

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Vocabulary mastery is one of the important aspects of language learning, especially for students at the junior high school level. A rich vocabulary not only supports speaking and writing skills, but also contributes to better reading comprehension (Nation, 2020). However, many students at UPTD SMP Negeri 2 Gunungsitoli Alo'oa experience difficulties in mastering new vocabulary, which impacts their ability to communicate effectively.

Vocabulary is essential in language learning as it serves as the foundation for understanding and using language effectively. According to Richard C. Anderson and David K. Durso (2000) said that a broad vocabulary allows individuals to understand texts better, because understanding the words used in the text greatly affects one's ability to capture the overall meaning. In addition, Nagy and Herman (1987) in their study showed that good vocabulary acquisition not only contributes to reading ability, but also to speaking and writing skills. They emphasized that students who have a rich vocabulary tend to be better able to express their ideas clearly and precisely, and understand complex information more easily.

The problems students face in learning English vocabulary are often related to difficulties in mastering diverse vocabulary. According to research by Imam (2020), students experience challenges in pronunciation, spelling, and understanding the meaning of words, which hinders their ability to communicate effectively. In addition, research by Rahmawati (2021) shows that monotonous teaching methods and lack of practice in real contexts make it difficult for students to remember and use new vocabulary. This is reinforced by findings from Junaidi (2022) who emphasized the importance of a more interactive and contextual approach in vocabulary teaching to improve students' motivation and comprehension.

Students often have difficulties in understanding complex texts and conveying their ideas clearly due to limited vocabulary. This can be caused by

various factors, including lack of exposure to rich language, ineffective teaching methods, and lack of motivation to learn new vocabulary.

Based on interviews conducted with a number of students in the class, it was revealed that many of them had difficulty in increase their vocabulary. One of the main problems identified was students' lack of motivation to learn new vocabulary. Many students revealed that they felt vocabulary learning was often monotonous and uninteresting. One of student stated, "I feel bored when I have to memorize a list of words without knowing how to use them in sentences." This suggests that the current teaching methods used may not be interesting or relevant enough for students, so they lose interest in learning.

By understanding these issues through interviews, it is important for educators to design more effective strategies in improving students' vocabulary. A more interactive and contextualized approach, as well as the integration of technology and interesting media, can help students feel more motivated and engaged in vocabulary learning. Thus, efforts to improve students' vocabulary should consider their perspectives and needs, so that they can reach their full potential in language skills.

In the context of learning English, vocabulary mastery can be influenced by various factors, including teaching methods, learning environments, and the use of technology. Khuwaidah (2020) states that using interactive and enjoyable methods, such as games and educational applications, can enhance students' interest in learning vocabulary. However, many students face challenges in mastering new vocabulary, often due to teaching methods that are less engaging and interactive.

In this context, educational technology emerges as a promising solution. One application that can be utilized is WordWall, which offers various games and interactive activities to help students learn vocabulary in an enjoyable way. According to Yusni and Hurriyah (2024), the use of applications like WordWall can increase students' motivation and engagement in learning, thereby potentially improving their learning outcomes. Furthermore, research by Hasanah, Firmansyah, and Firmansyah (2023) shows that gamification in learning can make

students more interested and active in the learning process, which in turn can enhance vocabulary mastery.

WordWall application emerges as a potential solution to enhance students' vocabulary mastery. WordWall application offers various interactive activities and games designed to make vocabulary learning more engaging and enjoyable. WordWall application is considered a promising solution to overcome the challenges in vocabulary learning. In an educational context, students often have difficulty in remembering and using new vocabulary. One of the challenges in language learning is maintaining student interest. By using Wordwall app, the students are more likely to be engaged and motivated in learning. Fun learning can create a positive atmosphere, so students are more open to learning and trying new things. Therefore, the research titled **“Increasing the students’ Vocabulary Mastery Through WordWall Application at Seventh Grade of UPTD SMP Negeri 2 Gunungsitoli Alo'oa”**

1.2 Focus of the Research

As stated in the background of the problem above, this research aims to increase the students' vocabulary mastery through wordwall application at seventh grade of UPTD SMP Negeri 2 Gunungsitoli Alo'oa. Here, the researcher will see how far students can increase their ability to spelling skills, translate words, and also pronounce a noun that the researcher will convey in learning activities on the wordwall application.

1.3 Problem Formulation

The problem formulations of this study is does wordwall application Increasing the Students' Vocabulary Mastery at Seventh Grade of UPTD SMP Negeri 2 Gunungsitoli Alo'oa?

1.4 Research Objectives

The objectives of this research is this research aims to Increasing the Students' Vocabulary Mastery at Seventh Grade of UPTD SMP Negeri 2 Gunungsitoli Alo'oa?

1.5 Significance of the Research

The significance of this research are useful for:

1. The Researcher, this research provided an opportunity for the researcher to deepen the understanding of effective learning methods, particularly in the use of technology in education.
2. The English Teacher, this research provides English teachers with insights into the use of Wordwall app as an innovative learning tool. Teachers can implement this strategy to increase student engagement and effectiveness of vocabulary teaching.
3. The Students, will directly benefit from using the Wordwall app, which is designed to make vocabulary learning more interactive and fun.
4. The Writer, this research, the author was able to gain a better understanding of the challenges students face in vocabulary learning, as well as the solutions that can be applied to overcome these problems.
5. The Next Researcher, this research can help future researchers to better understand the factors that influence students' vocabulary acquisition, as well as the challenges faced in the learning process.