

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

In this chapter, the researcher explain about the concept of vocabulary, the concept of Memrise language application, advantages and disadvantages of Memrise language application, technique of teaching vocabulary, procedure of teaching vocabulary using Memrise language application, and previous related study.

#### **A. The Concept of Vocabulary**

Vocabulary refers to a collection of words that are possessed by an individual or entity to a specific language. According to Qahtani (2015), vocabulary refers to the comprehensive repertoire of words required for effective communication and the articulation of the speaker's intended message. The vocabulary of an individual can be characterized as the comprehensive collection of words comprehended by said individual or the assortment of words that are probable to be employed by said individual in the construction of novel sentences. Vocabulary refers to an individual's comprehension and familiarity with the definitions and nuances of words (McKeown & Curtis, 2014). The vocabulary employed by another researcher has a higher level of complexity in comparison to the currently established definitions (Alizadeh, 2016). So, it can be concluded that vocabulary refers to the collection of word that uses to communicate clearly. Having a strong vocabulary helps a person express their ideas and create meaningful sentences.

Vocabulary is essential in language learning, serving as a key component for understanding and expressing ideas effectively. According to Kamal as cited in Helmi (2023), the acquisition of vocabulary poses challenges within the classroom setting while being considered the most straightforward element of second language learning. The acquisition of vocabulary is crucial for students to cultivate proficiency in many language skills, including speaking, reading, listening, and writing. The ability to effectively generate and comprehend the target language is contingent upon the acquisition of a comprehensive lexicon by language learners. The acquisition of vocabulary plays a crucial role in the process of acquiring proficiency in the English language. According to Qahtani (2015), in the article "Vocabulary and Its Importance in Language Learning," emphasized that students naturally recognize the importance of vocabulary in retaining knowledge and improving language abilities. Various methods, such as rote memorization and independent learning, are used to support vocabulary retention.

There are two kinds of vocabulary according to Hatch and Brown as cited in Afrizal (2022), namely productive vocabulary and receptive vocabulary. Productive vocabulary is words that learners can understand the meaning, pronounce correctly and use constructively in communication. on the other hand, receptive vocabulary is words that the learners cannot produce, but they can understand and recognize when it used in context. It is the kind of vocabulary that appears in reading text, but it's not used in speaking. Additionally in Harmer and Thornbury as cited in Afrizal (2022), the vocabulary classes can be classified as follows:

a. Nouns

Nouns are words that refer to person, place or things. Most sentence contain at least one noun. There are two types of nouns, countable noun and uncountable noun. Some examples of nouns such as: Cat, Manchester, Harry, etc.

b. Verbs

Verbs are words that shows action. There are two classes of verbs, namely lexical verbs or main verbs such as: run, jump, sit, play. The second one is auxiliary verbs or linking verbs which is use for grammatical purpose. The example of auxiliary verb such as: will, may, can, could etc.

c. Adjectives

The function of adjective s to highlight qualities of attributes. Adjective is typically used to describe particular noun. For example, lazy, smart, dark, light, black, white etc.

d. Adverbs

The function of adverb is to modify or change the meaning of any other word class or phrases, except it does not include adjectives and determiner that directly modify a noun.

e. Prepositions

Prepositions is a word or group of words used before a noun, noun phrase or pronoun to show direction, time, place, or to introduce an object. Some examples of prepositions are words like in, at, on, to, etc.

f. Conjunctions

Conjunctions is a word used to connect words, phrases, or clauses. Common examples of conjunction include and, but, or.

g. Pronouns

Pronoun is a word that can function by itself as a noun phrase and that refers either to participants in the discourse or to someone or something mentioned elsewhere in the discourse. Example: I, you, he, it, this etc.

h. Determiners

Determiners is a word that modifies, describes, or introduces a noun. Common examples of determiners are a and an.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that vocabulary can be classified into different kinds. There are receptive vocabulary and productive vocabulary, and in another opinion, there are at least eight kinds of vocabulary or words namely noun, verb, adjective and adverb, preposition, conjunction, determiner and pronouns. By recognizing the various types of vocabulary, learners can focus on expanding their knowledge in each category. This approach will eventually enhance their overall language proficiency and ability to communicate more effectively.

**B. The Concept of Memrise Application**

The Memrise application was established in September 2010 by Ed Cooke, an individual recognised as a Grand Master of Memory, along with Ben Whately and Greg Detre. Detre, a neurologist from Princeton University, specialises in the field of memory and forgetting within the realm of scientific research. Steve Toy

is the person in charge of serving as the CEO of this app, people around the world can access applications and the web from Memrise without a 3rd party (Cooke, 2020). The Memrise application is an online learning media similar to flashcards but this is the digital version, which focuses on vocabulary learning, Memrise will help its users to learn foreign language words (Walker, 2016). Language learning applications such as Memrise have garnered significant popularity with a user base of more than 20 million user registered (Hickey, 2015). The online educational application, accessible via [www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com) as well as through downloads from the Apple Store and Google Play offers a range of academic resources. The application provides users with the assurance that they can acquire proficiency in a language at a much accelerated pace and with greater ease compared to previous methods without the need to engage in deductive learning of grammatical principles (Abarghoui & Taki, 2018). Based on the explanation, it can be said that Memrise is available online and through mobile application allowing people to learn languages anywhere. With its user friendly and accessible resources, Memrise continues to attract language learners from around the world, offering an effective way to expand vocabulary and improve communication skills.

Memrise is very easy to use for students. Using flash cards repeatedly, one can learn and retain Memrise more quickly. This application software caters to a very special group of users who are interested in learning more about vocabulary. Therefore, any instructor who wants to motivate his students to study their vocabulary data or each student's goal to increase their vocabulary should

anticipate from experts in this tool a very fun way that is simple and easy to use (Aminatun, 2019). As a result, it can be said that Memrise application design and accessibility make it an ideal tool for both individual learners and educators looking for making language proficiency in engaging and efficient in learning vocabulary.

### **C. Advantages and disadvantages of the Memrise application**

According to Wang et al. as cited in Erlinda (2024), there are three advantages and three disadvantages of Memrise application.

#### **a. Advantages of Memrise application**

1. Effective learning method: Memrise uses proven effective learning methods, such as spaced repetition and visual association. The spaced repetition system helps users remember and reinforce vocabulary with optimally organized repetition. Meanwhile, creative visual associations help users connect vocabulary with images or stories to facilitate recall.
2. Interactive learning: Memrise provides interactive exercises that actively engage users. Users can answer questions, write vocabulary, listen and match words, and participate in challenges and competitions. This makes learning more interesting and engages the user directly.
3. Fun learning platform: Memrise is said to be fun in language learning due to its engaging learning design, fun interactive exercises, challenges, and competitions that provide a gaming aspect, creative visual associations, social features with user communities, and flexible

accessibility. With the combination of these features, Memrise creates a fun and entertaining learning experience for users.

b. Disadvantages of Memrise application

1. Dependence on internet connection: Dependence on internet connection is the main obstacle for Memrise users, especially in areas with no signal or weak connection. Users have to rely on mobile data quotas, which can limit the consistency of their learning. Network disruptions can stop access completely, and the download feature sometimes does not include all learning materials.
2. Limited Material for Advanced Levels: The Memrise app does not provide material that is in-depth or challenging enough for higher language levels. This can be a problem if users are looking for more complex or in-depth lessons.
3. Free Feature Limitations: Although Memrise has a free version, there are some premium features that require a subscription fee. Free users have limited access to some materials or features they may want.

**D. The Technique of Teaching vocabulary**

In teaching vocabulary learning, there are three stages according to Lelawati et al. (2018):

a. Technique presenting

The stage required for students to be introduced to new words. As an English teacher, we must always understand vocabulary teaching techniques that are appropriate for students.

b. Technique in active

In active stage, there square measure a spread of tasks which might be utilized in order to assist move words into memory.

c. Media may be a main instrument in teaching and learning method

This usually attracts the attention of students and conveys data simply. Teachers must be forced to use some visuals in their teaching activities to facilitate their teaching. For example, there are various media sizes, but visuals are suitable for students in learning vocabulary.

**E. The Procedures of Teaching and Learning Process Using Memrise Application**

Memrise application is an educational app and helps students to master the language using flashcards combined with mnemonic techniques to teach foreign languages and memorize information from other disciplines, such as English, geography, law or mathematics ( Hadfina, 2018 ). Through the use of the Memrise application, pupils are able to acquire several vocabulary, like the process to act of sowing new seeds within their cognitive faculties. This application caters to a distinct target population seeking information on the enhancement of vocabulary mastery (Nuralisah & Kareviati, 2020).

There are several steps to use Memrise applications according to Lubis et al. (2023):

- a. Please, download in your mobile phone on playstore or app store.



Picture 1 Download an Application

- b. Once the application has been downloaded, create an account and sign in with a Facebook or Google account.



Picture 2 Creating an Account

- c. To start the lesson, click on the Menubar 'Mulai Belajar' then wait a while, after this application will display the menubar for each level click the middle button (Quick Study).



Picture 3 Starting the Learning

- d. Let's start learning, after click 'Start Learning', menubar will show vocabulary list. Memrise uses the garden as a metaphor for memory. When start studying a course, vocabulary items will be planted as 'seeds'. Vocabulary will be given repeatedly. Starting from the easy, middle and more difficult way.



Picture 4 Typing Test and Pronunciation Test

- e. And lastly, in this public profile it shows the points learned from each level. The Profile page is like a report card, telling you how many words the student has learned, what badges the student has earned, the level of learning the student is using, and the leadership board.



Picture 5 Public Profile

- f. Students can test their memory with some of these tests. The multiple choice test presents certain Indonesian words then students find answer choices where the English of the word is presented. Finally, students can see the ranking of the acquisition of words or phrases that have been studied previously through their respective profiles.

In this research, the researcher will implement the procedure of teaching and learning process using Memrise application with the teacher as a center. So, the students do not use their own phone during the lesson but instead follow the instructions given by the teacher.

In implementing the learning process, there are several procedures. These procedures are as follows:

1. Pre Activities (15 minutes)
  - a. The teacher began the class by greeting the students warmly, creating a welcoming atmosphere.
  - b. The teacher asked about the students' situation and then proceeded to set up an environment conducive to learning, ensuring that the classroom was organized and ready for educational activities.
  - c. The teacher motivated the students by encouraging them to actively participate and by demonstrating the importance of the lesson content.
  - d. The teacher informed the students about the specific learning objectives for the session, clarified what they aimed to achieve, and guided their focus throughout the lesson.

2. Whilst Activities (55 minutes)

- a. The teacher open Memrise application on the laptop and display it using a projector.
- b. The teacher explains the steps of learning using the Memrise application, then start learning by clicking “Mulai Belajar”.
- c. After that, the teacher plays and pauses the session to review and repeat vocabulary learning. The teacher explain it to the students and asked their understanding about it.
- d. The teacher gave worksheets from Memrise application and asked the students to answered the question.
- e. The teacher and students together discuss the worksheet by appointing one of the students to answer the question.

3. Post Activities (10 minutes)

- a. The material learned today is summarized by the teacher and students.
- b. Feedback on the lesson learned today is given by the teacher and students to each other.
- c. Information about the next meeting is given by the teacher
- d. The class is closed with prayer and greetings bt the teacher and students.

## **F. Previous related study**

Based on the exploration results of previous studies. The researcher found several previous studies that were relevant to the research this. Although there are related discussions, this research is still very different from previous research. There are several previous studies namely:

The research from Nuralisah (2020) the title is “The Effectiveness of Using Memrise Application in Teaching Vocabulary”. The purpose of this study is to improve students' understanding and achievement of vocabulary through the use of the Memrise application. The research was conducted at the seventh grade students of SMPN 1 Cililin. The results of this research showed an increase in grades students' interest and motivation after using the Memrise application in vocabulary learning. For the similarity between the research from Ai siti Nuralisah is same focus on the use of Memrise application as a tool for vocabulary enhancement. Then, for the differences in this research is total of population and sample also technique for collecting data in this research only using questionnaire while the researcher also using a combination of test vocabulary.

The research from Nasution (2022) the title is “The Effect of Memrise Application on Students' Vocabulary Mastery”. The purpose of this study is to find out whether the use memrise application has a significant on the students' ability in vocabulary. The research was conducted at seventh grade students of Mts PAB 1 Helvetia Sumatera Utara Medan. The results of this research that showed the application of memrise has a significant effect on the vocabulary

mastery of seventh grade in MTs PAB 1 Helvetia with  $4.03 > 2.039$  result in  $H_0$  (null hypothesis) rejected and  $H_a$  (alternative hypothesis) accepted. For the similarity between the research from Asnizar is same using Memrise application to know the impact on student's vocabulary mastery. Then, for the differences in this research the researcher only using a test for technique to collecting the data while the researcher also using a combination of test vocabulary and questionnaire also in this study, the research subjects come from religious schools or MTs which is have differences in behavior during teaching and learning process.

The research from Lubis (2023) the title is "Memrise Application as Digital Media to Enrich Students English Vocabulary at Junior High School in Medan". The purpose of this study is to find out the significant effect of Memrise application in enriching students' English vocabulary. The research was conducted at eight grade students of SMP Dharma Pancasila Medan. The results of this study shows that there is a significant effect to enrich student English vocabulary at SMP Dharma Pancasila Medan with the value  $\text{sig (2-tailed)} = 0.001 < 0, 05$  then  $H_0$  is rejected and  $H_a$  is accepted. For the similarity between the research from Bambang is same using Memrise application as Digital Media to Enrich Students English Vocabulary. Then, for the differences in this research is the total of population and sample also technique for collecting data in this research only using questionnaire to collect the data while the researcher also using a combination of test vocabulary and questionnaire.