

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

To communicate with other people requires mastery of vocabulary because with sufficient vocabulary mastery will facilitate students in learning communicate and make it easier for students to understand the language in textbooks. As stated by Thornbury (2002) communication is definitely closely related to vocabulary mastery. Mastery of more vocabulary allows students to accept and convey broader and more complex information.

Vocabulary plays an important role in foreign language learning. Teaching and learning vocabulary need creativity to understand about it. Kuswatun (2017) stated that there are many ways to enhance students' vocabulary mastery, such as learning by using context clues, pictures, games, semantic mapping, paraphrasing, or using lexical items; synonym, antonym, and collocation. According to Preszler (2006), the strategy needs to focus on ways that can help student improve their vocabulary. One way to enrich your vocabulary is to use synonyms and antonyms for words you frequently use.

One strategy in teaching vocabulary is use learning media. The smart box learning media is a resource containing thematic content which designed to be attractive and easy to use for student. This media is expected to facilitate the understanding of educational materials and enhance student interest in learning English. Yuliasri et al. (2021), which stated that the Smart Box media can optimize student cognitive abilities by training their memory and problem-solving skills, providing an enjoyable learning experience.

Additionally, the research by Sukaryanti (2023) suggests that the smart box media can enhance students' motivation to learn due to the colorful and visually engaging graphics, actively involving students in the use of smart box. Therefore, the smart box media is considered feasible for development due to the visual appeal and direct engagement of students in their school learning.

Based on observations from English teacher at SMAs Kristen 1 Kupang in 2023, the writer found in learning English process many students are bored and uninterested to learn English as foreign language. The situation in classroom sometimes noisy, silent and busy because they have a difficulties to focus, an afraid to speak and shortages of English vocabulary. The teacher talking dominated the class, translate each words and the students felt boring and monotonous. From this statement, the writer found the some problems. One of them is lack of students' vocabulary improvement that is important to make a strong foundation and role in learning English.

From the results of students' final exam was bad, the teachers need good materials and well preparation to solve these problems. They should provide some new alternative ways or strategies to stimulate the students to improve their own vocabulary. One of the alternative teaching ways to improve the students' vocabulary is fun strategy. When learning is fun, the students can remember what they have learned. So, the writer found that one strategy that can increase students' vocabulary is learn about synonyms and antonyms by smart box media of visual technique.

Based on the background above the writer is interested to study about

“The Use Smart Box Media in Teaching Synonyms and Antonyms to Improve Students’ Vocabulary at SMA Kristen 1 Kupang”.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background above the writer namely research question as follow: “Can the use of smart box in teaching synonyms and antonyms improve students’ vocabulary in science and social sciences of eleventh grade at SMA Kristen 1 Kupang?”

1.3 Aim of Study

Based on the research problem above, the aims of the research is to find out: whether the use of smart box media in teaching synonyms and antonyms improve student’ vocabulary in science and social sciences of eleventh grade SMA Kristen 1 Kupang or not.

1.4 Significance of Study

The significance of study is presented into two ways, they are:

1.4.1 Implication

This study is expected to support the theory about the use of smart box media in teaching english to improve student’ vocabulary. Yuliastri et al. (2021), which stated that the Smart Box media can optimize student cognitive abilities by training their memory and problem-solving skills, providing an enjoyable learning experience. Sukaryanti (2023) suggests

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1.4.2 Application

From the research findings, it is expected that there would be benefit given to:

1. Student

It may motivate student to improve their interest learning English since they will find out.

2. Teacher

The teacher can use creative visual technique in teaching process to improve students' vocabulary in learning English.

3. Researcher

The result of this study may become source of information for those who are interested in conducting further study on the related topic.