaching and learning English in this school.

Based on the explanation above, students must improve their vocabulary skills, because vocabulary has a good influence on improving students' ability to speak English, students must improve vocabulary which is one of the most important things in learning English. So, students should pay attention to their vocabulary and students should try to improve their vocabulary. The teacher must design a method or technique that is suitable for students and also suitable for solving problems in the classroom must be able to assist student in learning, so it can be said that the technique is an effective technique. Based on that, it

is important to use new technique to help students in solving their word problems. In this research, the researcher choose mnemonic as a technique to solve the problem above.

Mnemonic comes from the greek, “mnemosyne”, which means goddess of memory. Mnemonic means memorizing something with “help”. the help can be in the form of abbreviations, presuppositions with objects, or “linking” (remembering something based on its relationship to something else), and many other methods. Mnemonic is a technique to make it easier for us to remember something. Simply put, mnemonics are formulas or expressions to help and remember something. In addition, mnemonic is the brain’s ability to connect words, ideas and fantasies. As we know that the benefit of using this mnemonic is to facilitate memory, but other than that, it will certainly make learning easier so that it hinders the learning process from running better. With a good learning process, of course, students’ motivation to learn, so that in the end they can achieve more optimal results. Therefore, the ultimate goal of using mnemonic techniques in learning is optimal learning outcomes in a fast and easy way. Therefore, this technique needs to be applied to students.

This technique uses to aid the recall of new information. The use of mnemonics technique helps them remember more information they have learned and also can strengthen their English vocabulary, can motivate the students and the classroom will be more interesting, is a way to help students remember information perfectly and easily, is best use in studying vocabulary in English.

Based on the problems above, the researcher interest to conduct the research by “Using Mnemonic Technique to Improve Students English Vocabulary.

B. Research Question

Based on the background of this research, the research questions are as follows:

1. What is the effect of mnemonic technique to student’s participation in learning vocabulary at SMK Negeri 01 Belimbing Hulu?
2. How can mnemonic technique improve the student’s vocabulary mastery?

C. Research Purpose

In line with the research questions of this research, the purposes of this research are as follow:

1. To determine whether a significant effect of mnemonic technique to improve student’s English vocabulary for the tenth grade at SMK Negeri 1 Belimbing Hulu.
2. To measure how far is the improvement of student’s English vocabulary at the tenth grade of SMK Negeri 1 Belimbing Hulu through mnemonic technique.

D. Research Significance

Significance of this research are supposed to be useful:

1. For Theoretically

- a) The materials of this study can be used in research and educational process, in teaching vocabulary using mnemonic technique. Since this work includes a wide range of problems and prospects for further development of conflicts, and in particular, studied of the English language, the work can be used by students in preparation for practical training.

2. For Practically

- a) For students

Through mnemonic technique, the researcher expects that all of students are able to improve their English vocabulary. Mnemonic technique can make all of the student actively in improving the material because it makes easier for students to remember vocabulary of course it will also make learning easier.

- b) For English teacher

This research is expected to help teachers guide their students in improving students' vocabulary. The researcher also hopes that the results of this study can make a positive contribution to all teachers. The result of this study is expected to be a valuable source of information to improve the quality of the English teaching and

learning process. The results of this study are expected to be a useful reference to improve student's English vocabulary.

c) For other researchers

This research is useful for other researchers who are interested in using mnemonic techniques to increase students' vocabulary easily, which can be a reference, or a source of importation and references for further research. This research also useful for other researcher who are interested in teaching English in senior high school. The researcher also hopes that other researchers can find this research and write further research for other purpose.

E. Limitation of the Research

Based on the research background and problems, there are several problems related to the teaching and learning process. So, in this study the researcher focused on improving students' participation and students' English vocabulary by using mnemonic technique for the tenth grades of SMK Negeri 1 Belimbing Hulu.

F. Terminology

1. Vocabulary is a large group of words in a person's language. As we age, the vocabulary increases, it serves as a useful and fundamental tool for a person to communicate and acquire knowledge. Having a broad vocabulary is one of the biggest challenges in learning a second

language. Research it relates to the ability to memorize the words and understanding of the words.

2. Mnemonic is a technique to make it easier for us to remember something. Simply put mnemonics are formulas or expressions to help and remember something. One of which is by using mnemonic techniques in learning is optimal learning outcomes in a fast and easy way. With this mnemonic technique the first letters of the words in a phrase are used to form names. Memorizing names makes it possible to memorize related ideas or many word at the beginning. For example, Roy G. Biv is the name used to remember the colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and purple.