

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

As an introduction, this chapter presents the background of study, statements of problem, purposes of the study, the significance of study, scope and limitation and the definition of the key terms.

### 1.1 Background of Study

Vocabulary is a key to master a foreign language. All of the skills like speaking, reading, writing, and listening need the vocabulary to practice them. As Kyung Min (2013:64) says developing the learner's vocabulary skills ultimately facilitates richer listening and speaking abilities, reading abilities, and writing abilities.

It cannot be denied that vocabulary helps the people to master English. Surely they also need to learn grammar and pronunciation, but when they have a lot of vocabularies, at least they have one modal to speak English although they don't know about the grammar. As Hashemi (2010:158) asserts without grammar, very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed.

Vocabulary is being important because people can feel the benefits directly in their lives, like when someone looks for a toilet then he finds two rooms, the one is written with "male" and the other with "female", he will know that the one is toilet for the boy and the other is for the girl. Then for some professions like taxi driver, seller in the traditional market, bellboy and the others who often meet foreigners, they more need to master vocabulary than grammar.

Then, in mastering vocabulary of another language, the learners need the supports from inside like motivation and learners' need, then from outside like learning environment, learning strategies and language awareness. Eliah and Kiran (2014:191) note acquiring a second language involves different areas such as motivation, learners' needs, learning environment, learning strategies and language awareness. In acquiring English vocabulary, the learners don't just need a formal learning like in the class, but the important thing is the environment that supports them to practice English. In an environment there are included the culture, religion, politic, and economy. They can influence thought of people to learn English. As Istiyani (2004:23) explains cognitive system that is a culture, cognitive system that are included of the knowledge, religion, and value that is in the thought of each individual person in the society. While the language is the one of base element of culture which is the symbol system.

We have known that language and culture have strong relation between one each other. Istiyani (2004:23) defines culture treasure of a society is saved in the language. We can know the culture and the character of a society from the language that they use in their daily activities like Javanese that is used in many regions in Java island but it has some contradictions from the dialect and the context in other some regions like Javanese in Yogyakarta and Solo which has soft tone than Javanese in Surabaya and Malang which is more rude. Then they influence the way of the people in speaking the language and the character or attitude of the people.

Based on that fact, the researcher who had an experience in teaching English in south of Thailand for five months found many problems that faced by

the students in learning vocabulary as Zhang (2011:2) notes vocabulary is a great problem, especially for the students in Asian countries.

Not all of the people know that Thailand has the regions with Islam majority inhabitant. The regions that have a lot of members of muslim are located in South of Thailand where border on Malaysia. Strong islamic culture in south of Thailand influence the thought of the students toward English learning because some of the students' parents prohibit them to listen to western song. Then the other problems from the environment like limited access in English because they live in the border region and from their selves that most of them have the tought that English is a difficult subject in the school and cause them to not like all about English, from English song, movie, book, and the others. Whereas environment and media can be their sources in getting vocabularies. Then it becomes an unique problem for the researcher about what the problems are faced by the students in south of Thailand in mastering vocabulary. Therefore, in this research the writer intends to conduct a research entitles "The Analysis of Students' Problems in Mastering Vocabulary at Ninth Grade Of Srifarida Baru Witya School in South of Thailand"

## **1.2 Statements of Problem**

Based on the background of the study in the previous part, in this research the researcher stated the problem as follows:

- 1) What are the problems faced by the students at ninth grade of Srifarida Baru witya school in mastering vocabulary?
- 2) How do they solve their problems in mastering vocabulary?

### **1.3 Purposes of Study**

Focusing on the statement of problem above, the researcher stated the purpose of the study below :

- 1) To find out the problems are faced by the students at ninth grade of Srifarida Baru witya school in mastering vocabulary.
- 2) To investigate how the students at ninth grade of Srifarida Baru Witya School solve their problems in mastering vocabulary.

### **1.4 The significance of Study**

After conducting this study, the significance of the study is expected useful to:

- 1) The Students

This study is expected to give some informations to the students that vocabulary is one of the important elements in learning English because vocabulary help them to master all of the skills in English like speaking, reading, writing and listening. Then to give solutions that all of the problems students faced can be solved when they start to love English subject.

- 2) The Teachers

This study is expected to the teachers to give more concern how to create creative learning to make the students master the vocabulary.

- 3) The Parents

This study is expected to give knowledge to the parents that they should pay attention to their children. They have to know what the problems their children faced and give support their children in learning English.

4) The writer

This study is expected to the writer to increase her ability in conducting a research and also develop her writing ability. This study also can enlarge her knowledge in analyzing the problems that often the students faced in learning English which help her in teaching after graduating from the university.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

Scope and limitation of this study are :

1) Scope of this study is:

Students' problems and strategies in mastering vocabulary at ninth grade of Srifarida Baru Witya School.

2) Limitation of this study is:

Solving the problems in mastering vocabulary that are faced by the students at ninth grade of Srifarida Baru Witya School.

### **1.6 The Definition of the Key Terms**

*Mastering Vocabulary* is an ability to comprehend the meaning of vocabulary, pronounce it, and know how to use it structurally and grammatically.

*Srifarida Baru Witya School* is an Islamic school located in South of Thailand where border on Malaysia.