



**A STUDY ON THE LEARNING VOCABULARY DIFFICULTIES  
ENCOUNTERED AND STRATEGIES USED BY HIGH ACHIEVERS OF  
THE SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP WAHID HASYIM  
MALANG**

*SKRIPSI*

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**UNIVERSITY OF ISLAM MALANG  
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## ABSTRACT

Wulandari, Ayu. 2020. *A Study on the Learning Vocabulary Difficulties Encountered and Strategies Used by High Achievers of the Seventh Grade Students of SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang*. Skripsi, English Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Islam Malang. Advisor I: Drs. Yahya Alaydrus, M.Pd, Advisor II: Dzurriyyatun Ni'mah, S.S., M.Pd.

**Keywords:** Vocabulary Learning, High Achieving Students, Difficulties, and Strategies.

Vocabulary is the total number of the words that has an important role in the success of foreign language learners. Adequate vocabulary will help students in mastering four skills in English which cover listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Without vocabulary, the students will have difficulty to communicate well in a foreign language. Yet, some difficulties faced by the students in learning vocabulary such as the pronunciation of the words, the use of words appropriately, understanding the meaning of the words, and the lack of motivation in learning English. To master the vocabulary, the students might apply the appropriate strategy in order to help them to solve the difficulties they faced during learning vocabulary. Therefore, the researcher was interested in conducting the research dealing with the students' difficulties and the strategies used by the students in learning vocabulary.

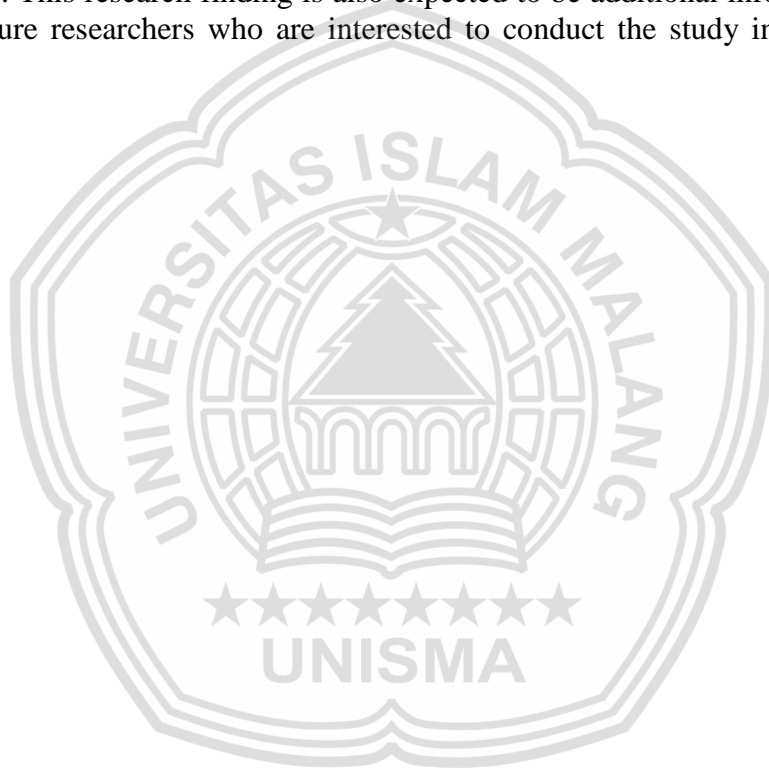
The research design of this study was descriptive qualitative that focuses on the difficulties encountered and the strategy used by high achieving students of seventh grade in learning vocabulary. The purpose of this study was to investigate the students' difficulties and the strategy they used in learning vocabulary. The population of this study was the high achievers in English subject at seventh-grade students at SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang. The instrument used in this research was a questionnaire. There are 9 questions about the students' difficulties in learning vocabulary and 10 questions about the strategy they used to overcome their difficulties in learning vocabulary. The source of the questionnaire was taken from the previous study and SILL (Strategy Inventory for Language Learners). The data were analyzed using table percentage.

The finding of the study showed that the majority of the students had difficulties related to the pronunciation of the words, the use of words appropriately, understanding the meaning of the word, and the lack of motivation in learning English. In order to solve their difficulties in learning vocabulary, the researcher found some strategies used by the students, they are memorization strategy, note-taking strategy, learning media strategy, and guessing strategy.



In conclusion, the high achieving students in the seventh grade of SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang had their own difficulties in learning vocabulary. However, the majority of the students had the same difficulties, they are the pronunciation of the words, the use of words appropriately, understanding the meaning of the words, and the lack of motivation in learning English. The students also had their own strategies to overcome their difficulties in learning vocabulary, they are memorization strategy, note-taking strategy, learning media strategy, and the guessing strategy.

The researcher expected that the result of this study can help the teachers to handle the students' difficulties in learning vocabulary. The students can also apply the various strategies found in this research to help them learning vocabulary. This research finding is also expected to be additional information for the future researchers who are interested to conduct the study in similar topic.



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents some points. They are the background of the study, the research problem, the objective of the study, scope and limitation of the study, the significance of the study, and definition of the key terms.

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, English teaching and learning in Junior High School is using the curriculum 2013. According to Shafa (2014), the curriculum 2013 has the learning teaching principles that are; the teaching-learning process focuses on the students, students were encouraged to find out more than only get the explanation from the teacher, learning and teaching use the various sources and media, learning and teaching process that focus in the application of the students' skills. Based on the researcher's observation at SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang, some of the teaching principles above were applied in the English teaching and learning process. The teaching and learning process is focused on the students, they are encouraged to be able to work together and solve the problems in a group. By using this learning model, students may be able to increase their skills in learning a language. There are four skills that must be integrated well to be successful in learning English which covers reading skill, listening skill, speaking skill and writing skill (Sadiku, 2015).

In the process of learning language, it cannot be denied that the students must have adequate vocabulary first. As in the curriculum 2013 for the seventh grade in Junior High School level, in core competence 3.5 showed that the students expected to be able to understand and mention the name of the animals, public buildings, and things in their surroundings. In other words, the students have to learn about the words, the meaning of the words, and the use of the words first to assist them in understanding the material in learning English. Adequate vocabulary will help students in mastering four skills in English (Asyiah, 2017).

The vocabulary learning may not be stated specifically in the curriculum 2013. However, Wulanjani (2016) stated that vocabulary learning and teaching should be combined into the four skills in English. Vocabulary contained in the print form such as reading and writing and in the oral form such as listening or speaking (Alizadeh, 2016). In other words, vocabulary learning was given to the students through English subjects that involved in reading, listening, speaking, or writing skills because vocabulary learning is integrated into four skills in English.

During the teaching and learning process, the students may face several difficulties. Based on the researcher's observation at SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang, the researcher realized that most of the students claimed that they feel difficult to understand the teacher's explanation and most of them were also passive during English teaching-learning process. Hence, the researcher asked to the students concerning their difficulties in learning English. Some of the students stated that they have difficulties in memorizing new words and spelling the words because the pronunciation of their first language and English are different.

Dealing with the students' difficulties in learning vocabulary, the researcher also asked to one of English teachers in SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang about the students' difficulties in learning vocabulary. He stated that the problem was there was not enough time for the English teacher to only teach vocabulary to the students and also the lack of the students' motivation in learning vocabulary. These problems are related to khajloo's (2013) statement, there are some deficiencies in learning English subject in the school such as the low hours of English language teaching, the lack of students' interest and motivation in learning English and the lack of concentration in class.

In this case, students' success in learning vocabulary depends on how the students are aware and can solve their difficulties. If the students know what the difficulties that influence their vocabulary, it would be easy for them to find the solution to overcome their difficulties. The students may study hard to increase their vocabulary and they may also use the appropriate learning strategies in learning vocabulary. Learning strategies are the learners' technique, approaches, tactics, or specific behaviors that aims to make their learning more effective (Nie and Zhou, 2017). In other words, learning strategies are useful for the students to develop their ability in learning language. The learning strategies are needed to solve the students' difficulties that might help the students to succeed in learning a language. For this reason, the researcher is interested in conducting a research about the difficulties encountered and the strategies used by students in learning vocab accordingly, this research is entitled: *A Study on the Learning Vocabulary*

*Difficulties Encountered and Strategies Used by the High Achievers of the Seventh Grade Students of SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang.*

## 1.2 Research Problem

Based on the explanation above, the problems of the research can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the difficulties in learning vocabulary that faced by the higher achievers in English subject of the seventh grade students at SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang?
2. What are the strategies that used by the students to overcome the difficulties in learning vocabulary?

## 1.3 Objective of the Study

Related to the statement of the research problems, this study is intended to:

1. Know the difficulties in learning vocabulary that faced by the high achievers in English subject of the seventh grade students at SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang.
2. Find out the strategies that used by the high achievers to overcome their difficulties in learning vocabulary.



#### 1.4 Significance of the Study

The results of this study hopefully will be useful theoretically and practically as follows:

##### 1. Theoretically

The researcher highly expects that the result of this study can be an additional information for the future researcher about the difficulties and the strategies that used by the students in learning vocabulary.

##### 2. Practically

The first, the researcher highly expects that the result of this study can help the teachers to handle the difficulties in vocabulary learning at seventh grade students in SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang. Secondly, the students can use the results of this study to overcome their difficulties in learning vocabulary. The third, the researcher can get the experience and knowledge from this study.

#### 1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research was conducted to investigate the students' difficulties in learning vocabulary and the strategies that they used to overcome their difficulties. This study conducted at the seventh grade level in SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang, and the participants of this study were the students who have the higher achievement in English subject.

In this study, the researcher realized that there are some weaknesses. They are as follows:

1. The participants of this study could not cover all of the seventh grade students because of the criteria that have been determined. The researcher only took the students who have the higher achievement of English subject in order to explore about their difficulties and the strategies that they used to overcome their difficulties in learning vocabulary.
2. The quality of the participants' selection of this study was not good enough. The researcher chooses the participants based on their score in English subject. On the other hand, the students' scores in English subject may not always determine their ability in learning English.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

There are some terms in this study that need to be clarified by the researcher to avoid misunderstanding in reading this study:

1. Learning Vocabulary is a process of understanding the new words, the meaning of the words, and the use of the words correctly.
2. Learning Vocabulary Difficulties refer to the inability of the students to pronounce the words, find the meaning of words, and use the words correctly.
3. Learning Vocabulary Strategies are the tactics or learning technique that used by the students to overcome their difficulties in learning vocabulary.

4. High achievers are the seventh grade students of SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang who have high scores in English subject. They are the participants of this study that selected based on the highest score in English subject.



## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the conclusion and suggestion of the study.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to find out the difficulties in learning vocabulary encountered and the strategies that used by high achiever at seventh grade students at SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang. The research design of this study was Descriptive Qualitative research. The study was conducted to the seventh grade students at SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang. The participants were the higher achieving students in English subject. The instrument used in this research was questionnaire. There are 9 questions about the students' difficulties in learning vocabulary and 10 questions that asked to the students dealing with the strategy that they used to overcome their difficulties in learning vocabulary.

The data were analyzed by using percentage in a table and the result of the research showed that each student has his/ her own difficulties in learning vocabulary. However, majority of the students have the same difficulties in pronouncing the words, using the words appropriately, understanding the meaning of the word, and lack of motivation in learning English. Those are proven by the results of data analysis which showed that most of the students claimed that they faced these difficulties in their process of learning vocabulary.

Next, the data showed that each student has his/ her own strategy to overcome their difficulties in learning vocabulary. The strategy classified into some types. The first strategy that used by the students was memorization strategy. The students tried to memorize vocabulary in various ways such as remember the sound or image of the word, use the new vocabulary in a sentence, practice and review their English lesson. The second strategy was note taking strategy; the students claimed that this strategy could make the students easy in reviewing their new vocabulary. The next strategy was learning media strategy, since lack of motivation was one of the main problem in learning vocabulary, the utilized of media in learning process could be the best way in learning vocabulary process. According to the data, the students claimed that they preferred to watch movie or read novel in English version in order to help them in learning vocabulary. The last strategy that used by the students was the guessing strategy. The students claimed that they preferred to guess the meaning of the word in order to help them in understanding the meaning of the word.

## 5.2 Suggestions

According to the results of this study, the researcher expects that the result of this study can be the additional information for the future researchers who are interested to conduct the study in similar topic. The researcher also realized that this research has some limitations, therefore the researcher highly expects that the future researcher can explore more deeply about this topic.

Next, the researcher hopes that the result of this study can help the teachers to handle the students' difficulties in learning vocabulary, especially at seventh grade students in SMP Wahid Hasyim Malang.

The last, the researcher highly expects that the students can use the results of this study to overcome their difficulties in learning vocabulary. The students can also apply the various strategies found in this research in order to help them in learning vocabulary.



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