

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the research

English is recognized as a foreign language in Indonesia because Indonesian is the primary language used for daily communication. As a global language, English plays an important role in communication, education, and the exchange of scientific knowledge and it provides greater opportunities for higher education and future careers (Nurfadilah et al., 2025). Learning English requires students to master vocabulary as one of the fundamental aspects of language learning. Students with limited vocabulary often experience difficulties in understanding English and developing their language skills. According to A. Susanto et al. (2024), students' overall language proficiency can be seen through their vocabulary knowledge, as vocabulary is one of the essential components of language learning.

Vocabulary is necessary for students in several aspects related for mastering the english language. According to Yudha & Mandasari (2021), student's vocabulary has a significant impact in their language competency and forms a significant component for their ability to express themselves through writing, speaking, and listening. Vocabulary is an important part of language effectiveness that is utilized as a tool for assisting learners of English improve their language skills (Pradini & Adnyayanti, 2022).

In English, vocabulary is the most significant aspect for learning purposes. Students may improve their proficiency in languages, reading, writing, and speaking abilities through improving their vocabulary, which is a collection of words or terms they have mastered in a language. The basic ability for learners of English must acquire is the vocabulary. Hestiana (2022) believes that understanding vocabulary is increasingly important rather than grammatical structures since, in most cases, people take advantage of vocabulary instead of grammar when attempting to effectively and accurately convey an important message or specific information. This has become an essential part for mastering a foreign language (Isnaini & Aminatun, 2021). Our English will remain unchanged substantially; if we generate a lot of existence on grammatical structure; we perceive greatest advancement when we find out extensive vocabulary and expressions; we may comprehend a few things with the grammar, whereas nearly all things about words (Isnaini & Aminatun, 2021).

As explained by Brinci & Saricoban (2021), claims that Being able to speak about the significance of vocabulary, the barriers to building up vocabulary have an effect in addition to communication skills instead of an assortment of other sorts of learning components. Considering it can be challenging to communicate without vocabulary, cited by H. Susanto et al. (2021), vocabulary represents one of the primary components that must be used while learning a foreign language. The assertion reveals, one of the most important aspects of learning a foreign language is increasing the vocabulary. students are unable to effectively communicate or understanding the subject matter if

they have no ability incapable of to comprehend a particular language. Improving proficiency in English vocabulary involves recognizing the way to apply words in conversation with one another.

According to Siti et al. (2020), flashcards is a form of learning medium which takes terms of words or images that are usually used in learning in the classroom. flashcards are created consisting of cards or pieces of papers to shows of various subjects to be studied. Matruty & Que (2021) claims that flashcards are barely nor huge cards which usually consist of text, symbols, or images to recite as well as encourage students related to particular concepts. Rachmadi et al. (2023) statements that flashcards are a useful tool for learning new words. Despite being simple to accomplish using flashcards learning aids is effective and engaging for students' classroom learning.

Flashcards is a delightful method to learn and helping students become more interested when reading in the class. This strategy shows images in the shape of numbers, symbols, sentences with a concept, and graphics (Agung et al., 2021). using flashcards, students are able to enhance their vocabulary in a pleasant manner. Due to the fact that the words are obvious to master, flashcards are an effective instrument for increasing vocabulary.

According to Nurmala sari & Aminatun (2021),vocabulary is the basis of communication. vocabulary is the most significant component of language learning and has become of great significance for students who are learning languages (Ching et al., 2022). Furthermore, Alqahtani (2015) claims that proper vocabulary acquisition is

highly important for able to succeed second languages make use of because without a broadly the vocabulary, students will be unable to use the structures and functions that they have taught for communication.

Based on the explanation above, vocabulary mastery plays a vital role in English language learning. It serves as the foundation for developing other language skills such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking (Yudha & Mandasari, 2021). Without sufficient vocabulary, students may struggle to understand texts, express their ideas, and participate in classroom communication effectively (Susanto et al., 2024).

In the context of English courses as non-formal educational institutions, students are expected to improve their English language skills in a relatively short period of time. However, based on initial observations, many students still experience difficulties in mastering vocabulary. These difficulties include limited vocabulary, difficulty remembering new words, and a lack of motivation in vocabulary learning activities. These problems can hinder the overall improvement of students' English language skills.

Students in seventh grade at SMPN 6 Tanjungpinang have a lack of vocabulary, which is a problem that is frequently observed in schools and other non-formal institutions. This needs to be addressed and improved during classroom learning to ensure that it does not impede their ability to master English, thus avoiding any limitations on their ability to perform well and use the language effectively. Preliminary investigations and discussions with their English teachers revealed a

number of factors that affect the development of seventh-grade students. Besides their lack of language knowledge, they also struggle with pronunciation, make embarrassing pronunciation mistakes, and have trouble recalling words they have just learned. Nonetheless, there are also several other problems they face, such as low self-confidence in their ability to express themselves, a lack of initiative to engage in class during English lessons, and a need to evaluate their self-motivation, which leads to significant difficulties for students learning a foreign language.

In addition, many seventh-grade students at SMPN 6 Tanjungpinang still find it difficult to understand and use vocabulary in daily communication during English lessons. They often feel confused when the teacher asks them to answer questions or practice speaking in front of the class. Some students are also passive because they are afraid of making mistakes and being laughed at by their classmates. Limited practice and low participation in classroom activities make their vocabulary mastery develop slowly. Furthermore, students tend to forget new words easily because they rarely use them in conversations or exercises. The learning process becomes less effective when students are not confident and motivated to participate actively. Therefore, teachers need to apply interesting and interactive learning methods to help students improve their vocabulary mastery and confidence in learning English.

Furthermore, to problems with vocabulary and pronunciation, the teaching strategies implemented in the classroom also have an impact on the learning process. Lack of variations in instruction maybe quickly bored students and make them lose

interest in learning English. As a result, students become inactive, take part in fewer learning activities, and are hesitant to ask or respond to inquiries from the teacher. Hence, to make it possible for students' English language abilities, especially their vocabulary, to develop to their fullest potential, effective, interactive learning methodologies that are customized to their needs are required.

This phenomenon is understandable given that vocabulary is an important aspect of language learning. If students' vocabulary is limited, their ability to speak and express themselves in the language will also be limited. Students' inability to master vocabulary effectively can be caused by various factors, including teaching methods that are not suitable for students. In addition, teachers may not utilize interactive materials or innovative learning aids in the teaching process. and Students could abandon interest in studying if there aren't enough diverse and engaging approaches to the learning of vocabulary.

1.2. Identification of the problem

Based on the background of the study above, problems were identified:

1. Students have difficulties to retain the new vocabulary they've learned.
2. The lack of confidence in expressing in English due to limited vocabulary.
3. Lack of knowledge related the vocabulary
4. The lack of knowledge about pronunciation about vocabulary

1.3. Limitation of the research

This study is limited to investigating the effect of using flashcards on students' vocabulary mastery in telling time and day expressions at SMPN 6 TanjungPinang. The research focuses on the implementation of flashcards as a teaching medium to improve students' vocabulary acquisition.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background of the research, the research question can be formulated as follows: “Was there a significant effect of using flashcards on students' vocabulary mastery in telling time and day expressions at SMPN 6 Tanjungpinang?”

1.5. Objective of the research

According to the research question, the objective of the study is “to determine the effect of using flashcards on students' vocabulary mastery in telling time and day expressions at SMPN 6 Tanjungpinang.”

1.6. Significance of the Research

1.6.1. Theoretically

This study provides an important contribution to English Language Teaching (ELT) by utilizing the use of flashcards to improve vocabulary. It also gives readers an

understanding of the method's effectiveness and the difficulties that learners experience when building their vocabulary.

1.6.2. Practically

a. Students

For the students, the result of the research could assist students improve their vocabulary, increase the student interest for participating in learning process and improve the result of this research in English learning.

b. Teacher

For the teacher, researcher expected this research could be used as assess to increase knowledge of the teacher to vocabulary

c. For the researcher

To extend the researcher improve research understanding related the vocabulary mastery.

1.7. Key terms of the Research

1. Flashcards

This study uses flashcards, which are flashcards containing words or images, to help students learning English vocabulary.

2. Using flashcards

To increase understanding of English vocabulary.

3. English Language Teaching (ELT)

The process of teaching English to learners through various methods and approaches, including media for instruction like flashcards.

