

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, and significant of the research and hypothesis of the research.

A. Background of the Research

Language is the main and most important part of communication. Language must not only be understood by oneself, but also understood by others, if the utterance is misunderstood or misplaced, it will change the form of meaning in the sentence (Pustaka, 2021). Language has a crucial role in determining learning processes (Mehrabian et al., 2019). One of the components in language needed to find out is English. According to Jon et al. (2021), English is the primary language of communication between countries, international trade, and an essential requirement in education and employment. Additionally, English is one of the languages that is required to learn. To make learning English simpler for review, acquisition is absolutely essential (Ramírez & Kuhl, 2020). From the explanation above, it can be said that mastering English provides greater opportunities for global interaction, including in professional and academic fields. It also enhances thinking skills and helps in understanding different cultures and perspectives.

In learning English, one of the most important component of various language to have is a good vocabulary. According to Nugroho (2012), vocabulary is the foundation to develop languages which has a role as a basis in

communication. Vocabulary is a collection of words or all words in a language that people use to express opinions, feelings that consist of several letters and have meaning (Lubis et al., 2023). Additionally, vocabulary is basic and important learning that must be learned in language learning (Sari & Sutopo, 2018). So, it can be said that a good vocabulary helps learners convey their thoughts more clearly and promotes better understanding in conversation. It also helps learners build a strong foundation to improve their language skills and communicate fluently.

Learning vocabulary will make it simpler to understand the four English language skills such as speaking, reading, writing, and listening (Indasari et al., 2018). Students who have thoroughly studied the language will find it simpler to communicate with one another as they study for media concepts, opinions, and information (Aisyah et al., 2019). If vocabulary has been well examined, it will be easier for students to communicate when studying and direct their thoughts, views, and knowledge (Aisyah et al., 2019). From the explanation above, it can be said that having a strong vocabulary is essential for improving language skills and allowing individuals to express their ideas more clearly. An extensive vocabulary not only helps with understanding information but also enhances critical thinking and the ability to communicate effectively.

To enhance students' vocabulary, teachers need to motivate them to be more confident and engaged in vocabulary learning (Chun et al., 2016). Additionally, teachers should explore enjoyable strategies that create a positive learning environment, making English lessons more fun and enjoyable. In education, one

of enjoyable strategies that can be used is gamification. According to Nolan and McBride (2014), gamification is a strategy for engaging students through creative classroom games while maintaining the academic integrity of the curriculum.

Gamification involves incorporating game mechanics and elements into various situations, industries, and daily activities to engage people in problem solving also achieving specific goals. Consequently, it can be said that gamifying in education is a recent yet effective strategy to encourage students to learn by using game elements, boost engagement and enjoyment (Dicheva & Dichev, 2015). Gamification is considered one of the most effective educational practices (Dellos, 2015). From the explanation above, it can be concluded that numerous studies have demonstrated the value of educational games in learning, as they involve students in critical thinking, content review, and problem solving also it can be said that technological advancements have made it easier for teachers to incorporate these learning games into classroom lessons.

One of modern approach researchers have identified is using the Memrise application. According to Nuralisah and Kareviati (2020), said that Memrise is one tool to help teachers and students teach and understand language learning easily through mobile devices, using Memrise application in class is an effective way to increase the interest of students who are learning vocabulary. Additionally, Aminatun and Oktaviani (2019), also said that Memrise promotes students' autonomous learning skills through its language learning features and effectively helps students improve their ability to learn independently, especially

in learning English. Similarly with Widyaningrum and Putro (2020) also concluded that Memrise enhance students' listening and speaking abilities in learning English. So, in their research demonstrated that the Memrise application plays a significant role in improving language skills.

Memrise has grown rapidly, with over 50 million users worldwide learning languages through the application. According to Karjo and Andreani (2018), said that Memrise is an online platform focused on vocabulary and was founded by Ed Cooke and Greg Detre. The application offers more than 150 language courses in 25 different languages, including English, Korean, French, Spanish, Japanese, German, Russian, Chinese, and many others. Its interface is quite similar to that of Duolingo. Memrise serves as an educational tool accessible online and via mobile devices, allowing students to study various subjects. Specifically for language learning, it helps students explore elements like vocabulary, grammar, and more (Luczak, 2017). So, it can be concluded that Memrise application is useful educational resources, providing an accessible and interactive way for helps students improve their vocabulary.

Several studies showed the effectiveness of the use Memrise application in English teaching and learning process. The research from Nuralisah proved that Memrise application showed an increase in grade students' interest and motivation in learning vocabulary. In line with this research, Nasution also reported that Memrise application has a significant effect on the learning vocabulary at MTs PAB 1 Helvetia. In addition, Lubis concluded that using Memrise application in teaching vocabulary at eighth grade students of SMP

Dharma Pancasila Medan is significant effective to enrich students' vocabulary mastery. So, it can be said that several studies have demonstrated the Memrise application is effective in supporting English teaching and learning process.

Furthermore, based on observation, the conventional method of teaching English vocabulary is still used by teachers at SMP Negeri 2 OKU. The majority of teachers teach vocabulary in English through translation. Often the teacher gives a list of words to students and asks them to look it up in the dictionary after they have finished, this condition makes the learning process less effective. In fact, students may become confused and discouraged during the learning process. Moreover, many students in SMP Negeri 2 OKU are still lack in understanding English. Therefore, using media for learning vocabulary is a good way to make a new learning style. So, the researcher purposes for this study aims to know "The Effectiveness of Using Memrise Language Application in Improving English Vocabulary Mastery at the Eighth Grade Students' of SMP Negeri 2 OKU".

B. Problem of the Research

1. Limitation of the Research

Based on the background of the research, the researcher only focusing to find out the effectiveness of using Memrise language application in improving English vocabulary mastery at the eighth grade students' of SMP Negeri 2 OKU.

2. Formulation of the Research

Based on the limitation of the problem, the problem of this research is it significantly effective of using Memrise language application in

improving English vocabulary mastery at the eighth grade students' of SMP Negeri 2 OKU?

C. Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is to find out the Effectiveness of Memrise as a Language Application in Improving English Vocabulary Mastery at the Eighth Grade Students' of SMP Negeri 2 OKU.

D. Significance of the Research

The result of this research are expected to provide benefits for the English teacher, students, school, and for the other researcher.

1. For the English Teacher

This research help English teachers learn how Memrise can be a useful tool for teaching vocabulary. It could be used alongside their regular teaching methods to make learning more fun and engaging. Teachers might also find it helpful to give students more personalized learning experiences that match their individual needs.

2. For the Students

The benefit for students from using Memrise it makes learning vocabulary more interesting and enjoyable. With this application, students can practice new words on their own, outside of class, and at their own pace. The research could show how Memrise can help students feel more motivated and confident in improving their English vocabulary.

3. For the School

The benefit for the School it is useful information about the value of using digital tools like Memrise in their English classes. If this research proves that Memrise is effective, schools might be encouraged to use more technology in their lessons, which could help improve the overall quality of education.

4. For Other Researcher

This research provide useful information for future researchers who want to explore how technology can help in language learning. It could inspire others to look at different application or tools for teaching English and provide helpful data for further studies on education technology.

E. Hyphothesis of the Research

According to Dilip (2023), a hypothesis is an educated guess or prediction about the relationship between variables. It is based on limited evidence and requires further testing and verification. Variables play a crucial role in hypothesis formulation, with independent variables being the ones that can be changed, dependent variables being what is observed or measured, and controlled variables being the ones that remain constant.

Based on the research problems, the hypothesis:

- a. Alternative Hypothesis (H_a) : It is effective of using Memrise language application in improving English vocabulary mastery at the eighth grade students' of SMP Negeri 2 OKU.

- b. Null Hypothesis (H_0) : It is no effective of using Memrise language application in improving English vocabulary mastery at the eighth grade students' of SMP Negeri 2 OKU.

F. Hypothesis Test Criteria

- a. If the significant value is $t\text{-test} < 0.05$ then H_a is accepted, it's means that It is effective of using Memrise language application in improving English vocabulary skill at the eighth grade of SMP Negeri 2 OKU.
- b. If the significant value is $t\text{-test} > 0.05$ then H_0 is rejected, it's means that It is no effective of using Memrise language application in improving English vocabulary skill at the eighth grade of SMP Negeri 2 OKU.