

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

The 21st century is an era globalization with rapid development science and technology. Appearance multimedia technology and its applications for teaching, displaying audio, visuals, as well as animation effects bring own color in learning. Technology in teaching and learning as an enabler and suggests that technology can work to help organize and provide structure for material to students; help student, teachers, and parents interact, anytime and anywhere. Educational technology in 2024 which was formulated through creating, using, managing appropriate learning processes and resources as a study and ethical practice in facilitating learning. Reskyani, Basri and Salija (2021:42) say technology is an instrument that has powerful functions to provide unique and varied inspiring ideas so that vocabulary teaching can be improved.

The ability to speak English is a basic skill needed by someone in the information and globalization era, because the introduction and mastery of science and technology are mostly written and delivered in English. In the learning process, of course cannot be separated from the role of technology. Technology can simplify all forms of internal needs regarding the learning process. In this modern era there are many applications that can help students to improve their English skills. There are some of applications for learning English HelloTalk, Rosetta Stone, Babbel, Beelinguapp, Duolingo, etc.

The researcher here only focused on one application, namely Duolingo which provides 66 different language courses available in 23 languages, there are 22 more courses that are still being developed. According to Riva (2023:1791) “Duolingo is a web language teaching program that helps students with some exercises, largely based on the translation system”. The translation in Duolingo Application is the translation of English to Indonesia and Indonesia to English. Then, the application provides various choices or

themes of vocabulary and the users just need to click the theme of the vocabulary. The themes of the vocabulary in the Duolingo Application consist of the noun, adjective, verb, preposition, possessive pronoun, color, date, occupation, place, society, and question. In this research, the researcher chose the present and past verbs based on the students' problems that happened. Last, the vocabulary of the verb in this application is easy to remind because a vocabulary that is a verb repeats many times in the Duolingo exercise.

Vocabulary is part of the language system. Vocabulary development can be one of the factors that influences students' English speaking abilities. The limited number of students' vocabulary can affect their speaking abilities. Students can't make sentences, they do not know the words in English, they also do not know the function of a word. So, this problem can cause slow progress in speaking. They couldn't make sentences without knowing the vocabulary to represent thoughts, feelings and ideas. There have been several studies conducted on vocabulary. English learning is an important thing in the world because it is the most widely spoken language. English is used at most international events and as a medium of information in the fields of science, culture and technology. It can be said that English is the first (international) language. In addition, it must be realized that most scientific books are written in English. Therefore, to be able to understand books to gain knowledge, everyone must have adequate command of English, including Indonesian students. English is one of the important languages in the world. English also plays an important role in facilitating global connections and mobility in the transportation industry.

Based on initial observations made by researcher on May 22nd, 2024, it was found that students at SMK Negeri 1 Bawolato had low interest in learning English. This was caused by several factors; first, many of the tenth grade students difficult to learn English because lack of vocabulary and difficult to remember them. They did not have many vocabularies; second, they are not interested in a delivered material because the teachers used the

were traditional learning method in transferring materials to the students; and the last is some of them used that smartphone only for pleasure especially playing the games. Therefore, researcher investigated the English learning application, namely Duolingo, which has very influential benefits in developing English language skills. Where this application has 4 English language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Apart from that, with this application students can practice directly how to pronounce words and sentences in English easily.

In a first study related to the use of Duolingo as a technology-based learning medium in improving students' speaking skills, it was found that one of the difficulties was that the results of preliminary research found that they had low motivation in learning English. In presenting research, Grego in Ellin et al (2021). Then the second researcher was related to the application of the Duolingo media application in improving English vocabulary mastery of students at SMP Negeri 3 Agrabinta Cianjur. Other students agreed that vocabulary is the main key that someone must have in learning a language. Because the richer a person's vocabulary, the more likely a person is to be skilled in language and the easier it will be for him to convey and receive information either orally, in writing or using certain signs. Basically, students learn vocabulary so that they can improve their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills well (Erna 2021). The last researcher said regarding the Duolingo application in improving German vocabulary. One way that teachers can help students master German vocabulary is by using learning media. Learning using media will be more fun and students will be enthusiastic in learning German.

However, the fact when application of duolingo english on May 22nd, 2024 is that teachers still used the teacher method, however learning methods are still teacher-centered, difficulties in pronunciation, no friends to practice, difficulty in understanding material related to speaking, and students spend more time playing with gadgets and the last is the English teachers use the Duolingo app but have not been able to develop language skills. This causes a

gap between the research that has been carried out and the facts on the ground. This gap can be exploited by future researchers to answer the question of whether difficulties in understanding learning material are caused by the learning media used (online learning) or other factors that must be researched.

Finally, based on the explanation above about the students' ability to speak English, the researcher analyzed the Duolingo application used by the English teacher. The research were conducted at SMK Negeri 1 Bawolato, Sisarahili village, Bawolato subdistrict, Nias district. This research is **“THE ANALYSIS OF USING DUOLINGO APPLICATION TOWARDS STUDENTS’ VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT AT THE TENTH GRADE OF SMKN 1 BAWOLATO”**

1.2 Focus of the Research

Based on description discussed in the background above, the focus of the research is analysis of using Duolingo application towards students' vocabulary development at tenth grade of SMK Negeri 1 Bawolato.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

With the background of the research, the researcher has formulated the research question is how is the students' vocabulary development taught by using Duolingo Application at the tenth grade of SMKN 1 Bawolato.

1.4 Objective of the Research

Based on previous problem formulation, the research objective was to analyze the use of the Duolingo Application towards vocabulary development for tenth grade students at SMK Negeri 1 Bawolato.

1.5 Significance of the Research

This research is useful for:

- a. Theoretically
 - a. The results of the research are expected to support theories dealing with Duolingo application to help students in

developing their vocabulary.

- b. For researcher, as an experience and to increase understanding in research and broaden insight.
- c. For future researchers who want to do research which are relevant to their research topic.

2. Practically

- a. The results of this research are expected to give information to the English teachers, especially in guiding students to develop vocabulary effective way.
- b. For schools or teachers, this research help to analyze the Duolingo application, in English vocabulary because it is suitable for student in this era.
- c. For universities, hopefully it can provide theoretical and practical benefits. The theoretical benefit is to develop knowledge, while the practical benefit is to improve the quality of learning.
- d. It is also expected to encourage students awareness for using the useful application like Duolingo in learning especially in develop vocabulary.