CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discuss about research background, research focus, research objectives, research significance, and definition of keywords.

A. Research Background

Learning English language is not only about mastering the four skills of English, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing but also learning the grammar, collocation, and vocabulary as the three linguistic components of English aspects. One basic component of linguistic components that must be mastered as the foundation to learning English language is vocabulary and it is very important to learning vocabulary because vocabulary is the first step to learning English. Furthermore, vocabulary also links the four skills of English language.

Vocabulary takes an important role in learning English language because students cannot be able to mastering the four skills without mastering the vocabulary. As an example, in listening section students will face a problem to identify the word and understand the meaning because the sound of words are unfamilliar for them and students have a weakness in speaking skill because students will be confused on arrange the word to communicate if students have not a sufficient vocabulary. These examples show that vocabulary is the foundation to learning a language and mastering the four skills of English language.

In addition, mastering vocabulary is necessary because vocabulary is the collection of words that builds a language and people use language as the tool to communicate through express or deliver their idea. So for students whom learning English as the foreign language, mastering vocabulary is requirement because without a good vocabulary they cannot to express or deliver their idea. Then it is line with (Ur, 1996) that said in learning a foreign language, vocabulary is important because it will be impossible to speak up without a variety of words. Additionally, according to (McCathy, 1990) no matter how well the students learns grammar, no matter how successful the sounds of second language are mastered, without words to express a wide range of meanings, communication in a second language just cannot happen in any meaningful way. So mastering the vocabulary is necessary because if students can mastery the vocabulary then students will able to mastery the langauge or they must be easier in learning and acquiring process of English language.

On the other hand, learning English for students in Indonesia is not easy since the statues of English language is as the foreign language. English language is not used in daily life communication of Indonesian people, they will use their regional language in their informal situation and communicate using Bahasa Indonesia oftenly as the national language in formal situation. So it becomes a problem for students whom learning English language because they are rarely use English language in school or in their social environment that makes the whole aspects of English is unfamilliar especially for students that only find English as

the one subject in their school means English language is not required use to communicate in school environment.

Based on the researcher experience when taught students at SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya, the researcher has taken the course "Pengenalan Lapangan Persekolahan 2" at the 7th semester which is the purpose of this course to traine the students of bachelor degree in the Faculty of Teacher Training to be a professional teacher so the researcher had the experinces when taught students at SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya especially the class of XI Science 4 and XI Social 1.

When researcher taught students from these two class, there was several problems that found yet the researcher in this research only focuses to the class of XI Social 1 because the reason of researcher to choose this class instead of the class of XI Science 4 is the comparison of students scores and the experiences of researcher when taught these two class. Students in XI Social 1 faced several problems in each four skills of English that the researcher believes because their unsufficient vocabulary. As an example based on researcher experience, students did not understood the meaning of words when they read the text and listened to the researcher that spoken in English because students failed to recognized the meaning, in addition students have wrong pronunciation when they read or speak because they are unfamilliar how word sound is pronounced correctly, and students unable to made a conversation because their ability in vocabulary is very weak so students always responded the researcher in Bahasa Indonesia, moreover

the researcher found students whom only keep silent when researcher asked them to read the text.

Furthermore, the explanation above can be summarize that English as the foreign language in Indonesia is being the main problem for students to mastering English vocabulary because if students are unable to mastered the vocabulary, students will face a problem to learning and acquiring the language because they have not a sufficiant vocabulary. However, to have a sufficiant vocabulary students that in the process of mastering vocabulary also have several problems. As stated by Thornbu ry (2002), there are six problems in mastering vocabulary, such as in aspect of pronunciation, spelling, length and complexity, grammar, meaning, range, connotation, and idiomaticity. So, the process of mastering vocabulary for students is no less important because if these several problems are not cope with in the process of mastering vocabulary, how students are able to learning English langauge without a sufficient vocabulary.

As the result, the researcher is interested to conduct the research of mastering vocabulary because the researcher believes if vocabulary take the big role of students whom learning English language. So for this reserach, the researcher will choose the students of XI Social 1 at SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya as the research participants because the experiences of researcher and students scores when researcher taught them. Therefore, the researcher will conduct this research at SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya with two objectives, the first is to find out students' problems in mastering vocabulary and the second is to find out the factors cause of students' problems in mastering vocabulary. So with

the title "Students' Problems in Mastering Vocabulary at SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya" the researcher will conduct this research.

B. Research Focus

Based on research background, there are two of research focus for this research :

1. What are students' problems in mastering vocabulary at SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya?

2. What are the factors cause of students' problems in mastering vocabulary at SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya?

C. Research Objective

There are two research objectives for this research :

1. To find out students' problems in mastering vocabulary at SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya.

2. To find out the factor cause of students' problem in mastering vocabulary at SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya.

D. Research Significance

The research significance will be expected to give contribution that is explained as follows:

1. Theoritically

   This research will be expected to give information for other researcher about students' problems in mastering vocabulary .

2. Practically

a. For students

Students are expected to refine their ability after know their problems and factors cause in mastering vocabulary so students can be better in learning and acquiring English language.

b. For teacher

Teacher can use the result of this research as the infromation for how teacher will teach in their class to overcome students' problems in mastering vocabulary.

c. For researcher

The result of this research will be expected to contribute as the renewal reference for other researcher in conducting the same research.

E. Definition of Keywords

1. Problems

According to an online dictionary, namely Cambridge Dictionary, the definiton of problem is a situation, person, or thing that needs attention and needs to be dealt with or solved. Furthermoere, in Cambridge Dictionary the word 'problem' also has the closest meaning with difficulty because the meaning of these two words describe about there is something wrong or struggle with situation, person, or things.

Problem in this definition of keywords refers to students' problems in learning process especially in mastering vocabulary. On the other hand, the word of problem that is used by researcher in this research is

"problems", means it is plural because the resarcher in this research believes if students'in mastering vocabulary must face several problems so the researcher decide to use problems for the title of this research.

2. Vocabulary

Mofareh Alqahtani (2015:25) vocabulary is the total number of words that are needed to communicate ideas and express the speakers meaning. So it can conclude if vocabulary is the set of various words that people need to communicate in their everyday life.

Vocabulary in this defintion of keywords is English language vocabulary. Means the researcher only links the entire aspects of this research for English language vocabulary.

3. Mastering Vocabulary

The root of word 'Mastering' is 'Master' which is the word master adding with suffix –ing so it becomes 'mastering'. The word mastering in this research has definition to acquire complete knowledge or skill then it refers to how students acquire complete knowledge or skill for English language vocabulary.

So mastering vocabulary in the definition of keywords for this research indicates to students' efforts to gain or complete theirs knowledge and skill in vocabulary of English language.

4. SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya

SMA Negeri 5 Palangka Raya is one of the State High Schools which is located in Jalan Tingang No.Km 3,5, Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan.